



LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

**AGENDA FOR THE
COUNCIL MEETING**

**TO BE HELD IN KERNOT HALL, MORWELL AND VIA
AUDIO-VISUAL LINK
AT 6:00 PM ON
27 JULY 2026
CM637**

Please note:

Opinions expressed or statements made by participants are the opinions or statements of those individuals and do not imply any form of endorsement by Council.

By attending a Council Meeting via audio-visual link those present will be recorded or their image captured. When participating in the meeting, consent is automatically given for those participating to be recorded and have images captured.

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Community members that register to observe or speak at this meeting, must adhere to the protocols of the meeting, to ensure we can extend the appropriate courtesy and respect throughout the meeting. Please adhere to the following:

- If you arrive late, quietly enter the Chamber.
- Don't move about unnecessarily.
- If you have registered to speak, adhere to the speaking times and any instructions from the Chair.
- Remain quiet while the meeting is in progress, and don't interject, applaud, converse, or take part in debate.
- Don't harass those attending the meeting, including Councillors, officers and other visitors.
- Remember that photography or any audio or audio-visual recording of the meeting is prohibited.
- Switch off or change your mobile devices to silent mode when in the Chamber.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting here today on the traditional land of the Brayakaulung people of the Gunaikurnai nation and I pay respect to their elders past and present.

If there are other Elders present I would also like to acknowledge them.

2. MOMENT OF REFLECTION

(no requirement for people to stand)

Before we proceed with the agenda, I invite everyone to observe a minute of silence to reflect on our responsibility to the community we serve. Let us take this time to consider the impact of our decisions and to maintain a spirit of collaboration and respect. Please take this time in your own way.

3. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

RECOMMENDATION

That a leave of absence be granted to Councillor David Barnes from 19 August 2026 to 19 September 2026 inclusive.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Proposed Resolution:

That Council confirms the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29 June 2026.

5. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Councillors may raise any formal acknowledgements that need to be made at this time, including congratulatory or condolences.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

Public Questions on Notice

In accordance with the Governance Rules, members of the public can lodge a question on notice by no later than midday one business day before the Council meeting in order for the question to be answered at the meeting.

Public Speakers

An opportunity for members of the public to speak to an item on the agenda will be made available by necessary means. To participate, members of the public must have registered before 12noon on the day of the Council meeting.

NOTICES OF MOTION

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DECISION

9. STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DECISION

Item Number 9.1

27 July 2026

Investment and Growth

SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE PHOENIX NBL MAJOR EVENT FUNDING

The recommended decision is not a Prohibited Decision, as defined in section 69 of the Local Government Act 2020 or a Significant Decision within the meaning of the Election Period Policy.

PURPOSE

To seek Council approval to provide funding to secure and host two South East Melbourne (SEM) Phoenix National Basketball League (NBL) in-season matches during the 2026/27 and 2027/28 seasons.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Due to the transition from Tourism and Major Events Advisory Committee (TAMEAC) to the Visitor Economy Advisory Committee (VEAC), the Committee is currently without appointed membership. Therefore, this event assessment has not been submitted to the Committee for review and feedback prior to Council consideration.
- It is anticipated the refreshed Committee will be in place by September 2026.
- This major event has been reviewed by officers based on the assessment prepared in **Confidential Attachment 1**, which outlines the economic benefit, community engagement, return on investment and benefit to the local community.
- Latrobe City has proudly hosted this event for the past five years, totalling six games, building a strong track record of successful delivery and an ongoing partnership with the NBL and the South East Melbourne Phoenix.
- The partnership continues to enhance Latrobe City's reputation as a capable host of elite sporting events while generating positive economic, social and community outcomes for the region.
- The projected economic impact per event is \$650,000, with a return on investment per dollar spend of \$26:1.
- Event and leisure teams will liaise with the relevant user groups to discuss the timing of the game once the event date is confirmed. This collaboration will ensure minimal disruption to regular activities and ensure the smooth delivery of the event.
- Following a thorough event assessment, officers recommend funding \$25,000 per year for two years to host two South East Melbourne Phoenix NBL in-season matches during the 2026/27 and 2027/28 seasons.

- This event can be funded from the Major Event Attraction budget and, as a result, there are no budget implications.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorises officers to enter into an agreement with the South East Melbourne Phoenix to provide funding of \$25,000 (ex GST) per event to host two South East Melbourne Phoenix National Basketball League in-season matches in the 2026/27 and 2027/28 seasons.

BACKGROUND

Latrobe City has a proud history of hosting the South East Melbourne Phoenix at the Gippsland Regional Indoor Sports Stadium (GRISS). This longstanding partnership has strengthened the region's connection with elite basketball, built a loyal local fan base for the Phoenix, and delivered valuable tourism and economic benefits to Latrobe City.

The NBL regular season home game fixture between the South East Melbourne Phoenix and another NBL team (excluding Melbourne United) is proposed to be held at the GRISS. This fixture will bring Australia's premier domestic basketball competition to Latrobe City and is expected to be a broadcasted event, televised and streamed nationally, supporting regional promotion, local visitation, community engagement, and basketball development outcomes.

Event	Council Contribution	Economic Impact (estimated per year)	Return on Investment (estimated per year)
South East Melbourne Phoenix NBL in-season matches during the 2026/27 and 2027/28 seasons Game 1: 13 December 2026, 5pm Game 2: Date TBC	\$25,000 per year	\$650,000 per year	\$26:\$1

ANALYSIS

In accordance with the Major Event Assessment (**Confidential Attachment 1**) the recommendation to progress this event is presented to Council for adoption.

The attraction of a National league to Latrobe City supports the delivery of the actions in the Events and Visitor Economy Strategy, promotes the region, drives local visitation and community engagement. Previous events have been successful as demonstrated by a sold-out stadium with national broadcasting, as well as the promotion of Latrobe City.

The game will provide national exposure for Latrobe City, Gippsland and GRISS through broadcast, digital content, media activity and South East Melbourne Phoenix's owned channels. The current event plan anticipates national broadcast via ESPN and Channel 10, with a coordinated campaign across digital, social, database and partner channels to drive awareness, attendance and regional visitation.

The event will create direct community benefits through targeted engagement activity linked to the fixture. Planned activity includes school engagement across Latrobe and Gippsland, a coach development clinic, Basketball Victoria stakeholder connection, junior game-day roles, youth media exposure through “Voices of the Game”, and inclusion-focused initiatives including accessibility exploration with GippSport and a First Nations participation objective, subject to consultation with local stakeholders.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk	Risk rating	Treatment
COMPLIANCE Major event doesn't meet safety or regulatory requirements.	Low <i>Unlikely x Minor</i>	All events supported by Council are required to submit and have approved an event permit where applicable.
SERVICE DELIVERY Inability to deliver event by scheduled date.	Low <i>Unlikely x Minor</i>	Event timeframes are developed in conjunction with Council's events team. Strict oversight of this is provided by Council officers.
FINANCIAL Loss of economic benefit from this major event if not supported.	Low <i>Unlikely x Minor</i>	Use of the major event assessment process.
STRATEGIC Major event negatively impacts on the reputation of Council as an events destination.	Low <i>Unlikely x Minor</i>	Strict oversight of operations and arrangements by Council officers.

CONSULTATION

Consultation has occurred with internal stakeholders to determine support of this major event. Due to the transition from TAMEAC to VEAC, the Committee is currently without appointed membership. Therefore, this event assessment has not been submitted to the Committee for review and feedback prior to Council consideration. It is anticipated the refreshed Committee will be in place by September 2026.

COMMUNICATION

The event has extensive marketing and community engagement activities associated with its delivery. These are managed in conjunction with Council officers.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Officers preparing this report have declared they do not have a conflict of interest in this matter under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

APPENDIX 1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Gender

A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) under the *Gender Equality Act 2020* has not been conducted as this matter does not involve a program, service or policy with a significant and direct impact on the community.

Social

The opportunity to host this major event is expected to enhance and boost civic pride and Latrobe's reputation as a premiere events destination.

Cultural

This major event will be promoted to all backgrounds and various community groups to encourage a diverse mix of spectators.

Health

Hosting major events provides the opportunity for the local community to experience high profile events which have an impact on overall community health and wellbeing.

Environmental

The event will be held in accordance with sustainable practices that recognise and respect the local environment.

Economic

An economic impact has been undertaken and assessed. The event offers an excellent economic benefit to the municipality of \$650,000 and a return on investment of \$26:1.

Financial

Event funding is to be covered under the Major Event Attraction Budget 2026/27.

Attachments

1. South East Melbourne Phoenix National Basketball League In Season Matches, Major Event Assessment (Published Separately)

This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (g) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—

(i) relates to trade secrets; or

(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

DRAFT NATURE PLAN FOR COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

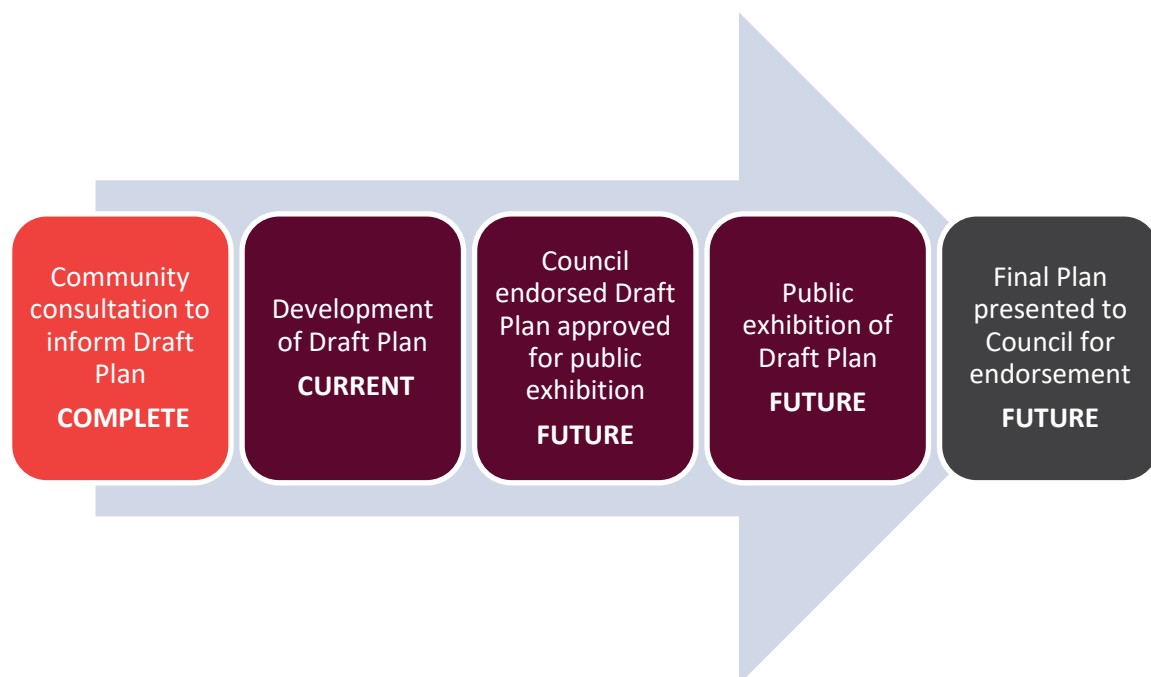
The recommended decision is not a Prohibited Decision, as defined in section 69 of the Local Government Act 2020 or a Significant Decision within the meaning of the Election Period Policy.

PURPOSE

To seek Council endorsement for public consultation of the Draft Nature Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The development of Nature Plan (Plan) is a priority action of Council's Sustainability Action Plan 2023-2033 under the theme 'Greening Latrobe City' and is also supported by the Council Plan 2025-2029 under Strategic Direction #2, Key Objective 3: 'Natural Environment & Open Space'.
- The purpose of the Plan is to guide the protection and enhancement of biodiversity across the municipality over the next 10 years. The development of the Nature Plan is being undertaken in the following stages:



- Initial community consultation to inform the Draft Plan is complete. 150 submissions were received, and community workshops and pop-up sessions were facilitated.
- One of the key aims of the Plan is to establish priorities and goals for the management of 210 hectares of bushland reserves and waterways under active management and another 468 hectares of land under Council responsibility. This work will inform the development and review of Reserve Management Plans and Annual Works programs for priority sites.

- Following Council's endorsement of the Draft Plan (**Attachment 1**) there will be a period of public consultation and the opportunity for community feedback.
- Community feedback will inform the Final Plan.
- The Final Plan will be presented to Council for adoption at a future Council Meeting.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the release of the draft Nature Plan for public consultation after 1 August 2026, in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy, and any relevant legislation.

BACKGROUND

The Sustainability Action Plan 2023-2033 identified the need to develop a Biodiversity Strategy to guide the protection and enhancement of biodiversity across the municipality and establish priorities and goals for the management of bushland reserves and waterways under Council responsibility.

Due to significant land use changes since European arrival, Latrobe City's bushland reserves play a crucial role in supporting a diverse range of native flora and fauna and contain much of the municipality's remaining remnant native vegetation.

Latrobe's natural assets provide essential ecosystem services such as regulating temperature, purifying air and water, reducing the risk of flooding, and absorbing carbon dioxide, helping to combat climate change. They also have the potential to improve the quality of life for community members by offering recreational opportunities that improve mental and physical well-being. Latrobe's remnant native vegetation is also vitally important, inclusive of large old trees that provide habitat and food resources for native fauna. The protection and enhancement of this vegetation across the landscape is critical for the health and long-term survival of our diverse flora and fauna.

Latrobe's biodiversity also faces multiple challenges including climate change, development, introduced weeds and domestic and feral animals such as cats.

Latrobe City Council values our natural environment and biodiversity and recognises the critical part that a healthy environment plays in maintaining a healthy and thriving community. An important part of recognising the unique biodiversity of Latrobe City is to develop and implement a Nature Plan to enhance biodiversity values across Council's bushland reserves and waterways.

The Nature Plan will supersede Council's 'Strategy for Biodiversity and Native Vegetation' 2002.

ANALYSIS

The Nature Plan will build upon the strategic direction that the Sustainability Action Plan 2023-2033 and Council Plan 2025-2029 provide, along with the combined results of the public and stakeholder consultation.

A two-month period of public consultation was undertaken during the second half of 2025. The period of public consultation involved:

- A survey exhibited on Council's 'Have Your Say' platform
- Two community workshops
- Three pop-up sessions held at the Traralgon Farmer's Market, Children's Expo and an expo as part of the Positive Ageing Festival in Moe.

150 responses were received from the Nature Plan Community Survey.

Three distinct themes were identified from the community consultation as key priorities for the Nature Plan. These themes are **Plan, Educate, Act**. These themes have been embedded into framework of the Plan.

The Draft Nature Plan sets out a Vision, Goals, Targets and Objectives that are informed by community and stakeholder consultation and will guide the protection and enhancement of biodiversity across Latrobe City.

The Nature Plan includes the following **Vision**:

'Latrobe City's biodiversity is protected, connected, resilient and valued by the community. Healthy ecosystems underpin its environmental, cultural, social and economic wellbeing for current and future generations.'

Under this Vision, the Plan outlines the following three Goals:

Goal 1: Protect and Prioritise Biodiversity

Goal 2: Restore, Enhance and Connect Landscapes

Goal 3: Educate and Engage

Multiple targets, objectives and underlying actions underpin the above goals and will assist Council to protect and manage biodiversity across Latrobe City. Please refer to **Attachment 1** for further details.

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
COMPLIANCE Local government has legislative obligations as well as a duty of care to the community to care for the environment now and into the future.	Medium <i>Possible x Moderate</i>	Implement the Nature Plan to increase the maintenance and monitoring of Council's natural assets.
SERVICE DELIVERY Increased maintenance levels required to deliver outcomes identified.	Low <i>Possible x Minor</i>	When presenting the plan for endorsement following consultation, ensure ongoing maintenance costs and resourcing impacts are clearly defined.

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
FINANCIAL Cost of several actions within the plan is beyond current resourcing levels and will need to be delivered subject to funding over the 10 years.	Medium <i>Possible x Minor</i>	When consulting with the community, make it clear that the plan will take 10 years to be fully delivered and will be subject to securing additional funding.
STRATEGIC There is a reputational risk if Council fails to protect the environment on behalf of its community.	Medium <i>Possible x Minor</i>	The Nature Plan will guide decision making and the prioritisation of maintenance within Council managed/owned bushland. The Plan will deliver on landscape scale biodiversity projects and strengthen biodiversity protection measures. The Plan will also lead to a well-informed community, with more opportunities for engagement and collaborative action.

CONSULTATION

Extensive community consultation was conducted during development of the Draft Nature Plan.

Consultation with internal Council teams was conducted via a workshop and consultation with key external stakeholders was undertaken via an interview questionnaire.

The combined results of this consultation were incorporated into development of the Draft Plan.

COMMUNICATION

The draft Nature Plan will be made available to the community for feedback via Council's 'Have Your Say' platform. Key stakeholders will be engaged directly. The consultation period will also be advertised in the Latrobe Valley Express and on Council's Facebook page. Relevant Council teams will also be invited to a second

workshop following the period of public consultation to refine the Draft Plan, in preparation for development of the Final Plan.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Officers preparing this report have declared they do not have a conflict of interest in this matter under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

APPENDIX 1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Gender

A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) under the *Gender Equality Act 2020* was conducted prior to undertaking community consultation to ensure that community views were adequately captured and reflected in the draft Nature Plan. The GIA identified several options for inclusive consultation and targeted outreach, these included:

- Use of inclusive language
- Multiple channels for engagement (i.e., Have Your Say, Pop-ups, Workshops)
- Scheduled sessions at varied times
- Pop-ups at varied locations.

A separate GIA has not been undertaken for the draft Nature Plan but will be carried out for the delivery of certain actions as required

Social

There are many social benefits that arise from improving nature and biodiversity outcomes. These include improved mental and physical wellbeing through use of and connection with nature spaces, and increased amenity for community via ongoing and improved management of bushland and nature-based reserves. Many of the actions in this Plan prioritise increased access to nature and open public spaces to encourage engagement with and participation in nature. A healthy and accessible outdoor environment is good for public pride in place and encourages people to further care for their environment.

Cultural

Nature spaces are accessible to people of all cultural backgrounds and do not discriminate against any protected attribute. Maintaining and increasing investment in nature and biodiversity benefits the entire community and contributes to cultural wellbeing.

Health

As above for Social and Cultural.

Environmental

The Nature Plan will provide a net environmental benefit to Council both in the short and long term across a range of aspects. The Plan will guide management of Council's bushland reserves and waterways for improved biodiversity, amenity and environmental health outcomes that will benefit Latrobe City now and into the future.

Economic

Improvements to nature spaces and biodiversity outcomes through implementation of the Plan will provide an increase in social wellbeing, amenity and liveability outcomes. These enhanced attributes will attract more people to visit, live, work and invest in the region.

Financial

Development of the draft Nature Plan was funded from the Sustainability and Environment Teams' existing budget allocations . There will be costs associated with implementing the Nature Plan's actions, many of which will be funded via annual budget allocations. Some of the actions have the potential to save money in the longer term due to an increase in management efficiencies over time. Additionally, there will be joint-partnership and grant-funded opportunities possible for other actions, meaning Council can leverage other funding sources to benefit biodiversity enhancement in Latrobe City. There are also costs associated with not adopting some of the actions. For example, not undertaking weed control annually in Council-managed bushland reserves and nature spaces will result in significantly higher weed infestations in later years that will become more difficult and costly to manage.

Attachments

1. Draft Nature Plan

9.2

Draft Nature Plan for community consultation

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Latrobe City Nature Plan

Draft report



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Acknowledgment

We acknowledge the Gunaikurnai people as the Traditional Owners of the Country on which the Latrobe City Nature Plan applies. We recognise their continuing connection to the land, waters, and culture, and pay our respects to their Elders, both past and present, while also acknowledging emerging leaders. Additionally, we express our gratitude for the knowledge and insights contributed by Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to our shared work in Australia.

We pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We recognise that Australia was established on the genocide and dispossession of First Nations peoples and acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded in this country. We are committed to embracing the spirit of reconciliation, working toward self-determination, equitable outcomes, and an equal voice for Australia's First Peoples.



Figure A1: Crinigan Bushland Reserve (Source: LCC)

Vision

Latrobe City's biodiversity is protected, connected, resilient and valued by the community. Healthy ecosystems underpin its environmental, cultural, social and economic wellbeing for current and future generations.



Figure A2: Enjoying nature along the Moe-Yallourn Rail Trail in Latrobe City Council (Source: LCC)

Glossary of terms

Adaptive management – An approach to management where actions are trialled, outcomes are monitored, and strategies are continuously refined based on real-world results.

Advocacy – Efforts by individuals or organisations, such as local council, to shape decisions and policies in ways that reflect community values and priorities.

Biodiversity – Encompasses all species of plants, animals, and microorganisms on earth, as well as the genetic diversity within them, and the ecosystems they collectively form.

Bushland reserve – An area of land managed by council which supports native flora and fauna. Most bushland reserves contain remnant vegetation, though some have been restored through replanting of native species. These reserves form a key part of broader networks of environmental assets.

Citizen science – The gathering and analysis of data about the natural world by everyday members of the public, often in partnership with researchers or conservation organisations.

Ecological communities – A group of different species living together in the same place and time, connected through complex interconnected relationships.

Ecology – The scientific study of how living organisms interact with each other and their environment.

Ecosystem – A dynamic system comprising all living organisms in a given area, along with the soils, water, and climate they interact with.

Environmental stewardship – A guiding ethical principle that reflects a commitment to managing natural resources with care and foresight on behalf of both current and future generations.

Fragmentation – The process by which habitat is broken apart into smaller, isolated patches, typically through clearing, development, or infrastructure. Fragmentation reduces the ability of species to move across and thus survive in a landscape.

Habitat – The natural environment in which a species lives, incorporating the resources and shelter it needs to survive and reproduce.

Habitat corridor – A strip of vegetation linking otherwise isolated areas of habitat across areas where habitat has been fragmented. Corridors allow wildlife to move between natural areas, supporting feeding, breeding, and genetic exchange.

Indigenous species (flora and fauna) – Plant and animal species that occur naturally in a specific local area and were present before European settlement. Indigenous flora and fauna have adapted to a particular geographic area and have evolved as part of the local ecosystems, contributing to their ecological character, function and resilience.

Invasive species – Introduced or non-native species that causes harm to the natural environment by outcompeting, displacing, or disrupting other species and ecological processes.

Landcare – A national community not-for-profit movement in which local volunteer groups work to repair and protect the natural environment.

Latrobe City Council – (the Council) is the local government authority responsible for preparing, implementing and overseeing this Nature Plan, and for managing its functions, services, land and decision-making within the municipality, referred to throughout as Latrobe City.

Native vegetation – Plant species that are native to Australia, but not necessarily native (indigenous) to the ecosystems of the Latrobe City Council.

Nature – All organic elements of the world that exist, including plants, animals, landforms, waterways, soils, and atmosphere.

Remnant (vegetation, habitat) – Vegetation or habitat that has persisted in its original or near-original condition, having never been cleared or substantially disturbed. Remnant patches are often the most ecologically significant areas within a landscape.

Resilience – The ability of an ecosystem or species to sustain disturbance or damage and return to a healthy functioning state. Resilience is strengthened by biodiversity and habitat connectivity.

Restoration – The active process of returning a degraded ecosystem to its original or natural condition.

Revegetation – The replanting of indigenous plant species as part of restoration or rehabilitation efforts, whether filling gaps in existing vegetation or establishing new growth on bare ground.

Statutory planning – The formal process of assessing applications for planning permits relating to new developments and changes in land use, carried out in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act* 1987.

Strategic planning – The process through which an organisation establishes its long-term vision, priorities, and the actions needed to deliver meaningful outcomes for its community.

Introduction from the Mayor

To be confirmed

1 What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity encompasses all components of the living world: the number and variety of native plants, animals and other living things, including fungi and micro-organisms, across our lands and waters. It includes the diversity of their genetic information, the habitats and ecosystems within which they live, and their connections with each other and the wider natural world¹.

Australia's biodiversity is distinctive, shaped by millions of years of isolation from the rest of the world. It encompasses ancient landscapes continuously cared for by First Nations peoples through sophisticated management systems over tens of thousands of years. This long and unique history has resulted in an extraordinary variety of species and habitats found nowhere else on Earth.

Biodiversity underpins healthy, functioning ecosystems that provide the things we depend on to survive. It is fundamental to the food we eat, the water we drink, and the air we breathe, as well as to our economy, mental and emotional wellbeing, and our sense of connection to place. For First Nations peoples, biodiversity also carries deep cultural and spiritual significance as part of their connection to Country.

Australia's biodiversity has been under sustained pressure for more than two centuries since European arrival, with more than one hundred species of flora and fauna already lost and many more endangered and threatened with extinction². Conserving biodiversity has become both urgent and essential. Greater biodiversity provides resilience, and protecting and restoring healthy ecosystems is our best means of safeguarding nature for generations to come.



Figure 1-1: Biodiversity encompasses the native plants, animals and fungi of Latrobe City Council. Photos Top L to R Hairpin Banksia (*Banksia cunninghamii*) (source: LCC); Emperor Cortinarius (*Cortinarius archeri*) (source: LCC); Bushy Needlewood (*Hakea decurrens*) (source: LCC). Bottom: – Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax varius*) at Traralgon Railway Reservoir Conservation Reserve (source: Sylvia Leibrecht);

¹ Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) (2017) *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037*. Victorian State Government, Melbourne.

² Woinarski, J.C.Z. (et. al.). (2019). *Reading the black book: the number, timing, distribution and causes of listed extinctions in Australia*. Biological Conservation, vol. 230. November 2019. URL: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S000632071930895X>

2 Council's role

Latrobe City Council (the Council) plays a critical role in protecting and enhancing biodiversity in the municipality, referred to throughout as Latrobe City. It is responsible for managing many of the bushland reserves and waterways in Latrobe City, which provide important patches of remnant habitat for native plants and animals, as well as opportunities for the community to connect with nature. It also plays a lead role in influencing how land is planned, used and managed through strategic planning, local laws, infrastructure delivery, open space management and environmental programs.

While Council cannot address biodiversity decline alone, it is uniquely positioned to play an important leadership and partnership role in our community. It can support and empower Traditional Owners, landholders, community groups, schools, volunteers, industry and government agencies to care for nature together. This includes through education, stewardship programs, support for citizen science and community volunteer programs, and embedding biodiversity considerations into Council decision-making and operations.

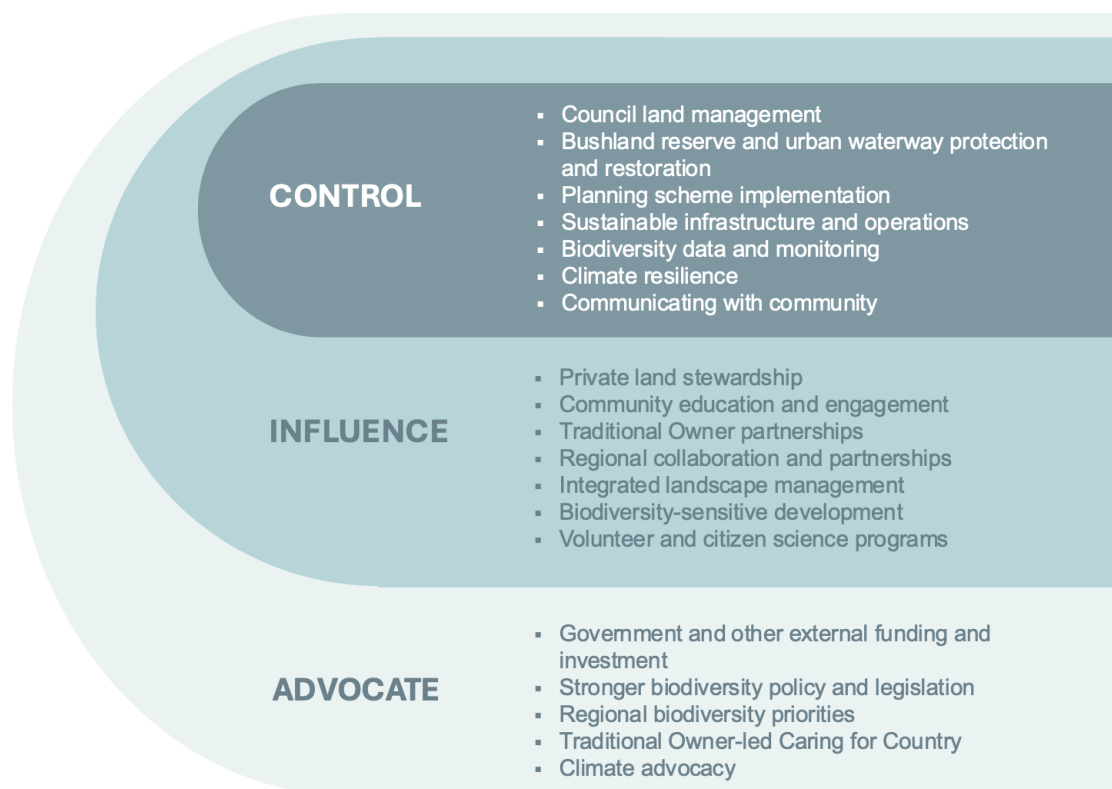


Figure 2-1: Council's key roles in the management and protection of nature

3 Legislative and strategic context

The Latrobe City Nature Plan is nested within a broader international, national, state and local legislative and strategic context. The legislation and strategies relevant to the Nature Plan are listed in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1: Relevant legislation and strategies

LEVEL	LEGISLATION	STRATEGY / FRAMEWORK
Latrobe City		▪ Council Plan 2025–2029 ▪ Sustainability Action Plan 2023–2033.
International		▪ United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change Paris Agreement 2015 ▪ United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
Federal	▪ <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>³	▪ Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024–2030
Victorian	▪ <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> ▪ <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> ▪ <i>Climate Change Act 2017</i> ▪ <i>Environment Protection Act 2017</i> ▪ <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 and Fauna Guarantee Amendment Act 2019</i> ▪ <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> ▪ <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> ▪ <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> ▪ <i>Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010</i> ▪ <i>Victoria Wildlife Act 1975</i> ▪ <i>Water Act 1989</i>.	▪ Victorian Planning Provisions (Local Planning Policy Framework) ▪ Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037 ▪ Victorian Waterway Management Strategy 2013⁴ ▪ Victoria's Climate Change Strategy 2026–2030.
Regional		▪ Gunaikurnai Whole of Country Plan 2015 ▪ West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy 2021–2027 ▪ West Gippsland Waterway Strategy 2014–2022.

³ Under reform

⁴ Under review and update

4 Biodiversity in Latrobe



Figure 4-1: Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus moluccanus*) at the Traralgon Railway Reservoir Conservation Reserve (Source: Sylvia Leibrecht)

Latrobe City is shaped by the intersection of three distinct bioregions: the Highlands-Southern Fall, Gippsland Plains, and Strzelecki Ranges bioregions (Figure 4-2). Each is recognised separately by State and Federal Government for its unique assemblage of biodiversity, and all three carry significant ecological, cultural and historical value.

The Highlands-Southern Fall bioregion encompasses the forested foothills and upper catchments of the Great Dividing Range, providing important water catchment functions and habitat for forest-dependent species. The Gippsland Plains bioregion contains extensive riverine, grassland and woodland ecosystems associated with the Latrobe River, supporting a wide range of threatened species and providing important ecological links across the landscape. The Strzelecki Ranges bioregion is a key biodiversity hotspot, containing important stands of Cool Temperate Rainforest that support several rare and threatened species, including a population of the genetically unique Strzelecki koala. The area also forms part of the Strzelecki-Alpine Biolink, which is in the planning phase and recognised as playing an integral role in reconnecting the region's fragmented habitat.

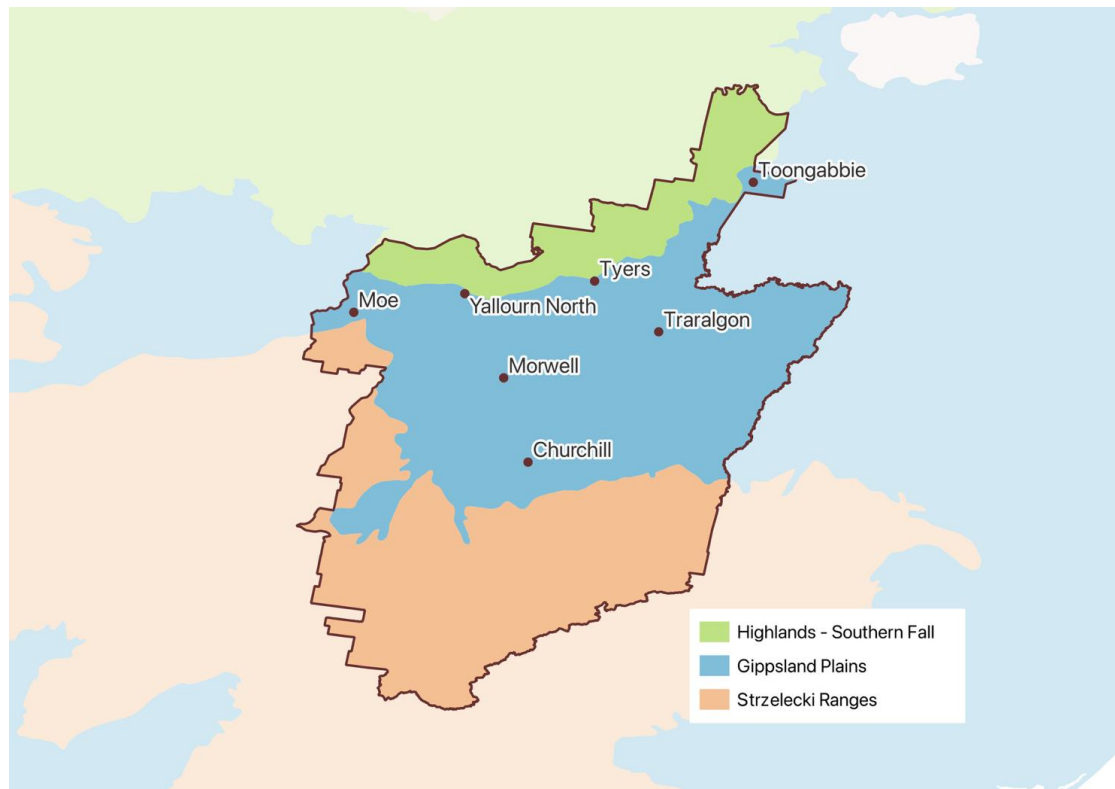


Figure 4-2: The three bioregions within the Latrobe City

Since European settlement (circa 1750), approximately 66% of native vegetation within Latrobe City has been lost to widespread clearing (Figure 4-3). This estimate is based on the Victorian Government's modelled pre-1750 distribution of Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) and comparisons with the estimated extent of native vegetation remaining in 2005⁵.

Despite the widespread loss of native vegetation, significant remnant vegetation persists across the municipality, continuing to provide important habitat for a wide range of native flora and fauna species. These remnants play a vital role in maintaining biodiversity, supporting ecological processes, and contributing to regional landscape connectivity.

However, of the remnant vegetation communities that remain, many are considered endangered, vulnerable or depleted (Figure 4-4). Notably, Plains Grassy Woodlands (EVC 55), once widespread across the fertile Latrobe Valley has been reduced to fragmented patches along roadsides, rail reserves, creeks lines and private land. This EVC is classified as endangered within the Gippsland Plains and Highland-Southern Fall bioregions, highlighting its conservation priority.

Other Ecological Vegetation Classes within Latrobe City that are considered threatened (i.e. Endangered, Vulnerable or Depleted) are listed in Appendix 1.

⁵ Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) *Native Vegetation – Modelled 1750 Ecological Vegetation Classes (NV1750_EVC) and Native Vegetation Extent 2005 (NV2005_EXTENT)* spatial datasets. **Note:** The modelled distribution of pre-European (1750) EVC extent is based on a combination of field observations, environmental modelling, soils, rainfall, topography and historical records. It is considered the benchmark or "original extent" against which vegetation loss is measured. The 2005 native vegetation extent was developed through expert interpretation of spatial and statistical information and is the statewide baseline used in Victoria's Native Vegetation Management Framework and bioregional conservation status assessments.

Latrobe City also supports a variety of rare and threatened flora and fauna species (Figure 4-5) listed under both the Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee (FFG) Act 1988* and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*, reflecting the ongoing ecological significance of the area (refer to Appendix 2 for a list of FFG and EPBC listed threatened flora and fauna species).

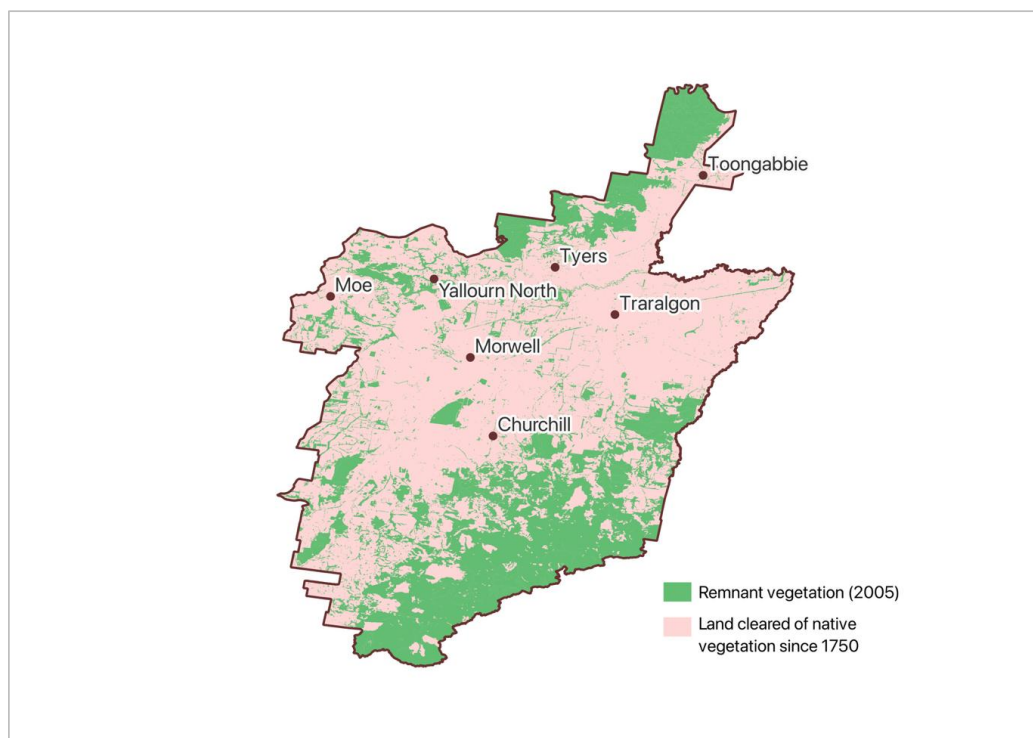


Figure 4-3: Extent of native vegetation cleared since European Settlement (circa 1750) and areas of remaining remnant vegetation as of 2005

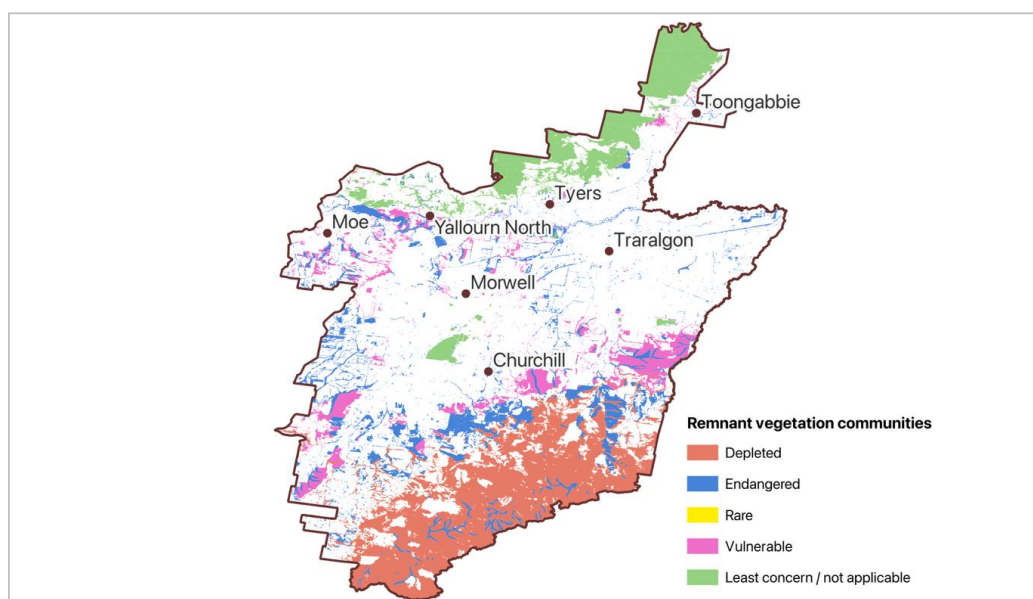


Figure 4-4: Conservation status of remnant vegetation communities (EVCs) in Latrobe City Council



Examples of threatened flora

Slender Tree-fern <i>Cyathea cunninghamii</i>		FFG: Critically Endangered	EPBC: Vulnerable
Strzelecki Gum <i>Eucalyptus strzeleckii</i>		FFG: Critically Endangered	EPBC: Vulnerable
Matted Flax-lily <i>Dianella amoena</i>		FFG: Critically Endangered	EPBC: Endangered
Grey Billy Buttons <i>Craspedia canens</i>		FFG: Critically Endangered	

Examples of threatened fauna

Helmeted Honeyeater <i>Lichenostomus melanops cassidix</i>		FFG: Critically Endangered	EPBC: Critically Endangered
Southern Greater Glider <i>Petauroides volans</i>		FFG: Endangered	EPBC: Endangered
Growling Grass Frog <i>Litoria raniformis</i>		FFG: Vulnerable	EPBC: Vulnerable
Tree Goanna <i>Varanus varius</i>		FFG: Endangered	

Figure 4-5: Examples of threatened flora and fauna within Latrobe City

5 Traditional Owner connection to Country

The Latrobe City Nature Plan has been developed in full recognition of Gunaikurnai as the original and continuing custodians of this landscape.

We acknowledge and respect the deep and enduring connection that Gunaikurnai people have to Country. For the Gunaikurnai, all things come from the land (**Wurruk**), waters (**Yarnda**), air (**Watpootjan**), which are spiritual life-giving resources that sustain their people and form the basis of their cultural practices⁶.

The Gunaikurnai people have cared for the natural resources of the Latrobe City landscape in balance with the land and water for thousands of generations. Since European settlement, however, Gunaikurnai and other First Nations people have been dispossessed of their Country, and their ability to practice culture and care for Country has been eroded.

This Plan supports a stronger, ongoing role for Gunaikurnai in Caring for Country and aligns with the principles and goals of the *Gunaikurnai Whole of Country Plan*. It recognises that supporting Traditional Owners to care for and heal Country also contributes to the protection and restoration of connection to Gunaikurnai cultural practices, including the preservation of important species, bush foods and medicine.

We have much to learn from the Gunaikurnai in how we protect nature.



Figure 5-1: Aboriginal people working on Country at GLaWAC through the Council's Steps to the Future Program (Source: GLaWAC, 2025)

⁶ Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (2015) *Gunaikurnai Whole of Country Plan*. GLaWAC, Bairnsdale.

6 What community value

In the development of this Plan, Council conducted workshops and surveys to better understand what the community values about nature in Latrobe City. Towards the end of 2025, broad community consultation was undertaken to inform the preparation of this Nature Plan.

The response was clear; residents enjoy and care deeply about the natural environment, and many want to see greater protection of habitat, along with increased effort in the rehabilitation and management of natural areas. Consultation has also helped identify what people see as the biggest threats and challenges facing the natural environment. This feedback has been used to shape the Nature Plan, ensuring it reflects the values, priorities and aspirations of the community.

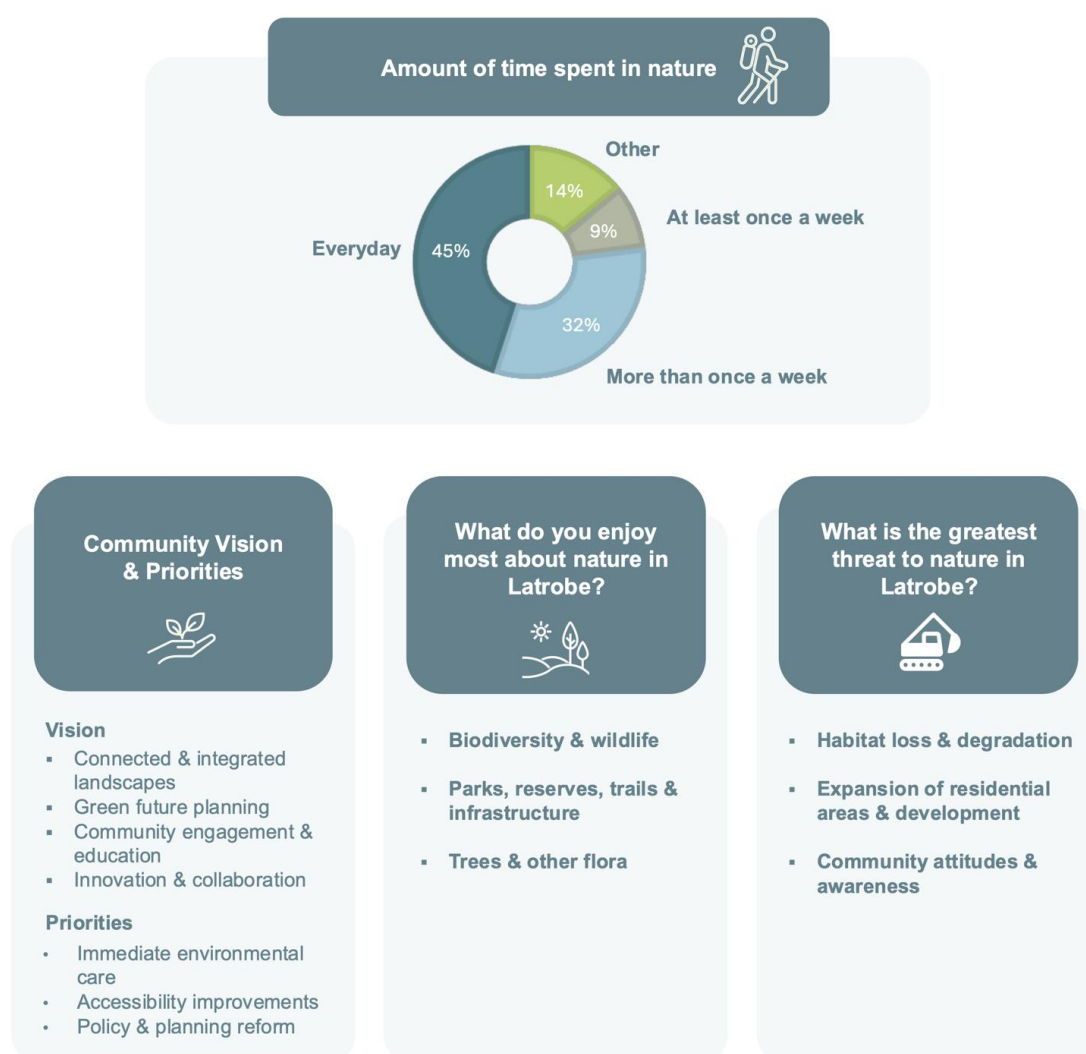


Figure 6-1: What community value in Latrobe City⁷

⁷ Community consultation conducted by Collaborative Evaluation and Research Centre (CERC), Federation University (December 2025)

7 Drivers of change

Latrobe City's natural environment is subject to a range of pressures that collectively pose significant challenges for biodiversity. Understanding these drivers for change is essential to informing planning and management across the municipality.



Habitat loss and fragmentation

Latrobe City's landscape has been shaped by a long history of intensive land use. Traditionally recognised as a centre for the state's electricity and forestry industries, and with dairying long-established across the Gippsland Plains, these activities have contributed to substantial habitat loss and fragmentation across the municipality. As these industries continue to undergo major transitions, care must be taken to ensure that nature is not left behind.

Ongoing urban growth, township expansion and increasing demand for rural lifestyle living are further transforming the landscape, placing additional pressure on biodiversity values through habitat loss, and fragmentation. Managing bushfire risk across peri-urban and rural landscapes can also impact remnant vegetation, particularly where cumulative clearing reduces habitat connectivity and ecological resilience.



Pest plants and animals

Invasive species are a persistent and significant threat to biodiversity across Latrobe City. Pest plants can outcompete and displace native species and degrade land and waterways. Pest animals, including foxes, feral cats, and rabbits, compound these impacts through predation of native wildlife and the further spread of invasive plants. As pest pressures develop and change over time, sustained and coordinated management will be required to protect the municipality's natural values.



Climate change

Climate change is a growing threat to biodiversity across the municipality. Shifts in temperature and weather patterns will place further stress on native species, particularly those already vulnerable. Climate change is also likely to increase the frequency and intensity of bushfires, compounding existing pressures. Understanding and responding to these risks, and their consequences for the natural environment, will be critical to conserving biodiversity in Latrobe City.



Cultural Connections

The natural environment of Latrobe City also holds important cultural value, particularly for the Gunaikurnai people as Traditional Owners. Changes to the native vegetation, waterways and species distributions can impact cultural practices, knowledge systems and connections to Country. Supporting the inclusion of Traditional Owner knowledge and land management practices, such as cultural burning, presents an opportunity to strengthen environmental outcomes and support care for Country.



Community connections

More broadly, the health of the natural environment underpins community wellbeing, recreation and a strong sense of place. As pressures on biodiversity increase in the Latrobe Valley, there is a growing need to foster community awareness, stewardship and participation in conservation efforts. Strengthening partnerships between Council, Traditional Owners, landholders, other environmental partner organisations and the broader community will play an important role in responding to these drivers of change.

8 The plan for nature

This Nature Plan outlines a coordinated approach to protecting, enhancing, and restoring biodiversity across Latrobe City. Now more than ever, it is essential to take stock of our natural environment and act to reverse the ongoing decline of our unique ecosystems, along with the native plants and animals that depend on them.

Achieving this will require strong collaboration with the local community, Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners represented through Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC), and regional partners. These include Parks Victoria, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA), Trust for Nature (TfN), Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). Through shared knowledge, stewardship, and partnership, we can ensure meaningful and lasting environmental outcomes for Latrobe City.

This Plan aligns with the Victorian Government's broader commitment to biodiversity, which recognises that biodiversity has an intrinsic right to exist, thrive, and flourish, regardless of its direct benefit to humans. It also reinforces that all Victorians share a responsibility to protect and conserve biodiversity. Latrobe City supports this commitment by identifying, protecting, connecting, and restoring natural habitats and areas of significant ecological value. Through these actions, Latrobe City aims to safeguard biodiversity for current and future generations.



Figure 8-1: Scarlet Robin (*Petroica boodang*) at the Traralgon Railway Reservoir Conservation Reserve (Source: – Sylvia Leibrecht)

8.1 GOAL 1: PROTECT AND PRIORITISE BIODIVERSITY

Latrobe City's remaining native vegetation and habitats are limited, fragmented and increasingly vulnerable due to historical land use, continued urban growth and subdivision, and other environmental pressures, including pest plants and animals. Protecting these areas is critical to maintaining local biodiversity and ecosystem function. This requires a strong emphasis on preventing further loss, alongside targeted restoration of degraded areas. Effective planning controls, robust protection mechanisms and coordinated action with key stakeholders are essential to safeguard existing natural assets and support their recovery over time.

This goal focuses on strengthening biodiversity outcomes through improved planning frameworks, evidence-based prioritisation and access to reliable ecological data. For Council, integrating biodiversity considerations into all decision-making processes, including land-use planning, infrastructure development and land management, is key to achieving long-term environmental resilience.

Targets for Goal 1: Protect and prioritise biodiversity



- There is no net loss of native vegetation across Latrobe City by 2036
- Biodiversity assets and threats are spatially mapped in all identified high-priority Council managed reserves and waterways by 2031.



Figure 8-2: Crinigan Bushland Reserve (Source: T. Wallis, 2026)

ACTIONS		TIMING	RESOURCING
Objective 1.1: Develop and maintain a spatial inventory of priority biodiversity assets across Latrobe City			
A.	Develop a prioritisation matrix to identify biodiversity hotspots and focal areas across Council managed reserves. Continue to update the matrix as new information becomes available. An example of the prioritisation matrix is provided in Appendix 3.	Years 1–2	Within existing resourcing
B.	Map priority biodiversity assets including remnant vegetation, revegetation areas, waterways, large old trees and threatened species habitat and incorporate citizen science data where applicable.	Years 3–5	Additional funding required
C.	Undertake Roadside Conservation Value Mapping for all Council managed roadsides.	Years 3–5	Additional funding required
D.	Use available data to monitor change in vegetation cover across Latrobe City over time.	Years 1, 5 & 10	Within existing resourcing and/or additional available funding
E.	Create an internal, accessible GIS layer or platform for staff (esp. planning, infrastructure and open space) to access native vegetation and biodiversity information.	Years 3–5	Within existing resourcing; partner with other Council departments
Objective 1.2: Strengthen planning controls and policy to improve protection of high-value biodiversity on public and private land			
A.	Develop a fact sheet on native vegetation protection measures, including the protection and recruitment of large old trees and habitat trees e.g. Forest Red Gums on public and private land.	Years 1–2	Within existing resourcing
B.	Work with the Latrobe City planning team to review the effectiveness of the local planning scheme's environmental zones and overlays in protecting biodiversity and prepare management standards and at least one planning scheme amendment to strengthen protection for areas of environmental significance.	Years 3–5	In partnership with Latrobe City planning team
C.	Advocate to State Government for stronger biodiversity protections where gaps exist.	Ongoing	Within existing resourcing
D.	Initiate a process to secure permanent protection of Latrobe City owned nature reserves through Trust for Nature Covenants or Section 69 Agreements.	Years 6 – 10	Additional funding required
E.	Continue to support landholders with Trust for Nature covenants through the provision of rate rebates.	Ongoing	Within existing resourcing
Objective 1.3: Integrate biodiversity into Council planning, operations and decision-making to minimise impacts on biodiversity values			
A.	Provide targeted staff training across relevant departments with a focus on the “avoid and minimise” hierarchy with offsetting as a last resort.	Years 1–2	Within existing resourcing and in partnership with other Council departments
B.	Develop and implement internal biodiversity assessment and decision-making processes to integrate biodiversity as a priority consideration into Council planning, project delivery and operations.	Years 3–5	Within existing resourcing and in partnership with other Council departments
C.	Investigate feasibility of developing an Artificial Light at Night (ALAN) Policy that incorporates the requirements of AS/NZS	Years 1- 5	Additional resource required

ACTIONS	TIMING	RESOURCING
4282:2019 – Control of the Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting, to ensure new developments minimise light spill, glare, skyglow and ecological impacts through sensitive lighting design, assessment and compliance measures.		

8.2 GOAL 2: RESTORE, ENHANCE AND CONNECT LANDSCAPES

Healthy, biodiverse ecosystems within Latrobe City rely on strong ecological connectivity and resilience across the landscape. With much of the municipality's native vegetation fragmented, there is a need to link remnant habitats, rehabilitate degraded areas and establish new vegetation corridors. This will support the movement of native species, improve habitat quality and enable ecosystems to better withstand environmental pressures, including those associated with climate change.

This goal focuses on restoring native vegetation, enhancing habitat condition and addressing key threats such as invasive species, land degradation and habitat fragmentation. For Council, prioritising strategic revegetation, riparian restoration and landscape-scale connectivity will help to build more climate-resilient ecosystems. Embedding these actions into Council programs and partnerships will strengthen biodiversity outcomes and contribute to a more sustainable and adaptable natural environment.

Targets for Goal 2: Restore, enhance and connect landscapes

- There is an increase in the connectivity of habitat across Latrobe City by 2036
- There is an increase in the conservation value across our bushland reserves by 2036.





Figure 8-3: Revegetation with Indigenous species at Primrose Park in 2025 (Source: LCC)

ACTIONS		TIMING	RESOURCING
Objective 2.1: Increase the connectivity and condition of native vegetation and habitat corridors across Latrobe City			
A.	Partner with stakeholders to finalise the strategic plan for the Strzelecki-Alpine Biolink.	Years 3–5	Within existing resourcing
B.	Integrate the Strzelecki-Alpine Biolink into planning scheme overlays/zoning changes.	Years 6–10	Additional funding required
C.	Partner with regional stakeholders on broader regional biolink projects.	Ongoing	Within existing resourcing and/or additional available funding
D.	Continue to deliver the Biodiversity on Rural Land grants program.	Ongoing	Within existing resourcing
E.	Establish an ecological monitoring program to assess improvements in condition at priority Council managed reserves.	Years 1, 5 & 10	Within existing resourcing and/or additional available funding
F.	Continue to deliver landfill rehabilitation, revegetation and monitoring projects at the decommissioned Moe and Morwell landfill sites, as well as the Hyland Landfill site, to improve biodiversity and habitat connectivity in these areas.	Ongoing	Within existing resourcing

ACTIONS		TIMING	RESOURCING
Objective 2.2: Deliver coordinated pest plant and animal management across priority landscapes			
A.	Coordinate pest plant and animal management programs across public and private land in collaboration with neighbouring land managers, relevant agencies, Landcare and West Gippsland CMA, while supporting community and private landholder weed control programs.	Ongoing	Within existing resourcing
B.	Continue implementation of the Roadside Weed and Pest Program (RWPP) in accordance with the approved RWPP Control Plan.	Ongoing	Within existing resourcing
C.	Advocate to Local Laws to implement a 24-hour cat curfew as part of their Domestic Animal Management Plan review during 2027.	Years 1-2	Within existing resourcing
D.	Increase awareness of biosecurity measures and protocols for diseases and pathogens for contractors and volunteers.	Ongoing	Within existing resourcing
Objective 2.3: Integrate biodiversity into urban environments to increase habitat availability, connectivity and climate resilience			
A.	Promote community education on wildlife-friendly gardening and urban biodiversity, including through the promotion of resources such as the "Grow Me Instead" booklet.	Ongoing	Within existing resourcing
B.	Advocate for and work with the Council's Open Space and Recreation teams to identify opportunities to increase indigenous planting in streetscapes, parks and public open spaces, and to integrate biodiversity outcomes into urban greening and climate adaptation projects.	Ongoing	In partnership with Latrobe City Open Space and Recreation team and Planning

8.3 GOAL 3: EDUCATE AND ENGAGE

Long-term protection and restoration of biodiversity in Latrobe City relies on strong partnerships and an engaged, informed community. By working collaboratively with the Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners, community groups, landholders, government agencies and industry, Council can help share knowledge, align efforts and maximise resources. Strengthening these relationships will support coordinated action and build a shared commitment to protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

This goal focuses on fostering community stewardship and encouraging shared responsibility for biodiversity outcomes across Latrobe City. Supporting local participation through education, volunteer programs and capacity-building initiatives will empower people to actively care for nature. By enabling collective action and recognising the role of the community in environmental management, Council can help achieve lasting, positive outcomes for biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Targets for Goal 3: Partner and enable people to care for nature



- There is an increase in external funding and partnership support for biodiversity projects and programs across Latrobe by 2036
- There is an increase in awareness of nature and participation in nature-related activities by residents in Latrobe by 2036.



Figure 8-4: National Tree Day Planting event in Latrobe City (Source: LCC)

ACTIONS		TIMING	RESOURCING
Objective 3.1: Establish and maintain strong partnerships to coordinate delivery, leverage investment and support shared biodiversity outcomes			
A.	Establish and maintain partnerships with agencies, Traditional Owners, Landcare, industry and neighbouring councils.	Ongoing	Within existing resourcing
B.	Seek external funding, co-investment and partnership opportunities with agencies, industry, utilities and other stakeholders, and align Council biodiversity projects with regional and state priorities to maximise funding outcomes.	Ongoing	Within existing resourcing
C.	Develop a research partnership program with educational institutions to support natural resource management and applied ecology, strengthening the evidence base for informed decision making.	Years 3–5	Within existing resourcing
D.	Continue to implement sustainable bushfire risk reduction works that deliver a net biodiversity benefit, in collaboration with relevant agencies. Incorporate cultural burning practices to support biodiversity outcomes and enhance ecological resilience.	Ongoing	Within existing resourcing and/or additional available funding
Objective 3.2: Increase opportunities for the community to experience, understand and care for nature through stewardship, education and access to nature			
A.	Establish baseline levels of community awareness and participation and monitor trends over time through regular surveys and active engagement with volunteer groups.	Years 1, 5 & 10	Withing existing resourcing and/or additional available funding
B.	Support volunteer programs, citizen science, biodiversity monitoring and education programs for schools, kindergartens and the broader community.	Ongoing	Withing existing resourcing and/or additional available funding
C.	Support the development of community stewardship capacity through targeted training and upskilling for Community Asset Committees and Friends groups.	Ongoing	Withing existing resourcing and/or additional available funding
D.	Support Community Asset Committees and Friends groups to deliver works in accordance with Reserve Management Plans and to comply with Council policy and procedural requirements through improved induction, supervision and training.	Ongoing	Withing existing resourcing and/or additional available funding
E.	Develop educational materials, including signage, booklets, brochures and website content.	Ongoing	Withing existing resourcing and/or additional available funding
F.	Continue to engage with new landholders to raise awareness of biodiversity related resources and available Landcare networks.	Ongoing	Within existing resourcing
G.	Partner with at least two Latrobe City events and/or festivals to promote nature to a broader cross-section of the community.	As opportunities arise	Withing existing resourcing and/or additional available funding
H.	Advocate for the provision of equitable access and diverse range of opportunities that enable more of the community to access and engage with nature.	Ongoing	Additional funding required

ACTIONS	TIMING	RESOURCING
Objective 3.3: Strengthen partnerships with Traditional Owners to embed Caring for Country into biodiversity planning		
A. Align biodiversity restoration and land management projects with priorities identified in the Gunaikurnai Whole-of-Country Plan, where appropriate.	Ongoing	Within existing resourcing
B. Where resources permit, partner with GLaWAC to deliver projects that support both biodiversity and cultural outcomes.	Ongoing	Requires dedicated budget
C. Increase opportunities for cultural awareness and the integration of Indigenous land management practices into bushland management.	Ongoing	Additional funding required



Figure 8-5: Native Revegetation site at Sandbanks Reserve (Source: LCC)

9 Monitoring and evaluation

9.1 IMPLEMENTATION AND RENEWAL

Successful governance and implementation of the Plan require a combination of long-term and annual monitoring, supported by regular evaluation to ensure actions remain effective and responsive to change.

This section describes both the annual implementation cycle and the longer-term review framework, including a comprehensive update of the Plan every 10 years.

The Latrobe City Nature Plan will be delivered through annual Council budget cycles, with a focus on progressing the identified actions and achieving the Plan's targets.

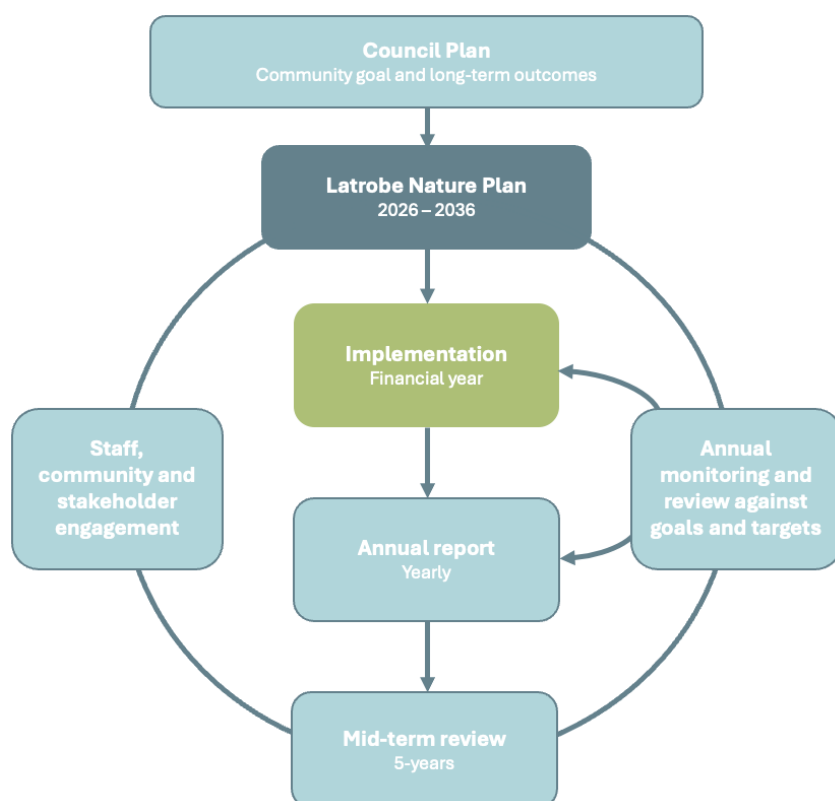


Figure 9-1: Latrobe Nature Plan Implementation

9.2 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Council is committed to ongoing monitoring and evaluation to support the effective implementation of this Plan. This process enables the systematic collection of data and lessons learned, supporting adaptive management and continuous improvement over time.

A key focus of monitoring and evaluation will be the establishment of appropriate baseline data across each of the Plan's focus areas, along with the development of SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound) targets to track progress and measure success.

Table 9-1: Monitoring requirements

What needs monitoring?	Baseline exists	When?
Status of management plans for management reserves	TBC	Every 10 years (needs updating now)
Habitat quality of reserves	Yes	Every five years
Environmental volunteer group health	TBC	Every five years
Participation in community awareness programs and activities	TBC	annually
Effectiveness of Biodiversity on Rural Land Grant	TBC	TBC
Revegetation areas establishment	TBC	Every two years

The evaluation of the success of this Plan will also be guided by the following themes and key evaluation questions (KEQs).

Table 9-2: Themes and Key Evaluation questions

Themes	Key evaluation questions (KEQs)
Plan design Focuses on whether the governance and actions were appropriately designed to deliver the intended targets (and goals).	1. Was the design of the Plan appropriate to deliver the intended outcomes?
Plan implementation Focuses on whether the actions of the Plan were delivered as planned and seeks to identify how these approaches have ensured efficient and cost-effective delivery.	2. To what extent have the Plan actions been delivered as planned? 3. To what extent was the delivery good value for money?
Plan impact - Focuses on what the Plan has achieved to date against the intended targets (and goals) - At the end of the Plan term, the focus is also on the legacy of the program and to what extent the impact of the actions will extend beyond the life of the Plan (long-term outcomes).	4. To what extent did the actions lead to the achievement of the targets? 5. What impact will the actions have beyond the life of the Plan?

Appendix 1: Threatened Ecological Vegetation Communities (EVCs)

Table A1-1: Threaten flora species recorded in Latrobe City

EVC #	NAME	STATUS
30	Wet Forest	Depleted
159	Clay Heathland/Wet Heathland/Riparian Scrub Mosaic	Depleted
23	Herb-rich Foothill Forest	Endangered
29	Damp Forest	Endangered
31	Cool Temperate Rainforest	Endangered
32	Warm Temperate Rainforest	Endangered
45	Shrubby Foothill Forest	Endangered
53	Swamp Scrub	Endangered
55	Plains Grassy Woodland	Endangered
56	Floodplain Riparian Woodland	Endangered
82	Riverine Escarpment Scrub	Endangered
83	Swampy Riparian Woodland	Endangered
126	Swampy Riparian Complex	Endangered
127	Valley Heathy Forest	Endangered
151	Plains Grassy Forest	Endangered
259	Plains Grassy Woodland/Gilgai Wetland Mosaic	Endangered
334	Billabong Wetland Aggregate	Endangered
19	Riparian Shrubland	Rare
17	Riparian Scrub/Swampy Riparian Woodland Complex	Vulnerable
61	Box Ironbark Forest	Vulnerable
169	Dry Valley Forest	Vulnerable
191	Riparian Scrub	Vulnerable

Appendix 2: Threatened flora and fauna species

The following tables detail the threatened flora (Table A1-1) and fauna (Table A1-2) that are listed under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999* and the Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee (FFG) Act 1988*.

Table A2-1: Threatened flora species recorded in Latrobe City

COMMON NAME	SPECIES NAME	EPBC STATUS	FFG STATUS
Sticky Wattle	<i>Acacia howittii</i>		Vulnerable
River Swamp Wallaby-grass	<i>Amphibromus fluitans</i>	Vulnerable	
Velvet Apple-berry	<i>Billardiera scandens</i> s.s.		Endangered
Elegant Daisy	<i>Brachyscome salkiniae</i>		Vulnerable
Orange-tip Finger-orchid	<i>Caladenia aurantiaca</i>		Endangered
Honey Hood-orchid	<i>Caladenia hildae</i>		Endangered
Eastern Spider-orchid	<i>Caladenia orientalis</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Slender Pink-fingers	<i>Caladenia vulgaris</i>		Vulnerable
Dwarf Cypress-pine	<i>Callitris oblonga</i> subsp. <i>Oblonga</i>	Endangered	
Forest Sedge	<i>Carex alsophila</i>		Endangered
River Hook-sedge	<i>Carex nemoralis</i>		Endangered
Mountain Bird-orchid	<i>Chiloglottis jeanesii</i>		Vulnerable
Spotted Gum	<i>Corymbia maculata</i>		Vulnerable
Grey Billy-buttons	<i>Craspedia canens</i>		Critically Endangered
Slender Tree-fern	<i>Cyathea cunninghamii</i>		Critically Endangered
Bear's-ear	<i>Cymbonotus lawsonianus</i>		Endangered
Japanese Lady-fern	<i>Deparia petersenii</i> subsp. <i>congrua</i>		Endangered
Matted Flax-lily	<i>Dianella amoena</i>	Endangered	Critically Endangered
Glaucous Flax-lily	<i>Dianella longifolia</i> var. <i>grandis</i> s.l.		Critically Endangered
Broad-lip Diuris	<i>Diuris X palachila</i>		Endangered
Carpet Willow-herb	<i>Epilobium willisii</i>		Extinct
Rough-grain Love-grass	<i>Eragrostis trachycarpa</i>		Endangered
Daisy Fleabane	<i>Erigeron conyzoides</i>		Endangered
Gippsland Lakes Peppermint	<i>Eucalyptus arenicola</i>		Endangered

COMMON NAME	SPECIES NAME	EPBC STATUS	FFG STATUS
Beechworth Silver Stringybark	<i>Eucalyptus cinerea</i> subsp. <i>victoriensis</i>		Endangered
Buxton Gum	<i>Eucalyptus crenulata</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Green Scentbark	<i>Eucalyptus fulgens</i>		Endangered
Southern Blue-gum	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> subsp. <i>Globulus</i>		Endangered
Grey Scentbark	<i>Eucalyptus ignorabilis</i> s.s.		Vulnerable
Bog Gum	<i>Eucalyptus kitsoniana</i>		Critically Endangered
Mugga	<i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i> subsp. <i>sideroxylon</i>		Endangered
Strzelecki Gum	<i>Eucalyptus strzeleckii</i>	Vulnerable	Critically Endangered
Yarra Gum	<i>Eucalyptus yarraensis</i>		Critically Endangered
Cliff Cudweed	<i>Euchiton umbricola</i>		Endangered
Nerveless Pocket-moss	<i>Fissidens dealbatus</i>		Endangered
Austral Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium solanderi</i> var. <i>solanderi</i> s.s.		Endangered
Golden Grevillea	<i>Grevillea chrysophaea</i>		Vulnerable
Willow Needlewood	<i>Hakea macraeana</i>		Critically Endangered
Purple Blown-grass	<i>Lachnagrostis semibarbata</i> var. <i>semibarbata</i>		Endangered
Macromitrium	<i>Macromitrium ligulaefolium</i>		Endangered
Giant Honey-myrtle	<i>Melaleuca armillaris</i> subsp. <i>Armilaris</i>		Endangered
Beech Finger-fern	<i>Notogrammitis angustifolia</i> subsp. <i>nothofageti</i>		Endangered
Heath Platysace	<i>Platysace ericoides</i>		Endangered
Round-leaf Pomaderris	<i>Pomaderris vacciniifolia</i>	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered
Wellington Mint-bush	<i>Prostanthera galbraithiae</i>	Vulnerable	Endangered
Red-tip Greenhood	<i>Pterostylis clivosa</i>		Endangered
Fisch's Greenhood	<i>Pterostylis fischiorum</i>		Endangered
Cobra Greenhood	<i>Pterostylis grandiflora</i>		Endangered
Inland Red-tip Greenhood	<i>Pterostylis rubescens</i>		Endangered
Sharp Greenhood	<i>Pterostylis X ingens</i>		Vulnerable

COMMON NAME	SPECIES NAME	EPBC STATUS	FFG STATUS
Blakely's Bush-pea	<i>Pultenaea blakelyi</i>		Critically Endangered
Prickly Beauty	<i>Pultenaea juniperina</i> s.s.		Vulnerable
Annual Fireweed	<i>Senecio glomeratus</i> subsp. <i>longifructus</i>		Vulnerable
Tasman Fan-fern	<i>Sticherus tener</i> s.s.		Endangered
Alpine Sun-orchid	<i>Thelymitra alpicola</i>		Critically Endangered
Winter Sun-orchid	<i>Thelymitra hiemalis</i>		Critically Endangered
Slender Fork-fern	<i>Tmesipteris elongata</i>		Critically Endangered
Oval Fork-fern	<i>Tmesipteris ovata</i>		Endangered
Tiny Arrowgrass	<i>Triglochin minutissima</i>		Endangered
Parsley Xanthosia	<i>Xanthosia leiophylla</i>		Endangered

Table A2-2: Threaten fauna species recorded in Latrobe City

COMMON NAME	SPECIES NAME	EPBC STATUS	FFG STATUS
Birds			
Australasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Endangered	Critically Endangered
Australasian Shoveler	<i>Anas rhynchos</i>		Vulnerable
Australian Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus dubius</i>		Endangered
Azure Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo azurea</i>		
Barking Owl	<i>Ninox connivens</i>		Critically Endangered
Black Falcon	<i>Falco subniger</i>		Critically Endangered
Blue-billed Duck	<i>Oxyura australis</i>		Vulnerable
Blue-winged Parrot	<i>Neophema chrysostoma</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Brown Treecreeper	<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		Vulnerable
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		Vulnerable
Diamond Firetail	<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Eastern Great Egret	<i>Ardea modesta</i>		Vulnerable
Emu	<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>		
Freckled Duck	<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>		Endangered

COMMON NAME	SPECIES NAME	EPBC STATUS	FFG STATUS
Gang-gang Cockatoo	<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		
Grey Goshawk	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae novaehollandiae</i>		Endangered
Hooded Robin	<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Latham's Snipe	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Lewin's Rail	<i>Lewinia pectoralis pectoralis</i>		Vulnerable
Little Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>		Vulnerable
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta nigripes</i>		Endangered
Masked Owl	<i>Tyto novaehollandiae novaehollandiae</i>		Critically Endangered
Musk Duck	<i>Biziura lobata</i>		Vulnerable
Nankeen Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>		
Pied Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>		
Pilotbird	<i>Pycnoptilus floccosus</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Plumed Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia plumifera</i>		Critically Endangered
Powerful Owl	<i>Ninox strenua</i>		Vulnerable
Regent Honeyeater	<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered
Royal Spoonbill	<i>Platalea regia</i>		
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Sooty Owl	<i>Tyto tenebricosa tenebricosa</i>		Endangered
Spotted Harrier	<i>Circus assimilis</i>		
Spotted Quail-thrush	<i>Cinclosoma punctatum</i>		
Swift Parrot	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>		Critically Endangered
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>		Endangered
White-browed Treecreeper	<i>Climacteris affinis</i>		Endangered
White-throated Needletail	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Mammals			
Broad-toothed Rat	<i>Mastacomys fuscus mordicus</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Brush-tailed Phascogale	<i>Phascogale tapoatafa</i>		Vulnerable
Dingo	<i>Canis lupus dingo</i>		Vulnerable
Eastern Bent-wing Bat	<i>Miniopterus orianae oceanensis</i>		Critically Endangered

COMMON NAME	SPECIES NAME	EPBC STATUS	FFG STATUS
Eastern Quoll	<i>Dasyurus viverrinus</i>	Endangered	Extinct
Grey-headed Flying-fox	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Platypus	<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>		Vulnerable
Southern Brown Bandicoot	<i>Isodon obesulus obesulus</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Southern Greater Glider	<i>Petauroides volans</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Spot-tailed Quoll	<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i>	Endangered	Endangered
White-footed Dunnart	<i>Sminthopsis leucopus</i>		Vulnerable
Yellow-bellied Glider	<i>Petaurus australis australis</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Fish			
Australian Grayling	<i>Prototroctes maraena</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Dwarf Galaxias	<i>Galaxiella pusilla</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Flinders Pygmy Perch	<i>Nannoperca sp. 1</i>		Vulnerable
Lamprey (Non-parasitic)	<i>Non-parasitic</i>		Endangered
Macquarie Perch	<i>Macquaria australasica</i>	Endangered	Endangered
'Morwell' Galaxias	<i>Galaxias sp. 15</i>	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered
Reptiles			
Eastern Snake-necked Turtle	<i>Chelodina longicollis</i>		
Glossy Grass Skink	<i>Pseudemoia rawlinsoni</i>		Endangered
Swamp Skink	<i>Lissolepis coventryi</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Tree Goanna (Lace Monitor)	<i>Varanus varius</i>		Endangered
Amphibians			
Dendy's Toadlet	<i>Pseudophryne dendyi</i>		
Growling Grass Frog	<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Southern Toadlet	<i>Pseudophryne semimarmorata</i>		Endangered
Invertebrates			
Aquatic Invertebrate (caddisfly)	<i>Ecnomus nibbor</i>		
Aquatic Invertebrate (caddisfly)	<i>Tanjistomella verna</i>		Endangered
Large Ant Blue (butterfly)	<i>Acrodipsas brisbanensis</i>		Endangered
Heath Sand-skipper Butterfly	<i>Antipodia chaostola chares</i>		
Two-spotted Grass-skipper Butterfly	<i>Pasma tasmanica</i>		Endangered

COMMON NAME	SPECIES NAME	EPBC STATUS	FFG STATUS
Silky Hairstreak Butterfly	<i>Pseudalmenus chlorinda zephyrus</i>		
Yellow Ochre Butterfly	<i>Trapezites luteus luteus</i>		Endangered
Crustacea			
Narracan Burrowing Crayfish	<i>Engaeus phyllocercus</i>		Endangered
South Gippsland Burrowing Crayfish	<i>Engaeus karnanga</i>		Endangered
South Gippsland Spiny Crayfish	<i>Euastacus neodiversus</i>		Endangered
Strzelecki Burrowing Crayfish	<i>Engaeus rostrigaleatus</i>		Endangered

Appendix 3: Reserve Prioritisation Matrix

Table A3-1: Reserve Scoring

Reserve Name	Reserve location	Township	Total Score	Priority
Edward Hunter Heritage Bush Reserve	Coalville Road	Moe	66	Very high
Crinigan Bushland Reserve	Maryvale Road	Morwell	64	Very high
Olsens Bridge Reserve	Olsen's Road	Boolarra South	63	Very high
Mt Tassie	Goombala Road	Mt Tassie	61	Very high
Morwell River Falls Reserve	Morwell River Road	Budgerie	60	Very high
Traralgon Railway Reservoir Conservation Reserve	Hickox Street	Traralgon	57	Very high
Traralgon Creek (Yerang Park) Flora Reserve)	Traralgon Creek Road	Balook	56	Very high
Traralgon Creek Road	Traralgon Creek Road	Balook	53	High
Traralgon Creek Road – Forest Reserve	Traralgon Creek Road	Koornalla	52	High
Ollerton Avenue Bushland Reserve	Ollerton Avenue	Newborough	51	High
Moe Yallourn Rail Trail (MYRT)	Moe/Newborough	Newborough	51	High
Whitelaw's Track Reserve	Whitelaws Track	Yinnar South	51	High
Gaskin Park	Manning Drive	Churchill	50	High
Sandbanks Reserve	Tyers Road	Tyers	50	High
Budgerie Bushland Reserve	Roy's Road	Budgerie	49	High
Ikara Way	Ikara Way	Churchill	49	High
Eel Hole Creek	Phillip Parade	Churchill	48	High
College Park	Eastern Avenue	Newborough	47	High
Lake Narracan	Hayes Road	Newborough	47	High
Narracan Creek	Botanic Drive	Newborough	47	High
Waterhole Creek	The Boulevard	Morwell	46	High
Mavis Whateley Park – Old Pony Club	Glengarry North Road	Toongabbie	43	Medium
SEC Reserve	792 Coach Road	Newborough	43	Medium
Primrose Park	Morwell River Road	Boolarra	40	Medium
Jumbuk Estate Reserve	Old Jumbuk Road	Jeeralang Junction	40	Medium
Arcadia Grassland Reserve	27–47 Hazelwood Road	Traralgon	37	Medium
Eric Lubcke Yarra Gum Conservation Reserve	Maryvale Crescent	Morwell	34	Low
Tom's Bridge	Tanjil East Road	Yallourn North	33	Low

Fitzgibbons Road Flora and Fauna Reserve	Fitzgibbons Road	Tyers	33	Low
Taylors Road	Taylors Road	Koornalla	33	Low
Traralgon Creek Water Frontage – Koornalla and Le Roy Reserve	Traralgon Creek Road	Traralgon South	33	Low
Apex Park	Morwell River Road	Boolarra South	33	Low
Le Roy Reserve	Traralgon Creek Road	Koornalla	31	Low
Jean Galbraith Flora Reserve	Mount Hope Road	Tyers	25	Low

NB. Not all Council managed bushland is captured on this list. There are several parcels of Crown land managed by LCC, particularly along waterways, that are not managed as distinct reserves.

Table A3-2: Reserve Prioritisation Criteria

Criteria	Rationale	Level	Score
Habitat Value			
Average Habitat Value for each reserve derived from DEECA's Habitat Value map.	Habitat Value is derived from information about where species are likely to live and where native vegetation occurs. Areas that support either more species or rare species have a higher value. The average value for each site was determined then assigned a value score out of 10.	Very high	10
		High	8
		Moderate	6
		Low	4
Native Vegetation Condition			
Ecological Vegetation Class Bioregional Conservation	A bioregional conservation status is provided for each EVC within a bioregion. It is a measure of the current extent and quality for each EVC, when compared to its pre-1750 extent and condition.	Endangered	10
		Vulnerable	7
		Depleted	5
		Rare	3
		Least Concern	0
Vegetation Condition	A rapid assessment of vegetation condition. The score reflects the condition of the majority of the site with respect to the EVC benchmark, including presence of large trees, canopy cover, understorey, weed cover, recruitment, organic matter and logs. Adapted from Keighery (1994).	Excellent (majority of site meets benchmark)	10
		Very good	7
		Good	5
		Degraded	3
		Completely degraded	1
Size and Shape			
Reserve Size	Large reserves are more likely to support viable and resilient communities.	Greater than 10 Ha	10
		5 - 10 Ha	8
		2 - 5 Ha	6
		1 - 2 Ha	4
		0 - 1 Ha	2
Reserve Shape	Large, more rounded/square shaped reserves are more likely to have less edge effects and provide better habitat quality as compared to long and thin shaped reserves.	Circular, square	5
		Oval, rectangular (elongated)	4
		Irregular with few indentations and wide	3
		Irregular with indentations	2
		Narrow strip or highly fragmented	1
Habitat Link	Connectivity enables species movement, supporting breeding, access to resources and recolonisation after disturbance. It helps to maintain genetic diversity and reduces the risk of local extinctions. Connected landscapes are more resilient ecosystems.	Part of a continuous link	5
		Part of an intermittent link	3
		Part of highly fragmented link or potential link	2
		Not part of a link	0
Natural Features			
Wetland or Waterway	The presence of wetlands or waterways provides additional habitat and resources.	Permanent or ephemeral waterway/wetland present	5
		No waterway or wetland present	0
Community Use			
Active Community Group	Presence of an active volunteer group at a site increases the community value and priority.	Regular involvement (> 4 visits p.a)	5
		Irregular involvement (> 4 visits p.a)	3
		Absent	0
Recreational/ Educational Use	Considers accessibility, existing paths, interpretive signage, proximity to schools or community groups, and suitability for guided walks or environmental education.	High	5
		Medium	3
		Low	0
Restoration potential			
Potential to restore site through active management	The capacity to restore ecological function, structure, and native species composition through cost-effective management actions. Includes consideration of regeneration potential, existing vegetation structure, weed pressure, hydrology, soil condition and surrounding land use.	High	10
		Moderate	7
		Low	4
		Very low	1
Tally scores for all sites and rank accordingly			/75

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Document review and authorisation

Project Number: #3010

Doc Version	Final/Draft	Date	Author	PD Review	BST Review	Release approved by	Issued to
1.0	Working draft	01/06/2026	S. Chalmers J. Scally	T. Wallis	B. Gravenor	T. Wallis	Latrobe City Council
1.1	Draft v2	16/06/2026	S. Chalmers J. Scally	T. Wallis	-	T. Wallis	Latrobe City Council

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SPECIAL CHARGE SCHEME - SEALING OF PINDARI ROAD AND KANDRA ROAD, MOE SOUTH

The recommended decision is not a Prohibited Decision, as defined in section 69 of the Local Government Act 2020 or a Significant Decision within the meaning of the Election Period Policy.

PURPOSE

To seek Council's endorsement to declare a Special Charge Scheme in accordance with Section 163 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (Act) and the Council's Special Charge Scheme Policy (SCS Policy) for the construction of a sealed road surface on Pindari and Kandra Roads, Moe South.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- At the 23 March 2026 Council meeting, Council resolved its intention to declare a special charge scheme to construct a sealed surface on Pindari and Kandra Roads, Moe South (**Attachment 1**).
- The public notices were sent to property owners and tenants (14 in properties in total) regarding Council's intention on 1 April 2026. As part of the process to declare the special charge, a public notice was published in the Latrobe Valley Express and on Council's website.
- 5 submissions were received (**Confidential Attachment 2**) from the 14 properties in total; these included 3 objections and 2 in support of the special charge.
- Concurrently Council officers undertook a public tender process for the works to understand the likely total costs of the project, an initial tender evaluation has been completed for the project.
- While use of bituminous sealing materials is the traditional approach taken for this type of work, the public tender for the works also included an option for tenderers to price a concrete pavement alternative, this alternative was more expensive than the bituminous surfacing option.
- Pursuant to the contribution levels set in the SCS Policy that was in place at the time of the initial request, the contribution for the property owners on these roads will be capped at 25% of the project cost, whilst Council will be responsible for funding the remaining 75% as this is the contribution required under the policy when this process commenced.
- If the Special Charge Scheme (SCS) is endorsed by Council and no substantive submissions are lodged with VCAT the works are planned for the later half of the 2026 calendar year.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. having complied with the requirements of Sections 163A, 163B and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) and otherwise according to law, declares a Special Charge Scheme under section 163 of the Act as follows:
 - a. the special charge is declared for a period of 2 years commencing on 27 July 2026;
 - b. the special charge be declared for the purpose of defraying expenses incurred by Council in relation to the sealing of Pindari Road and Kandra Road, Moe South:
 - i. Council considers the works will be a special benefit to those persons required to pay the special charge (and who are described in succeeding parts of this Resolution);
 - ii. the scheme arises out of Council's function of planning for and providing infrastructure for property owners;
 - c. the total estimated cost of the scheme be recorded as \$510,000;
 - d. it be recorded that, for the purposes of Section 163(2A) of the Act, the special charge proceeds will not exceed the amount calculated in accordance with the prescribed formula ($R \times C = S$), where:
 - i. Benefit Ratio (R) is adopted as $R = 0.25$, in accordance with Council's Special Charge Scheme Policy applying to the sealing/upgrade of unsealed roads;
 - ii. Total Cost (C) of performing the function described in part 1(b) of this resolution based on estimated cost be recorded as \$510,000;
 - iii. Maximum levy (S) be recorded as \$127,500;
 - e. determines that:
 - i. the area for which the special charge is so declared be specified as the area within the municipal district of Council shown in the plan at Attachment 3;
 - ii. the land in relation to which the special charge is so declared be specified as the land within the area shown on the plan in Attachment 3;
 - iii. ownership of any land described in Section 1(e)(ii) of this Resolution be specified as the criteria which form the basis of the special charge so declared;
 - f. specifies the following as the way the special charge so declared will be assessed and levied:
 - i. each property receives a special benefit from the sealing of the road by way of abuttal and access;
 - ii. each property's contribution be calculated as its apportionment divided by the sum of all apportionments, multiplied by 0.25 of the total estimated cost;

- iii. the special charge will be levied by sending a notice to the person who is liable to pay, pursuant to section 163(4) of the Act;
- g. having regard to the preceding parts of this Resolution, but subject to Section 166(1) of the Act:
 - i. the owner of each property identified at Attachment 4 is liable for its corresponding estimated amount as set out in that attachment;
 - ii. the owner may, subject to any further resolution of Council, pay the special charge in the following manner:
 - A. the charge will become due and payable within three months of the issue of the notice requesting payment pursuant to Section 167(3) of the Act;
 - B. interest will not be charged for twelve months after the issue of the notice provided the person liable makes timely payment in accordance with any repayment arrangements that may be agreed on by Council;
 - C. in accordance with Section 172 of the Act, Council may charge interest, subject to Section 172(1A) of the Act and Section 1(g)(ii)B of this Resolution, on any part of the special charge unpaid by the specified date, at a rate set as Council's estimated borrowing rate capped at the rate fixed by the Minister under Section 172A(1) applying on the preceding 1 July, continuing until the charge is paid or recovered; and
- 2. authorises each of the Chief Executive Officer, the General Manager Infrastructure and Sustainability, or the Manager City Assets, to levy the special charge in accordance with Section 163(4) of the Act, and to carry out any and all other administrative procedures necessary to give effect to this resolution and to Council's obligations under Section 163 of the Act.

BACKGROUND

Council officers received a request from residents in Moe South to seal Pindari Road (and subsequently Kandra Road) in 2023. During the intervening time there has been various correspondence exchanged, meetings held (including a community information session), and concept and detailed design development undertaken.

The Act allows Council to impose a special charge for works or services on property owners who Council believes receive a 'special benefit' from the provision of those works or services.

This is a particular advantage or increased amenity that the person's property receives from a council service or infrastructure project, over and above the general benefit enjoyed by the wider community.

Council's SCS Policy outlines how Council would support the upgrading of infrastructure where a group of property owners would receive a special benefit that does not extend to most other property owners within the municipality.

Importantly, under the Act a SCS is unable to be declared if Council receives formal objections from a majority (50% + 1) of affected property owners following the release of the notice of intention. Of the impacted property owners (14) only three objections have been received, these objections comply with the requirements to be considered an objection under 163B of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ANALYSIS

A detailed design for the project has been completed. Council has also undertaken a tender process and based on the completed design, has identified a preferred tender submission within the estimated budget amount. Should Council decide not to proceed with the Special Charge Scheme (SCS), a contract for the works would not be awarded.

Officers are recommending the formal declaration of the SCS whilst noting 5 submissions (**Confidential Attachment 2**) were received.

If Council resolves to declare the SCS, in accordance with the Act notices levying the charge will be issued to property owners, after which a 30-day period must be provided to allow affected property owners to appeal the decision to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). In practice, officers generally allow 40 to 45 days to accommodate any delays associated with appeal lodgement or notification from VCAT.

Provided no appeals are lodged with VCAT, it is anticipated that the Chief Executive Officer would be able to award the contract for the works, subject to compliance with Council's Procurement Policy, delegation requirements and the availability of budget.

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
COMPLIANCE Special Charge Scheme is not established or administered in accordance with Part 10 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>, resulting in procedural challenge, delay, or invalidation of the scheme.	Medium <i>Unlikely × Major</i>	Managed by ensuring all statutory steps are followed, including proper declaration, notice, consultation, consideration of submissions, and formal Council resolutions, consistent with the Act Council's SCS Policy.
SERVICE DELIVERY Sealing works are delayed or not delivered to the required standard due to scope changes, contractor availability, or construction impacts.	Low <i>Unlikely × Moderate</i>	Mitigated through detailed design, accurate cost estimates, coordinated delivery as a single project, and application of Council's standard project management and contract supervision processes.
FINANCIAL Final project costs exceed estimates, resulting in increased financial exposure to Council or affordability concerns for affected property owners.	Medium <i>Possible × Moderate</i>	Mitigated by capping property owner contributions at 25%, developing estimates and applying contingencies, and offering payment options in accordance with the Act.
STRATEGIC Special Charge Scheme does not align with Council's strategic priorities or leads to community dissatisfaction if expectations around cost, timing, or outcomes are not met.	Low <i>Unlikely × Minor</i>	Mitigated by aligning the project with Council's SCS Policy, asset management objectives, and by maintaining clear communication with affected property owners throughout the process.

CONSULTATION

Council officers have undertaken a number of surveys of affected property owners since 2023 regarding the proposed SCS and the results of the most recent survey indicated a majority of respondents supported sealing the roads.

A community meeting was also conducted in 2024 with residents, where the scope of the project and the process of the Special Charge Scheme was discussed. Several other pieces of correspondence have also been sent to residents including update letters, concept plans and high-level cost estimates.

Should Council resolve to declare the special charge, officers would advise the property owners and tenants of the opportunity to appeal to VCAT during 30-day window (subject to future Council decision to formally declare the SCS)

COMMUNICATION

As required by the *Local Government Act 1989*, the 14 properties (**Attachment 4**) that would be impacted by the Special Charge were provided with a written Notice of Intention to Declare on 1 April 2026 and were given until 15 May 2026 to provide their submissions in the matter. The Notice of Intention to Declare was also advertised in the Latrobe Valley Express on 15 April 2026.

After one notice was returned to sender, it was reissued by hand and an additional one-week extension granted, moving the submission deadline to 20 May 2026.

To ensure landowners were aware of the Notice of Intention to Declare, officers attempted to make additional contact with property owners via phone with a follow up by email, to outline the process and ensure full understanding by each owner.

Objections were received from only 3 of the 14 property owners.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Officers preparing this report have declared they do not have a conflict of interest in this matter under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

APPENDIX 1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Gender

A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) under the *Gender Equality Act 2020* has not been conducted as this matter does not involve a program, service or policy with a significant and direct impact on the community.

Social

Sealing gravel roads can improve accessibility, safety, and amenity for residents by reducing dust, improving travel times, and supporting community connectivity. However, it may also create equity concerns or community tension where some ratepayers face financial contributions they perceive as disproportionate or unaffordable.

Cultural

No significant cultural impacts have been identified.

Health

Reduced dust as a result of sealing a gravel road could improve respiratory health outcomes and general wellbeing, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children, older residents, or those with asthma. Conversely, financial stress associated with the special charge could negatively affect mental wellbeing for some households.

Environmental

Road sealing can decrease dust and sediment runoff associated with gravel loss, but it typically increases impervious surface area, altering drainage patterns and potentially increasing stormwater impacts. It may also encourage higher traffic speeds or volumes, contributing to noise, emissions, and potentially habitat disturbance.

Economic

Improved road conditions can lower vehicle operating costs, support property values, and enhance productivity through more reliable access for residents, emergency services, and freight. At the same time, upfront financial contributions required under the scheme may place pressure on household finances and affect affordability.

Financial

The tendered works price has come back within the estimated budget amount.

Based on the Special Charges Scheme allows 25% of Council's costs recovered through property owner contributions.

Councils' contribution will be funded from the Special Charge Scheme reserve which currently has a budget allocated of \$438,000.

There should also be consideration of Council's financial position and future renewal cost.

Any overruns would be required to be funded wholly by Council, whilst any savings on the project would be evenly apportioned and returned to property owners.

Attachments

1. Council Meeting Resolution- 23 March 2026
2. Submissions to Pindari Road and Kandra Road SCS (Published Separately)

This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (f) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs. Submissions have the right to remain anonymous.

3. Site Plan
4. Benefitting Properties

9.3

Special Charge Scheme - Sealing of Pindari Road and Kandra Road, Moe South

1	Council Meeting Resolution- 23 March 2026	72
3	Site Plan	73
4	Benefitting Properties	75

Item Number 11.8 23 March 2026

Infrastructure and Sustainability

PINDARI AND KANDRA ROADS, MOE SOUTH - PROPOSED SPECIAL CHARGE SCHEME

MOTION

Moved: Cr Pugsley

Seconded: Cr Howe

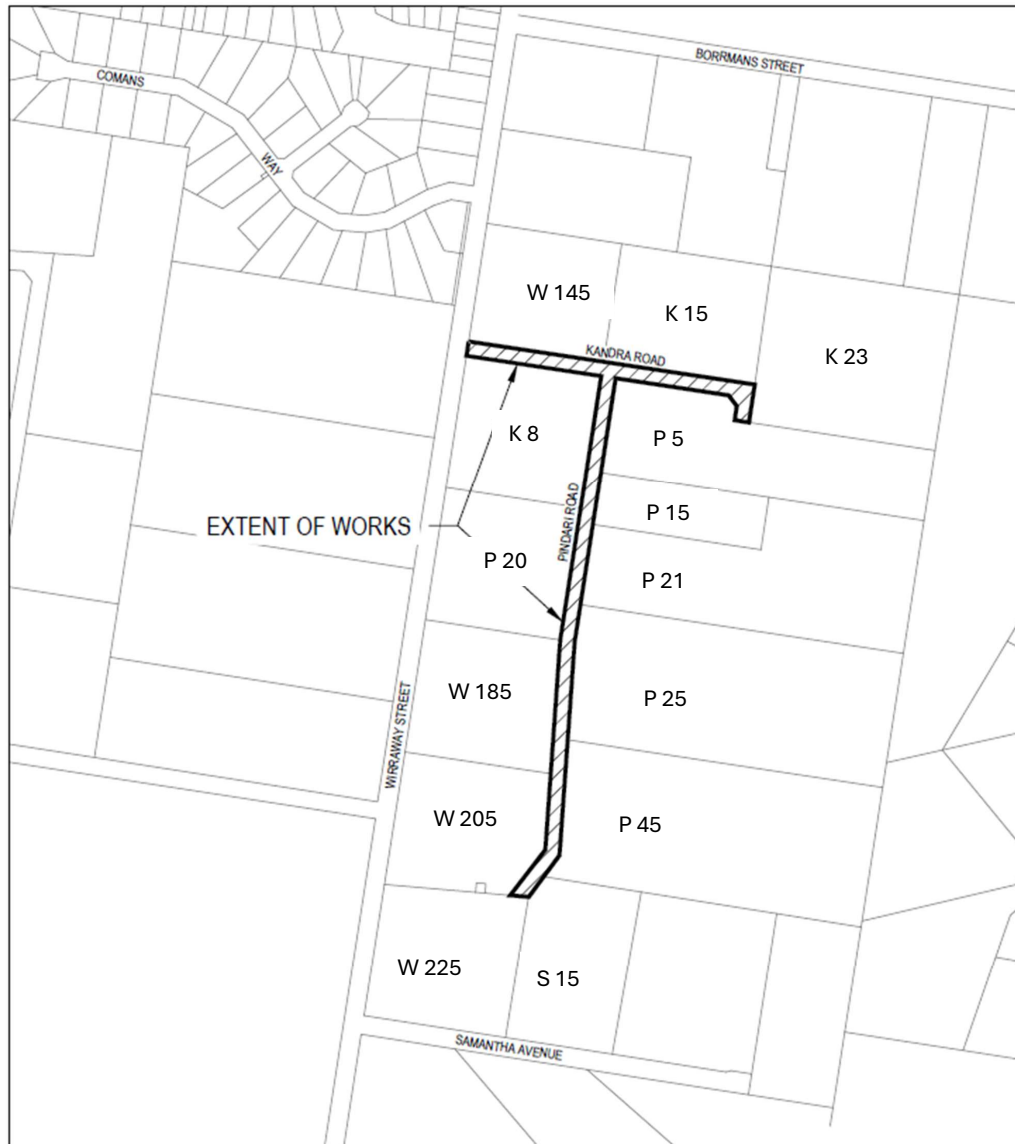
That Council:

1. pursuant to section 163(1) of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act), gives notice of its intention to declare at the 27 July 2026 Council Meeting a Special Charge for the purpose of defraying expenses to be incurred by Council in relation to the sealing of Pindari Road and Kandra Road, Moe South;
2. authorises public notice to be given in the Latrobe Valley Express and on Council's website of Council's intention to declare the Special Charge;
3. authorises separate letters enclosing a copy of the public notice referred to in paragraph 2 of this resolution to be sent to both the tenants (occupiers) and owners of the properties included in the scheme, advising of Council's intention to levy the Special Charge, the amount for which the property owner or tenant will be liable, the basis of the calculation of the Special Charge, and notifying such persons that submissions and/or objections in writing in relation to the proposal will be considered by Council in accordance with sections 163A, 163B and 223 of the Act;
4. considers any submissions or objections received by Council in accordance with sections 163A, 163B and 223 of the Act by no later than the Council Meeting scheduled for 27 July 2026; and
5. authorises each of the Chief Executive Officer, the General Manager Infrastructure and Sustainability or the Manager City Assets (or any person for the time being acting in any of those positions), to carry out any and all other administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions under section 163A and sections 163(1A), (1B) and (1C) and sections 163B and 223 of the Act.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

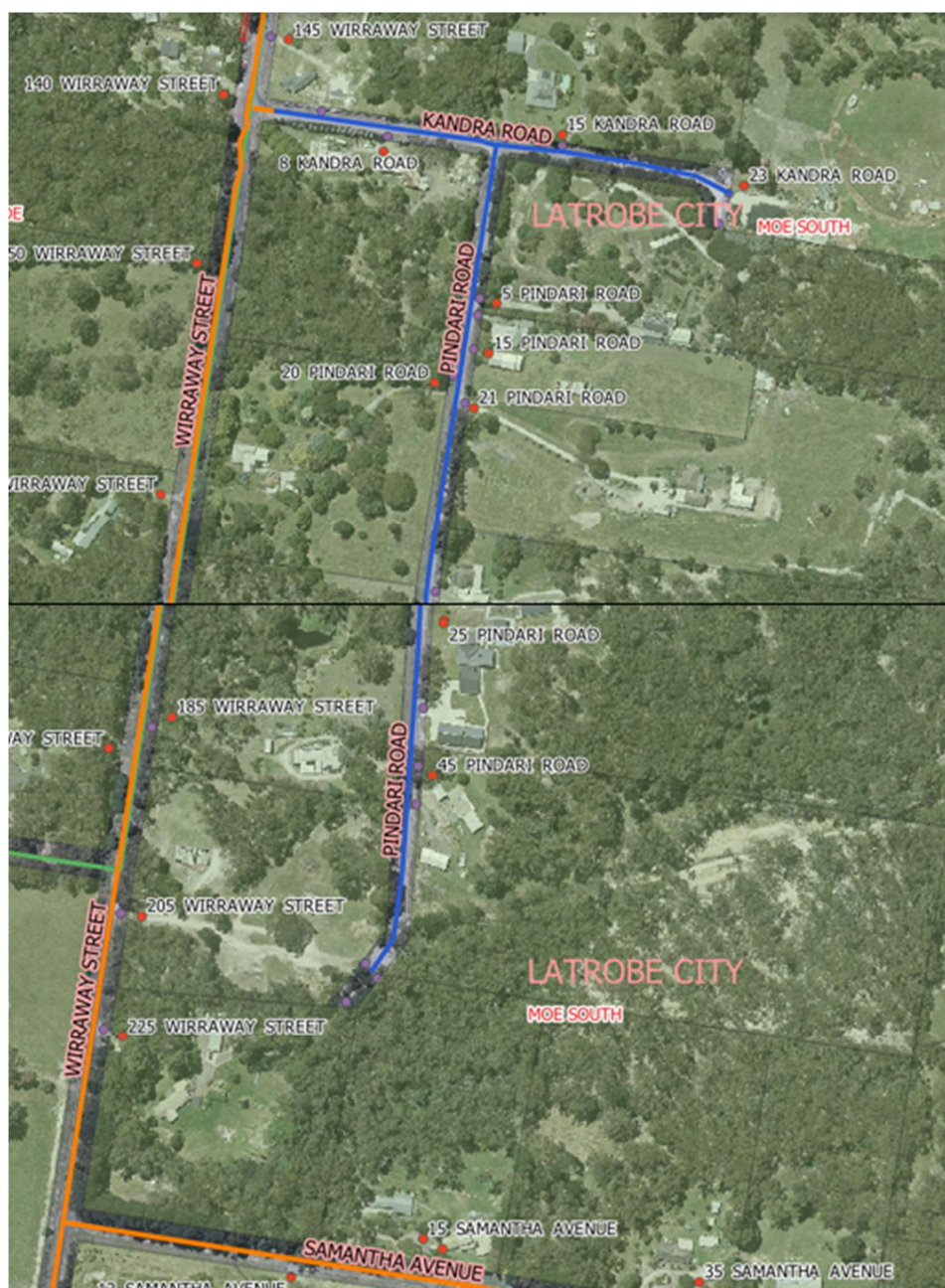
Attachments

Nil

SCOPE OF WORKS – SITE PLAN – ABUTTING PROPERTIES**SITE PLAN**

NOT TO SCALE

SCOPE OF WORKS – SITE PLAN – AERIAL IMAGERY



BENEFITTING PROPERTIES

#	Land Use	Benefit	Lot	Property Address	Estimate Property Contribution
1	Residential Rural/Rural Lifestyle	Abuttal and Access onto Pindari	L3 LP 42570	5 Pindari Road	\$9,107.14
2	Residential Rural/Rural Lifestyle	Abuttal and Access onto Pindari	L1 PS 612483	15 Pindari Road	\$9,107.14
3	Residential Rural/Rural Lifestyle	Abuttal and Access onto Pindari	L3 LP 29736	20 Pindari Road	\$9,107.14
4	Residential Rural/Rural Lifestyle	Abuttal and Access onto Pindari	L2 PS 612483	21 Pindari Road	\$9,107.14
5	Residential Rural/Rural Lifestyle	Abuttal and Access onto Pindari	L2 LP 42571	25A Pindari Road	\$9,107.14
6	Residential Rural/Rural Lifestyle	Abuttal and Access onto Pindari	L3 LP 42571	45 Pindari Road	\$9,107.14
7	Residential Rural/Rural Lifestyle	Abuttal and Access onto Pindari	L2 LP 29769	8 Kandra Road	\$9,107.14
8	Residential Rural/Rural Lifestyle	Abuttal and Access onto Kandra	L1 LP 42570	15 Kandra Road	\$9,107.14
9	Residential Rural/Rural Lifestyle	Abuttal and Access onto Kandra	L2 LP 42570	23 Kandra Road	\$9,107.14
10	Residential Rural/Rural Lifestyle	Abuttal and Access onto Kandra	L2 TP 666010	145 Wirraway Street	\$9,107.14
11	Residential Rural/Rural Lifestyle	Abuttal and Access onto Pindari	L4 LP 42570	185 Wirraway Street	\$9,107.14
12	Residential Rural/Rural Lifestyle	Abuttal and Access onto Pindari	L1 & L2 LP 99447	205 Wirraway Street	\$9,107.14
13	Residential Rural/Rural Lifestyle	Abuttal and Access onto Pindari	L1 TP 822597	225 Wirraway Street	\$9,107.14
14	Residential Rural/Rural Lifestyle	Abuttal and Access onto Pindari	L1 LP 143839	15A Samantha Avenue	\$9,107.14
					\$127,500.00

STATUTORY PLANNING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT C155 (MOE ACTIVITY CENTRE PLAN) - REQUEST TO SEEK AUTHORISATION

The recommended decision is not a Prohibited Decision, as defined in section 69 of the Local Government Act 2020 or a Significant Decision within the meaning of the Election Period Policy.

PURPOSE

To provide Council with the background information and draft Amendment documentation to the proposed Planning Scheme Amendment C155 (Moe Activity Centre Plan) and seek endorsement of the next steps for consideration of the Amendment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Moe Activity Centre Plan was first adopted in 2007. It was identified for review in the *Strategic Planning Review Program* and the *Latrobe City Retail Strategy 2019*.
- The draft Moe Activity Centre Plan 2026 has been prepared to inform land use, encourage greater economic and social activity, promote greater environmentally sustainable design and encourage sustainable transport choices to have a liveable, sustainable and walkable sub-regional activity centre.
- Community consultation which was held from 21 November 2024 to 31 January 2025 and along with seven background documents inform the draft Moe Activity Centre Plan (the Plan), the background documents include:
 - Planning Context;
 - Consultation Summary;
 - Economic Analysis;
 - Social Infrastructure Needs Analysis;
 - Transport, Movement and Car Parking Assessment;
 - Potentially Contaminated Land Report; and
 - Urban Design and Built Form Plan.
- The draft Plan's vision forms the basis of a framework which outlines key policy directions and important physical outcomes as they relate to the following:
 - Land use and activity;
 - Built form and development;

- Landscape and public realm; and
- Access and movement
- The proposed Amendment implements the recommendations of the draft Plan into the Latrobe Planning Scheme. The Amendment proposes to:
 - Rezone the majority of land in the Moe CBD from Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z) and Mixed Use Zone (MUZ) to Activity Centre Zone – Schedule 3 (ACZ3);
 - Rezone land that is currently C1Z to a Residential Growth Zone (Schedules 2 and 3) where the current land use is accommodation;
 - Rezone the police station on Anzac Street, Moe to Public Use Zone – Schedule 7;
 - Update local policy to achieve the strategic directions for the Moe Activity Centre Plan;
 - Apply the Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO) to sites identified as potentially contaminated; and
 - Updates the background documents in the Latrobe Planning Scheme to replace with the new Plan.
- The Activity Centre Zone will support investment and reduces unnecessary planning permit triggers.
- If Authorisation is granted, Exhibition will not occur until after 1 August 2026.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **endorses the draft Moe Activity Centre Plan and associated background documents, provided at Attachment 1-8 for public exhibition as part of Amendment C155;**
2. **requests authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Amendment C155 to the Latrobe Planning Scheme, in accordance with section 16G of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*;**
3. **prepares Amendment C155 to the Latrobe Planning Scheme to implement the Moe Activity Centre Plan generally in accordance with the documentation provided at Attachments 9-12, subject to receiving Ministerial Authorisation; and**
4. **places Amendment C155 on exhibition in accordance with the requirements of section 19 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, subject to Ministerial Authorisation.**

BACKGROUND

The Moe Primary Activity Centre is identified as a sub-regional centre within the Latrobe Planning Scheme. A sub-regional centre serves a broad region and provides a range of convenience and comparison-shopping facilities. Sub-regional centres can also provide a range of non-retail uses.

The current Activity Centre area (as shown in Figure 1) is broadly bounded by:

- Bell/Haigh Street;
- Anzac Parade;
- Reservoir Road;
- Vale Street;
- Wirraway Street;
- Lloyd Street; and
- Saviges Road.

However, the majority of the commercial area (Commercial 1 Zone and Mixed Use Zone) that is proposed to be rezoned (see Figure 1) is broadly bounded by:

- Bell/Haigh Street;
- Anzac Parade;
- Linton Avenue;
- Langford Street;
- Kingsford Street; and
- Saviges Road.

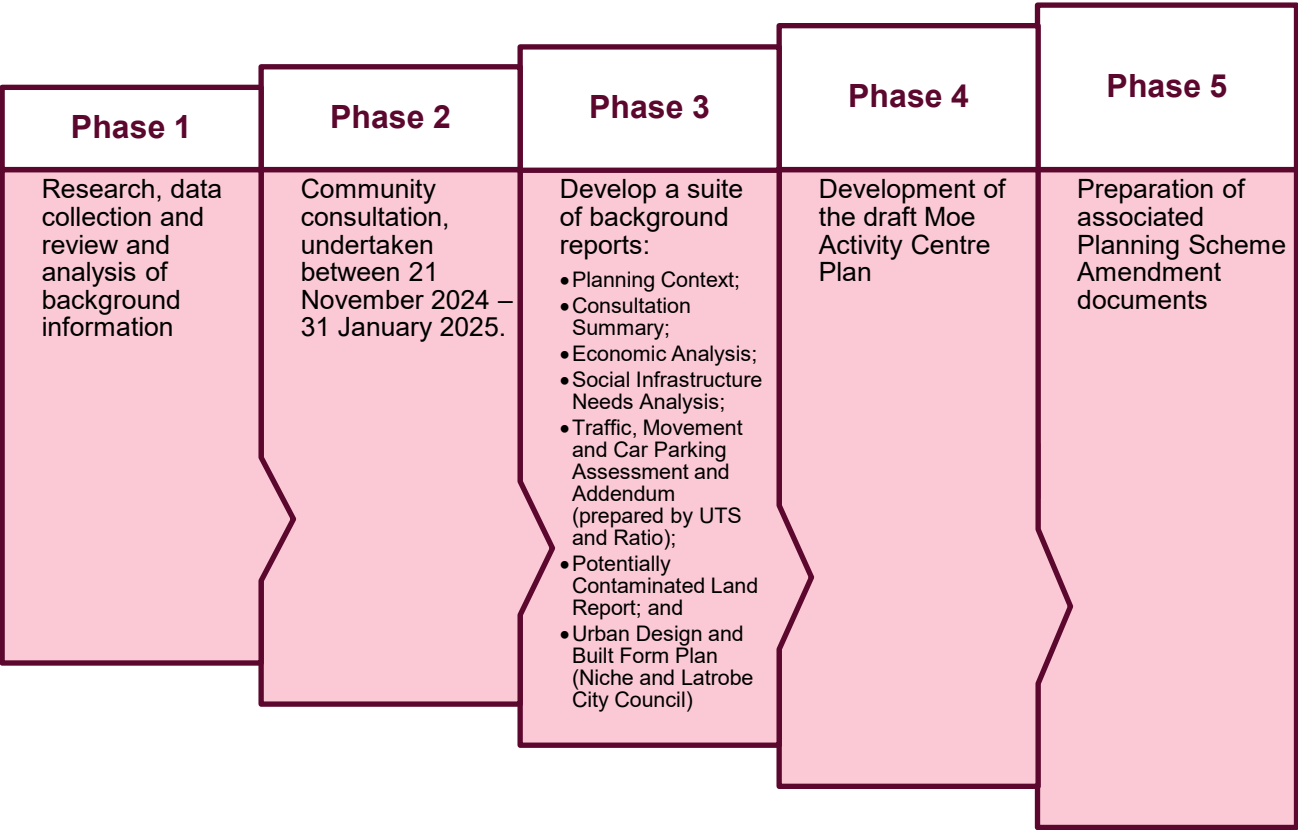
Figure 1: Study area with current zoning



The Moe Activity Centre Plan was first adopted in 2007; it is the first of the four main towns Activity Centre plans to be reviewed and updated as a part of Council's *Strategic Planning Review Program*.

The project to review the Moe Activity Centre Plan, commenced in 2023 and was developed in the following methodology:

Figure 2: Methodology



The review has resulted in an updated plan being prepared and subsequent proposed planning scheme amendment to implement the plan.

The draft Plan’s vision forms the basis of a framework which outlines key policy directions and important physical outcomes as they relate to the following:

1. Land use and activity (how we use the land);
2. Built form and development (what the buildings look like);
3. Landscape and public realm (what the streets and open spaces look like); and
4. Access and movement (how we move around the CBD).

The draft Plan also outlines a series of urban design guidelines to support the built form strategies.

The draft Plan aims to guide the major changes that together can achieve economic, social and environmental objectives for the centre (see Analysis Section for community consultation themes which outline the key directions for the plan).

A Planning Scheme Amendment must provide strategic justification for the Amendment. Section 12(A) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Act) sets out the requirements for strategic justification. The Moe Activity Centre Plan and associated background documents (see **Confidential Attachments 1 - 8**) provides the background that supports the Amendment while the Explanatory Report (**Confidential Attachment 9**) outlines how Amendment C155 meets the relevant guidelines and policy.

ANALYSIS

Through consultation five key engagement themes were identified, these include:

- Ensuring the CBD caters to a range of ages;
- Improving the safety of the CBD;
- Improving the amenity within the CBD;
- Encouraging greater activity within the CBD; and
- Protecting the attributes within the CBD that are highly valued by community members.

In addition, through the analysis of other strategic work, and the preparation of the background reports, a number of other issues and opportunities were identified, that the draft Plan also seeks to address including:

Issues

- The quality of the public realm and built form is poor in parts contributing to a 'tired appearance' of the centre as a whole.
- Rail line severance contributes to a disjointed CBD area comprising two separate precincts.
- The smaller southern precinct lacks anchor tenants and has a high shopfront vacancy rate.
- Lack of integration of major tenants with other nearby businesses, especially Coles and Kmart, limits the ability of smaller businesses to leverage the customer activity generated from anchor tenants.
- Limited population growth along with a relatively poor market perception have contributed to limited private sector investment over the past 30 years. However, it is noted that private sector investment has started to increase in recent years.

Opportunities

- Improve connectedness of major anchor tenants with nearby businesses.
- Improve the 'destination appeal', of the CBD area for Moe residents and visitors through urban design works that improve attractiveness, comfort and connectedness.

- Improve the quality of the building stock by encouraging new investment and the redevelopment of derelict buildings.
- Potential to consider a revised role of the CBD area to the south of the railway line.
- Increase local population growth and spending associated with the potential residential development at Lake Narracan.

The review found that the 2007 Moe Activity Centre Plan had achieved a large portion of its objectives and that actions were no longer required due to updates in State policy. As such, the draft Plan seeks to address the issues, opportunities and engagement themes to form a cohesive framework for the Moe CBD in a new plan.

The proposed Amendment implements the draft Plan into the Latrobe Planning Scheme. The Amendment proposes to:

- Rezone the majority of land in the Moe CBD from Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z) and Mixed Use Zone (MUZ) to Activity Centre Zone – Schedule 3 (ACZ3);
- Rezone land that is currently C1Z to a Residential Growth Zone (Schedules 2 and 3) where the current land use is accommodation;
- Rezone the police station on Anzac Street, Moe to Public Use Zone – Schedule 7;
- Update local policy to achieve the strategic directions for the draft Moe Activity Centre Plan;
- Apply the Environmental Audit Overlay (EAO) to sites identified as potentially contaminated; and
- Updates the background documents in the Latrobe Planning Scheme to replace with the new Plan.

Activity Centre Zone

The Activity Centre Zone seeks to simplify zone and overlay controls within activity centres (usually town centres) which tend to be complex urban environments. The Activity Centre Zone combines both zoning and built form controls and allows for these to be targeted to the requirements of different Precincts (in this case 6 Precincts) within the Activity Centre rather than the mix of zones or applying additional overlays that can cause confusion. The Activity Centre Zone is a special purpose zone which allows you tailor the zone to requirements of the area.

By introducing the Activity Centre Zone into the Latrobe Planning Scheme, it is seen as the first step in implementing the Plan. Furthermore, it will provide greater clarity to statutory planning officers and developers in applying for and assessing planning permit applications, it aims to have the following benefits:

- The incorporation of urban design guidelines into the Latrobe Planning Scheme, which will help deliver high quality building designs and streetscapes.

- Greater strategic direction when assessing planning permit applications which in turn will provide greater certainty for developers.
- Greater housing diversity within the Moe town centre. This results in more passive surveillance and greater perceived safety.
- Greater control over building heights as the current zoning does not have a height limit despite abutting residential land. The ACZ seeks to reduce the potential heights to a height consistent with the surrounding residential zones.
- Control of the location of rooming houses. The current zone allows 'Rooming House' as a section 1 use (no permit required). The Activity Centre Zone puts limits on where rooming houses can be located by prohibiting them in 3 of the precincts (Precincts 1, 2 and 3 which make up the 'Key Retail Spine').

If the actions identified in the draft Plan are undertaken, it may have the following benefits:

- Public Realm improvements to encourage more people to stay longer within the town centre.
- Greater walkability through the identification of public realm improvements that increase comfort, safety and easier wayfinding.
- Economic uplift by encouraging people to stay longer, walk more and spend more through the identified public realm improvements and increased retail activity.
- Greater connection into the town centre through identified actions to improve connections across the railway line.
- A greater sense of identity for Moe by providing a town hub and key focal point.

Residential Growth Zone – Schedules 2 and 3

The Residential Growth Zone is applied to residential properties within 800m of the CBD in the four main towns. In Moe, the 800m catchment is defined by the current Activity Centre Boundary (see Figure 1). The Residential Growth Zone was applied to this area in October 2014 through Amendment C84, it was further refined to ensure that Moe and Morwell remained at a lower scale than Traralgon through Amendment C105 which was finalised in October 2019.

The Amendment proposes to revise the boundary of the commercial zone. The *Moe Activity Centre Plan - Economic Analysis 2026* (see **Confidential Attachment 4**) found that there was sufficient capacity within the Moe CBD to cater to future needs without the land that is currently used for residential purposes. It proposes to rezone properties from Commercial 1 Zone to a Residential Growth Zone where these properties are either currently being used as a residential property or are vacant and on a primarily residential street. Therefore, Council officers don't believe there will be a significant impact of the operations if they are rezoned.

The RGZ2 is proposed to be applied to residential properties that adjoin a heritage building, while the RGZ3 is applied to all other areas (see **Confidential Attachment 11** for the proposed rezoning extent).

If the rezoning of land is approved by the Ministerial for Planning, the Valuer-General Victoria will assess the taxable value uplift after the rezoning takes effect. If the value of the land increases more than \$100,000 then windfall gains tax may apply. Whether windfall gains tax applies is not a consideration under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Public Use Zone – Schedule 7

The Public Use Zone – Schedule 7 (PUZ7) is proposed to apply the Police Station on Anzac Street. This is consistent with the Justice Precinct in Morwell which is also zoned PUZ7.

Environmental Audit Overlay

The Environmental Audit Overlay is proposed to be applied to 24 sites (see **Attachment 11**) that have been identified as a high potential for land contamination in accordance with *Ministerial Direction No. 1 Potentially Contaminated Land*. The sites (see Appendix 3 of **Confidential Attachment 3**) are generally former or current petrol stations (or areas with fuel tanks), mechanics, drycleaners, or firefighting facilities.

In accordance with *Ministerial Direction 1*, if the Planning Authority has determined there is potential for contaminated land it must either:

1. Complete a Preliminary Risk Screen Assessment for the properties to determine if sensitive uses are allowed; or
2. Ensure that environmental auditor has issues an environmental audit statement stating that sensitive uses are allowed (which requires an environmental audit and remediation of land); or
3. Where a planning authority determines that complying with subclause (1) or (2) is difficult or inappropriate it may defer the requirements of those subclauses provided the requirements are included in the amendment through the application of an Environmental Audit Overlay or other appropriate measure.

Council officers have selected option 3 as it is difficult / inappropriate to undertake an environmental audit prior to the Amendment.

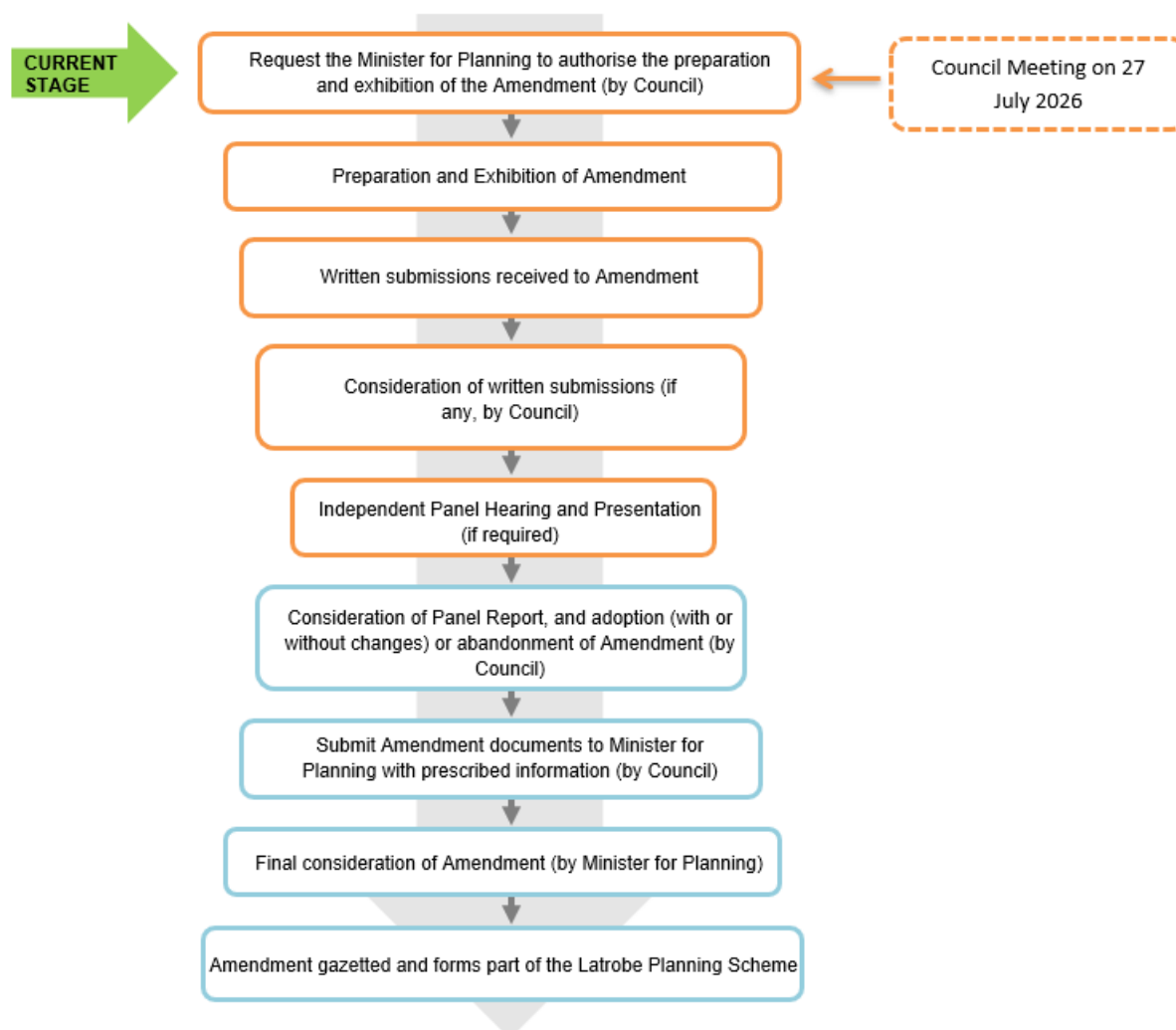
The EAO does not change the current use but rather signals to the market that if the use is to change to a sensitive use that an Environmental Audit might be required to ensure that sensitive use is not impacted by any contamination.

In accordance with section 16F of the Act, the Minister for Planning may authorise Council to prepare an amendment to local provisions of the Latrobe Planning Scheme.

The purpose of the Act is to establish a framework for planning the use, development and protection of land in Victoria in the present and long-term interest of all Victorians. Council has had regard to section 12(2) of the Act that requires strategic justification and considers Amendment C155 to be consistent with these requirements.

The planning scheme amendment process is shown in Figure 3 below, which identifies the current stage Amendment C155 is at in the process.

Figure 3: Amendment C155 Planning Scheme Amendment Process



RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
COMPLIANCE Failure to ensure the potential onsite contamination impacts from contaminating land uses.	Medium <i>Possible x Moderate</i>	Apply the Environmental Audit Overlay to the sites identified as potentially contaminated sites.

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
SERVICE DELIVERY Inability to deliver the project if the amendment does not progress.	Medium <i>Possible x Moderate</i>	Council can support council officers seeking Authorisation from the Minister for Planning.
STRATEGIC An affected landowner does not receive notice of the amendment and is unable to be involved in the process.	Low <i>Unlikely x Minor</i>	A range of engagement activities will be undertaken to ensure that landowners and the community are aware of the proposal.
STRATEGIC Lack of agreement from community members to the Amendment.	Medium <i>Likely x Moderate</i>	Any community member has an opportunity to provide a submission to the Amendment and draft Plan outlining what changes they would like to see and why. Planning officers will consider any submissions to the amendment. As a part of the Amendment process any submission that cannot be resolved can be referred to a third-party independent Planning Panel.
STRATEGIC Delays in amending land use and development policy which supports investment and reduces unnecessary planning permit triggers.	Low <i>Unlikely x Minor</i>	If it is resolved to seek Authorisation, Council officers will ensure that ministerial timeframes are met when processing an amendment.

CONSULTATION

Consultation was undertaken from 21 November 2024 to 31 January 2025, it included the following activities:

- Eleven (11) one-on-one sessions
- Five (5) listening posts with 79 participants
- Have Your Say Page with an online survey and interactive maps
- Two (2) Notifications in the Latrobe Valley Express
- Five (5) Facebook Posts
- Three (3) workshops with 33 participants
- Forty-six (46) survey respondents
- One hundred and forty-six (146) pins and upvotes on the online interactive map.

The results of the consultation informed the vision, key directions and planning and design principles.

COMMUNICATION

If authorisation is received to Amendment C155 is subject to the prescribed process in accordance with the public notice and consultation requirements of section 19 of the Act.

An engagement plan will be developed to ensure appropriate engagement activities are undertaken for Amendment C155. This will include:

- Exhibition of the Amendment for a minimum of 1 calendar month;
- Documents available on Latrobe City Council's website;
- Have Your Say page created;
- Letters / emails notifying affected owners and occupiers, agencies, public authorities and Ministers believed to be materially affected by the Amendment or prescribed under the Act;
- Notices in the Latrobe Valley Express;
- Notice in the Government Gazette; and
- Drop-in sessions

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Officers preparing this report have declared they do not have a conflict of interest in this matter under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

APPENDIX 1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Gender

A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) under the *Gender Equality Act 2020* has been conducted as this reviewed draft Moe Activity Centre Plan has a significant and direct impact on the community. Community consultation was undertaken to understand the needs of different genders. In the draft Moe Activity Centre Plan, it has actions to:

- Ensure streets are designed for people and accessibility in mind;
- Create meeting spaces in public areas;
- Improve access for better connectivity and improved social cohesion;
- Promote more shops within a 400-metre walking distance of the Moe Railway Station;
- Provide smaller housing choices for a diverse population;
- Attract a variety of businesses to the Moe CBD which will promote passive-surveillance through greater foot traffic;
- Identify sites for community events;
- Create a green spine throughout the CBD; and
- Celebrate and support the local art scene.

Social

The draft Plan is expected to have a positive social impact by improving the range of commercial, employment and housing opportunities available in the centre of Moe. It promotes healthy lifestyle options and could reduce social isolation by increasing social interaction through increased foot traffic and increased public events/activities. The Plan seeks to promote greater walkability of the area through landscape and public realm improvements, and transport and movement improvements to increase the safety of walking around and make it more comfortable by providing more stopping points such as medians, more seating, more lighting and improving the footpaths.

Cultural

N/A

Health

The draft Plan aims to increase accessibility to utilise our green spaces and facilities to connect community and achieve positive health and wellbeing outcomes.

It also aims to ensure a wholistic approach to community safety in the planning and development of infrastructure, and the delivery of service to our community.

Environmental

All known environmental implications have been identified through the preparation of the potentially contaminated land report.

The draft Plan and subsequent amendment will give statutory effect to the environmentally sustainable design objectives relating to new development. The amendment will assist in improving the built environment by ensuring integrated development that incorporates high quality design and energy efficiency within the centre. It will also facilitate increased use of active transport by facilitating greater walkability and better public transport access. As well as advocating for greater canopy cover within the Moe CBD.

Economic

The draft Plan will assist in promoting economic growth by stimulating private and public investment in Moe, increasing competitiveness in the retail environment and providing a range of direct and indirect employment opportunities.

Financial

Amendment C155 will likely be undertaken with the draft Strategic Planning BAU budget for the 2026 – 2027 financial year.

This includes costs associated with the Planning Panel (if required); this could be around \$15,000 based on similar size amendments.

The Planning Scheme Approval fee is increased annually but will likely be approximately \$561.28 (32.5 fee units).

Attachments

1. Moe Activity Centre Plan (Published Separately)

This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. This report contains information that supports and promotes changes to land use in the Moe Activity Centre.

2. Moe Activity Centre Plan Background Report: Consultation Summary (Published Separately)

This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. This report contains background information which supports the recommendations for the Moe Activity Centre Plan. It provides details that supports and promotes changes to land use in the Moe Activity Centre.

3. Moe Activity Centre Plan Background Report: Planning Context (Published Separately)

This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. This report contains background information which supports the recommendations for the Moe Activity Centre Plan. It provides details that supports and promotes changes to land use in the Moe Activity Centre.

4. Moe Activity Centre Plan Background Report: Economic Analysis (Published Separately)

This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. This report contains background information which supports the recommendations for the Moe Activity Centre Plan. It provides details that supports and promotes changes to land use in the Moe Activity Centre.

5. Moe Activity Centre Plan Background Report: Social Infrastructure Needs Analysis (Published Separately)

This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. This report contains background information which supports the recommendations for the Moe Activity Centre Plan. It provides details that supports and promotes changes to land use in the Moe Activity Centre.

6. Moe Activity Centre Plan Background Report: Traffic, Movement and Car Parking Report (Published Separately)

This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. This report contains background information which supports the recommendations for the Moe Activity Centre Plan. It provides details that supports and promotes changes to land use in the Moe Activity Centre.

7. Moe Activity Centre Plan Background Report: Traffic, Movement and Car Parking Addendum (Published Separately)

This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. This report contains background information which supports the recommendations for the Moe Activity Centre Plan. It provides details that supports and promotes changes to land use in the Moe Activity Centre.

8. Moe Activity Centre Plan Background Report: Urban Design and Built Form Plan (Published Separately)

This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. This report contains background information which supports the recommendations for the Moe Activity Centre Plan. It provides details that supports and promotes changes to land use in the Moe Activity Centre.

9. Amendment C155 Explanatory Report (Published Separately)

This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. This is Amendment documents which contains the reasoning and justification on the proposed changes in the Planning Scheme which proposes land use changes.

10. Amendment C155 Proposed Combined Policy (Published Separately)

This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. This is Amendment documents which contains the reasoning and justification on the proposed changes in the Planning Scheme which proposes land use changes.

11. Amendment C155 Combined Maps (Published Separately)

This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. This is Amendment documents which contains the reasoning and justification on the proposed changes in the Planning Scheme which proposes land use changes.

12. Amendment C155 Instruction Sheet (Published Separately)

This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. This is Amendment documents which contains the reasoning and justification on the proposed changes in the Planning Scheme which proposes land use changes.

CORPORATE ITEMS FOR DECISION

11. CORPORATE ITEMS FOR DECISION

Nil reports

URGENT BUSINESS

12. URGENT BUSINESS

Business may be admitted to the meeting as urgent business in accordance with clause 20 of the Governance Rules, by resolution of the Council and only then if it:

- 20.1 Relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the agenda; and
- 20.2 Cannot reasonably or conveniently be deferred until the next Council meeting.

REPORTS FOR NOTING

13. REPORTS FOR NOTING

Item Number 13.1 27 July 2026

Organisational Performance

PRESENTATION OF AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 10 JUNE 2026

The recommended decision is not a Prohibited Decision, as defined in section 69 of the Local Government Act 2020 or a Significant Decision within the meaning of the Election Period Policy.

PURPOSE

To present the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) Minutes at **Attachment 1** for the meeting held on 10 June 2026, as required under the *Audit and Risk Committee Charter*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The ARC is a statutory committee of Council.
- The ARC's purpose is to support Council in discharging its oversight responsibilities related to financial and performance reporting, risk management, fraud prevention systems and control, maintenance of a sound internal control environment, assurance activities including internal and external audit and Council's performance with regard to compliance with its policies and legislative and regulatory requirements.
- The ARC held its last meeting on 10 June 2026, at which 22 reports were presented. The outcomes are in line with its Charter, as summarised in this report and set out in minutes at **Attachment 1**.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Audit and Risk Committee Minutes for the 10 June 2026 meeting at Attachment 1.

BACKGROUND

The ARC meets quarterly, with minutes tabled at a following Council meeting, as per its Charter, adopted March 2025. Detailed resolution details are contained within the attached minutes for each meeting.

ANALYSIS

Reports tabled at the June 2026 meeting included:

- Standing administrative reports including probity questions to the ARC, confirmation of minutes, and status of actions arising;
- Reports and updates from the Victorian-Auditor General's Office (VAGO);
- Monitoring and setting of the internal audit program;
- Risk management activities including quarterly reporting, business continuity activities, cyber security and recovery exercises, monitoring of internal control environment;
- Quarterly Budget Report;
- Periodic reports including review of strategic risks;
- Fraud and corruption and non-compliance reporting;
- Response to integrity body reports;
- Annual Cyber Security Report;
- Reporting on major initiatives performance, people and Workcover, and financial performance; and
- Business Continuity Framework.

All recommendations agreed to at the meeting and any corresponding actions can be found in the full minutes at **Attachment 1**.

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
COMPLIANCE Council practices are not compliant with legislation.	Low <i>Unlikely x Minor</i>	Ensure that the ARC minutes are tabled at the next possible Council Meeting.

CONSULTATION

The draft minutes were provided to the ARC Chairperson for feedback and circulated to all ARC members prior to being presented.

COMMUNICATION

The provision and circulation of the minutes to Council provides reassurance and awareness as a communication loop back to Council as part of good governance practices.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Officers preparing this report have declared they do not have a conflict of interest in this matter under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

APPENDIX 1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Gender

A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) under the *Gender Equality Act 2020* has not been conducted as this matter does not involve a program, service or policy with a significant and direct impact on the community.

Social

N/A

Cultural

N/A

Health

N/A

Environmental

N/A

Economic

N/A

Financial

The ARC oversees the required budget provisions. Recommendations and actions arising from the meeting are considered by management within the constraints of budget requirements.

Attachments

1. ARC Meeting minutes 10 June 2026

13.1

Presentation of Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes - 10 June 2026

1	ARC Meeting minutes 10 June 2026	104
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Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes - 10 June 2026

I hereby designate that all matters in this agenda and any discussion about or arising from any such matters will remain confidential until:

- Council passes a resolution that the information is not confidential; or,
- a report on the matter has been released in a subsequent meeting agenda, minute's paper or is approved in writing by the Chief Executive Officer.

Steven Piasente, Chief Executive Officer

Date

**Nambur Wariga Meeting Room, Council Headquarters,
141 Commercial Road, Morwell**

Meeting commenced at 10:00 AM

Attendance

Members: David Kortum (Chairperson), Jane Watson, Leigh Berrell
Cr Joanne Campbell, Cr Leanne Potter
Cr Steph Morgan attended as an Observer

In Attendance:

- James Rouse (Acting Chief Executive Officer)
- Nathan Kearsley (General Manager Organisational Performance)
- Jody Riordan (General Manager Infrastructure and Sustainability)
- Tim Ellis (General Manager Investment and Growth)
- Alba Elling (Acting General Manager Community Liveability)
- Matthew Rogers (Manager Financial Support)



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- Chris Wong (VAGO)
- Kapil Kukreja (HLB Mann Judd)
- Rebecca Obersby (Acting Manager Governance)
- Chelsea Paynter (Coordinator Audit, Risk and Compliance)
- Louise Van Der Velden (Senior Compliance Officer)

Teleconference:

- David Kortum (Chairperson)
- Leigh Berrell (Member)
- Cr Joanne Campbell (Member)
- Chris Wong (VAGO) Joined 10.57am

IN CAMERA MEETING

THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MET IN CAMERA FROM 10.00AM TO 10.20AM, TO CONSULT THE INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR UPDATES ON VARIOUS MATTERS.

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 10.21am and welcomed all present.

2. APOLOGIES

- STEVEN PIASENTE (CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

4. PROBITY QUESTIONS

The Audit and Risk Committee Chair asked if the Acting CEO was aware of any legislative non-compliance issues, any fraud incidents that have occurred or if there



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were any strategic risks been triggered since the last Audit and Risk Committee meeting.

The Acting CEO responded No.

The Audit and Risk Committee Chair asked the Councillors:

- a. If there was any matter arising from the Council meetings that needed to be brought to the attention of the Committee
- b. If there was any feedback or direction required from Council relating to the Audit and Risk Committee members.

The Councillors responded No.

The Audit and Risk Committee Chair then asked the auditor representatives if they were satisfied that their work had not been impeded.

The auditor representatives responded Yes.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit and Risk Committee confirms the minutes of its Meeting held 11 March 2026.

OUTCOME: Minutes confirmed. Moved Jane Watson, seconded Leigh Burrell.

6. ITEMS REFERRED BY THE COMMITTEE TO THIS MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION

THERE WERE NO ITEMS REFERRED BY THE ARC TO THIS MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION.



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7. STATUS OF ACTIONS ARISING

7.1 Status of ARC Actions Arising

RECOMMENDATION
That the Audit and Risk Committee receives and notes the status report.
OUTCOME: Recommendation agreed.

8. EXTERNAL AUDIT

8.1 VAGO - Local Government Status Report May 2026

RECOMMENDATION
That the Audit and Risk Committee receives and notes the VAGO May 2026 Local Government Status Report.
OUTCOME: Recommendation agreed.
ACTIONS ARISING:
1. Interim Management letter to be circulated to Audit and Risk Committee members out of session.

9. INTERNAL AUDIT

9.1 Quarterly Internal Audit Report - Internal Audit Status

RECOMMENDATION
That the Audit and Risk Committee notes the:
1. HLB Mann Judd status report on the internal audit program at Attachment 1;
2. Review of Leases and Licenses – Final Report at Attachment 2; and



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3. Extension of HLB Mann Judd for provision of internal audit services for a further 2 years and development of new internal audit plan.

OUTCOME: Recommendation agreed.

ACTIONS ARISING:

1. Revenue figures for leases and licences to be reported to the next Audit and Risk Committee meeting.

10. FINANCE

10.1 Shell Financial & Performance Statements 2025-26

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit and Risk Committee receives and notes the shell Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2026.

OUTCOME: Recommendation agreed.

ACTIONS ARISING:

1. Progress update on the revaluation process to be tabled at the next Audit and Risk Committee meeting.

10.2 Asset Accounting Update 2025/26

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit and Risk Committee receives and notes the report.

OUTCOME: Recommendation agreed.



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10.3 Quarterly Budget Report - March 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit and Risk Committee receives and notes the Quarterly Budget Report for the period ended 31 March 2026, prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020.

OUTCOME: Recommendation agreed.

10.4 Investment Portfolio Performance Report

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit and Risk Committee receives and notes the report.

OUTCOME: Recommendation agreed.

11. RISK

11.1 Strategic & Operational Risks with a High Residual Rating

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit and Risk Committee provides feedback on and notes management's acceptance of the risks with High Residual Rating.

OUTCOME: Recommendation agreed.

ACTIONS ARISING:

1. Consider consolidating controls to categories and reviewing preventative and mitigating controls.



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11.2 Quarterly Risk Management Report

RECOMMENDATION
That the Audit and Risk Committee receives and notes the Quarterly Risk Management Report.
OUTCOME: Recommendation agreed.

12. MONITORING

12.1 Audit Compliance Report - June 2026

RECOMMENDATION
That the Audit and Risk Committee:
1. receives and notes the report; and
2. endorses the extension to the audit action due dates as proposed in Attachment 2.
OUTCOME: Recommendation agreed.

12.2 Fraud and Corruption Reporting

RECOMMENDATION
That the Audit and Risk Committee receives and notes the report.
OUTCOME: Recommendation agreed.



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12.3 Internal Control Environment Plan and Reporting

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit and Risk Committee receives, notes and provides any relevant feedback on the:

1. updates on the delivery and findings of the Internal Control Environment – Rolling Four Year Plan; and
2. schedule for Internal Control Environment Year 4 reviews (2026/27).

OUTCOME: Recommendation agreed.

12.4 Non-Compliance Reporting

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit and Risk Committee receives and notes the report and provides any relevant insights.

OUTCOME: Recommendation agreed.

12.5 Insurance Renewal Workplan and updates 2026/27

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit and Risk Committee receives and notes the report.

OUTCOME: Recommendation agreed.



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13. PERFORMANCE REPORTING

13.1 Major Initiatives Performance Summary Report - Q3 2025/26

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit and Risk Committee notes the Major Initiatives Performance Summary Report for Q3 2025/26.

OUTCOME: Recommendation agreed.

13.2 Annual Cyber Security Report 25/26

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit and Risk Committee receive and note the 2025/26 annual cyber security report.

OUTCOME: Recommendation agreed.

ACTIONS ARISING/NOTE:

1. At next review of vendor contracts/terms and conditions, consider inclusion of breach notification requirements.

13.3 Quarter 3 2025/26 People and Workcover Report

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit and Risk Committee note the Quarterly People and Workcover Report for quarter three of the 2025/26 financial year.

OUTCOME: Recommendation agreed.



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14. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

14.1 2026/27 Changes to the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit and Risk Committee note the changes to the 2026/27 Local Government Reporting Performance Framework.

OUTCOME: Recommendation agreed.

14.2 Business Continuity Framework

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit and Risk Committee notes Business Continuity Framework.

OUTCOME: Recommendation agreed.

ACTIONS ARISING:

1. In the next revision highlight how IT disaster recovery is incorporated in the framework.
2. Create an architecture map of the relevant plans and enacting subplans.

14.3 Strategic Risk Register Review

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit and Risk Committee notes the updated Strategic Risk SR06 with revised control structure and provides feedback.

OUTCOME: Recommendation agreed.

ACTIONS ARISING:



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- | |
|--|
| 1. Refine risk titles to capture the event not the cause or consequence. |
|--|

15. GENERAL BUSINESS

15.1 Integrity Body reports - Public Sector Report

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit and Risk Committee receives and notes the report.
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OUTCOME: Recommendation agreed.
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Next Meeting Date

The next Audit and Risk Committee meeting is to be held on Monday 14 September 2026.
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Meeting Closed at 12.06pm.

14. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil reports

ITEMS FOR TABLING

15. ITEMS FOR TABLING

Nil reports

**MEETING CLOSED TO
THE PUBLIC TO
CONSIDER
CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION**

16. MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC TO CONSIDER CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020* enables Council to close the meeting to the public to consider *confidential information* as defined in that Act.

Proposed Resolution:

That Council pursuant to section 66(1) and 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) close the Council Meeting to the public to consider the following items containing confidential information as defined in section 3(1) of the Act:

- 16.1 Economic Development Advisory Committee**
This item is confidential as it contains personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs (section 3(1)(f)). This ground applies because personal information about the applicants is contained in the report.
- 16.2 2026-27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund**
This item is confidential as it contains Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released (section 3(1)(a)).
- 16.3 Ceremonial Sponsorship and Participation Opportunity**
This item is confidential as it contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—
 - (i) relates to trade secrets; or
 - (ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage (section 3(1)(g)). This ground applies as it contains information that is not at Council's discretion to release.

