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 30 JUNE 2025 CM621

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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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. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Proposed Resolution:

That Council confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 May 2025 and Unscheduled Council Meeting held on 2 June 2025.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

Public Questions on Notice

In accordance with the Governance Rules, members of the public can lodge a question on notice before 12noon on the Friday before the day of 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

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

Item Number 7.1 30 June 2025 Community Health and Wellbeing

2025/07 SCHOOL CROSSING FUNDING

I, Cr Sharon Gibson, hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday, 30 June 2025:

That Council write to the Department of Transport seeking confirmation of the level of funding to be provided to Council for School Crossing supervision in Latrobe City for the period 2025 - 2028.

Signed
Cr Sharon Gibson
23 June 2025

Attachments

Nil

STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DECISION

COMMUNITY VISION AND COUNCIL PLAN 2025-2029

PURPOSE

To present for adoption the 10-year Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-2029 (the Council Plan), prepared in accordance with sections 88 and 90 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Latrobe City Council to develop, maintain, and review a 10-year Community Vision and 4-year Council Plan with its community every 4 years (refer Sections 88 & 90).
- The *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* requires Council to prepare a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan within the period of 12 months after each general election of the Council. This plan has been integrated into the Council Plan (refer Sections 26 & 27).
- A range of community engagement activities have been undertaken to aid development of the plan, including a survey, pop-ups and a community panel. Councillor sessions have also been held and an internal workshop was facilitated with officers.
- The Council Plan 2025-29 was developed based on community feedback and Councillor priorities with three high-level strategic directions underpinning the Plan:
    - Our Economy: Investment, Jobs, Growth;
    - Our City – Liveable, Sustainable, Connected; and
    - Our Community – Healthy, Inclusive, Safe
- The draft Council Plan 2025-29 was placed on exhibition from 13 May 2025 to 9 June 2025, with 88 community submissions received.
- Feedback can be summarised under the following themes: Economic Growth and Business Investment, Financial Sustainability, Safety and Creative Arts. All of which are incorporated into the Plan.
- The finalised version of the 10 Year Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-29 at **Attachment 1** is now presented to Council for adoption.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **adopts the 10 Year Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-2029 at Attachment 1, effective from 1 July 2025; and**
2. **notes that after adoption, the 10 Year Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-2029 will be published on Council's website.**

BACKGROUND

Legislation

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to develop, maintain, and review a 10-year Community Vision and 4-year Council Plan with its community every 4 years (refer Sections 88 & 90).

The Community Vision is a long-term, aspirational direction for the municipality, shaped by community input. It serves as a foundation for Council's strategic planning and decision making. The vision was developed by the Community Workshop participants.

The Council Plan is our four-year roadmap of how we will work towards achieving our Community's Vision.

Integration of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP)

Council has integrated its Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) with the Council Plan to improve community health over the next four years and meet obligations under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*.

Timeline

The below table outlines the key activities in relation to the development of the Council Plan:

Activity	Timeline
Promotion of Community Engagement	January 2025 Complete
Community Engagement Stage 1 (Listen) Council Plan Community Survey (6 January 2025 to 5 February 2025) 3 Pop Up Sessions • Traralgon (Traralgon Centre Plaza) • Morwell (Mid Valley) • Moe (Moe Library)	January-February 2025 Complete
Community Engagement Stage 2 (Deliberate) • 2 in-person workshops with Community Panel Workshop 1 – Monday 10 February 2025 Workshop 2 – Monday 17 February 2025	February 2025 Complete

Activity	Timeline
Councillor Engagement • Review outcomes from Community Engagement Parts 1 & 2, Councillor discussion, feedback and plan development	March 2025 Complete
Development of Draft Council Plan • Draft Council Plan document	March-April 2025 Complete
Councillor Engagement • Draft Council Plan presented to Councillors for further development and feedback before publication and public exhibition (12 May Council Meeting to endorse exhibition)	May 2025 Complete
Community Panel Review • The draft will be presented to the Community Panel to discuss how the draft Council Plan has addressed community feedback	June 2025 Complete
Community Engagement Stage 3 (Document) • Review by community of draft Community Vision and Council Plan through public exhibition process • Consideration of feedback by Councillors	May-June 2025 Complete
Council Adoption • Adoption of final Community Vision and Council Plan by Council (at 30 June Council Meeting)	June 2025
Council Plan Design • Plan to be graphically designed after adoption	July 2025

Engagement Summary

The below table outlines the number of attendees/respondents to the Community Engagement activities in relation to the development of the Council Plan:

Activity	Engagements
Council Plan Community Survey	432
Pop Up Sessions	88
Community Workshop	21
Final Community Workshop	7
Public Exhibition Survey	88

ANALYSIS

Community Vision

The Community Workshop participants developed the following renewed Community Vision for Latrobe City.

In 2035, Latrobe City is a vibrant, thriving, healthy, connected and welcoming regional community where everyone feels safe and involved.

Our local businesses prosper, create diverse job opportunities, foster a highly skilled workforce and draw significant investment. Latrobe City is a hub of growth, learning, opportunity, and innovation.

We have stunning natural surroundings and outstanding creative, educational, recreational and cultural opportunities that underpin exceptional wellbeing and renowned visitor experiences.

Following the final community workshop it was noted that: Participants generally supported the new Community Vision, noting it remained largely consistent with the version developed in earlier workshops.

Council Plan 2025-29

The draft Council Plan 2025-29 contains 3 high level strategic directions:

- Our Economy – Investment, Jobs, Growth;
- Our City – Liveable, Sustainable, Connected; and
- Our Community – Healthy, Inclusive, Safe.

These 3 strategic directions are supported by:

- Our Organisation – Leadership, Collaboration, Capability.

Each of the strategic directions contain a range of key objectives that are made up of deliverable strategies and indicators that can be monitored to track the delivery of the Council Plan.

Final Community Feedback on Draft Vision and Council Plan

Community submissions received during the public exhibition process are attached. The submissions covered a variety of topics/suggestions with the below table outlining the general themes and how they are addressed in the Council Plan:

THEME	ADDRESSED IN COUNCIL PLAN
Economic Growth and Business Investment	Strategic Direction #1 is dedicated to Our economy – investment, jobs & growth Key Objectives include investment, local business, visit economy. Specific strategies include: • Develop Economic Development Strategy • Promote small business & local enterprise • Deliver infrastructure that will support new industries and businesses to establish, grow and create new jobs in Latrobe City.
Financial Sustainability	Financial Sustainability is Key Objective #2 under Our Organisation and includes: • Develop & Implement Long-Term Financial Plan & Asset Plan
Safety	“Safe” is specifically referred to as part of Strategic Direction #3 - Our Community Key Objective 3– Community Safety under this strategic direction includes 4 specific safety strategies.
Creative Arts • Improve gallery and GPAC offerings/programming. • Attraction of experienced staff	There are 2 strategies under Strategic Direction #1 – Key Objective 4 – Visitor Economy relating to Creative Arts: • Promote and activate the LRG including displaying the gallery’s permanent collection. • Attract and promote region leading events that activate our major facilities (inc. GPAC,LRG).

In addition, the original community panel were invited to attend an online workshop to discuss and provide feedback on the draft Council Plan. A summary from the final workshop noted:

Overall, the draft Plan was well-received, with participants appreciating its alignment with their earlier input and the intent of its objectives. However, they emphasised the importance of implementation, measurable targets, and ensuring the Draft Plan is specific to Latrobe rather than a generic document. There was optimism that the objectives could be achieved, and there was widespread appreciation for the inclusive consultation process.

Council has considered all submissions and believes the Council Plan adequately addresses the submissions.

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

Sections within the Council Plan address the requirements that would otherwise be met through a standalone Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, outlining where Council will focus its health and wellbeing efforts. The health and wellbeing priority areas identified are:

- Public Safety;
- Family Violence;
- Social Connection
- Housing and Homelessness; and
- Alcohol, Drugs and Gambling.

Direct links between the MPHWP priorities and the Council Plan strategic directions are marked throughout the document with an asterisk, along with principles for embedding these priorities across Council's work generally.

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
COMPLIANCE Failure to adopt Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-29 at this point.	**Low** *Unlikely x Minor*	Legislation requires adoption by October 31st which provides a further 4 months for adoption.
SERVICE DELIVERY Service delivery is aligned to direction of Council Plan. Without a current plan, confusion could arise as to service delivery priorities.	**Medium** *Unlikely x Moderate*	Adopt Community Vision and Council Plan at Council meeting held 30th June 2025.

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
FINANCIAL Without a current Plan, unable to adequately allocate budget to service delivery areas.	**Medium** *Unlikely x Moderate*	Adopt Community Vision and Council Plan at Council meeting held 30th June 2025.
STRATEGIC Failure to adopt by June 30th	**Low** *Unlikely x Minor*	Adopt Community Vision and Council Plan at Council meeting held 30th June 2025.

CONSULTATION

In the initial development of the Plan, the community were consulted through an online survey, 3 pop-ups and a Community Workshop program that involved 21 participants who were chosen based on reflecting the gender, age and location mix of Latrobe City's community.

Further input was gathered from 160 people to identify specific health and wellbeing priorities representing the following communities:

- Aboriginal Elders;
- Positive Ageing Community Engagement Group;
- Disability Access and Inclusion Community Engagement Group;
- Social Inclusion Action Group; and
- Children and young people.

Development and feedback sessions were held with Councillors and one workshop was held with staff.

The draft Council Plan was released for public exhibition which attracted 88 online responses and an additional community panel workshop was offered to the original participants with 7 attending.

COMMUNICATION

The adopted 10-year Community Vision and Council Plan process will be communicated to the public through the standard communication channels.

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* is required as the Council Plan 2025-29 will have a significant and direct impact on the community. The GIA has been completed in partnership with GenderWorks.

In addition, it is a requirement of section 26(6A) of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 that Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans specify measures to prevent family violence and respond to the needs of victims of family violence.

Social

Preparation of the Council Plan and the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan considered the social impact of the outlined objectives and priorities. A representative from Community Health and Wellbeing has been included in the Project Working Group.

Cultural

Consultation was held with different groups representative of the Latrobe community including its cultural diversity

Health

The Council Plan and the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan examined data about health status and addressed factors that drive health outcomes in the community was required for this project. A representative from Community Health and Wellbeing has been included in the Project Working Group.

Environmental

Sustainability and environmental impacts were considered throughout the development of this project through various levels of community and Councillor engagement. It is a requirement of section 17 of the Climate Action Act 2017 that Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans have regard to climate change.

Economic

The economy is a strategic direction which informs key objectives and initiatives in the Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. Economic impacts were considered throughout the development of this project through various levels of community and Councillor engagement.

Financial

The allocation of resources to prepare the Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-29 was managed within existing budgets. Delivery of the Council Plan will be managed by existing budgets and future budget planning.

Attachments

1. Council Plan
2. Public Exhibition Responses

8.1

Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-2029

1 Council Plan 18
2 Public Exhibition Responses 34

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

Council Plan 2025-2029

Including Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-29

Latrobe City Council acknowledges that it operates on the traditional land of the Brayakaulung people of the Gunaikurnai nation and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

Introduction

The Latrobe City Council Plan sets out our vision, priorities, and strategies for the next four years, shaping the future of our region. It guides decision making, resource allocation, and service delivery to meet the needs of our community.

Our Community Vision

In 2035, Latrobe City is a vibrant, thriving, healthy, connected and welcoming regional community where everyone feels safe and involved.

Our local businesses prosper, create diverse job opportunities, foster a highly skilled workforce and draw significant investment. Latrobe City is a hub of growth, learning, opportunity, and innovation.

We have stunning natural surroundings and outstanding creative, educational, recreational and cultural opportunities that underpin exceptional wellbeing and renowned visitor experiences.

Our Council Plan

The Council Plan, reflecting our Community Vision, centres around the following strategic directions:

- **Our Economy – *Investment, Jobs, Growth***
- **Our City – *Liveable, Sustainable, Connected***
- **Our Community – *Healthy, Inclusive, Safe***

supported by

- **Our Organisation – *Leadership, Collaboration, Capability***

Plan Development

To develop the Council Plan and Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) we have involved the community in a variety of ways to explore themes residents valued most, including:

Community Engagement

Community input was collected through:

An online survey – the survey identified that respondents

- rated assets and infrastructure, the local economy and community wellbeing as being the most important
- liked several characteristics about living in Latrobe City – with its location in Victoria and the access to family and friends rating the highest, closely followed by our natural environment and parks & gardens

Community pop-ups held in Traralgon, Morwell and Moe with –feedback received on the following themes:

- Economic Development & Business Support
- Urban Development & Planning
- Safety & Crime
- Infrastructure & Transport
- Environment & Community Activities
- Council Performance
- Community Wellbeing

A Community Workshop program that involved 21 participants reflecting the gender, age and location mix of Latrobe City's community. The workshop reviewed and renewed the Community Vision.

Further input was gathered from representatives of different communities to identify specific health and wellbeing priorities. The priorities that emerged from these consultations were:

- Public Safety
- Family Violence
- Social Connection
- Housing & Homelessness
- Alcohol, Drugs & Gambling

Councillor Engagement

Councillors analysed the community feedback to identify a range of areas they want to see addressed through the Council Plan, these included:

- Economic Development & Business Support
- Infrastructure & Public Facilities
- Employment, Training & Education
- Public Safety
- Civic Involvement
- Tourism
- Health & Social Services
- Environment & Sustainability

Plan Integration

For the first time, Latrobe City Council will integrate its Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) with the Council Plan. The intention of our MPHWP is outline our strategies to improve Latrobe City's health and wellbeing over the next four years. The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan and Ageing Well Latrobe Plan are also incorporated within the Council Plan and MPHWP's objectives, principles and priorities.

Integrating the MPHWP within the Council Plan is one way to ensure a health and wellbeing perspective is applied to all Council activities. It also ensures key health and wellbeing issues affecting Latrobe City community are identified and prioritised and Council works in partnership with Department of Health and other agencies to achieve the health and wellbeing goals outlined in this plan.

While Latrobe City is unique in many ways, we know that some of the barriers to good health and wellbeing faced by our community are also present for people across the state. The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (VPHWP) provides an important framework from which to base our priorities. All but two of the VPHWP priorities are specifically identified in the Council Plan (improving sexual and reproductive health and decreasing antimicrobial resistance across human and animal health).

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #1

Our Economy – Investment, Jobs, Growth

We are committed to working with our community and key stakeholders to grow our local economy to provide a wide range of job opportunities, economic diversification, and attract investment.

How does our economy relate to health and wellbeing?

Our municipalities' prosperity, employment and education opportunities all impact health and wellbeing. For example, there is a connection between income levels and psychological distress, with 16% of people who earn $100,000 or more reporting high or very high psychological distress compared with 37% of people who earn under $40,000 a year.

Key Objective 1 - Investment Actively pursue investment in emerging industries and industries that diversify our local economy to create jobs and increase economic growth.
• Develop and implement an Economic Development Strategy
• Deliver infrastructure that will support new industry and businesses to establish, grow and create new jobs in Latrobe City
• Continue to support the development of Advanced Air Mobility at the Latrobe City Regional Airport
*Key Objective 2 - Workforce** Partner with businesses, schools and training providers to support workforce strategies that meet industry needs, support young people, and enable workers to pursue new opportunities
• Support the development of our education and training institutions, promoting skill development within our local workforce and to address the skills required for the region.
*Key Objective 3 - Local Business** Support the growth and development of our local businesses, through programs that support businesses to diversify and expand, create jobs and strengthen our economy.
• Develop and implement an Economic Development Strategy
• Promote small business and local enterprise
• Reduce or simplify the fees, charges and associated regulatory costs to establish and undertake business in Latrobe City
*Key Objective 4 - Visitor Economy** Capitalise on the City's tourism strengths to drive economic outcomes.
• Implement the Latrobe City Events and Visitor Economy Strategy
• Attract and promote region leading events that activate our major facilities (e.g. GPAC, GRAC, GSEP, GRISS, LRG)
• Promote and activate the Latrobe Regional Gallery including displaying the gallery's permanent collection
• Promote our local tourism industry and tourist attractions
• Develop and implement Place Brand Strategy
Key Objective 5 – Regional Identity Promote Latrobe City as a Regional City with a focus on work, investment, visitation, and liveability.
• Promote our role as Gippsland's Regional City
• Develop and implement Place Brand Strategy

Council Plan Indicators • Latrobe City's Gross Domestic Product • Latrobe City's Workforce Participation • Latrobe City's Business Registrations • Vacancy rates of retail/commercial premises
*Health and Wellbeing Indicators** • Increase in employment • Increase in educational attainment

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #2

Our City – Liveable, Sustainable, Connected

We are committed to working with our community and key stakeholders to create a physical environment that offers liveability and connection and protects our natural environment for future generations.

How does our city relate to health and wellbeing?

People's health and wellbeing is impacted by climate change and the physical environment around them, and the access they have to it due to things like disability, gender, lifestyle or age. For example, active travel, like cycling and walking reduces mortality, chronic diseases, feelings of anxiety and depression as well as risk of dementia.

*Key Objective 1 – Infrastructure & City Centres**

Develop well planned and maintained infrastructure and assets that underpin services and improve liveability, and community connection. Create vibrant city centres with high levels of presentation and urban amenity.

- Improve the amenity and presentation of town entrances and CBD streetscapes, activity centres and public spaces through:
  - increased cleaning and beautification programs
  - signage improvements
  - provision of ample parking spaces
  - focus on garden maintenance and plantings
- Ensure road maintenance budgets are adequately funded to enable roads to be maintained to a high standard
- Review Asset Strategy and Asset Plan
- Develop Streetscape Strategy
- Develop Plans as identified as further strategic work in the Latrobe Planning Scheme including:
  - Integrated Transport Plan
  - Social Infrastructure Plan
- Implement:
  - Public Toilet Plan
  - Recreation Needs Assessment & Recreation Infrastructure Funding Policy
- Undertake further consideration in relation to the preservation of historically significant buildings within the municipality.

*Key Objective 2 - Land Use**

Plan for improved outcomes for housing, liveability, urban design and job creation.

- Prioritise the delivery of infrastructure and/or planning scheme amendments that will support increased land supply to support residential housing growth in key precincts
- Work towards the delivery of Victorian Government Latrobe City Housing Targets
- Progress strategic work for planning scheme amendments for 5483 and 5495 Princes Highway, Traralgon and 280A Princes Street, Traralgon
- Deliver further strategic work as identified in the Latrobe Planning Scheme including:
  - progression of the South East Traralgon Precinct
  - removal of redundant coal overlays
- Advocate for the construction of the Traralgon Bypass to address local traffic congestion and safety issues

*Key Objective 3 - Natural Environment & Open Space**
Protect our biodiversity by maintaining our natural assets and open space, encourage use of the natural environment, and strengthen waste management programs and practices.
• Develop and promote campaigns targeting roadside litter and illegal rubbish dumping
• Develop and implement Active Transport Strategy that covers the inter-township trail network, missing links and linking townships, improved street and park lighting and bike trails
• Review Waste Management Strategy
• Progress the staged development of off-leash dog parks in accordance with the Fenced Dog Park Implementation Plan.
• Explore future single site opportunities in utilisation of geothermal technology and biogas energy generation for energy intensive users.
*Key Objective 4 - Climate Change Adaption**
Advance climate change planning and adaptation through climate risk mapping, appropriate asset design and maintenance.
• Continued implementation of Sustainability Action Plan
• Continue to work with partners in the rehabilitation of mines
• Prepare for extreme weather events

Council Plan Indicators
• Community satisfaction with street, footpaths and roads • Community satisfaction of appearance of public areas
*Health and Wellbeing Indicators**
• Increase access to different housing • Increase in active lifestyles

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #3

Our Community – Healthy, Inclusive, Safe

We are committed to working with our community and stakeholders to create a healthy and safe community that celebrates volunteering and community pride and enhances social connection.

How does our community relate to health and wellbeing?

The physical and social characteristics of a community can promote healthy behaviours and reduce barriers to achieving good health and wellbeing. For example, volunteering is associated with better mental health and quality of life, especially for older people, unemployed people and people with chronic health conditions.

*Key Objective 1 - Healthy Lifestyles**   Support improved physical and mental health through a range of programs and partnerships.
• Promote the benefits of physical activity and encourage use of council facilities, halls and open spaces across the municipality
• Provide spaces and services that support the community's physical health and mental wellbeing
• Advocate for greater support to enhance food security and emergency food supplies
Key Objective 2 - Lifelong Learning   Support lifelong learning through access to local learning facilities to address current and future needs.
• Continue to support excellence in maternal and child health and early childhood services
• Work with stakeholders to plan for the implementation of Early Childhood Reform
• Support the development of our education and training institutions through partnerships and workplace placements promoting skills development within our local workforce
• Deliver accessible library services with a focus on addressing barriers to participation
*Key Objective 3 - Community Safety**   Work with partners to reduce harm to members of the community and increase the overall feeling of safety and security.
• Advocate for resources to improve public, pedestrian and road safety in all areas of the municipality.
• Advocate for resources that decrease instances of anti-social behaviour in central business district areas
• Partner with stakeholders and the community to reduce instances of family violence and improved mental health support
• Advocate for more 24 hour police stations and increases in permanent police staffing levels
Key Objective 4 – Inclusion and Connection   Create opportunities for the community to connect with each other and to Council services.
• Deliver a broad range of activities and events to build community pride, celebrate diversity and enhance liveability
• Implement Reconciliation Action Plan
• Promote and continue to deliver our community grants program to support connection, inclusion and enhanced participation in the community

Key Objective 5 - Community Activation Build community pride through the activation of community facilities and spaces.
• Support volunteering programs and community group and club networks
• Design and deliver programs, events, services and facilities to ensure accessibility for all members of the community
• Promote local arts sector
• Support free entertainment in public parks and art in public spaces

Council Plan Indicators
• Total visits to Council managed facilities (leisure centres, galleries and performing arts) • Number of major events • Number of community events supported
*Health and Wellbeing Indicators**
• Increase in healthy and inclusive lifestyles • Decrease in prevalence of crime • Decrease in severe food insecurity

Our Organisation – Leadership, Collaboration, Capability

We are committed to the operation of a high-performing, efficient organisation that underpins the delivery of our strategic direction (economy, city and community).

*Key Objective 1 – Leadership and Governance**

We will act with integrity and transparency when delivering services for our community.

- Administer Governance Rules
- Implement the Workforce Plan

Key Objective 2 – Financial Sustainability

We will allocate resources responsibly (in particular rates income) and make value for money decisions.

- Develop and implement the long-term financial plan
- Develop and implement the long-term asset plan

*Key Objective 3 – Customer Focus**

We will ensure we listen and that services are accessible, efficient and responsive to the community's requirements.

- Implement the Customer Experience Strategy
- Implement the Community Engagement Policy

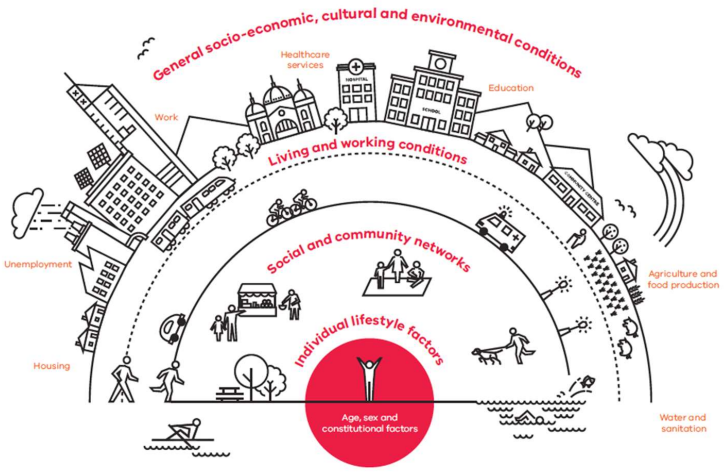
*Key Objective 4 – Advocacy and Engagement**

We will engage relevant stakeholders to prioritise and advocate for our community's needs and aspirations.

- Develop and implement an Advocacy Strategy
- Implement our Community Engagement Policy

Our Commitment to Health and Wellbeing

Council's commitment to achieving positive health and wellbeing outcomes for all is demonstrated throughout this Plan. This approach recognises that many factors influence whether we stay healthy or not. The World Health Organisation advises these factors, as illustrated below, can account for up to 55% of health outcomes.



Source: Adapted from Dahlgren & Whitehead 1991

Our City – Community Profile

This profile offers valuable insights into the people living in Latrobe City and their experiences, helping to inform our health and wellbeing priorities and shape the MPHWP.

- Latrobe City Population
  - Current population of 78,845, growing to 90,000 within the next 20 years.
  - 2.2% of the population in Latrobe City is Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
  - Median age of 42 years with 17.8% aged 14 years and under, and 41.3% of population aged 55 years and above.
- Employment
  - Income breakdown: 11.2% earn over $91,000, 42.6% earn between $26,000 and $90,999, and 28.9% earn $25,999 and under.
  - For the population 15 years and over, 54.1% are in the labour force. Of those, 33.8% work part time, 6.6% are unemployed and 7.3% were away from work.
- Most prevalent cultural groups and languages spoken:
  - 20.6% of people in Latrobe City were not born in Australia.
  - England and NZ 3.7%, Netherlands and Philippines both 8%, India and Italy both 7%; and
  - 8.8% - speak a language other than English, Italian 0.8%, Greek 0.4%, Mandarin 0.4%, Malayalam 0.3%, Tagalog 0.3%
- Disability
  - 8.9% of people in Latrobe City have a severe or profound disability and 14% provide unpaid assistance to people with a disability.
  - 12.2% have a diagnosed mental health condition.

Health and Wellbeing Principles

The following principles will guide Council to ensure a health and wellbeing perspective is applied to all Council activities/services. In particular, the principles will inform how Latrobe City can reduce barriers to accessing services, employment and increase inclusion and participation for those with a disability.

Fairness

We take a needs-based approach to service delivery, recognising different people, experiencing different situations, need different types and levels of support.

Accessibility

We strive to ensure that all in our community have access to services and activities by making sure they are affordable and inclusive.

Shared responsibility

We recognise the importance of a structured approach to addressing complex issues and acknowledge we can't do everything on our own.

Prevention

We focus on preventing poor health and wellbeing outcomes through an understanding of the barriers our community faces.

Principles in action

Council will:

- Meaningfully engage with community and partners in the development or review of services, to ensure they reflect current needs.
- Examine the overall health status of our community with a particular focus on those who face greater barriers to good health and wellbeing to inform our service delivery.
- Plan for and evaluate the impact of the services we deliver on community health and wellbeing.
- Partner with local people and agencies to develop, implement and evaluate our services as a collective.

Health and Wellbeing Priorities

There are some particular barriers to good health and wellbeing that our community prioritised, supported by the examination of available data[1]. The below areas outline where Council will focus its health and wellbeing efforts. Where there is a direct link to these priorities and our Council Plan strategic directions, it will be marked with an asterisk*.

Public Safety

Safety means different things to different people and can include feeling safe at home or in public, road safety as a pedestrian or driver, experiencing crime or fearing crime might occur. Certain groups within our community (for example women) are less likely to feel safe and less likely to actually be safe.

Council's role in improving community safety outcomes includes:

- Education and awareness programs and activities
- Improving public spaces through good urban design, lighting and tree planting
- Public health regulations and education
- Emergency preparedness

Family Violence

Our community tells us that family violence is a concern and that addressing family violence is a priority. The impacts of family violence are far reaching as it not only causes immediate harm but also leaves lasting emotional, physical, and psychological effects. Family violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women and children. By addressing family violence, we can significantly improve the overall safety and well-being of the community.

Council's role in preventing and reducing the incidence of family violence includes:

- Providing or ensuring the provision of community support services
- Education and awareness for community and council
- Promoting equity and respect in the community and workplaces.

Housing and Homelessness

Housing in Latrobe City has historically been affordable relative to income, with more than half of our population either owning their home outright or with a mortgage. Nearly 50% of renters in Latrobe City experience housing stress as are 11% of people with a mortgage. Increasing cost of living pressures are making it harder to obtain home ownership or rental properties. Community feedback and data are reflective of the growing concern about housing costs and an increase of homelessness.

Some people in Latrobe City are 'marginally' homeless which includes people relying on temporary lodging, crowded dwellings and caravans. Service providers have indicated an increase in numbers while noting that homelessness is often under-reported because it relies on people going out to 'count' during census.

Council's role in reducing homelessness and the impacts of homelessness includes:

- Influencing different types of housing stock with a focus on affordability
- Supporting community access to employment opportunities
- Emergency relief to help those experiencing financial difficulties
- Working to prevent family violence

[1] Refer Appendix A

Social Connection

Social connection is an influential factor for health and wellbeing outcomes, with many in Latrobe City experiencing loneliness, isolation and feeling not valued by society.

Almost 30% of people in Latrobe City aged over 65 live alone, accounting for nearly 5,000 individuals; they are more at risk of social isolation and loneliness. More than 20% of people aged 15 to 24, are not engaged in school, further education or training, or employment. This lack of engagement can impact their connectedness to the wider community.

Discrimination also adds to poor social connections and wellbeing outcomes. Our First Nations community faces much higher rates of unemployment and poor health. People from multicultural backgrounds often experience difficulties in accessing services. People from First Nations or multicultural backgrounds also face significant discrimination.

Council's role in improving social connectedness includes:

- Assisting community to access to activities and services by considering things like cultural background or age
- Addressing concerns preventing community from participating e.g. perceptions of safety
- Activating streets and parks
- Promoting and supporting diversity in the community

Alcohol, Drugs and Gambling

Latrobe City faces challenges due to the impact of alcohol and drug use, leading to high lifetime risk of harm to an individual (with men at a greater lifetime risk) and poor perceptions of community safety impacting a person's sense of connection to the community. The significant losses from gambling impacts health outcomes, employment, housing and social connections.

Council's role in reducing harm from alcohol, drugs, smoking, vaping and gambling includes:

- Community education and awareness
- Focussing on prevention
- Support community access to social support services

Annual Review and Reporting

Latrobe City Council is committed to an annual review of the MPHWP 2025-2029. A report reviewing the MPHWP and the progress of the objectives and priorities will be included annually in the Latrobe City Council Annual Report. The Annual Report is published on the Council website and available to the community.

Appendix A – Supporting Information

References

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics Census, 2021 (as displayed in Remplan, 2025)
2. Victorian Population Health Survey, 2014; 2020
3. Public Health Information Development Unit, Social Health Atlases of Australia: Local Government Areas, 2024
4. Gippsland Primary Health Network, Population Health Planning Hub, 2022
5. Gippsland Public Health Network, 2022
6. Crimes Statistics Agency, 2024
7. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2025
8. Parliament of Victoria, Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria, Final Report, 2021
9. Victorian Council of Social Service, 2023
10. Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission, 2024
11. Cancer Council Victoria, 2022
12. ACOSS/UNSW Sydney Poverty & Inequality Partnership Report No.8

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

Community Review - Council Plan and Vision

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT
13 May 2025 - 09 June 2025

PROJECT NAME:
Latrobe City Council Plan and Community Vision

GRANICUS

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 How well does this vision reflect what you want for the future of Latrobe City? Please provide any feedback below:

Screen Name Redacted 5/13/2025 01:09 PM	There is no discussion about how you are going to make places like the gallery and gpac show things that are of interest to our region. There seems to be no plans to put on actual events that showcase the region and all the things to offer
Screen Name Redacted 5/13/2025 01:10 PM	Great.
Screen Name Redacted 5/13/2025 01:13 PM	How are you actually going to make Latrobe City into a vibrant, thriving, healthy, connected and welcoming regional community where everyone feels safe and involved? With sport games you pay alot of money for? What about eveything else you could provide for the community especially I think the arts scene. Why is the old arts centre barely used? Why is it so expensive to hire? Why can't we have actual proper workshops run by your organization? Every other council is progressive
Screen Name Redacted 5/14/2025 10:02 AM	Somewhat. These are good motherhood statements and key strategies for every council. The problem for me is the implementation of these strategies. What and how it all happens "the operation frameworks" need to be clearly articulated. There is a history in Latrobe City of poor implementation Lets see that turned around. The LRG place in this framework must be expanded [redacted] The "PERMANENT COLLECTION" is a key council Asset that isn't recognised by council officers. It's care and maintenance is overlooked as is it's utilisation for a number of the KEY OBJECTIVES in this council plan. The thinking of the executive leadership is ordinary at best.
Screen Name Redacted 5/14/2025 01:50 PM	Para 1: What does "involved" mean? Is this simply an extension of "connected" ? "feeling safe" has negative connotations. Para 2: Our local businesses prosper. Sounds like we want to focus on existing businesses. But what about unearthing new opportunities for new businesses? Para 3: Can we also mention our geographical placement and access to cities, and facilities that add to livability ?
Screen Name Redacted 5/15/2025 10:42 AM	Well our businesses are not prospering at the moment. To many vacant business buildings.

Screen Name Redacted 5/15/2025 07:37 PM	It's all smoke and mirrors. How about telling us how and what you are going to do in the region. How you are going to attract Industry to create and maintain well paid jobs, while supporting the mining, energy and forestry industries already suffering in the region. Spend money on infrastructure evenly a d not just in areas where you think will get you votes. The world isn't just about boy sports.
Screen Name Redacted 5/15/2025 07:52 PM	The general ideas are fine but It's trying to say too much? Learning and education is probably duplication same with healthy and well-being. As well as vibrant and thriving.
Screen Name Redacted 5/15/2025 08:14 PM	Sounds amazing
Screen Name Redacted 5/15/2025 08:33 PM	[redacted]
Screen Name Redacted 5/15/2025 10:42 PM	Terrible I expect the council to stick to essential services not all the other crap
Screen Name Redacted 5/16/2025 08:09 AM	I do not think it reflects much to improve the shows you get at the performing arts centre. It also does not help with anything to do with the gallery. WHERE ARE YOU ANNUAL BOOKLETS, how do we even know what is going on there apart from their facebook. Finally when are you going to actually look into the Traralgon Skate Park this is a big joke now with everyone.
Screen Name Redacted 5/17/2025 12:48 PM	We need an industry that will give people jobs, on going jobs, not seasonal. There is not much in Morwell CBD to entice people to go there. Also there is a waiting list well over 12.months or more to see a podiatrist as there is none available maybe a mobile community bus for podiatry ???
Screen Name Redacted 5/17/2025 07:07 PM	It's a great dream, which I hope you realise. In the current climate, I'm doubting it will come to realisation.
Screen Name Redacted 5/18/2025 03:28 PM	Thank you LCC staff.There are some very positive points in this Plan with the intent to improve livelihoods and well-being of our communities. Having said that to really achieve this vision I strongly and respectfully recommend: 1. Council create an Arts and Culture

Department managed by a qualified and experienced arts manager. 2. Council should employ a dedicated qualified and experienced Art Gallery Director to the Latrobe Regional Gallery recruited at arm's length and ethically by an independent consultant, [redacted]. LCC is keen to improve the well being of this community and a well managed art gallery/museum with the correct staff including an art educator can bring many experiences to the community which are educational and can also improve the well being of visitors of all ages and walks of life. [redacted]. LRG is an art museum with a significant collection this is a valuable asset to council, the curation of exhibitions, sourcing of artists, documentation, publications, promotion and feedback is a long term cycle different than the creative output in the performing arts. Plays and concerts are ephemeral. There are different sorts of decisions in an art museum. LRG's peak body is the Public Galleries Association of Victoria. LRG has a heritage, a legacy connections with Arthur Boyd and key philanthropists from the local community. This legacy must be respected and promoted. On the other hand LRG should continue to attract younger audiences with savvy programs linked to the Collection and curated exhibition. I could be writing 20 pages for you on this.. I will ask you please respect the profession of art gallery director, curatorial staff and art educator the training is rigorous and long and if you employ the right sort of staff I am sure you will attract many visitors to LRG which has a welcoming customer service team and a diligent venue manager/shop manager. Thus Council can turn around the situation in Morwell by creating an art museum which will be a source of pride, a source of inspiration to the community, it will inspire local artists to create, it will attract schools, it will attract people from all walk of life but you must employ and support the right staff. [redacted]. My advice is given with sincerity and no self interest. I am for the success of Latrobe City Council and the betterment of this community. I am for the well-being and art education of our young because it promotes balanced individuals who make a difference to the community and their families.

Screen Name Redacted
5/18/2025 05:17 PM

Well no-one feels safe here now but how will achieve it what I want to know and at what cost?

Screen Name Redacted 5/19/2025 04:36 PM	The vision does not mention protecting the environment to ensure that it is looked after for future generations
Screen Name Redacted 5/20/2025 12:36 AM	That’s really great! Especially the feel safe part.. it’s definitely not what it used to be especially in the valley 4+ years ago. But with the absolute influx of people there needs to be more protection and more car spaces. But without destroying our beautiful countryside too much.
Screen Name Redacted 5/20/2025 07:57 AM	Looks good!
Screen Name Redacted 5/20/2025 09:09 AM	Bit generic and idealistic - good motherhood statement
Screen Name Redacted 5/20/2025 02:18 PM	Sounds great.
Screen Name Redacted 5/20/2025 06:52 PM	Not that well.There seems there too many assumptions being taken forgranted to achieve the desired outcomes.
Screen Name Redacted 5/20/2025 08:29 PM	Very disappointed that the differential rate for retirement villages was not considered
Screen Name Redacted 5/21/2025 10:52 AM	When will you hire staff at your performing arts centre that know how to program shows? This has been a missing area asap and I would like it to be fixed so you get shows the community actually want.
Screen Name Redacted 5/21/2025 04:14 PM	Yes health & well being, jobs Latrobe Valley needs to with new businesses, recreation and nature and native bushland. Newborough has a wonderful sense of community which is why I love living here.
Screen Name Redacted 5/21/2025 11:15 PM	Bring back the city of Morwell and encourage growth in Morwell instead of Traralgon. Traralgon is a NIGHTMARE to shop in and navigate through no easy parking. Morwell however has good parking and shops and it should be encouraged to grow. I hate having to go to Mid valley or Traralgon for my banking to many people that dont tow the normal behaviour of what should be.
Screen Name Redacted	Hopefully if you can continue support the young family We have

5/22/2025 12:46 AM	recently moved from different sub to traralgon. Traralgon has less activities for family and kids. Not many parks in our areas. Only newman park is the one which is popular. No indoor play for kids. I felt like it will have major impact to the kids future. Less activities, more mental health.
Screen Name Redacted 5/22/2025 12:56 AM	My vision is that all sporting codes are treated equal. [redacted] Now we currently field a Senior Men's Senior Wans Reserves & 3rd Division & are the only Club in the LVSL Competition that have only 3 change rooms which means when our Woman & 3rd Division side play at the same time our 3rd Division mens side change in the Property Room or outside. This would never happen at any other club in the league or the likes of the Moe Football Netball Club or like. We were formed in 1952 the oldest Club in the LVSL and deserve more respect we are also on of the most successful Club in the history of local Football(Soccer). [redacted] I plead with the Latrobe City shire to somehow fund this great Club which I love & live for to my grave to find funding to give our Club the respect our players deserve to all have a changeroom to use on game day. I am not a committee member I just go along to support all our teams Seniors Reserves 3rd Division & Womans on match day [redacted]
Screen Name Redacted 5/23/2025 09:54 AM	The written words in the last paragraph do not gel with the other paragraphs: Our stunning natural surroundings and outstanding creative, educational, recreational and cultural opportunities underpin exceptional wellbeing and renowned visitor experiences.
Screen Name Redacted 5/28/2025 03:37 PM	Reflects well…but where is the SMART objectives in this statement? Where is the bit about affordability, connectivity, or industry leader etc. and no mention of well-being…
Screen Name Redacted	Pretty well but I want more younger generations to come and live in

5/28/2025 03:45 PM	our city with many technological improvements as our median age range is mostly 40-50s. We don't have enough jobs for people to migrate, we don't have much for people to come and see let alone to live. These visions are good but will the council makes it come true, I really doubt it.
Screen Name Redacted 5/28/2025 09:04 PM	How are you looking to assist people with disabilities? How are you looking at making the gallery an interesting place? There seems to be no answers within this.
Screen Name Redacted 5/29/2025 07:55 AM	Its a great vision, but it is also just words. How you try and improve the Shire will determine if you actually want to work towards the vision. For example, supporting the closure of our native forest, coal fired power stations etc means you really don't want our local businesses to prosper.
Screen Name Redacted 5/29/2025 08:32 AM	Catch-all that covers everything.
Screen Name Redacted 5/30/2025 02:01 PM	I think this reflects a good vision for Latrobe.
Screen Name Redacted 5/30/2025 07:11 PM	Maybe a community bus that travels along the back tracks dirt rds connecting to main rds that isolated families can catch a bus instead of using the car, maybe only one car in family and no way of other family members to go shopping etc or go visiting other community people . The bus can be available maybe 2 x twice a week . It would provide a service to isolated people certain days certain times and return timetable as well. I think in the future more transport would be needed in the regional areas not serviced by a main Bus route. More livable in remote rds as people do live off grid as well.
Screen Name Redacted 6/02/2025 06:04 PM	It does, i understand vision statements but needs to sound less fluffy and more real, grounded, how about the support of those in need, how about including desires for the environment and its native wildlife? What are those targets?
Screen Name Redacted 6/04/2025 01:13 PM	This document seems to be a watered-down version of Council's responsibilities. The document seems vague and rushed, unlike previous iterations of similar documents, there isn't a great deal of detail or representation of the diversity within the municipality. I'm concerned that Council sees that limited community engagement

	including, pop ups, an online survey and a community workshop with 21 participants in attendance is seen as an appropriate community engagement exercise. How many surveys were completed and how many people attended the pop ups? I suspect that the number is quite low, otherwise the numbers would have been included on page 2. My fear is that the feedback received does not appropriately represent the whole of the Latrobe City community.
Screen Name Redacted 6/04/2025 02:40 PM	In the spirit of enhancement and trying to achieve a greater outcome for the Latrobe City community the Gamblers Help Team at Latrobe Community Health Service would like to see a greater focus on deliverables to address alcohol, drugs and gambling harm in the Latrobe City Community.
Screen Name Redacted 6/04/2025 04:42 PM	Safety is a huge priority, living in the valley feels a bit scary at the moment, I think twice if I want to go for a walk after work now as I just don’t feel safe.
Screen Name Redacted 6/05/2025 10:55 PM	Very well, yes. It does seem unrealistic & therefore insincere. Latrobe City is declining in every way with political, local culture, legal and law enforcement lacking the will to change course and adding to the problem. Council is hamstrung without their support & cooperation.
Screen Name Redacted 6/07/2025 04:31 AM	Lovely language. What action
Screen Name Redacted 6/08/2025 03:35 PM	Sounds good to me. I would like more emphasis on redressing the health inequalities that have resulted from the coal industry to make Latrobe a more livable city.
Screen Name Redacted 6/08/2025 08:30 PM	Very well, however council staff need to be appreciated, well trained, qualified in areas working and honest in doing their role and to actually do their role. No cost increases on rates by managing accordingly.
Screen Name Redacted 6/09/2025 10:01 AM	The Vision reads as positive and ambitious. Most strategies are important. What it does not reflect is a strong commitment to caring for our environment during economic development, housing provision and the development of genuine lifestyle options. Whilst referenced in sections of the plan I found it difficult to find reference to protecting and revitalising biodiversity.. There is evidence of this occurring (eg

	Railway reserve and surrounds, Traralgon; Edward Hunter Reserve, Moe) it is not receiving the attention needed to improve our urban and rural environments in relation to restoring and maintaining a healthy biodiversity.

Optional question (45 response(s), 6 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

Q2 Please provide any feedback in relation to the draft Council Plan 2025-29 document below:

Screen Name Redacted 5/13/2025 01:09 PM	Do better things with the gallery and bring better shows to the arts centre. Why don't you ask us what we want there instead of showing things that we have no interest in
Screen Name Redacted 5/13/2025 01:10 PM	It's all great!
Screen Name Redacted 5/13/2025 01:13 PM	The plan is a joke. Nothing will happen from it anyway
Screen Name Redacted 5/14/2025 10:02 AM	As I have indicated above It's very ordinary and the plan reflects the aspirations watered down to "Fit" KPI'S This will be seen as overly critical and that's because this management has failed time and time again. Blanking out criticism is a poor strategy! Engagement and listening and action is a solution. How can council better utilise is assets both physical and human. Collaborate and engage? Firstly by not closing the door on divergent thinking. There is mention of transparency but I haven't seen that at all. Where is the balance sheets for council individual facilities? What are the statistics for council facilities? The annual report for Sport and recreation. Why is GPAC and LRG not perceived as part of Recreation for learning What of Life long learning and the nexus between the young and older members of our community?
Screen Name Redacted 5/15/2025 10:42 AM	Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs.
Screen Name Redacted 5/15/2025 07:37 PM	Doesn't tell us anything but fluff

Screen Name Redacted 5/15/2025 07:52 PM	It's much simpler and directive which is good for this document. I think it needs more indicators to more effectively evaluate outcomes and work towards improving latrobe.
Screen Name Redacted 5/15/2025 08:14 PM	Transparency requires from the council
Screen Name Redacted 5/15/2025 08:33 PM	[redacted]
Screen Name Redacted 5/15/2025 10:42 PM	What a load of rubbish Stop wasting our money
Screen Name Redacted 5/16/2025 06:52 AM	Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs." Moe is a great Town and I wish the council would see this and stop spending all the money on building trarlgon.
Screen Name Redacted 5/16/2025 08:09 AM	It all seems like it is the same as usual just looks different.
Screen Name Redacted 5/17/2025 12:48 PM	Need a mobile bus to provide PODIATRY SERVICES. as none in whole of latrobe. or a 12 months and over waiting list ..not good.
Screen Name Redacted 5/17/2025 07:07 PM	With the destruction of jobs through banning sustainable tree harvesting, the closure of power plants with no immediate power replacement, I believe this is just a pipe dream. Coupled with the current metrocentric Government in Victoria, it's even less likely
Screen Name Redacted 5/18/2025 03:28 PM	There should be a dedicated Arts and Culture Department managed by an Art Manager with specific qualifications and experience in the Arts. LRG should be managed by a qualified and experienced Art Gallery Director. [redacted].
Screen Name Redacted 5/18/2025 05:17 PM	Here's an idea stop wasting so dam much money and start saving it. Why are we following the WHO suggestions? The sooner we get rid of them and others the better off we'll all be. Pull your heads out from the sand. (Being polite) Stop lining your own pockets and actually do

	something that will help. Your currently rebuilding roads that require repairs as soon as they're finished and take way too long. Look at Loch Park Rd, the bridge to tyres, Old Melb Rd, Loch Park Rd is still going.
Screen Name Redacted 5/19/2025 04:36 PM	The plan seems to cover most areas. Maybe it should include a revision after 6 months
Screen Name Redacted 5/20/2025 12:36 AM	Economy- great! It’s so hard to obtain employment in the valley. Environment- healthy is a very broad term. We are in desperate need of more mental health resources especially for 25+ as they fall through the cracks. Inclusive is great- like I said previously 4+ years ago I felt that sense of township but now it’s chaos and everyone is very clicky. Safe- with the increased crime rate due to a number of factors. We especially from a woman’s standpoint I don’t feel safe.
Screen Name Redacted 5/20/2025 07:57 AM	I looked at Key Objective 3 - Natural Environment & Open Spaces, which indicated 'protecting our biodiversity' will be met by "maintaining our natural assets and open space, encourag[ing] use of the natural environment and strengthen[ing] waste management programs and practices". It is problematic, though, in terms of the dot points because these are already included in Latrobe City's Sustainability Action Plan. For example - 'Develop and promote campaigns targeting roadside litter and illegal rubbish dumping' is already included on page 17 of the Sustainability Action Plan 'Develop and implement Active Transport Strategy that covers the inter-township trail network, missing links and linking townships, improved street and park lighting and bike trails - already on pages 3, 10, 11 & 18. 'Explore future single site opportunities in utilisation of geothermal technology and biogas energy generation for energy intensive users' - already on page 12 & 20 'Review Waste Management Strategy' - already on page 20 & 21. Why would you have the same items that have already been identified and committed to? Does this new Council Plan mean that the objectives of the current Sustainability Action Plan have been dumped? What is the relationship between this new Council Plan and existing objectives? Finally, there is already a Fenced Dog Park Implementation Plan. A more useful objective for protecting our environment would be: Develop and implement a 24-hour cat containment policy
Screen Name Redacted 5/20/2025 09:09 AM	Personally - Not sure the full benefit of the airport development

Screen Name Redacted 5/20/2025 02:18 PM	My feedback relates to Council services. I think the council has done a great job with the streetscape of Morwell. also parks and gardens, volunteering and early childhood amongst the other services too . Are there any aged care services? I'm not sure if the council should be providing employment services or family violence services as there are many other providers in this district. Is this for in-house counselling for staff? I have heard of other local government areas in Victoria which provide a Social Worker in their local libraries where there is a strong need. Perhaps this could be a good idea for Morwell. I think that the council could provide another landfill instead of selling our rubbish to the local cardboard factory. I'd be prepared to forego the extra council income for cleaner air. I think the big bypass project would need land acquisition in the district - the next landfill could be organized then too. What sort of plan is in place for the future of the Pinegro facility? This takes our green waste as well as pine bark. I think that the piles are very big and rot down and we get the smell in Morwell some mornings. I understand that the shire deals with some local EPA issues such as smoke from backyard fires. There are so many mini power plants as part of our homes now and things are changing so much. There are so many providers that I can work out to contact if there is an outage or someone plays with your system as a prank. Perhaps the shire could provide a service to assist housheoulders with basic knowledge for community members during outages or in preparing for getting a new battery etc. I think that the QR codes that the shire uses prevent some members of the community from participating easily. I also appreciate the library and art gallery. Thanks for reading my contribution.
Screen Name Redacted 5/20/2025 06:52 PM	Unless more jobs are created in Latrobe City by the state and Federal Governments and perhaps private investment Latrobe City will not survive as a vibrant society and more young people will seek employment elsewhere and we become just another rural community without a future.
Screen Name Redacted 5/20/2025 08:29 PM	So disappointed that the differential rate for retirement and lifestyle villages was not considered as we have 158 units all paying rates,we do all our own road and footpaths maintenance and also supply our own street lighting .And we are only village,any rate reduction would certainly help the cost of living on a pension.Thank you
Screen Name Redacted 5/21/2025 10:52 AM	We are not a Liveable, Sustainable, Connected city without good shows at our performing arts centre.
Screen Name Redacted	Specially Our Economy Job growth plus Our Community the part on

5/21/2025 04:14 PM	safety.
Screen Name Redacted 5/22/2025 12:46 AM	Please keep it affortable as it is. Everything become more expensive now
Screen Name Redacted 5/23/2025 09:54 AM	The overall focus of the plan will be in vain if Strategic Direction #2 is not dealt with as the number one priority. The core threat to all local government is financial sustainability. I was pleased to see a Social Infrastructure Plan as a noted action; this is a piece of work that Councils like Geelong City have done well. This stock take of what we have and what we actually need based on well benchmarked levels of provision will provide the community with a measure of where Latrobe City has over provided and under provided Social Infrastructure Assets and services (This must include an assessment of private, local government, state and federal government provided infrastructure. In the same way the provision of council's infrastructure assets should be reviewed. Once the council has established a financially sustainable base the other Strategic directions be delivered with confidence.
Screen Name Redacted 5/28/2025 03:37 PM	A number of pie in the sky statements…where is the map on how these things will be achieved and addressed and by when? Public transport is called out but can you actually influence that? Immediate action can be taken with new bus shelters that protect people from tough weather conditions be installed (quantify this), add things like start up grants to help invigorate the derelict and empty buildings, run business and community and well being events, run events like Advance Morwell Xmas event or light night like east gippsland does, run free movie screenings to help connect those doing it tough, support the free yoga sessions you ran last year which was really popular, share a pipeline of projects and employment pipelines and share information on the renewables. Run online courses that people can go to if they’re working full time so out of hours so people can empower theirselves to get an education (not everyone can afford to take a couple days off work a week to go study during work hours).
Screen Name Redacted 5/28/2025 09:04 PM	Look after the people with disabilities, you never do! Get some interesting things in the gallery, you never do! Make this a place we want to live. At the moment it isn’t at all.
Screen Name Redacted 5/29/2025 07:55 AM	You have not specified how you intend to really do any of these items. How are you going to help businesses, when you support a bypass. How can you support business/investment but support closure of

	logging and coal fired power stations. Do your ratepayers ask you to work on climate change for us? Why don't you start being honest with the projects you endorse (GPAC, New Pool etc) and let us know how much this costs us in the long run. How much have we saved with the smart lighting we have around town. We were told many projects are done to save us money, but not once have I read that any fees have decreased in value.
Screen Name Redacted 5/29/2025 08:32 AM	Strategic Direction # 3 could include in Key Objective 1 something about supporting walking and cycling in Latrobe's cities and towns as a mode choice. Incidental exercise has a great ability to increase physical activity within the community as part of getting around and reduces the number of cars on the road (which reduces pollution and risk of vehicle accidents). An associated metric to measure this could be modal choice in the census or data on how kids travel to school. Did we want to add metrics in Direction 2 about housing land supply? Might not want to do that as it could duplicate other state metrics.
Screen Name Redacted 5/30/2025 02:01 PM	Economy - perhaps Council could work with private commercial landowners to incentivise getting local shopfronts filled, even temporarily (through a pop-up model, for example), and activating this through the local creative community. The empty shops across the City are an eyesore, particularly in Morwell, and something visitors often comment upon. - GPAC programming needs massive improvement to increase attendance at programs and encourage visitors to the area. The programming schedule still looks like people who don't know what they're doing are throwing things at the wall and seeing what sticks, and it's far past the point of that being acceptable for what is meant to be a region-leading venue. The Wedge and WGAC are far superior. Regional Identity - I'm sure this looked very impressive in your brainstorming meetings but to people who aren't employees what you've got so far is a load of [redacted] Community - Two of the dot points for Community under Key Objective #2 relate to early childhood - not very lifelong for your lifelong learning objective. Why no mention of adult learning initiatives like the neighbourhood houses? Also, if the libraries are to be more accessible, as noted, opening hours need to be increased. It's very difficult for working adults and families to visit the libraries when they are not open after work and only for a couple of hours on a Saturday.
Screen Name Redacted 5/30/2025 07:11 PM	As above a connected bus route a few times a week including return buses within an area just outside towns that don't include transport to people living on the fringe of towns with maybe only one car per family. As this may become the future living off grid or out on the fringe without public transport. For families or singular people living

	out of town.
Screen Name Redacted 6/02/2025 06:04 PM	Again, what about Parks, not tearing down trees? Creating habitat for wildlife? These also provide an environment we can be proud of?
Screen Name Redacted 6/04/2025 01:13 PM	What's happened to the actions that were to be delivered in 2026/2026 financial year for the Ageing Well Latrobe Action Plan, shouldn't they be included in the Plan? Shouldn't the Ageing Well Latrobe Action Plan be referenced in Strategic Direction #3, Key Objective 4- Inclusion and Connection as has the Reconciliation Action Plan? What other strategic Action Plans that have been endorsed by Council have been overlooked through the Council Plan development process? Council's community engagement groups (Cultural Diversity, Positive Ageing and Access and Inclusion) are not mentioned in the Council Plan; is this because their role has changed? Shouldn't the fact that the groups exist and provide guidance to Council on cultural diversity, positive ageing and access and inclusion be mentioned in the Strategic Direction # 3 key Objective 4 - Inclusion and Connection? Page 14 Council's role etc. the refence to 'culturally appropriate or age appropriate' is too narrowly focused, does this mean that council will not be assisting community outside of these cohorts to access activities? Why not change it to 'appropriate activities' without putting a label on it about culture or age? The reference to 'age appropriate' is ageist.
Screen Name Redacted 6/04/2025 02:40 PM	As stated on page 2, Alcohol, Drugs and Gambling are a priority that have emerged from community consultation. Page 14 states that Council has a role in reducing harm from alcohol, drugs and gambling. In the 2023/24 financial year $49,584,138 was lost via 522 poker machines (EGM) in 13 venues in the Latrobe City municipality . Currently, Latrobe City has 30% of the total number of EGMs that operate in Gippsland (1727). EGM expenditure per adult in 2023/24 in Latrobe City was $790, which is the second highest in Gippsland (east Gippsland is the highest with EGM expenditure of $808 per adult). The amount of money lost through EGMs in 2023/24 in Latrobe City equates to 32% of the overall Gippsland expenditure and ranks first in Gippsland (for LGAs). Given the level of gambling harm being experienced in the Latrobe City municipality, the Gamblers Help Team at Latrobe Community Health Service, would like to suggest that the following be considered and included in Strategic Direction #3, Our Community – Healthy, Inclusive, Safe, under Key Objective 1 and 2. - Develop a gambling harm prevention and minimisation policy. - Advocate for and support initiatives that prevent gambling harm by collaborating with local organisations and agencies including the Gippsland Gamblers help service. - Raise awareness of gambling

harm through education and diversionary programming to ensure that those who are impacted by gambling harm (including affected others) are supported. - Support Gambling Harm Awareness Week by working with the Gippsland Gamblers Help service to raise awareness of gambling harm and the impacts of gambling on the Latrobe City community.

Screen Name Redacted
6/04/2025 04:42 PM

I would like to see a greater effort in the area of placemaking, creating vibrant spaces and engaging green spaces for community to enjoy. Victory Park is in dire need of some love and redesign, making it safer to walk around and enjoy, adding contemporary art and native plants. Creating spaces which encourage civic pride, actually putting up Christmas decorations and making sure our towns a tidy

Screen Name Redacted
6/05/2025 10:55 PM

[redacted]

Screen Name Redacted
6/07/2025 04:31 AM

Again just words how does it translate to meaningful action

Screen Name Redacted
6/08/2025 03:35 PM

[redacted] Traralgon Bridge Club I would like to ensure that we are still on Council's radar. We used to lease the old YMCA building at the Taralgon rec centre until the flood. We were forced to find temporary premises with the plan that we would be incoporated

into the Racecourse redevelopment. This now appears to be on the back-burner and we are still wondering how temporary our arrangement with the Masonic Lodge should be. We seem to fit under many of the Key Objectives - infrastructure, healthy lifestyles (bridge is an IOC sanctioned brain sport) and community activation. We are finding it hard to attract new members because we dont have a premises where we can offer lessons at suitable times, and cannot offer large congresses which attract people from throughout Gippsland and Melbourne, without incurring additional costs. We would love to see a more permanent solution to our situation [redacted]

Screen Name Redacted
6/08/2025 08:30 PM

[redacted]

Screen Name Redacted
6/09/2025 10:01 AM

Public Safety MUST be a combination of proactive and reactive strategies. Our Council MUST invest in long term preventative action as well as supporting the thankless task handed to our law enforcement officers - Police and others. A Healthy Community is one where the natural flora and fauna environment plays an important role. It should not just be valued but restored at every opportunity. Housing: I feel very strongly that housing (and the parallel cost of living 'crisis') needs to cease being an expectation that a family with two children must have a four or five bedroom house with at least two bathrooms, two living areas and a media room. Together with environmental stewardship, Council needs to be proactive and brave on both these planning issues.

Screen Name Redacted
6/09/2025 04:16 PM

Submission Have Your Say Latrobe City Council Vision 2025 -2029 STRATEGIC DIRECTION #1 Our Economy – Investment, Jobs, Growth We are committed to working with our community and key stakeholders to grow our local economy to provide a wide range of job opportunities, economic diversification, and attract investment. How does our economy relate to health and wellbeing? Our municipalities' prosperity, employment and education opportunities all impact health and wellbeing. For example, there is a connection between income levels and psychological distress, with 16% of people who earn $100,000 or more reporting high or very high psychological distress compared with 37% of people who earn under $40,000 a year. Key Objective 1 I agree with all the points that

Latrobe City have put into the Strategic Direction #1 Our Economy and have these points to consider. As a matter of urgency since the aftereffects of job losses from several big industries that have closed over the last decade is now showing itself in closed shops and businesses in Latrobe City. Latrobe City will invite businesses, both traditional retail and industrial, and new and innovative industries to the area by attracting a diverse range of industries and by supporting local businesses by providing resources training and financial assistance to help local business to expand and grow. Take time to research and educate on these new technologies as they become available to ensure that these businesses are sound and can deliver what they say they will deliver, this is to ensure that we have legitimate opportunities for our community's employment future. Skill Development Programs Provide training to resident's programs that will upskill locals to gain skills needed for developing industries. Encourage businesses to include partnerships with educational institutions and/ or apprenticeships. Resume writing, job seekers be linked to Job Matching Services linked to ensure job seekers are matched with positions that are available Continue with Information Days workshops to showcase local business and job opportunities that the Council does in Partnership with Job Service Providers. Mental health and well-being and services are vital aid for jobseekers and employees to manage stress levels and improve overall well-being, which will improve job performance and job satisfaction. Transparent Communication Communicate on a regular basis to inform the community around business activities, work job openings, using different types of media, communications platforms, traditional paper and digital, and have Feedback Communication on a regular basis to ensure ongoing transparency STRATEGIC DIRECTION #2 Our City – Liveable, Sustainable, Connected Review Waste Management Strategy • Progress the staged development of off-leash dog parks in accordance with the Fenced Dog Park Implementation Plan. • Explore future single site opportunities in utilisation of geothermal technology and biogas energy generation for energy intensive users. STRATEGIC DIRECTION #2 Our City – Liveable, Sustainable, Connected I agree with all the points in the Strategic Direction #2 in Latrobe City Councils Draft Vision 2025-2029. I have these points to consider below. New Housing Developments When new housing developments are placed in Latrobe City Council area there needs to be more emphasis on where developments are placed and on placing services and infrastructure such as public transport so the residents are not isolated and availability of health and social services and mental health services and shopping centres within walking range especially if there are boarding houses or housing with limited car parks altogether, extra Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol services to assist with growing needs of people who are trying to quit or are in recovery from their addiction, infrastructure and services to assist residents with alcohol

and or drug dependence is vital, especially if they are also without work and there are anti-social behaviours also. Raise awareness of these services through regular notifications through media via paper and digital mediums. An increase in antisocial behaviour both on the streets and in people's houses will require 24-hour Police Stations and strategies to lessen the antisocial behaviours which will start to decline when employment starts to rise giving people the motivation and determination to better their lives. Toilets are important resource at shopping centres; shopping centres can have plans for toilets included where required. Key Objective 3 - Natural Environment & Open Space* I agree with all the points in the Strategic Direction #3in Latrobe City Councils Draft Vision 2025-2029. I have these points to consider below. Is there room in Latrobe Valley for Public Dump Points in Victoria Public dump points offer a place for caravanners to dispose of grey and black water, as well as sewage waste. Visiting a dump point is the most environmentally friendly method of emptying waste from a caravan. Key Objective 4 - Climate Change Adaption* Advance climate change When looking at new energy resources I have these points to consider below. Latrobe City Council will benefit from to do research into upcoming industries to ensure that they do live up to their claims, education and research into the components and recycling of these new technologies, considering that lithium batteries do need to be looked into, to research how they can be made better and safer so they don't catch on fire, or look into alternative battery sources and other components that are safer and cleaner so that it is sustainable and efficient.

Optional question (43 response(s), 8 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

2025/26 BUDGET

PURPOSE

To present to Council for adoption the 2025/26 Budget prepared in accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Council must adopt a budget for each financial year by 30 June.
- Council has complied with the legislative requirements for the preparation and public notification of its 2025/26 Budget, which includes the proposed rates and charges.
- The budget has been responsibly developed and balanced on a cash basis, maintaining existing services and service levels while also encompassing a renewal budget which seeks to maintain existing infrastructure, that ultimately aims to support the strategies and objectives of the Council Plan and the over 70 services provided to the community.
- With a strong emphasis on medium to long term financial sustainability, consideration has been given to the use of any full year surplus position that may eventuate in 2025/26 when measured against the adopted budget, with 50% of the 2025/26 actual year end surplus position (if any) to be allocated to the Transition Reserve to further support the organisation's long term financial sustainability and transition programs.
- Proposes borrowings of $2.5 million in 2025/26 to fund construction of the Multi-Use pavilion at Gaskin Park Churchill.
- The budget has been shaped by community priorities and aspirations as highlighted through the 180 responses received as part of the early community engagement process undertaken in November 2024. This process was undertaken early to capture the community's ideas and gather feedback to help inform the budget as it was being developed.
- Additionally, a total of 90 submissions have been received in relation to the draft budget, Council has outlined its response to these submission in this report.
- Includes a capital works program of $28.0 million that invests in asset renewal and upgrade works which increases to $87.3 million after including continuing multiyear projects and other carry forward works from prior year budgets.

- Waste services charge is set to increase by $46.00 per standard set of 3 bins due to a realignment of waste services cost recovery to cover the cost of Council's transfer stations and increases in the costs for recycling and landfill. The State Government Landfill Levy imposed on municipal waste will increase by $6.00 or 19.4% per standard service.
- It is recommended that Council adopt the 2025/26 Budget document (including fees and charges) annexed to this report and declare the rates and charges to be applied in the 2025/26 financial year.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council, having prepared and given public notice of the proposed 2025/26 Budget in accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and having conducted a consultative process, including having received and considered submissions, resolves:

1. **to adopt the 2025/26 Budget (including fees and charges), annexed to this report at Attachment 1;**
2. **that in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989* ("Act 1989"), declares that the amounts that it intends to raise by way of general rates, municipal charges and service charges for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 are as follows:**

General Rates	**$66,344,068**
Municipal Charge	**$ 6,370,655**
Service Charges	**$15,617,867**
EPA Landfill Levy Charge	**$ 1,396,227**
Cultural and Recreational Land	**$ 88,512**
Payments in lieu of rates	**$ 9,367,502;**

3. **to declare that the general rates will be raised in 2025/26 by the application of the following differential rates calculated on the Capital Improved Value of rateable property:**
   - **3.1. General rate of 0.00301496 cents in the dollar on lands as defined in paragraph 6.1.1;**
   - **3.2. Farm rate of 0.00226122 cents in the dollar on farm land as defined in paragraph 7.1.1;**
   - **3.3. Derelict Properties rate of 0.00904488 cents in the dollar on lands as defined in paragraph 8.2;**
4. **to declare the general rates for a twelve month period commencing 1 July 2025 and that the rates be levied in respect of each portion of**

rateable land for which the Council has a separate valuation;

5. that the declaration of the general rate, farm rate and derelict properties rate to be levied in 2025/26 will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of its functions;

6. to specify that in relation to the General Rate for 2025/26 the following in accordance with Section 161 of the Act 1989:

6.1. the objectives of the general rate as:

6.1.1. the types and classes of land to which the rate will apply is all other rateable land that is not defined as farm land as described in paragraph 7.1.1 or derelict properties as described in paragraph 8.2;

6.1.2. the level of the general rate is 0.00301496 cents in the dollar on the capital improved value of land as defined;

6.1.3. the reasons for the use and level of that rate are that:

6.1.3.1. the types and classes of land to which the rate applies can be easily identified;

6.1.3.2. it is appropriate to have a general rate so as to fairly rate lands other than derelict properties, recreational and farm lands;

6.1.3.3. the level of the general rate is appropriate having regard to all relevant matters including the use to which the land is put and the amount to be raised by Council's Municipal Charge;

6.1.3.4. the level of the general rate is appropriate to ensure that the burden of the payment of rates is fairly apportioned across all rateable land within the Municipal district;

6.1.3.5. it meets the objectives the Council considers are consistent with the economical and efficient carrying out of its functions, and

6.1.3.6. the characteristics of the land which are the criteria for declaring the general rate are as set out in sub-paragraph 6.1.1 above;

7. to specify that in relation to the farm rate for 2025/26 the following in accordance with Section 161 of the Act 1989:

7.1. The objectives of the farm rate as:

7.1.1. the types and classes of land to which the rate will apply is farm land as defined in Section 2 of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*, namely, any rateable land which is not less than 2 hectares in area and which is used primarily for carrying on one

or more of the following businesses or industries:

grazing (including agistment);

dairying;

pig farming;

poultry farming;

fish farming;

tree farming;

bee keeping;

viticulture;

horticulture;

fruit growing;

the growing of crops of any kind;

and that is used by a business:

- **that has a significant and substantial commercial purpose or character;**
- **that seeks to make a profit on a continuous or repetitive basis from its activities on the land; and**
- **that is making a profit from its activities on the land, or that has a reasonable prospect of making a profit from its activities on the land if it continues to operate in the way it is operating.**

7.1.2. the level of the farm rate is 0.00226122 cents in the dollar on the capital improved value of farm land as defined;

7.1.3. the reasons for the use and level of that rate are that:

7.1.3.1. the types and classes of land to which the rate applies can be easily identified;

7.1.3.2. it is appropriate to have a farm rate so as to fairly rate farm land;

7.1.3.3. the level of the farm rate is appropriate having regard to all relevant matters including the use to which farm land is put and the amount to be raised by Council's Municipal charge;

7.1.3.4. the level of the farm rate is appropriate to ensure that the burden of the payment of general rates is fairly apportioned across all rateable land within the Municipal district;

7.1.4. the types and classes of land to which the rate will apply can be identified as farm land as defined in paragraph 7.1.1;

7.1.5. it meets the objectives the Council considers are consistent with the economical and efficient carrying out of its functions;

8. to specify that in relation to the derelict properties rate for 2025/26 the following in accordance with Section 161 of the Act 1989:

8.1. the objective of the derelict properties rate is to promote the responsible management of land and buildings through incentivising the proper development and maintenance of such land and buildings so as not to pose a risk to public safety or adversely affect public amenity.

8.2 the types and classes of land to which the rate will apply is properties where 8.2.1 and 8.2.2 both apply;

8.2.1. The property is in such a state of disrepair that it is considered unsuitable for human habitation or other occupation for living or working on a daily basis, and has been in such a condition for a period of more than 3 months. The property is likely to lack, or have restricted access to, essential services or facilities including but not limited to water, and/or operational effluent discharge facilities.; and

the property meets one or more of the following criteria;

a) the property has become unsafe and poses a risk to public safety, including but not limited to:

- **the existence on the property of vermin, rubbish/litter, fire hazards, excess materials/goods, asbestos or other environmental hazards; or**
- **the property includes a partially built structure where there has been no reasonable progress in completing the structure**

b) the property adversely affects public amenity;

c) the property provides an opportunity to be used in a manner that may cause a nuisance or become detrimental to the amenity of the immediate area;

d) the condition of the property has a potential to adversely impact the value of other properties in the vicinity;

e) the property affects the general amenity of adjoining land or the neighbourhood by the appearance of graffiti, any stored unregistered motor vehicles, machinery or parts thereof, scrap metal, second hand building materials,

building debris, soil or similar materials, or other items of general waste or rubbish;

8.3. the level of the derelict properties rate is 0.00904488 cents in the dollar on the capital improved value of derelict properties land as defined.

8.4. the reasons for the use and level of that rate are that:

8.4.1. the differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objective specified above and is set at the maximum level, being 4 times the lowest differential rate, as allowed under Section 161 (5) of the Act 1989;

8.5. the types and classes of land to which the rate will apply can be identified as derelict land and/or buildings as defined in paragraph 8.2.1 and 8.2.2;

8.6. it meets the objectives the Council considers are consistent with the economical and efficient carrying out of its functions;

9. to specify that the general rate continue to be applied to Retirement Villages as defined under the *Retirement Villages Act 1986* having given due consideration to the implementation of a differential rate for such lands as required by the *Ministerial Guidelines on Differential Rating;*

10. to declare a Municipal charge at the annual rate of $155.00 for rateable land in respect of which a Municipal charge may be levied to recover some of the administrative costs of the Council for a period of 12 months from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026;

11. to declare an annual waste service charge of $409.00 per premises which includes the weekly collection and disposal of refuse in respect of premises to which the service is provided (whether or not the owner or occupier of such premises avails of the service provided) for a twelve-month period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026;

12. to declare an annual EPA Landfill Levy charge of $37.00 per garbage bin to cover the costs levied by the Environmental Protection Authority on the operation of landfills for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026;

13. that where variations to the standard service are granted, waste services will be charged for services utilised for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 as follows:

Garbage 120L bin $252.00 pa;

Garbage 240L bin $330.00 pa;

Garbage 240L bin Special $330.00 pa;

Recycling 240L bin $ 91.00 pa; and

Organics 240L bin $ 66.00 pa.

14. **that for Cultural and Recreational Land, in accordance with Section 4 of the *Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963*, the following amounts be specified as the amounts payable in respect of recreational lands described as:**

Traralgon Bowling Club	**45-57 Gwalia Street, Traralgon**	**$20,124.90**
Moe Racing Club	**Waterloo Road, Moe**	**$18,089.80**
Morwell Bowling Club	**52 Hazelwood Road, Morwell**	**$15,195.43**
Traralgon Greyhound Racing Club	**McNairn Road, Traralgon**	**$7,575.09**
Moe Golf Club	**26 Thompsons Road, Newborough**	**$6,505.27**
Traralgon Golf Club	**Princes Street, Traralgon**	**$6,222.88**
Yallourn Golf Club	**Golf Links Road, Moe**	**$4,050.20**
Moe Bowling Club	**Waterloo Road, Moe**	**$2,977.27**
Morwell Golf Club	**Fairway Drive, Morwell**	**$2,035.10**
Newborough Bowling Club	**1-5 Coach Road, Newborough**	**$2,532.57**
Victorian Field & Game Association	**Scales Road, Flynn Creek**	**$1,040.16**
Yallourn North Bowls Club	**Reserve Street, Yallourn North**	**$738.67**
Boolarra Bowling Club	**22 Duke Street, Boolarra**	**$610.53**
Yinnar Bowling Club	**Main Street, Yinnar**	**$512.54**
LV Water Ski Club	**Hall Road, Yallourn North**	**$301.50**

15. **that these amounts have regard to the services provided by the Council in relation to such lands and the benefit to the community derived from such recreational lands;**

16. **to direct that copies of the information required by Section 161(3) of the Act 1989 be made available for inspection at Council's office during office hours;**

17. having considered submissions received in relation to the 2025/26 Budget, directs that the rates and charges as declared for 2025/26 be levied by sending notices to the persons who are liable to pay, in accordance with Section 158 of the Act 1989;

18. that the rates and charges for 2025/26 must be paid by the dates fixed under Section 167 of the Act 1989, namely:

in full by 15 February 2026; or

by equal instalments on the following dates:

- **30 September 2025;**
- **30 November 2025;**
- **28 February 2026; and**
- **31 May 2026;**

19. to direct and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to demand payment of and recover the rates and charges as declared in relation to the 2025/26 Budget;

20. the Rate of Interest – Section 172 of the Act 1989:

20.1. that for the 2025/26 financial year Council resolves to require a person to pay interest on any outstanding amounts of rates and charges:

20.1.1 which that person is liable to pay; and

20.1.2 which have not been paid by the date specified under Section 167 for their payment except where the Council has agreed to waive the whole or part of any such interest;

20.2 that for the 2025/26 financial year Council resolves in accordance with Section 172 of the Act 1989 that the rate of interest will be as specified under Section 2 of the Penalty Interest Rates *Act 1983* (Currently 10%) or as fixed by the Minister under section 172A(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989*;

21. that 50% of the 2025/26 actual year end surplus position, as measured against the adopted budget, be allocated to the Transition Reserve to further support the organisation's long term financial sustainability and transition programs;

22. to authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and seal any loan and financial documents relating to the proposed borrowings of $2,500,000 detailed in the 2025/2026 Budget; and

23. to write to all submitters who provided a budget submission thanking them and advising Council's response to their submission.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on Monday, 28 April 2025, Council resolved to give notice of preparation of the proposed 2025/26 Budget, including proposed rates and charges for the year, and invite submissions on the draft budget.

ANALYSIS

The budget has been prepared on the basis of a 1.5% increase in municipal rates and charges (excluding waste services charges) which is below the 3.0% maximum increase in rates permissible under the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) for the 2025/26 financial year.

By not electing to increase municipal rates by 3%, total rates income of $1.1 million has been permanently foregone in 2025/26 resulting in less funds (i.e. reduced cash surplus) being available for the 2025/26 capital works program. The average saving for residential ratepayers is around $24. To calculate the rate increase each year in accordance with the rates cap, the prior year totals are used as the base, meaning, when a rate increase is not set at the maximum amount permitted under the FGRS, the foregone revenue cannot be caught up or charged in later years and has a compounding impact on the total rates income able to be raised, in this case, income foregone over the next four years is $4.4 million and $11.9 million over a ten year period. These additional funds would have been used to fund renewal and upgrade works in the capital works program.

Waste services charges are set to increase by $46.00 per standard set of 3 bins due to a realignment of waste services cost recovery to cover the cost of Council's transfer stations and increases in the costs for recycling and landfill. The EPA levy will increase by $6.00 per bin in line with costs advised by the state government for 2025/26.

The budget includes a total capital works program of $87.3 million comprising of $28.0 million being 25/26 current year program and $59.3 million of continuing multiyear projects and other carry forward works from prior year budgets. The program includes investment in renewing existing infrastructure with $14.4 million being committed to the road network. In addition, $29.3 million will be spent on the continuation of the Regional Car Parks Fund including the completion of the Kay Street Traralgon car park and the commencement of the Commercial Road Morwell carpark. Other major projects include flood recovery projects at Traralgon Recreation Reserve $5.3 million, Multi-use Pavilion Gaskin Park $3.7 million, the upgrade of the Glengarry preschool $1.1 million and the new public toilet for Churchill $0.7 million.

New borrowings of $2.5 million are proposed in 2025/26 to fund construction of the Multi-use Pavilion at Gaskin Park.

A four-year budget has been developed in accordance with the requirements under the Act. The key aim of the budget is to support the medium-term goals of the Council Plan while ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of the organisation.

The 2025/26 budget presented in this report has been developed through a process of consultation and review and contributes to the achievement of the Council Plan objectives and strategic directions included in the draft Council Plan 2025-2029.

The 2025/26 Operating Budget predicts an operating surplus of $52.6 million, after raising rates and charges of $99.6 million out of total revenue of $228.5 million. When excluding non-recurrent capital funding and developer contributions, an underlying operating deficit of $11.0 million is projected for 2025/26. The Financial Plan identifies the need for Council to review infrastructure, services and service levels and to implement actions to alleviate the underlying deficit position in the long term in order to ensure overall ongoing financially sustainability in a revenue capped environment.

It should be noted that on a cash basis Council budgets for a break even or neutral result, therefore any cash remaining at the end of the budget period is the result of a number of factors such as government grant funds received in advance, funds required to be carried forward to complete multi-year projects and funds required to settle certain balance sheet liabilities e.g. trade and other payables, loan repayments, provisions and amounts held in trust.

Council's ability to set (and rebate) rates is highly regulated by legislation. It is important to bear in mind that the rate increase is an average increase and applies to Council's total rate base meaning that individual properties may see increases varying from the advertised percentage. This is because of movements in property valuations relative to the value of other properties in the municipality.

The existing differential rates are to remain unchanged for the 25/26 budget.

Included in the budget document is an appendix which details all capital works planned to be undertaken during the year. The listing of projects may vary depending on the cost of works within the category as they are yet to be competitively tendered.

The full range of issues considered within the budget, are detailed in the attached budget document.

Identified Updates to the draft 2025/26 Budget document

During the display of the budget, the following amendments to the draft budget document have been identified:

Rates and Charges

Following the release of the draft budget there have been some amendments to the rates valuations for the budget following the certification of the final 2024/25 supplementary valuations and 2025/26 re-valuations by the Victorian Valuer General. This has led to an increase in expected revenue from general rates and municipal charges of $0.582 million partially offset by reduced income of $0.110 million due to a lower than expected CPI figure used to calculate the payments in lieu of rates from electricity generation companies. With a minor adjustment to supplementary rates there is an overall increase of $0.476 million.

Additionally further review and certainty around the costs of recycling has led to a decrease in the waste services charge for the standard 3 bin service from $431.00 in the draft budget to $409.00. This has resulted in a net $0.764 million reduction in service rates & charges income which is fully offset by reduced expenditure.

The budgeted Income Allocation Statement now shows a net expected cash surplus of $0.476 million following these changes.

Fees and Charges

A review of the Fees and Charges schedule by the Building Services team has identified the omission of an existing search fee in the draft budget which has now been added as follows:

Building File Search Fee

- "Additional buildings on the same property at a rate of $65.00".

A correction in the penalty rate units has also been made for the POPE Occupancy permits amended from 19.61 to 27.45 fee units.

Additionally a Statutory Planning fee for "Retrospective permit application – additional fee" has been removed as it is no longer able to be charged.

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
COMPLIANCE Non-compliance with financial framework or legislative requirements is identified as a risk. This report begins the process to ensure Council meets the requirements of the Act.	**Low** *Unlikely x Moderate*	Ensure adherence to budget timetable.

CONSULTATION

During November 2024, Council undertook a community consultation process by way of an online survey to help shape a budget that reflects community priorities and aspirations. The survey was well supported with 180 responses received. The results identified that Council's most valued services are Roads & Transport, Parks & Gardens, Culture, Leisure and Recreation Services, Family and Children and Community Safety.

In addition, following the public exhibition of the draft budget in April/May, Council received a further 90 submissions, Council officers provide the following commentary in relation to the submissions.

Submitter	Summary of submission	Assessment of Submission
Damian Andrews Estimated Budget Requirement >$4M	Titled “Wish List for LCC” including 23 suggestions and Installation/upgrade of tourist signage	Council has considered the submissions provided by Mr Andrews
Traralgon Men’s Shed Estimated Budget Requirement $TBC	Request for allocation of funds for the relocation of the Traralgon Men’s Shed	Council has not allocated any additional funding for the relocation of the Traralgon Men’s Shed in the 25/26 budget.
Latrobe City Farm Ratepayers Association	Support for the Farm Rate Differential and highlighting difficulties that farmer ratepayers face	The 2025/26 budget supports the retention of the farm rate differential set at 75% of the general rate in accordance with previous years.
Gippsland Immigration Park Estimated Budget Requirement $300K	Concrete paving of 300+ metres of walkway	There is no available funding in the 25/26 budget, it is therefore recommended that the committee continue the current practice of seeking funding through applications for community grants.
Michael Hoskin Estimated Budget Requirement $Unknown	Increase overseas tourism through attracting international sports	Opportunities for event attraction is considered by the Latrobe City Tourism and Major Events Advisory Committee.

Submitter	Summary of submission	Assessment of Submission
Morwell Men's Shed Estimated Budget Requirement $35K	Request for assistance with relocation costs	The proposed location and building are not on Council land or associated with a Council building. There is currently no budget allocated for these works in 25/26 and this proposal does not align with the strategic priorities of Council, with regards to Council owned or managed infrastructure. A suggestion would be for the Morwell Men's Shed to assess Council's Major Capital Works Grants Scheme, which next opens on 14 July 2025.
Five submissions	Support for Council to adopt a rate increase in line with the rate cap of 3%	N/A
Five submissions	Supporting the annual rates increase being set below the rate cap.	N/A

Submitter	Summary of submission	Assessment of Submission
Bryan Lang	Implementation of additional disability parking spaces	Accessible parking spaces for the public are provided across the municipality on both private and public land. The public land parking is typically that which is managed by Council. Parking surveys are periodically undertaken across the major towns to understand the current and future demand for parking. Most recently Traralgon and Moe have had updated studies completed. In general, these have shown that the total supply of accessible parking is in accordance with guidance in the building code. However, it has also shown that they can experience higher peak demand than the surrounding general parking. With support from the State Government's Regional Car Parking Fund, car parking supply in both standard and accessible bays is being increased across the three major towns. Council works closely with its Disability Access and Inclusion Community Engagement Group (DAICEG) to review and prioritise accessibility upgrades on public land. This is to help ensure that, in addition to total supply over the long term, that the type, location, and quality of accessible parking continues to improve over time.

Submitter	Summary of submission	Assessment of Submission
Nine submissions	Provision of a differential rate for retirement villages	Councillors considered the introduction of a differential for retirement villages as part of the budget process, however determined not to introduce a differential at this time.
Dr Shailander Kancherla Estimated Budget Requirement $150K	Establishment of a playground and open space for the Eton Avenue Traralgon area	This project has been added to unfunded capital works list following previous requests for a park at this location and will be considered as part of the next iteration of the Play Space Strategy, currently under review.
Two submissions Estimated Budget Requirement Relocation $20K/ New $150K	Establishment of a playground in Gaskin Rise Estate Churchill or Gaskin Park.	Following the delivery of the Mathison Park upgrade, it is planned to relocate the existing playground equipment to Gaskin Park. Timing may be dependent on the progress of the new Pavilion and associated works at this location. This feedback will also be considered as part of the next iteration of the Play Space Strategy, currently under review.

Submitter	Summary of submission	Assessment of Submission
Chris Hawthorne Estimated Budget Requirement Included in Renewal Budget	Infrastructure renewal Winifred Street Morwell	All roads are assessed for condition every four years to enable network asset modelling and works planning. This assessment was undertaken recently, and officers are currently reviewing data to inform future works plans. Should the modelling indicate that Winifred Street requires work this will be included in a works program. At this present time although Winifred Street kerbs are cracked the kerb and channel is functioning as intended which is to direct stormwater to nearby drainage infrastructure.
Two submissions Estimated Budget Requirement Funded in 25/26 Budget	Funding for a qualified curator at Latrobe Regional Gallery	All necessary functions (curation, education programming, public programming, conservatorship, technical support and Head of Gallery) are fully funded roles in the current Council operating budget, with recruitment expected to be completed before the end of 2025. Council remains committed to displaying works from the permanent collection, recognising the significant investment made in the Gallery refurbishment and the importance of showcasing our cultural assets in this purpose-built space.

Submitter	Summary of submission	Assessment of Submission
41 submissions Estimated Budget Requirement $15K	Funding for Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan	While a budget allocation of $15K would be considered sufficient for the development of a basic masterplan with the consultation undertaken by council officers, it is important to note that the process will require considerable officer time to coordinate stakeholder engagement and manage external consultant. Given current commitments across the next financial year and beyond, commencement of this work is unlikely to progress in the 25/26 financial year.
Kate Taylor Estimated Budget Requirement $4M	Seeking upgraded playgrounds, an outdoor gym, and affordable access to community facilities in Traralgon	1.The draft Victory Park Masterplan has recently been developed, which includes significant upgrades, and a water play area. This is expected to be placed on exhibition for community consultation shortly. In addition, officers are now working on the next iteration of the Play Space Strategy and Play Space Improvement Plan which will review current and future needs, including accessibility. 2. Outdoor gym stations are located along the Kay Street shared path however this feedback will be included for consideration under the Play Space Strategy. 3. Latrobe City Council draft Budget 25/26 has no increase to Leisure Fees and Charges. Fee structure supports children/young people and pensioners offering concession rates.

Submitter	Summary of submission	Assessment of Submission
Rhonda O'Dea Estimated Budget Requirement $175K	Supporting upgrade to Rocla Road Traralgon	Rocla Road has seen an increase in traffic volumes over time as an alternative route around the Traralgon - Maffra Road and Princes Highway signalised intersection. There has been measures such as a reduced speed limit of 40km/h and a vehicle load limit to mitigate this which has varied success as additional temporary road changes have been experienced, such as the Marshall's Road and Traralgon - Maffra Road intersection upgrade.
Mark Smith	Morwell Recreation Reserve solution to cricketing situation that works for all user clubs	Submitter has advised his submission was left intentionally vague to allow Officers to respond to the issues raised. A response will be provided to the individual outside the budget process.
Old Gippstown Estimated Budget Requirement $TBC	Support location of the Visitor Centre at Old Gippstown	There is no provision included in the 25/26 budget.
Eight submission	Objecting to changes to the farm rate differential criteria	Having considered the submissions, it has been decided not to proceed with the revised definition for the farm rate differential.
Latrobe City Council Watch	22 various questions	Insufficient time was provided by the submitter for Council Officers to respond within the timeframes for this report. A response will be provided to the individual outside the budget process.

COMMUNICATION

Public notice of the preparation of the draft Budget was advertised on Council's website from 29 April 2025 and invitation to Have your Say was included in the Council Noticeboard in the Latrobe Valley Express on 14 and 21 May 2025.

Budget documentation was made available for inspection at the Corporate Headquarters, Service Centres and on Council's website.

Submissions in relation to the Budget were receivable up to 5pm on 26 May 2025. Submissions were encouraged by making a submission via the Have Your Say Latrobe City platform.

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. GIA's may be undertaken at service level when budgets are activated/utilised.

Social

The budget aims to meet the social needs of our community through the maintenance and development of open space, parks, gardens, and infrastructure to support community gatherings.

Cultural

The budget continues to support Council's commitment to providing services, information and facilities that are inclusive and accessible from diverse backgrounds.

Health

The budget supports Council's commitment to Living Well Latrobe, Council's Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025.

Environmental

The budget supports the implementation of actions identified in the Sustainability Action Plan 2023-2033

Economic

The budget is based on assumptions that consider the forecast economic outlook, CPI estimates and expectations in relation to possible rate cap restrictions in the outer years.

Financial

The budget has been responsibly developed and balanced on a cash basis, maintaining existing services and service levels while also encompassing a renewal budget which seeks to maintain existing infrastructure to identified intervention.

Attachments

1. 2025/26 Budget
2. Submissions

8.2

2025/26 Budget

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LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

Budget

2025-2026

2025/26 Budget Contents

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2025/26 Budget Executive Summary

Budget Summary

This document outlines the broad range of services provided by council and builds upon our community's strategic vision for Latrobe 2031, and the Council Plan 2021-2025 which focus on the following six key strategic objectives:

- Smart.
- Creative.
- Healthy
- Sustainable
- Connected
- Council Capabilities

It also details the funding that is required to deliver Council's services and maintain and improve community infrastructure.

The budget has been prepared on the basis of a 1.5% increase in municipal rates and charges (excluding waste services charges) which is below the 3.0% maximum increase in rates permissible under the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) for the 2025/26 financial year.

Waste services charges are set to increase by $46.00 per standard set of 3 bins due to a realignment of waste services cost recovery to cover the cost of Council's transfer stations and increases in the costs for recycling and landfill. The EPA levy will increase by $6.00 per bin in line with costs advised by the state government for 2025/26.

The budget includes a total capital works program of $87.3 million comprising of $28.0M being 25/26 current year program and $59.3M of continuing multiyear projects and other carry forward works from prior year budgets. The program includes investment in renewing existing infrastructure of $28.9M with $14.4M of this being committed to the roading network. In addition $29.3M will be spent on the continuation of the Regional Car Parks Fund including the completion of the Kay Street Traralgon car park and the commencement of the Commercial Road Morwell carpark. Other major projects include the flood recovery projects at Traralgon Recreation Reserve $5.3M and Glenview Park $2.2M, Multi-use Pavilion Gaskin Park $3.7M, the upgrade of the Glengarry preschool $1.1M and the new public toilet for Churchill $0.7M.

New borrowings of $2.5M are allowed for in 2025/26 to fund the Multi-use Pavilion at Gaskin

A four year budget has been developed in accordance with the requirements under the Local Government Act 2020. The key aim of the budget is to support the medium term goals of the Council Plan while ensuring the long term financial sustainability of the organisation.

2025/26 Budget Executive Summary

The 2025/26 budget presented in this report has been developed through a rigorous process of consultation and review with Council and Council officers. It is Council's opinion that the budget is financially responsible and contributes to the achievement of the Council Plan objectives and strategic directions included in the 2021-2025 Council Plan.

The 2025/26 Operating Budget predicts an operating surplus of $52.6 million, after raising rates and charges of $99.6 million out of total revenue of $228.5 million. When excluding non-recurrent capital funding and developer contributions, an underlying operating deficit of $11.0 million is projected for 2025/26. The Financial Plan identifies the need for Council to review infrastructure, services and service levels and to implement actions to alleviate the underlying deficit position in the long term in order to ensure overall ongoing financially sustainability in a revenue capped environment.

It should be noted that Council continues to present a balanced budget when viewed on a cash basis, as is set out in the Income Allocation Statement. Therefore any cash remaining at the end of the budget period is the result of a number of factors such as government grant funds received in advance, funds required to be carried forward to complete unfinished projects and funds required to settle certain balance sheet liabilities e.g. Trade and other payables, Interest Bearing liabilities, Provisions and Trust funds and deposits.

The 2025/26 budget has been prepared on the basis of constraint, Council will continue to review all services and capital infrastructure to ensure it is positioned to best meet the needs of the community into the future.

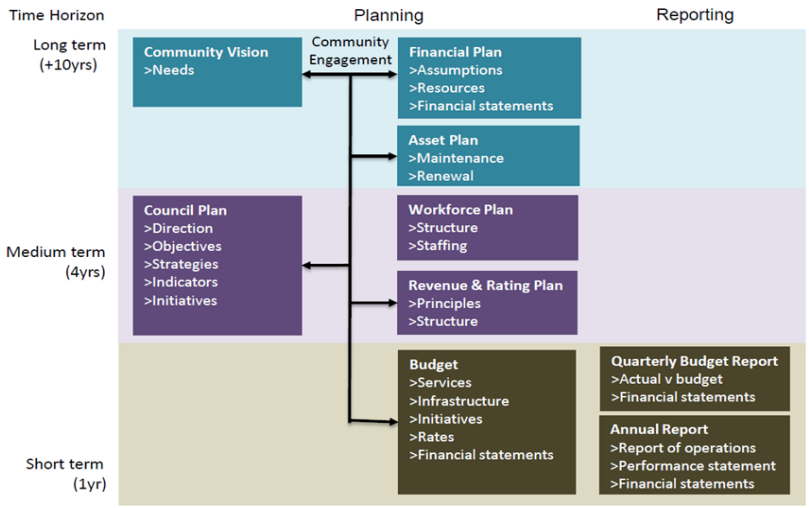
2025/26 Budget
Link to the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

1. Link to the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

This section describes how the Budget links to the achievement of the Community Vision and Council Plan within an overall integrated planning and reporting framework. This framework guides the Council in identifying community needs and aspirations over the long term (Community Vision and Financial Plan), medium term (Council Plan, Workforce Plan and Revenue and Rating Plan) and short term (Budget) then holding itself accountable (Annual Report).

1.1 Legislative planning and accountability framework

The Budget is a rolling four-year plan that outlines the financial and non-financial resources that Council requires to achieve the strategic objectives described in the Council Plan. The diagram below depicts the integrated planning and reporting framework that applies to local government in Victoria. At each stage of the integrated planning and reporting framework there are opportunities for community and stakeholder input. This is important to ensure transparency and accountability to both residents and ratepayers.



Source: Mark Davies (Financial Professional Solutions)

The timing of each component of the integrated planning and reporting framework is critical to the successful achievement of the planned outcomes.

1.1.2 Key planning considerations

Service level planning

Although councils have a legal obligation to provide some services— such as animal management, local roads, food safety and statutory planning—most council services are not legally mandated, including some services closely associated with councils, such as libraries, building permits and sporting facilities. Further, over time, the needs and expectations of communities can change. Therefore councils need to have robust processes for service planning and review to ensure all services continue to provide value for money and are in line with community expectations. In doing so, councils engage with communities to determine how to prioritise resources and balance service provision against other responsibilities such as asset maintenance and capital works.

Community consultation needs to be in line with a councils adopted Community Engagement Policy and Public Transparency Policy.

2025/26 Budget
Link to the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

1.2 Our vision

The Community vision

In 2036, Latrobe City is a vibrant, thriving, healthy, connected and welcoming regional community where everyone feels safe and involved.

We have stunning natural surroundings and outstanding creative, educational, recreational and cultural opportunities that underpin exceptional wellbeing and renowned visitor experiences.

Our local businesses prosper, create diverse job opportunities, foster a highly skilled workforce and draw significant investment. Latrobe City is a hub of growth, learning, opportunity, and innovation.

1.3 Strategic Directions

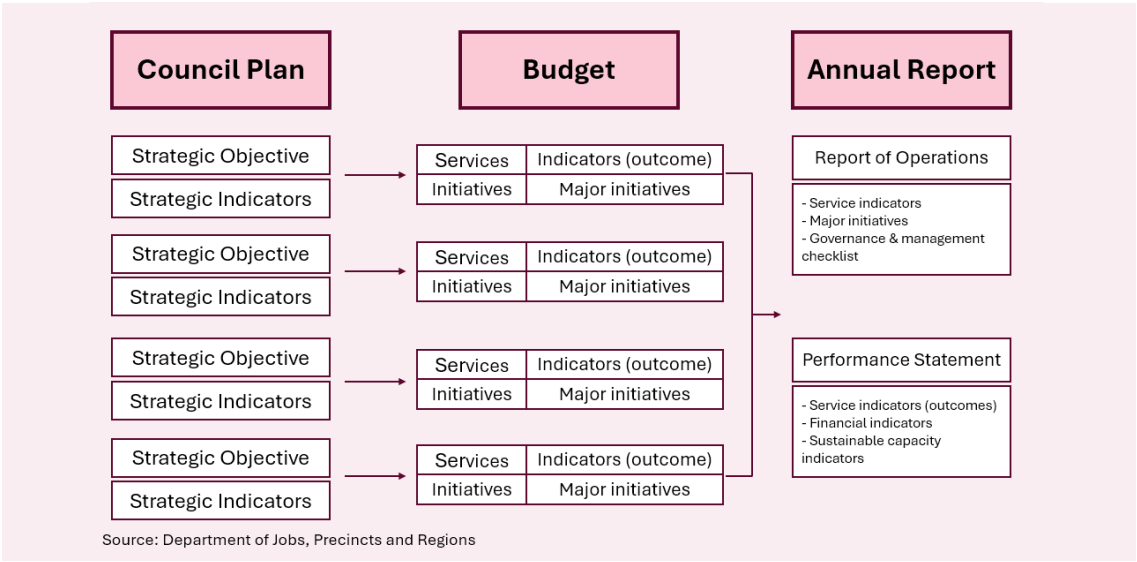
Council delivers activities and initiatives under 42 major service categories. Each contributes to the achievement of one of the five objectives and Council capabilities as set out in the Council Plan for the 2025-29 years. The following table lists the four strategic directions and Council capabilities as described in the Council Plan.

Strategic Direction	Description
1. Our Economy - Investment, Jobs, Growth	We are committed to working with our community and key stakeholders to grow a local economy that provides a wide range of employment opportunities, fosters innovation and economic diversification, and attracts investment from various sources.
2.Our Place – Liveable, Sustainable & Connected	We are committed to working with our community and key stakeholders to create a physical environment that offers liveability and connection for our community and ensure a sustainable natural environment for future generations.
3. Our Community – Healthy, Inclusive & Safe	We are committed to working with our community and stakeholders to create a healthy, inclusive, and safe community.
4. Our Organisation – Leadership, Collaboration and Capability	The development and operation of a high-performing, efficient organisation underpins the delivery of our economy, place and community

2025/26 Budget
Services & Service Performance Indicators

2. Services and service performance indicators

This section provides a description of the services and initiatives to be funded in the Budget for the 2025/26 year and how these will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives outlined in the Council Plan. It also describes several initiatives and service performance outcome indicators for key areas of Council's operations. Council is required by legislation to identify major initiatives, initiatives and service performance outcome indicators in the Budget and report against them in their Annual Report to support transparency and accountability. The relationship between these accountability requirements in the Council Plan, the Budget and the Annual Report is shown below



Source: Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

2025/26 Budget
Services & Service Performance Indicators

This section provides a description of the services and initiatives to be funded in the Budget for the 2025-2026 year and how these will contribute to achieving the strategic directions outlined in the Council Plan 2025-2029. It also describes several initiatives and service performance outcome indicators for key areas of Council's operations. Council is required by legislation to identify major initiatives, other initiatives and service performance outcome indicators in the Budget. For transparency and accountability, progress against major initiatives and service performance outcome indicators are also reported as part of Council's Annual Report.

Strategic Directions

1. Our Economy - Investment, Jobs, Growth
2. Our Place - Liveable, Sustainable & Connected
3. Our Community - Healthy, Inclusive & Safe
4. Our Organisation - Leadership, Collaboration and Capability

Office of the CEO

Services	Strategic Direction Alignment 1	2	3	4		2025/26 Budget $'000
Mayoral & Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	Exp	733
					Rev	0
					Net	**733**
Council Operations, provision of support services to Councillors, deliver civic functions and events across for Latrobe City Council.						
Office of the CEO	✓	✓	✓	✓	Exp	1,122
					Rev	(183)
					Net	**939**
Actively participate in the Gippsland Local Government Network.						
Total						**1,672**

2025/26 Budget
Services & Service Performance Indicators

Regional City Strategy and Transition

Services	Strategic Direction Alignment 1	2	3	4		2025/26 Budget $'000
Business Development/ Economic Investment & Transition	✓	✓			Exp	10,425
					Rev	(8,598)
					Net	**1,826**

Provides business development advice, services and programs to improve the overall prosperity of the municipality. Measures to indicate growth include improvements in education attainment, household income, career advancement and job opportunities. Deliver International Relations services in accordance with the Latrobe City International Engagement and Investment Strategy 2019-2023. Provide regional leadership and facilitate a successful transition for Latrobe City to a low carbon future.
2025/26 budget amounts include Gippsland Logistics & Manufacturing Precinct Stage 1B construction grants and expenditure that will not be capitalised as the roundabout asset will pass to Regional Roads Victoria on completion.

Communications	✓			✓	Exp	744
					Rev	0
					Net	**744**

Provide communications, marketing and public relations services on behalf of Latrobe City Council.

Governance				✓	Exp	887
					Rev	(158)
					Net	**730**

Council meeting management, Freedom of Information, internal audit, committee management, statutory registers and legal support functions.

Latrobe Regional Airport	✓	✓			Exp	447
					Rev	(499)
					Net	**(53)**

Maintain, develop and operate Latrobe Regional Airport in accordance with Civil Aviation Safety Authority regulations and the Latrobe Regional Airport Masterplan.

Risk and Compliance				✓	Exp	3,159
					Rev	(1)
					Net	**3,158**

Provide Latrobe City Council with risk management support and advice, coordinate Occupational Health and Safety responsibilities and develop and implement a compliance framework. Administer Freedom of Information requests, Information Privacy requirements, maintain public registers, policies, audit activities and electoral functions for Latrobe City Council.

Total	**6,405**

2025/26 Budget
Services & Service Performance Indicators

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Performance Measure	Computation
Governance Indicator: Satisfaction	Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement. (Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council)	Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement

Major Initiative

MI1) Gippsland Logistics & Manufacturing Precinct Stage 1B construction

Organisational Performance

Services	Strategic Direction Alignment 1	2	3	4		2025/26 Budget $'000
Employment Development	✓				Exp	791
					Rev	(805)
					Net	**(14)**
Promote, coordinate and providing training and employment opportunities for aboriginal people.						
Financial Services				✓	Exp	3,755
					Rev	(270)
					Net	**3,486**
Administer financial management, advice and services of Latrobe City Council, administer procurement processes for goods and services within Latrobe City Council and administer the database of properties within Latrobe City Council, including property valuation and municipal rate collection.						
Information Services				✓	Exp	6,221
					Rev	0
					Net	**6,221**
Maintain the Latrobe City Council IT network infrastructure, assets, purchasing and licences and provide an effective secure environment for storage and disaster recovery. Develop and maintain a Geographical Information System (GIS) for broad use by the organisation. Maintain corporate information and Council documentation and information applications in accordance with regulatory guidelines.						
People & Development				✓	Exp	3,043
					Rev	(118)
					Net	**2,925**
To provide advice, education and support to ensure the success of the organisation through effective leadership, resourcing and people management initiatives. To deliver a variety of learning initiatives and develop the knowledge, skills and confidence of our people.						

2025/26 Budget
Services & Service Performance Indicators

Services	Strategic Direction Alignment 1	2	3	4		2025/26 Budget $'000
Performance & Innovation				✓	Exp	1,717
					Rev	0
					Net	**1,717**
Administer corporate planning and reporting of Latrobe City Council and implement Council's innovation and continuous improvement programs.						
Property and Statutory	✓			✓	Exp	868
					Rev	(359)
					Net	**509**
Administer property management, advice and services of Latrobe City Council.						
Total						**14,844**

Regional City Planning and Assets

Services	Strategic Direction Alignment 1	2	3	4		2025/26 Budget $'000
Building Maintenance		✓			Exp	5,711
					Rev	0
					Net	**5,711**
Provide reactive and planned maintenance/renewal to Council buildings and supporting infrastructure including street lighting, aquatic facilties, pedestrian bridges, bus shelters, shelters and gazebos.						
Civil Works Projects		✓			Exp	1,032
					Rev	0
					Net	**1,032**
Delivery of the civil capital works program incorporating road reseal, footpath replacement, road rehabilitation, lights replacement etc. to ensure assets are in a working condition, in accordance with relevant legislation and guidelines.						
Environment Sustainability		✓			Exp	1,865
					Rev	(194)
					Net	**1,671**
Planning for the current and future needs of the community through the protection of the natural environment (including: resource use and energy efficiency; biodiversity and native vegetation management; control of declared weeds; waterway protection, etc.), and the administration of environment and sustainability compliance activities to meet related regulatory and statutory requirements.						
Infrastructure Design		✓			Exp	1,703
					Rev	(7)
					Net	**1,696**
Supports the design and delivery of high quality civil works projects delivered by Council and developers (road and drainage design, landscape design, and technical advice on streetscapes) within the built environment to enhance the liveability and sustainability of our community and support job creation.						

2025/26 Budget
Services & Service Performance Indicators

Services	Strategic Direction Alignment 1	2	3	4		2025/26 Budget $'000
Infrastructure Maintenance		✓			Exp	8,395
					Rev	(100)
					Net	**8,295**
Maintenance of key infrastructure including all sealed and unsealed roads and roadsides, drains, signage, illegal dumping, graffiti, public conveniences, public litter bins, unsealed footpaths and some small sections of sealed footpaths.						
Infrastructure Planning		✓			Exp	1,381
					Rev	(945)
					Net	**436**
Planning for the provision and renewal of Council assets that underpin the delivery of Council Services. Compliance to planning regulation to ensure effective and efficient provision of infrastructure that supports development.						
Landfill Services		✓			Exp	4,286
					Rev	(2,562)
					Net	**1,724**
Operate and maintain the Latrobe City Hyland Highway Municipal Landfill facility in accordance with Environment Protection Authority licence conditions.						
Major Projects		✓			Exp	613
					Rev	0
					Net	**613**
Deliver major infrastructure projects from the Annual Capital Works Program.						
Parks, Gardens and Playgrounds	✓	✓			Exp	12,004
					Rev	(87)
					Net	**11,917**
Open Space: To improve visual attractiveness, community wellbeing and tourism appeal of the municipality through the creation and maintenance of green public spaces, including parks, gardens and trails, playgrounds, street furniture and streets. Infrastructure Maintenance: maintain non-organised sporting recreation spaces and town-centre streetscapes to facilitate play, commerce and functional public spaces for the community, including public furniture, BMX and skateboard parks and playgrounds, in keeping with Australian standards, Council Horticulture Standards and community expectations.						
Recreation and Open Space Planning		✓	✓		Exp	496
					Rev	0
					Net	**496**
To develop and maintain recreation and open space policies and provide strategic advice and planning service that enables Latrobe City to meet the open space and recreation needs of the community now and into the future.						

2025/26 Budget
Services & Service Performance Indicators

Services	Strategic Direction Alignment 1	2	3	4		2025/26 Budget $'000
Recreation Liaison		✓	✓		Exp	963
					Rev	(90)
					Net	**873**
Providing stakeholders with a consistent mode of engagement with Council through the provision of a liaison service while also providing timely and accurate advice. Provision of outdoor sporting reserves including maintenance of sporting surfaces and associated facilities and amenities (pavilions, waste, etc.), to provide the community – particularly sporting clubs – with spaces for outdoor sporting and recreation pursuits.						
Statutory and Strategic Planning		✓			Exp	2,917
					Rev	(557)
					Net	**2,360**
Provide statutory planning services, advice and enforcement action in accordance with the Latrobe Planning Scheme and Planning and Environment Act. Responsible for undertaking research, policy development and implementing policies and strategies through Planning Scheme Amendments dealing with land-use planning matters.						
Urban Growth		✓			Exp	881
					Rev	(380)
					Net	**501**
Manage urban growth planning including ongoing management of planning permits, assessment of development plans and to help facilitate development outcomes by understanding growth and development trends.						
Waste Services		✓			Exp	12,247
					Rev	0
					Net	**12,247**
Provision of waste and recycling services that encourage the appropriate disposal of waste materials in a sustainable manner, including through the operation of 4 transfer stations (located at Yinnar, Traralgon, Moe & Morwell), provision of kerbside waste, recyclables and green waste collection services, a hard waste collection service, organic resource processing, and waste education services.						
Total						**49,573**

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Performance Measure	Computation
Roads Indicator: Satisfaction	Sealed local roads below the intervention level (percentage of sealed local roads that are below the renewal intervention level set by Council and not requiring renewal)	[Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100

2025/26 Budget
Services & Service Performance Indicators

Service	Performance Measure	Computation
Statutory Planning Indicator: Service Standard	Planning applications decided within required timeframes (percentage of regular and VicSmart planning application decisions made within legislated timeframes)	[Number of planning application decisions made within 60 days for regular permits and 10 days for VicSmart permits / Number of planning application decisions made] x100
Waste Management Indicator: Waste Diversion	Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill. (Percentage of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins that is diverted from landfill)	[Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100

Major Initiatives

MI2) Multi Use Pavilion Traralgon Recreation Reserve complete construction.
MI3) Ted Summerton Reserve continuation of upgrade works
MI4) Regional Car Parking fund projects. Complete construction of Kay Street facility and commence construction of Commercial Rd carpark
MI5) Construct a new public toilet facility in the Churchill Town Centre

Community Health and Wellbeing

Services	Strategic Direction Alignment 1	2	3	4		2025/26 Budget $'000
Arts	✓		✓		Exp	4,439
					Rev	(1,226)
					Net	**3,214**
Deliver the Annual Latrobe Regional Gallery Exhibitions program and deliver Education and Public Participation programs across all arts facilities. Deliver the Annual Performing Arts Performances program. Manage and maintain Halls and Venues across the City.						
Building Services			✓		Exp	782
					Rev	(488)
					Net	**295**
Provides building advice, statutory services, registration of swimming pools and enforcement action in accordance with relevant legislation including the Building Act 1993, including approval and monitoring processes, community engagement and education to deliver appropriate and safe building outcomes.						
Community Engagement	✓				Exp	1,994
					Rev	0
					Net	**1,994**
Provide community engagement support services to Latrobe City Council.						

2025/26 Budget
Services & Service Performance Indicators

Services	Strategic Direction Alignment 1	2	3	4		2025/26 Budget $'000
Community Grants		✓	✓		Exp	237
					Rev	0
					Net	**237**
The Community Grant Program provides funding to local not-for-profit community groups across capital works, community wellbeing, events and quick response streams, in line with the priorities set out in the Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.						
Community Information			✓		Exp	690
					Rev	(87)
					Net	**604**
Deliver professional customer service at all Latrobe City Council service centres.						
Community Strengthening	✓		✓		Exp	3,493
					Rev	(429)
					Net	**3,064**
Working with community advisory groups: Positive Ageing Community Engagement Group, Disability Access and Inclusion Community Engagement Group, Cultural Diversity Advisory Group, and Youth Council. Also run events and programs to improve community health and wellbeing. The Social Policy and Inclusion team manages the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.						
Early Childhood Health & Development			✓		Exp	11,448
					Rev	(10,289)
					Net	**1,159**
Service provides information, advice, support and health monitoring to parents of children aged 0 to 6 years to ensure the promotion of health and development to optimise the child's wellbeing, learning, development and safety. Responsible for coordinating and delivering the National Immunisation program through providing a schedule of free vaccines to eligible members of the community through community, school and workplace sessions. Support Best Start Partnership which aims to improve the health, development, learning and wellbeing of all Victorian children from infancy through to transition to school (0- 8 years) by managing a formal partnership of local agencies and community members.						
Early Learning & Care			✓		Exp	7,196
					Rev	(6,725)
					Net	**472**
Three early learning centres and 25 preschools are located at various locations across Moe, Morwell, Traralgon, Churchill, Boolarra, Glengarry, Traralgon South, Tyers, Yallourn North and Yinnar.						
Emergency Management			✓		Exp	737
					Rev	(70)
					Net	**667**
Undertake risk based, strategic planning and actions that promote community safety whilst building community resilience from the threat of bushfire, flood and other emergency impacts in collaboration with emergency management agencies and community.						

2025/26 Budget
Services & Service Performance Indicators

Services	Strategic Direction Alignment 1	2	3	4		2025/26 Budget $'000
Events and Tourism	✓		✓		Exp	1,965
					Rev	(60)
					Net	**1,905**

Attracting visitors to the region through both tourism initiatives and delivery of major events provides economic benefit to a wide range of local businesses. Providing event services to both community and commercial event operators seeks to improve the connectedness and amenity of life in the municipality.
Proactively and strategically provide a quality visitor service, support the delivery of events, maintain the tourism website and promote a positive image of Latrobe City.

Health Services			✓		Exp	1,060
					Rev	(577)
					Net	**482**

Provision of public & environmental health services which covers the areas of wastewater management, infectious disease; monitoring and inspection of food, accommodation, beauty therapies, tobacco etc. to minimise the risk to public and environmental health.

Leisure Facilities	✓		✓		Exp	7,855
					Rev	(3,714)
					Net	**4,140**

Leisure Centres: Provide access for the community to engage in health, fitness and recreation pursuits through the provision of: four indoor leisure facilities (Morwell, Churchill, Moe/Newborough and Traralgon), indoor swimming pools, learn to swim programs, gymnasium facilities, group fitness and stadium/court space.
Outdoor Pools: Provision of 2 outdoor pools (Moe and Yallourn North) providing local water based recreation activities for residents and visitors in the summer months.
Gippsland Regional Indoor Sports Stadium: Provision of high quality indoor recreation facilities to the community for personal recreation or public sporting events through the maintenance and management of five indoor courts for basketball, netball and badminton.
Gippsland Regional Cricket Centre: A state of the art indoor cricket training centre, incorporating cutting edge technology to facilitate high-level coaching and player education. The centre is multi purpose, catering to a diverse cross-section of community groups and sporting clubs.

Library Services			✓		Exp	3,717
					Rev	(598)
					Net	**3,119**

Operation of four libraries (Moe, Morwell, Traralgon and Churchill) across the municipality that provides access to resources, programs and services that encourages lifelong learning and literacy and numeracy development.

Local Laws			✓		Exp	3,225
					Rev	(1,590)
					Net	**1,635**

Deliver customer focussed Local Law services across the municipality in accordance with Local Law No. 2 and other relevant legislation.

2025/26 Budget
Services & Service Performance Indicators

Services	Strategic Direction Alignment 1	2	3	4		2025/26 Budget $'000
Positive Ageing (aka Social support)			✓		Exp	135
					Rev	(4)
					Net	**132**

Positive Ageing team work directly with Senior Citizens groups by managing facilities, and providing information about relevant services and programs to the ageing cohort such as Awareness and Prevention sessions at Latrobe City Libraries or Positive Ageing Festival Activities. Latrobe City Council owns, maintains and administers 6 Senior Citizens venues across the muncipality. These include Traralgon East, Monomeath, Morwell East, Morwell, Newborough and Moe Senior Citizens venues. Positive Ageing team supports the following 10 Senior Citizens Clubs and 2 Community Groups: Traralgon East Senior Citizens Club, Monomeath Senior Citizens Club, Morwell East Senior Citizens Club, Morwell Senior Citizens Club, Newborough Senior Citizens Club, Moe Senior Citizens Club, Yallourn North Senior Citizens Club, Morwell Combined Pensioners & Superannuation Incorporated (Community group), Filipino Seniors and Carers Support Group of Gippsland Inc (Club), Moe Combined Pensioners incorporated (Community group), Filipino Spags (Club) and Italian Seniors (Club).

Total	**23,117**

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Performance Measure	Computation
Aquatic Facilities Indicator: Utilisation	Utilisation of aquatic facilities. (Number of visits to aquatic facilities per head of population)	Number of visits to aquatic facilities / population
Animal Management Indicator: Health and Safety	Animal management prosecutions. (Percentage of animal management prosecutions which are successful)	Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Total number of animal management prosecutions
Food Safety Indicator: Health and Safety	Critical and major non-compliance notifications (Percentage of critical and major non-compliance notifications that are followed up by Council)	[Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance outcome notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance outcome notifications about food premises] x100

2025/26 Budget
Services & Service Performance Indicators

Service	Performance Measure	Computation
Libraries Indicator: Participation	Library membership (Percentage of the population that are registered library members)	[Number of registered library members / Population] x100
Maternal and Child Health Indicator: Participation	Participation in the MCH service. (Percentage of children enrolled who participate in the MCH service)	[Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the financial year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100
Maternal and Child Health Indicator: Participation	Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children. (Percentage of Aboriginal children enrolled who participate in the MCH service)	[Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in thefinancial year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100

Major Initiatives

MI6) Glengarry Preschool - additional room construction

MI7) Gippsland Regional Indoor Sports Stadium - complete refurbishement works.

2025/26 Budget
Services & Service Performance Indicators

2.10 Performance statement

The service performance indicators detailed in the preceding pages will be reported on within the Performance Statement which is prepared at the end of the year as required by section 132 of the Act and included in the 2025/26 Annual Report. The Performance Statement will also include reporting on prescribed indicators of financial performance (outlined in section 5) and sustainable capacity, which are not included in this budget report. The full set of prescribed performance indicators are audited each year by the Victorian Auditor General who issues an audit opinion on the Performance Statement. The major initiatives detailed in the preceding pages will be reported in the Annual Report in the form of a statement of progress in the report of operations.

2.11 Reconciliation with budgeted operating result

	Net Cost/ (Revenue) $'000	Expenditure $'000	Revenue $'000
Office of the CEO	(1,673)	1,856	183
Regional City Strategy and Transition	(6,405)	15,661	9,256
Organisational Performance	(14,844)	16,396	1,552
Regional City Planning and Assets	(49,572)	54,494	4,922
Community Health and Wellbeing	(23,118)	48,974	25,856
Total	**(95,612)**	**137,381**	**41,769**

Expenses added in:	
Depreciation and amortisation	38,241
Finance costs	318
Surplus/ (Deficit) before funding sources	**(134,171)**
Funding sources added in:	
Rates & charges revenue	82,577
Waste charge revenue	17,014
Capital Grants & Contributions	55,947
Victoria Grants Commission General Purpose fun	16,411
Developer contributions	10,000
Interest income	4,800
Total funding sources	**186,749**
Operating surplus/(deficit) for the year	**52,578**

2025/26 Budget Financial Statements

3. Financial Statements

This section presents information in regard to the Financial Statements and Statement of Human Resources. The budget information for the year 2025/26 has been supplemented with projections to 2027/28.

This section includes the following financial statements in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) regulations 2020, and Income Allocation Statement.*

Comprehensive Income Statement
Balance Sheet
Statement of Changes in Equity
Statement of Cash Flows
Statement of Capital Works
Statement of Human Resources
Income Allocation Statement

2025/26 Budget Financial Statements

3.1 Comprehensive Income Statement

For the four years ending 30 June 2029

	Notes	Forecast Actual 2024/25 $'000	Budget 2025/26 $'000	Projections 2026/27 $'000	2027/28 $'000	2028/29 $'000
Income / Revenue						
Rates and charges	4.1.1	95,374	**99,591**	102,866	105,929	106,615
Statutory fees & fines	4.1.2	2,972	**3,031**	3,107	3,184	3,264
User fees	4.1.3	12,912	**12,336**	12,644	12,961	13,285
Grants - Operating	4.1.4	36,822	**40,256**	33,022	33,517	34,020
Grants - Capital	4.1.4	20,540	**55,947**	11,053	3,400	3,400
Contributions - Monetary	4.1.5	1,536	**320**	328	336	345
Contributions - Non-Monetary	4.1.5	10,000	**10,000**	10,250	10,506	10,769
Other Income	4.1.6	10,070	**7,037**	6,343	6,176	6,008
Total income / revenue		**190,226**	**228,518**	**179,613**	**176,009**	**177,706**
Expenses						
Employee costs	4.1.7	66,867	**69,694**	71,578	73,367	75,201
Materials and services	4.1.8	56,750	**57,772**	51,172	51,726	52,823
Depreciation	4.1.9	35,441	**37,100**	37,842	38,599	39,371
Amortisation - intangible assets	4.1.10	944	**1,000**	1,000	1,000	1,000
Depreciation - right of use assets	4.1.11	145	**141**	163	133	139
Allowance for impairment losses		4	**4**	5	5	5
Borrowing Costs		364	**318**	330	258	187
Finance Costs - leases		46	**44**	36	36	47
Net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	4.1.12	5,000	**5,000**	5,117	5,117	5,118
Other Expenses	4.1.13	5,231	**4,867**	4,983	5,107	5,235
Total expenses		**170,792**	**175,940**	**172,226**	**175,348**	**179,126**
Surplus (deficit) for the year		**19,434**	**52,578**	**7,387**	**661**	**(1,420)**
Other comprehensive income						
Net Asset Revaluation gain/(loss)		28,949	**31,205**	32,916	33,730	34,444
Total comprehensive result		**48,383**	**83,783**	**40,303**	**34,391**	**33,024**

2025/26 Budget Financial Statements

3.2 Balance Sheet

For the four years ending 30 June 2029

	Notes	Forecast Actual 2024/25 $'000	Budget 2025/26 $'000	Projections 2026/27 $'000	2027/28 $'000	2028/29 $'000
Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents		10,494	**14,939**	14,504	15,249	13,670
Trade and other receivables		5,348	**5,455**	4,925	4,878	4,826
Other financial assets		90,000	**65,000**	60,000	60,000	65,000
Prepayments		1,286	**1,325**	1,358	1,392	1,427
Contract assets		4,038	**4,159**	4,126	4,092	4,057
Total current assets	**4.2.1**	**111,166**	**90,878**	**84,913**	**85,611**	**88,980**
Non-current assets						
Trade and other receivables		-	**-**	-	-	-
Other financial assets		2	**2**	2	2	2
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		1,560,221	**1,645,796**	1,681,798	1,712,824	1,741,813
Right-of-use assets	4.2.4	1,015	**911**	748	1,145	1,006
Intangible assets		448	**2,447**	1,447	3,447	2,447
Total non-current assets	**4.2.1**	**1,561,686**	**1,649,156**	**1,683,995**	**1,717,418**	**1,745,268**
Total assets		**1,672,852**	**1,740,034**	**1,768,908**	**1,803,029**	**1,834,248**
Current liabilities						
Trade and other payables		11,747	**12,217**	12,499	12,661	12,982
Trust funds & deposits		6,029	**6,150**	6,335	6,588	6,851
Contract and other liabilities		25,388	**9,388**	1,626	1,626	1,626
Provisions		13,411	**14,323**	14,696	13,483	13,835
Interest bearing liabilities	4.2.3	5,626	**2,368**	2,607	2,395	2,462
Lease liabilities	4.2.4	133	**148**	106	126	131
Total current liabilities	**4.2.2**	**62,334**	**44,594**	**37,869**	**36,879**	**37,887**
Non-current liabilities						
Provisions		16,428	**17,571**	15,715	18,456	18,237
Interest bearing liabilities	4.2.3	9,145	**9,277**	6,504	4,109	1,646
Lease liabilities	4.2.4	946	**810**	735	1,109	978
Total non-current liabilities	**4.2.2**	**26,519**	**27,658**	**22,954**	**23,674**	**20,861**
Total liabilities		**88,853**	**72,252**	**60,823**	**60,553**	**58,748**
Net assets		**1,583,999**	**1,667,782**	**1,708,085**	**1,742,476**	**1,775,500**
Equity						
Accumulated surplus		901,348	**953,706**	960,765	961,090	959,325
Reserves		682,651	**714,076**	747,320	781,386	816,175
Total equity		**1,583,999**	**1,667,782**	**1,708,085**	**1,742,476**	**1,775,500**

2025/26 Budget Financial Statements

3.3 Statement of Changes in Equity

For the four years ending 30 June 2029

	Notes	Total $'000	Accumulated Surplus $'000	Revaluation Reserve $'000	Other Reserves $'000
2025 Forecast Actual					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,535,616	882,908	644,670	8,038
Surplus for the year		19,434	19,434	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		28,949	-	28,949	-
Transfer to other reserves		-	(994)	-	994
Transfer from other reserves		-			
Balance at end of the financial year		**1,583,999**	**901,348**	**673,619**	**9,032**
2026					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,583,999	901,348	673,619	9,032
Surplus for the year		52,578	52,578	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		31,205	-	31,205	-
Transfer to other reserves	4.3.1	-	(320)	-	320
Transfer from other reserves	4.3.1	-	100		(100)
Balance at end of the financial year	**4.3.2**	**1,667,782**	**953,706**	**704,824**	**9,252**
2027					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,667,782	953,706	704,824	9,252
Surplus for the year		7,387	7,387	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		32,916	-	32,916	-
Transfer to other reserves		-	(328)	-	328
Transfer from other reserves		-	-	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year		**1,708,085**	**960,765**	**737,740**	**9,580**
2028					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,708,085	960,765	737,740	9,580
Surplus for the year		661	661	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		33,730	-	33,730	-
Transfer to other reserves		-	(336)	-	336
Transfer from other reserves		-	-	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year		**1,742,476**	**961,090**	**771,470**	**9,916**
2029					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,742,476	961,090	771,470	9,916
Surplus for the year		(1,420)	(1,420)	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)		34,444	-	34,444	-
Transfer to other reserves		-	(345)	-	345
Transfer from other reserves		-	-	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year		**1,775,500**	**959,325**	**805,914**	**10,261**

2025/26 Budget Financial Statements

3.4 Statement of Cash Flows

For the four years ending 30 June 2029

	Notes	Forecast Actual 2024/25 $'000	Budget 2025/26 $'000	Projections 2026/27 $'000	2027/28 $'000	2028/29 $'000
		Inflows (Outflows)	**Inflows (Outflows)**	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities						
Rates and charges		94,911	**99,484**	98,717	105,853	106,688
Statutory fees & fines		2,972	**3,031**	3,297	3,499	3,585
User Fees		12,912	**12,336**	13,418	14,239	14,590
Grants - operating		36,822	**40,255**	34,612	36,697	37,245
Grants - capital		34,826	**39,948**	10,579	3,505	3,400
Contributions - monetary		1,536	**320**	328	336	345
Interest received		5,807	**4,400**	4,050	3,825	3,600
Trust funds and deposits taken		15,800	**16,500**	17,000	17,500	17,800
Other Receipts		4,262	**2,637**	2,422	2,582	2,645
Net GST refund/payment		3,800	**3,900**	3,883	3,729	3,503
Employee costs		(66,482)	**(69,289)**	(71,073)	(72,853)	(74,652)
Materials and services		(64,392)	**(62,715)**	(55,940)	(56,664)	(57,736)
Short-term, low value and variable lease payments		(165)	**(146)**	(150)	(153)	(157)
Trust funds and deposits repaid		(16,079)	**(16,379)**	(16,815)	(17,247)	(17,536)
Other payments		(5,066)	**(4,720)**	(7,371)	(7,509)	(6,052)
Net cash provided by operating activities	**4.4.1**	**61,464**	**69,562**	**36,957**	**37,339**	**37,268**
Cash flows from investing activities						
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		(59,709)	**(87,306)**	(40,312)	(34,513)	(32,066)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		1,175	**835**	937	956	975
Payments for investments		(120,000)	**(120,000)**	(110,000)	(110,000)	(115,000)
Proceeds from sale of investments		125,000	**145,000**	115,000	110,000	110,000
Net cash used in investing activities	**4.4.2**	**(53,534)**	**(61,471)**	**(34,375)**	**(33,557)**	**(36,091)**
Cash flows from financing activities						
Finance costs		(364)	**(318)**	(330)	(258)	(187)
Proceeds from borrowings		-	**2,500**	-	-	-
Repayment of borrowings		(2,217)	**(5,626)**	(2,534)	(2,607)	(2,395)
Interest paid - lease liability		(46)	**(44)**	(36)	(36)	(47)
Repayment of lease liabilities		(148)	**(158)**	(117)	(136)	(127)
Net cash used in financing activities	**4.4.3**	**(2,775)**	**(3,646)**	**(3,017)**	**(3,037)**	**(2,756)**
Net increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents		**5,155**	**4,445**	**(435)**	**745**	**(1,579)**
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of year		5,339	**10,494**	14,939	14,504	15,249
Cash & cash equivalents at end of year		**10,494**	**14,939**	**14,504**	**15,249**	**13,670**

2025/26 Budget Financial Statements

3.5 Statement of Capital Works

For the four years ending 30 June 2029

	Notes	Forecast Actual 2024/25 $'000	Budget 2025/26 $'000	Projections 2026/27 $'000	2027/28 $'000	2028/29 $'000
Property						
Land		390	**0**	0	0	0
Buildings		11,001	**51,675**	9,509	3,381	3,478
Heritage Buildings		88	**0**	0	0	0
Total property		**11,479**	**51,675**	**9,509**	**3,381**	**3,478**
Plant and Equipment						
Plant, Machinery & Equipment		4,561	**3,200**	3,281	3,362	3,446
Fixtures, Fittings & Furniture		82	**10**	10	11	11
Computers & Telecommunications		901	**850**	871	893	915
Artworks		14	**14**	14	15	15
Total Plant and Equipment		**5,558**	**4,074**	**4,176**	**4,281**	**4,387**
Infrastructure						
Roads		19,466	**14,520**	14,826	15,298	15,608
Bridges		280	**1,777**	1,321	1,367	1,414
Footpaths & Cycleways		1,487	**1,012**	1,037	1,063	1,090
Drainage		3,377	**1,006**	1,032	1,058	1,084
Recreational, Leisure & Community Facilities		2,513	**11,161**	3,228	746	765
Waste Management		2,092	**250**	513	3,152	269
Parks, Open Space & Streetscapes		2,328	**1,606**	774	793	813
Aerodromes		0	**0**	0	0	0
Off Street Carparks		9,463	**225**	231	236	242
Other Infrastructure		1,666	**0**	0	0	0
Total Infrastructure		**42,672**	**31,557**	**22,962**	**23,713**	**21,285**
Total capital works expenditure	**4.5.1**	**59,709**	**87,306**	**36,647**	**31,375**	**29,150**
Represented by:						
New asset expenditure		17,388	**46,095**	7,229	28	29
Asset renewal expenditure		26,745	**28,878**	27,346	30,414	28,165
Asset expansion expenditure		0	**0**	0	0	0
Asset upgrade expenditure		15,576	**12,333**	2,072	933	956
Total capital works expenditure	**4.5.1**	**59,709**	**87,306**	**36,647**	**31,375**	**29,150**
Funding sources represented by:						
Grants		20,540	**55,947**	11,053	3,400	3,400
Council cash		39,169	**28,859**	25,594	27,975	25,750
Borrowings		0	**2,500**	0	0	0
Total capital works expenditure	**4.5.1**	**59,709**	**87,306**	**36,647**	**31,375**	**29,150**

2025/26 Budget Financial Statements

3.6 Statement of Human Resources

For the four years ending 30 June 2029

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 $'000	Budget 2025/26 $'000	Projections 2026/27 $'000	2027/28 $'000	2028/29 $'000
Staff expenditure					
Employee costs - operating	66,867	**69,694**	71,578	73,367	75,201
Employee costs - capital	2,179	**1,663**	1,713	1,764	1,817
Total staff expenditure	**69,046**	**71,357**	**73,291**	**75,131**	**77,018**
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
Staff numbers					
Employees	602.6	**613.6**	612.7	612.4	612.5
Total staff numbers	**602.6**	**613.6**	**612.7**	**612.4**	**612.5**

A summary of human resources expenditure categorised according to the organisational structure of Council is included below:

Division	Budget 2025/26 $'000	Comprises Full Time $'000	Part Time $'000	Casual $'000
Office of the CEO	1,002	850	152	
Regional City Strategy and Transition	6,049	5,382	646	21
Organisational Performance	8,790	7,873	917	
Regional City Planning and Assets	17,405	16,876	529	
Community Health and Wellbeing	34,138	14,934	15,614	3,590
Total permanent staff expenditure	**67,384**	**45,915**	**17,858**	**3,611**
Other employee related expenditure	2,310			
Capitalised labour costs	1,663			
Total expenditure	**71,357**			

A summary of the number of full time equivalent (FTE) Council staff in relation to the above expenditure is included below:

Division	Budget 2025/26	Comprises Full Time	Part Time	Casual
Office of the CEO	5.0	3.6	1.4	
Regional City Strategy and Transition	47.5	41.6	5.7	0.2
Organisational Performance	69.5	61.2	8.3	
Regional City Planning and Assets	157.3	152.3	5.1	
Community Health and Wellbeing	323.3	126.6	166.6	30.1
Total permanent staff	**602.6**	**385.3**	**187.0**	**30.3**
Capitalised staff	11.0			
Total staff	**613.6**			

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Summary of Planned Human Resources Expenditure
For the four years ended 30 June 2029

	2025/26 $'000	2026/27 $'000	2027/28 $'000	2028/29 $'000
Office of the CEO				
Permanent - Full time	**850**	**876**	**902**	**929**
Female	254	262	270	278
Male	596	614	632	651
Self-described gender	0	0	0	0
Vacant	0	0	0	0
New positions	0	0	0	0
Permanent - Part time	**152**	**156**	**162**	**166**
Female	43	44	46	47
Male	109	112	116	119
Self-described gender	0	0	0	0
Vacant	0	0	0	0
New positions	0	0	0	0
Total Office of the CEO	**1,002**	**1,032**	**1,064**	**1,095**
Regional City Strategy and Transition				
Permanent - Full time	**5,382**	**5,542**	**5,709**	**5,881**
Female	2,956	3,044	3,136	3,230
Male	1,558	1,604	1,652	1,702
Self-described gender	0	0	0	0
Vacant	868	894	921	949
New positions	0	0	0	0
Permanent - Part time	**646**	**665**	**686**	**706**
Female	536	552	569	586
Male	110	113	117	120
Self-described gender	0	0	0	0
Vacant	0	0	0	0
New positions	0	0	0	0
Casual	21	22	22	23
Total Regional City Strategy and Transition	**6,049**	**6,229**	**6,417**	**6,610**
Organisational Performance				
Permanent - Full time	**7,873**	**8,109**	**8,352**	**8,603**
Female	4,114	4,237	4,364	4,495
Male	3,449	3,552	3,659	3,769
Self-described gender	0	0	0	0
Vacant	310	320	329	339
New positions	0	0	0	0
Permanent - Part time	**917**	**944**	**972**	**1,003**
Female	739	761	784	808
Male	42	43	44	46
Self-described gender	0	0	0	0
Vacant	136	140	144	149
New positions	0	0	0	0
Casual	0	0	0	0
Total Organisational Performance	**8,790**	**9,053**	**9,324**	**9,606**
Regional City Planning and Assets				
Permanent - Full time	**16,876**	**17,381**	**17,904**	**18,440**
Female	3,630	3,738	3,851	3,966
Male	11,718	12,069	12,432	12,805
Self-described gender	0	0	0	0
Vacant	1,528	1,574	1,621	1,669
New positions	0	0	0	0
Permanent - Part time	**529**	**545**	**562**	**578**
Female	489	503	519	534
Male	40	42	43	44
Self-described gender	0	0	0	0
Total Regional City Planning and Assets	**17,405**	**17,926**	**18,466**	**19,018**

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	2025/26 $'000	2026/27 $'000	2027/28 $'000	2028/29 $'000
Community Health and Wellbeing				
Permanent - Full time	**14,934**	**15,383**	**15,845**	**16,320**
Female	11,459	11,803	12,157	12,522
Male	2,746	2,829	2,914	3,001
Self-described gender	0	0	0	0
Vacant	729	751	774	797
New positions	0	0	0	0
Permanent - Part time	**15,614**	**16,082**	**16,566**	**17,062**
Female	14,457	14,891	15,338	15,798
Male	854	879	906	933
Self-described gender	0	0	0	0
Vacant	303	312	322	331
New positions	0	0	0	0
Casual	3,590	3,697	3,808	3,923
Total Community Health and Wellbeing	**34,138**	**35,162**	**36,219**	**37,305**
Other employee related expenditure	2,310	2,176	1,877	1,567
Capitalised labour costs	1,663	1,713	1,764	1,817
Total staff expenditure	**71,357**	**73,291**	**75,131**	**77,018**

	2025/26 FTE	2026/27 FTE	2027/28 FTE	2028/29 FTE
Office of the CEO				
Permanent - Full time	**3.6**	**3.6**	**3.6**	**3.6**
Female	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Male	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vacant	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
New positions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanent - Part time	**1.4**	**1.4**	**1.4**	**1.4**
Female	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Male	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vacant	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
New positions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Office of the CEO	**5.0**	**5.0**	**5.0**	**5.0**
Regional City Strategy and Transition				
Permanent - Full time	**41.6**	**41.6**	**41.6**	**41.6**
Female	24.6	24.6	24.6	24.6
Male	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
Self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vacant	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
New positions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanent - Part time	**5.7**	**5.7**	**5.7**	**5.7**
Female	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
Male	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vacant	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
New positions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Casual	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total Regional City Strategy and Transition	**47.5**	**47.5**	**47.5**	**47.5**

2025/26 Budget
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	2025/26 FTE	2026/27 FTE	2027/28 FTE	2028/29 FTE
Organisational Performance				
Permanent - Full time	**61.2**	**61.2**	**61.2**	**61.2**
Female	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0
Male	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0
Self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vacant	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
New positions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanent - Part time	**8.3**	**7.8**	**7.8**	**7.8**
Female	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0
Male	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vacant	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
New positions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Casual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Organisational Performance	**69.5**	**69.0**	**69.0**	**69.0**
Regional City Planning and Assets				
Permanent - Full time	**152.3**	**152.3**	**152.3**	**152.3**
Female	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0
Male	107.0	107.0	107.0	107.0
Self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vacant	13.3	13.3	13.3	13.3
New positions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanent - Part time	**5.1**	**5.1**	**5.1**	**5.1**
Female	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
Male	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vacant	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
New positions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Regional City Planning and Assets	**157.3**	**157.3**	**157.3**	**157.3**
Community Health and Wellbeing				
Permanent - Full time	**126.6**	**126.6**	**126.6**	**126.6**
Female	101.6	101.6	101.6	101.6
Male	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
Self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vacant	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
New positions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Permanent - Part time	**166.6**	**161.9**	**161.3**	**161.4**
Female	154.9	151.3	150.7	150.8
Male	9.2	7.7	7.7	7.7
Self-described gender	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vacant	2.5	2.9	2.9	2.9
New positions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Casual	30.1	34.4	34.7	34.7
Total Community Health and Wellbeing	**323.3**	**322.8**	**322.6**	**322.7**
Capitalised labour	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
Total staff numbers	**613.6**	**612.7**	**612.4**	**612.5**

2025/26 Budget Financial Statements

Income Allocation Statement

	Notes	Forecast Actual 2024/25 $'000	Budget 2025/26 $'000
Operating			
Income			
Rates and charges		80,415	**82,577**
Statutory fees & fines		2,972	**3,031**
User fees		9,886	**9,774**
Grants - Operating		35,851	**31,277**
Contributions - Monetary		1,046	**320**
Other income		3,341	**2,637**
Operational Savings Program		-	**1,500**
Interest Income		5,807	**4,400**
Internal revenue / (expense) from Waste and Capital		577	**1,870**
Total income		**139,895**	**137,387**
Expenses			
Employee costs		(65,879)	**(68,829)**
Materials and services		(43,184)	**(36,646)**
Utilities		(3,874)	**(3,531)**
Transfer from / (to) reserve		(1,536)	**(2,062)**
Total expenses		**(114,472)**	**(111,068)**
Operating Funds Available		**25,423**	**26,320**
Waste (incl. Landfill and Domestic Waste Service)			
Rates and charges - Waste		14,959	**17,014**
User Fees / Other income - Waste		3,154	**2,562**
Operational Expenditure - Waste		(13,048)	**(15,411)**
Capital Works expenditure - Waste		(2,173)	**(350)**
Capital Works (operating) expenditure - Waste		(2,409)	**(1,413)**
Internal revenue / (expense) - Waste		(1,858)	**(1,870)**
Transfer from / (to) reserve - Waste		1,374	**(532)**
Net Waste expenditure		**-**	**-**
Capital			
Grants - Capital		20,547	**55,947**
Grants - Operating (Capital)		963	**8,978**
Other Income - Capital		2,458	**835**
Transfer from / (to) reserve - Capital		14,538	**5,009**
Internal revenue / (expense) - Capital		1,282	**2,500**
Capital Works expenditure		(57,536)	**(86,956)**
Capital Works (operating) expenditure		(3,022)	**(9,524)**
Net Capital expenditure		**(20,771)**	**(23,211)**
Financing			
Borrowings			
Debt Servicing Principal		(2,217)	**(5,626)**
New Borrowings		-	**2,500**
Borrowing Costs		(406)	**(357)**
Transfer from / (to) reserve - Borrowings		(670)	**3,350**
Internal revenue / (expense) - Transfer New Borrowings to Capital		-	**(2,500)**
Financing costs		**(3,293)**	**(2,633)**
Surplus / (deficit)		**1,360**	**476**

2025/26 Budget
Notes to the financial statements

4. Notes to the financial statements

This section presents detailed information on material components of the financial statements. Council needs to assess which components are material, considering the dollar amounts and nature of these components.

4.1 Comprehensive Income Statement

4.1.1 Rates and charges

Rates and charges are required by the Act and the Regulations to be disclosed in Council's budget.

As per the Local Government Act 2020, Council is required to have a Revenue and Rating Plan which is a four year plan for how Council will generate income to deliver the Council Plan, program and services and capital works commitments over a four-year period.

In developing the Budget, rates and charges were identified as an important source of revenue. Planning for future rate increases has therefore been an important component of the financial planning process. The Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) sets out the maximum amount councils may increase rates in a year. For 2025/26 the FGRS cap has been set at 3.0%. The cap applies to both general rates and municipal charges and is calculated on the basis of council's average rates and charges.

The level of required rates and charges has been considered in this context, with reference to Council's other sources of income and the planned expenditure on services and works to be undertaken for the community.

To achieve these objectives while maintaining service levels and a strong capital expenditure program, the average general rate and the municipal charge will increase by 1.5% which is 1.5% below the maximum allowable under the rate cap.

Waste services charges are set to increase by $46.00 or 12.7% per standard set of 3 bins. The increase in the Waste Services Charge incorporates a realignment of waste services cost recovery to incorporate the cost of Council's transfer stations and increases in the costs for recycling and landfill. The EPA Landfill Levy will increase by $6 or 19.4% which is in line with the increases announced by the state government for the 2025/26 financial year.

Payments made in lieu of rates under the Electricity Act are tied to current year (March) CPI levels rather than the annual rate cap.

2025/26 Budget
Notes to the financial statements

4.1.1(a) The reconciliation of the total rates and charges to the Comprehensive Income Statement is as follows:

	2024/25 Forecast Actual $'000	2025/26 Budget $'000	Change $'000	%
General Rates*	64,485	66,344	1,859	2.9%
Municipal Charges*	6,225	6,371	146	2.3%
Service rates and charges	14,959	17,014	2,055	13.7%
Cultural & Recreational Land Rates	88	89	1	1.1%
Payments in lieu of rates	9,202	9,368	166	1.8%
Supplementary rates & charges	415	405	(10)	(2.4%)
Total rates and charges	**95,374**	**99,591**	**4,217**	**4.4%**

* These items are subject to the rate cap established under the FGRS

4.1.1(b) The rate in the dollar to be levied as general rates under section 158 of the Act for each type or class of land compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2024/25 cents/$CIV	2025/26 cents/$CIV	Change
General rate for rateable residential properties	0.00297572	0.00301496	1.3%
General rate for rateable commercial properties	0.00297572	0.00301496	1.3%
General rate for rateable industrial properties	0.00297572	0.00301496	1.3%
General rate for rateable farm properties	0.00223179	0.00226122	1.3%
General rate for rateable derelict properties	0.00892716	0.00904488	1.3%

4.1.1(c) The estimated total amount to be raised by general rates in relation to each type or class of land, and the estimated total amount to be raised by general rates, compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2024/25 $'000	2025/26 $'000	Change $'000	%
General	61,223	63,029	1,807	3.0%
Farm	3,240	3,293	53	1.6%
Derelict properties	22	22	(0)	(1.4%)
Total amount to be raised by general rates	**64,485**	**66,344**	**1,859**	**2.9%**

2025/26 Budget
Notes to the financial statements

4.1.1(d)The number of assessments in relation to each type of class or land, and the total number of assessments, compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2024/25 Number	2025/26 Number	Change No.	Change %
General	39,924	40,350	426	1.1%
Farm	917	905	(12)	(1.3%)
Derelict properties	6	5	(1)	(16.7%)
Total number of assessments	**40,847**	**41,260**	**413**	**1.0%**

4.1.1(e) The basis of valuation to be used is the Capital Improved Value (CIV).

4.1.1(f) The estimated total value of each type or class of land, and the estimated total value of land, compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2024/25 $'000	2025/26 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
General	20,698,353	20,905,479	207,126	1.0%
Farm	1,441,408	1,456,353	14,945	1.0%
Derelict properties	2,043	2,405	362	17.7%
Total value of land	**22,141,804**	**22,364,237**	**222,433**	**1.0%**

4.1.1(g) The municipal charge under Section 159 of the Act compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property 2024/25 $	Per Rateable Property 2025/26 $	Change $	Change %
Municipal	153.00	155.00	2.00	1.3%

4.1.1(h) The estimated total amount to be raised by municipal charges compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	2024/25 $'000	2025/26 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Municipal	6,225	6,371	146	2.3%

2025/26 Budget
Notes to the financial statements

4.1.1(i) The rate or unit amount to be levied for each type of service rate or charge under Section 162 of the Act compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property 2024/25 $	Per Rateable Property 2025/26 $	Change $	Change %
Waste Services Charge	363.00	409.00	46.00	12.7%
Waste Services Charge - Landfill levy	31.00	37.00	6.00	19.4%
Total	**394.00**	**446.00**	**52.00**	**13.2%**

4.1.1(j) The estimated total amount to be raised by each type of service rate or charge, and the estimated total amount to be raised by service rates and charges, compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	2024/25 $'000	2025/26 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Waste Services Charge	13,796	15,618	1,822	13.2%
Waste Services Charge - Landfill levy	1,163	1,396	233	20.0%
Total	**14,959**	**17,014**	**2,055**	**13.7%**

Where exemptions are granted, waste services will be charged for services utilised as follows:

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property 2024/25 $	Per Rateable Property 2025/26 $	Change $	Change %
Garbage 120L Bin.	211.00	252.00	41.00	19.4%
Garbage 240L Bin	291.00	330.00	39.00	13.4%
Garbage 240L Bin - Special	291.00	330.00	39.00	13.4%
Garbage 240L Bin - Special Medical	211.00	252.00	41.00	19.4%
Recycling	87.00	91.00	4.00	4.6%
Organics/Green Waste	65.00	66.00	1.00	1.5%

2025/26 Budget
Notes to the financial statements

4.1.1(k) The estimated total amount to be raised by all rates and charges compared with the previous financial year

	2024/25 $'000	2025/26 $'000	Change $'000	%
General Rates	64,485	66,344	1,859	2.9%
Municipal Charges	6,225	6,371	146	2.3%
Service rates and charges	14,959	17,014	2,055	13.7%
Cultural & Recreational Land Rates	88	89	1	1.1%
Payments in lieu of rates	9,202	9,368	166	1.8%
Supplementary rates and charges	415	405	(10)	(2.4%)
Total Rates and charges	**95,374**	**99,591**	**4,217**	**4.4%**

4.1.1(l) Fair Go Rates System Compliance

Latrobe City Council is fully compliant with the State Government's Fair Go Rates System

	2024/25	2025/26
Total Base Rates & Municipal Charge	$ 68,817,875	$ 71,067,262
Number of rateable properties	40,847	41,260
Base Average Rate	1,684.77	1,722.43
Maximum Rate Increase (set by the State Government)	2.75%	3.00%
Capped Average Rate	$ 1,731.10	$ 1,774.10
Maximum General Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	$ 70,710,367	$ 73,199,280
Budgeted General Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	$ 70,710,207	$ 72,715,000

4.1.1(m) Any significant changes that may affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges

There are no known significant changes which may affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges. However, the total amount to be raised by rates and charges may be affected by:

- The making of supplementary valuations (2025/26: estimated $0.400 million and 2024/25:$0.415 million)
- The variation of returned levels of value (e.g. valuation appeals)
- Changes of use of land such that rateable land becomes non-rateable land and vice versa
- Changes of use of land such that residential, commercial or industrial land becomes farm or derelict land and vice versa.

2025/26 Budget
Notes to the financial statements

4.1.1(n) Differential rates

Rates to be levied

The rate and amount of rates payable in relation to land in each category of differential

· A general rate of 0.00301496 for all rateable residential,commercial and industrial properties.

· A farm rate of 0.00226122 for all rateable farm properties.

· A derelict properties rate of 0.00904488 for all rateable derelict properties.

Each differential rate will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable land (categorised by the characteristics described below) by the relevant percentages indicated above.

Council considers that each differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of Council functions. Details of the objectives of each differential rate, the types of classes of land, which are subject to each differential rate and the uses of each differential rate, are set out below.

Farm Land

Farm land is as defined in Section 2 of the Valuation of Land Act 1960, namely,

Farm Land means any rateable land -

a. that is not less than 2 hectares in area; **and**

b. that is used primarily for carrying on one or more of the following businesses or industries:

(i) grazing (including agistment)
(ii) dairying
(iii) pig farming
(iv) poultry farming
(v) fish farming
(vi) tree farming
(vii) bee keeping
(viii) viticulture
(ix) horticulture
(x) fruit growing
(xi) the growing of crops of any kind, **and**

c. that is used by a business -

(i) that has a significant and substantial commercial purpose or character; **and**

(ii) that seeks to make a profit on a continuous or repetitive basis from its activities on the land; **and**

(iii) that is making a profit from its activities on the land, or that has a reasonable prospect of making a profit from its activities on the land if it continues to operate in the way it is operating.

The reasons for the use of this rate are that:

(i) the types and classes of land to which the rate applies can be easily identified;

(ii) it is appropriate to have a farm rate so as to fairly rate farm land;

(iii) the level of the farm rate is appropriate having regard to all relevant matters including the use to which farm land is put and the amount to be raised by Council's Municipal charge;

(iv) the level of the farm rate is appropriate to ensure that the burden of the payment of general rates is fairly apportioned across all rateable land within the Municipal district;

which objectives the Council considers are consistent with the economical and efficient carrying out of its functions.

Derelict Properties
The differential rate relating to derelict properties is set at the maximum level, being 4 times the lowest differential rate, as allowed under Section 161 (5) of the Local Government Act 1989.

Objective
The objective of the differential rate for derelict properties is to promote the responsible management of land and buildings through incentivising the proper development and maintenance of such land and buildings so as not to pose a risk to public safety or adversely affect public amenity.

Definition/Characteristics
Properties will be considered derelict where 1 and 2 apply –

1. The property is in such a state of disrepair that it is considered unsuitable for human habitation or other occupation for living or working on a daily basis and has been in such a condition for a period of more than 3 months.
- The property is likely to lack, or have restricted access to, essential services or facilities including but not limited to water, and/or operational effluent discharge facilities.

and

2. The property meets one or more of the following criteria -
(a) The property has become unsafe and poses a risk to public safety, including but not limited to:
- the existence on the property of vermin, rubbish/litter, fire hazards, excess materials/goods, asbestos or other environmental hazards; or
- The property includes a partially built structure where there has been no reasonable progress in completing the structure in accordance with the building permit;

(b) The property adversely affects public amenity;
(c) The property provides an opportunity to be used in a manner that may cause a nuisance or become detrimental to the amenity of the immediate area;
(d) The condition of the property has a potential to adversely impact the value of other properties in the vicinity;
(e) The property affects the general amenity of adjoining land or the neighbourhood by the appearance of graffiti, any stored unregistered motor vehicles, machinery or parts thereof, scrap metal, second hand building materials, building debris, soil or similar materials, or other items of general waste or rubbish.

The assessment of properties against the above criteria will be undertaken by Council's authorised officers.

Types and Classes of land subject to the differential rate
Any land having the relevant characteristics described above.

Geographic Location
Wherever located within the boundaries of the municipality.

Use of Land
Any use permitted or described under the relevant planning scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning
The zoning applicable to each rateable land parcels within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the relevant Planning Scheme.

2025/26 Budget
Notes to the financial statements

Types of Buildings
All buildings which are currently constructed on the land or which have been constructed during the current financial year.

"Use and Level of Differential Rate
The differential rate will be used to fund some of those items of expenditure described in the budget adopted by Council.

The level of differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objective specified above and is set at the maximum level, being 4 times the lowest differential rate, as allowed under Section 161 (5) of the Local Government Act 1989.

Recreational Land
Recreational land is defined in accordance with Section 4 of the Cultural & Recreational Lands Act 1963 (C&RL).
"The Cultural & Recreational Lands Act 1963 requires councils to take into consideration the services provided by the municipal council in relation to such lands and the benefit to the community derived from the land when determining the quantum of the amount payable in lieu of rates.

Latrobe City Council has two concession rates in relation to recreational land. Type 1 eligible lands include land which meets the definition of C&RL that do not provide gaming facilities. The rate concession for Type 1 land is set at 50% of the general rate. In addition, there are four recreational assessments which receive an additional rebate. These rebates are applied as a result of significant changes in the CIV valuations resulting from previous rezoning of land and changes in valuation methodologies. It was considered that without applying a rebate the levied amounts would fail to take into consideration the requirements under the C&RL Act. Type 2 eligible lands include land which meets the definition of C&RL that provide gaming facilities. The rate concession for Type 2 land is set at 60% of the general rate.

General Rate

The general rate is the particular rate in the dollar that applies to all land which is not defined within a differential rate and includes residential, commercial and industrial properties, both vacant and improved.

The actual rating burden applying to general properties is an outcome determined by decisions to apply either higher or lower rates in the dollar to other classes of property, such as farm, commercial/ industrial or recreational land.

In the setting of differential rates, Council consciously considers their relativity to the general rate.

2025/26 Budget
Notes to the financial statements

4.1.2 Statutory fees and fines

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 $'000	Budget 2025/26 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Infringements and costs	576	712	136	23.6%
Town planning fees	16	12	(4)	(25.0%)
Land information certificates	107	85	(22)	(20.6%)
Permits	1,021	943	(78)	(7.6%)
Other	179	209	30	16.8%
Health Registrations	452	460	8	1.8%
Pool / Spa Registrations	13	20	7	53.8%
Animal Registrations	608	590	(18)	(3.0%)
Total statutory fees and fines	**2,972**	**3,031**	**59**	**2.0%**

Minor variances are projected for Statutory fees and fines in the 2025/26 financial year.

4.1.3 User fees

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 $'000	Budget 2025/26 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Leisure centre and recreation	3,198	3,199	1	0.0%
Child care/children's programs	4,739	4,604	(135)	(2.8%)
Waste management services	3,031	2,562	(469)	(15.5%)
Subdivision Supervision	414	400	(14)	(3.4%)
Creative Arts & Venues	707	816	109	15.4%
Other fees and charges	823	755	(68)	(8.3%)
Total user fees	**12,912**	**12,336**	**(576)**	**(4.5%)**

Lower overall fees and charges projected for 2025/26 financial year mainly due to one off higher income received in 2024/25 for Landfill gate fees.

2025/26 Budget
Notes to the financial statements

4.1.4 Grants

Grants are required by the Act and the Regulations to be disclosed in Council's annual budget.

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 $'000	Budget 2025/26 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Grants expected to be received in respect of the following:				
Summary of grants				
Commonwealth funded grants	21,515	20,907	(608)	(2.8%)
State funded grants	35,847	75,296	39,449	110.0%
Total grants received	**57,362**	**96,203**	**38,841**	**67.7%**
(a) Operating Grants				
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government	***17,157***	***17,221***	***64***	***0.4%***
Financial Assistance Grants	16,105	16,411	306	1.9%
Maternal and Child Health	7	5	(2)	(28.6%)
Employment Facilitation Programs	931	805	(126)	(13.5%)
Other Infastructure	70	-		0.0%
Family & Children Programs	44	-	(44)	(100.0%)
Recurrent - State Government	***13,405***	***13,707***	***302***	***2.3%***
Aged and Disability Programs	-	4	4	100.0%
Arts Programs	155	155	0	0.0%
Community Support and Development Programs	262	264	2	0.8%
Family & Children Programs	10,473	10,719	246	2.3%
Libraries	560	560	0	0.0%
Maternal & Child Health Program	1,730	1,703	(27)	(1.6%)
Other	36	36	0	0.0%
School Crossings	259	266	7	2.7%
Other Infastructure	- 70	-	70	(100.0%)
Total recurrent grants	**30,562**	**30,928**	**366**	**1.2%**
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Gov	***44***	***380***	***336***	***763.6%***
Community Support and Development Programs	35	-	(35)	(100.0%)
Events and International Relations	9	-	(9)	(100.0%)
Other Infastructure	-	380	380	100.0%
Non-recurrent - State Government	***6,216***	***8,948***	***2,732***	***44.0%***
Community Support and Development Programs	231	173	(58)	(25.1%)
Economic Development	30	-	(30)	(100.0%)
Emergency Management	2,872	60	(2,812)	(97.9%)
Events and International Relations	30	-	(30)	(100.0%)
Family & Children Programs	15	-	(15)	(100.0%)
Other Infastructure	2,075	8,598	6,523	314.4%
Other	963	117	(846)	(87.9%)
Total non-recurrent grants	**6,260**	**9,328**	**3,068**	**49.0%**
Total operating grants	**36,822**	**40,256**	**3,434**	**9.3%**

2025/26 Budget
Notes to the financial statements

4.1.4 Grants (contd.)

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 $'000	Budget 2025/26 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
(b) Capital Grants				
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government	***2,210***	***2,720***	***510***	***23.1%***
Roads to recovery	2,210	2,720	510	23.1%
Total recurrent grants	**2,210**	**2,720**	**510**	**23.1%**
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government	***2,104***	***586***	***- 1,518***	***(72.1%)***
Buildings	-	586	586	100.0%
Drainage	78	-	(78)	(100.0%)
Footpaths and Cycleways	361	-	(361)	(100.0%)
Recreational, Leisure & Community Facilities	1,335	-	(1,335)	(100.0%)
Roads	330	-	(330)	(100.0%)
Non-recurrent - State Government	***16,226***	***52,641***	***36,415***	***224.4%***
Buildings	2,949	12,071	9,122	309.3%
Computers & Telecommunications	54	-	(54)	(100.0%)
Drainage	709	-	(709)	(100.0%)
Other	-	-	0	0.0%
Off Street Carparks	8,817	29,268	20,451	231.9%
Other Infrastructure	535	9,936	9,401	1757.2%
Parks, Open Space & Streetscapes	52	851	799	1536.5%
Recreational, Leisure & Community Facilities	654	515	(139)	(21.3%)
Roads	2,456	-	(2,456)	(100.0%)
Total non-recurrent grants	**18,330**	**53,227**	**34,897**	**190.4%**
Total capital grants	**20,540**	**55,947**	**35,407**	**172.4%**
Total Grants	**57,362**	**96,203**	**38,841**	**67.7%**

Operating grants include all monies received from State and Federal sources for the purposes of funding the delivery of Council's services to ratepayers. Overall, the level of operating grants is expected to increase by 9.3% (or $3.4 million) compared to 2024/25. This increase primarily relates to higher Non-recurrent grant funding as a result of expected grant funds for the continued development of the Gippsland Logistics and Manufacturing Precinct.

2025/26 Budget
Notes to the financial statements

4.1.4 Grants (contd.)

Capital grants include all monies received from State and Federal governments for the purposes of funding the capital works program. Overall the level of grants and contributions is expected to increase by 172.4% (or $35.4million) compared to 2024/25 mainly associated with major project funding received from the State and federal Governments in relation to the Regional Carpark fund projects $20.5M, Community Infrastructure projects, Traralgon Flood recovery being the Multi Use Pavilion at Traralgon Recreation Reserve $2.6 million and Indoor Multi Sports Hall at Glenview Park Traralgon $1.8 million. Historically it can be expected that Council will receive additional capital grant funding during the year that is not projected in the budget. Section 4.5 “Capital Works Program” includes projects expected to be funded by capital grants during the 2025/26 year.

4.1.5 Contributions

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 $’000	Budget 2025/26 $’000	Change $’000	Change %
Monetary	1,536	320	(1,216)	(79.2%)
Non-monetary	10,000	10,000	0	0.0%
Total contributions	**11,536**	**10,320**	**(1,216)**	**(10.5%)**

Monetary Contributions relate to monies paid by developers in regard to public open space, drainage and other infrastructure in accordance with planning permits issued for property development together with non government contributions towards capital works projects. The 2025/26 budget is lower compared to 2024/25 due to expected reduced capital, open space and special charge scheme contributions.

Non-Monetary Contributions relate to expected infrastructure assets passed to Council from developers of new subdivisions and occasionally may also include any other assets that are gifted to Council e.g. donated artworks.

4.1.6 Other income

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 $’000	Budget 2025/26 $’000	Change $’000	Change %
Interest	6,444	4,800	(1,644)	(25.5%)
Lease income	827	847	20	2.4%
Insurance claims	554	-	(554)	(100.0%)
Sales	632	700	68	10.8%
Contributions other	667	558	(109)	(16.3%)
Rebates	815	100	(715)	(87.7%)
Other	131	32	(99)	(75.6%)
Total other income	**10,070**	**7,037**	**(3,033)**	**(30.1%)**

Overall other income is projected to decrease by 30.1% mainly due to a reduction in interest on investments as a result of projected lower levels of investments resulting from expenditure from reserves and reduced interest rate assumptions based on current trends, together with one-off insurance claims and rebates received in 2024/25.

2025/26 Budget
Notes to the financial statements

4.1.7 Employee costs

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 $'000	Budget 2025/26 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Salaries & Wages	55,970	58,822	2,852	5.1%
Superannuation	6,424	7,095	671	10.4%
Workcover	1,419	1,450	31	2.2%
Fringe Benefits tax	271	280	9	3.3%
Other	2,783	2,047	(736)	(26.4%)
Total employee costs	**66,867**	**69,694**	**2,827**	**4.2%**

Employee costs include all labour related expenditure such as wages and salaries and on-costs such as allowances, leave entitlements, employer superannuation,WorkCover and other employees related expenditure e.g. training, recruitment etc. Employee costs are forecast to increase by 4.2% or $2.8 million compared to 2024/25 forecast. Salary and Wages have been budgeted in accordance with Council's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement and annual award increases for banded staff. Decreased reliance on contract staff is the main reason for the decrease in Other employee costs of $0.7 million.

4.1.8 Materials and services

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 $'000	Budget 2025/26 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Contract Payments	32,299	37,578	5,279	16.3%
Building Maintenance	752	522	(230)	(30.6%)
General Maintenance	5,413	5,593	180	3.3%
Utilities	3,881	3,561	(320)	(8.2%)
Office Administration	3,283	2,852	(431)	(13.1%)
Information Technology	4,072	4,413	341	8.4%
Insurance	1,774	2,289	515	29.0%
Consultants	3,857	676	(3,181)	(82.5%)
Other	1,419	288	(1,131)	(79.7%)
Total materials and services	**56,750**	**57,772**	**1,022**	**1.8%**

Materials and Services are forecast to +increase by 1.8% or $1.0 million compared to 2024/25. This is mainly a result of higher levels of known and expected increases in contract prices and general allowances for CPI increases. Some items have decreases as a result of expenditure in the 2024/25 year that was funded by non-recurrent government grants and funds carried forward from prior years.

2025/26 Budget
Notes to the financial statements

4.1.9 Depreciation

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 $'000	Budget 2025/26 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Property	7,230	7,450	220	3.0%
Plant & equipment	2,845	2,845	0	0.0%
Infrastructure	25,366	26,805	1,439	5.7%
Total depreciation	**35,441**	**37,100**	**1,659**	**4.7%**

Depreciation is an accounting measure which aims to allocate the value of an asset over its useful life for property, plant and equipment including infrastructure assets such as roads and drains and new landfill cells. An increase is expected in the 2025/26 financial year due to asset revaluations undertaken and new assets commissioned.

4.1.10 Amortisation - Intangible assets

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 $'000	Budget 2025/26 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Landfill Rehabilitation	944	1,000	56	5.9%
Total amortisation - intangible assets	**944**	**1,000**	**56**	**5.9%**

Amortisation is an accounting measure which aims to allocate the value of an asset over its useful life for Council's intangible assets, which currently includes landfill airspace.

4.1.11 Depreciation - Right of assets

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 $'000	Budget 2025/26 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Property	33	33	0	0.0%
Plant & Equipment	112	108	(4)	(3.6%)
Total depreciation - right of use assets	**145**	**141**	**(4)**	**(2.8%)**

This item aims to allocate the value of Council's right of use an assets over their useful life e.g. leased property and vehicles.

4.1.12 Net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant & equipment

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 $'000	Budget 2025/26 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Property	2,500	2,500	0	0.0%
Infrastructure	2,500	2,500	0	0.0%
Total loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	**5,000**	**5,000**	**0**	**0.0%**

The loss on disposal is associated with the retirement of the residual value of assets renewed as part of the capital works program. This process was not allowed for in previous budgets due to the uncertainty in identifying the values, however a loss has been forecasted and in line with historical results to make some allowance for this item.

4.1.13 Other expenses

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 $'000	Budget 2025/26 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Auditors remuneration - VAGO	100	100	0	0.0%
Auditors remuneration - Internal	70	90	20	28.6%
Audit other	27	26	(1)	(3.7%)
Councillors' Allowances	382	413	31	8.1%
Operating lease rentals	165	146	(19)	(11.5%)
Grants	2,181	1,606	(575)	(26.4%)
Levies	2,306	2,486	180	7.8%
Total other expenses	**5,231**	**4,867**	**(364)**	**(7.0%)**

Other expenditure relates to a range of unclassified items including contributions to community groups, audit costs, levies, lease and rent payments and other miscellaneous expenditure items. Other expenditure is expected to decrease by $0.4 million in 2025/26 predominantly due to the grants paid in 2024/25 from funding carried forward from previous years mainly under the Small Towns funding program and Minor Capital works grants packages.

4.2 Balance Sheet

4.2.1 Assets

Current assets ($20.3 million decrease) - mainly due to projected reduced cash and investments as Council funds carried forward from 2024/25 are spent in the 2025/26 budget period. A more detailed analysis of this change is included in section 4.4. “Statement of Cash Flows”.

Non current assets ($87.5 million increase) - net result of the capital works program, asset revaluation movements, the depreciation of non-current assets and the disposal through sale of property, plant and equipment. Intangible assets will also increase due to the expected opening of cell 7 at the Highland Highway landfill during the 2025/26 financial year.

4.2.2 Liabilities

Current liabilities (17.7 million decrease) - the decrease in current liabilities (that is, obligations council must pay within the next year) is mainly due to a decrease in contract liabilities in relation to unearned government grants received for capital projects $16.0 million, together with the scheduled repayment of an interest only loan of $3.3 million in the 2025/26 financial year which is included in current interest bearing liabilities in the 2024/25 financial year.

Non current liabilities ($1.1 million increase) - the increase in non current liabilities (that is, obligations council must pay beyond the next year) is predominantly as result of increased landfill rehabilitation provision due to the expected opening of cell 7 at the Highland Highway landfill during the 2025/26 financial year.

4.2.3 Borrowings

The table below shows information on borrowings specifically required by the Regulations.

	2024/25 $'000	2025/26 $'000
Amount borrowed as at 30 June of the prior year	16,988	14,771
Amount proposed to be borrowed	0	2,500
Amount projected to be redeemed	(2,217)	(5,626)
Amount of borrowings as at 30 June	**14,771**	**11,645**

2025/26 Budget
Notes to the financial statements

4.3 Statement of changes in Equity

4.3.1 Reserves

Asset revaluation reserve which represents the difference between the previously recorded value of assets and their current valuations. Asset valuations are predicted to increase by 2.0% or $31.2 million.

Other Reserves are funds that Council wishes to separately identify as being set aside to meet a specific purpose in the future and to which there is no existing liability. These amounts form part of the overall Accumulated Surplus of the Council, however are separately disclosed.

4.3.2 Equity

Accumulated surplus which is the value of all net assets less Reserves that have accumulated over time. The increase in accumulated surplus of $52.4 million results directly from the surplus for the year together with the movement in statutory reserves.

4.4 Statement of Cash Flows

4.4.1 Net cash flows provided by/used in operating activities

An increase in net cash flows from operating activities of $8.1 million is mainly due to increased capital grants inflows related to major capital works projects.

4.4.2 Net cash flows provided by/used in investing activities

Increased net outflows from investing activities of $7.9 million mainly due to increased outflows ($27.6 million) for property, plant and equipment (capital works) as a result of capital grants funding increases and expenditure of capital grants advanced to council in 2024/25 that are recognised as contract liabilities, partially offset by increased net proceeds from investments as surplus funds are expended for these projects.

4.4.3 Net cash flows provided by/used in financing activities

The increased net outflows in 2025/26 of $0.9 million is mainly the result of the scheduled repayment of an interest only loan of $3.3 million in the 2025/26 financial year which is included in current interest bearing liabilities in the 2024/25 financial year, partially offset by the proposed borrowings of $2.5 million included in the 2025/26 capital works program.

2025/26 Budget
Capital Works Program

4.5 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

This section presents a listing of the capital works projects that will be undertaken for the 2025/26 year, classified by expenditure type and funding source. Works are also disclosed as current budget or carried forward from prior year. More details on planned program works can also be seen at Appendix B.

4.5.1 Summary

	Forecast Actual 2024/25 $'000	Budget 2025/26 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Property	11,479	**51,675**	40,196	350.2%
Plant and equipment	5,558	**4,074**	(1,484)	(26.7%)
Infrastructure	42,672	**31,557**	(11,115)	(26.0%)
Total	**59,709**	**87,306**	**27,597**	**46.2%**

		Asset expenditure type				Summary of funding sources			
	Project cost $'000	New $'000	Renewal $'000	Upgrade $'000	Expansion $'000	Grants $'000	Contrib'ns $'000	Council cash $'000	Borrow's $'000
Property	51,675	42,181	4,035	5,460	-	41,925	-	7,251	2,500
Plant and equipment	4,074	14	4,060	-	-	-	-	4,074	-
Infrastructure	31,557	3,900	20,784	6,873	-	14,023	-	17,533	-
Total	**87,306**	**46,095**	**28,878**	**12,333**	**-**	**55,948**	**-**	**28,858**	**2,500**

2025/26 Budget Capital Works Program

Capital works program
For the year ending 30 June 2026

4.5.2 Current Budget

Capital Works Area	Project cost $'000	Asset expenditure type: New $'000	Renewal $'000	Upgrade $'000	Expansion $'000	Summary of funding sources: Grants $'000	Contrib'ns $'000	Council cash $'000	Borrow's $'000
PROPERTY									
Buildings									
Building Component Renewal Program	**3,315**	-	3,315	-	-	-	-	3,315	-
Latrobe Leisure Maintenance and Upgrade Program	**379**	-	379		-	-	-	379	-
Total Buildings	**3,694**	**-**	**3,694**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**3,694**	**-**
TOTAL PROPERTY	**3,694**	**-**	**3,694**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**3,694**	**-**

2025/26 Budget
Capital Works Program

Capital Works Area	Project cost $'000	Asset expenditure type: New $'000	Renewal $'000	Upgrade $'000	Expansion $'000	Summary of funding sources: Grants $'000	Contrib'ns $'000	Council cash $'000	Borrow's $'000
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT									
Plant, Machinery and Equipment									
Plant Replacement Program	**1,769**	-	1,769	-	-	-	-	1,769	-
Fleet Replacement Program	**1,385**	-	1,385	-	-	-	-	1,385	-
Latrobe Leisure Equipment Replacement Program	**46**	-	46	-	-	-	-	46	-
Total Plant, Machinery and Equipment	**3,200**	**-**	**3,200**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**3,200**	**-**
Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture									
Office Furniture & Equipment Replacement Program	**10**	-	10	-	-	-	-	10	-
Total Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture	**10**	**-**	**10**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**10**	**-**
Computers and Telecommunications									
IT Equipment Replacement Program	**850**	-	850	-	-	-	-	850	-
Total Computers and Telecommunications	**850**	**-**	**850**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**850**	**-**
Artworks									
Artwork Acquisitions	**14**	14	-	-	-	-	-	14	-
Total Artworks	**14**	**14**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**14**	**-**
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	**4,074**	**14**	**4,060**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**4,074**	**-**

2025/26 Budget
Capital Works Program

Capital Works Area	Project cost $'000	Asset expenditure type: New $'000	Renewal $'000	Upgrade $'000	Expansion $'000	Summary of funding sources: Grants $'000	Contrib'ns $'000	Council cash $'000	Borrow's $'000
INFRASTRUCTURE									
Roads									
Gravel Road Resheet Program	**900**	-	900	-	-	-	-	900	-
Local Road Reseal Program	**6,351**	-	6,351	-	-	-	-	6,351	-
Road Rehabilitation Program	**6,951**	-	6,951	-	-	2,720	-	4,231	-
Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Program	**69**	-	-	69	-	-	-	69	-
Road Reconstruction Design	**100**	-	100	-	-	-	-	100	-
Landfill Access Road renewal	**100**		100	-	-	-	-	100	-
Construction of CFA & Garbage Truck turn-arounds	**50**	-	-	50	-	-	-	50	-
Total Roads	**14,520**	**-**	**14,401**	**119**	**-**	**2,720**	**-**	**11,800**	**-**
Bridges									
Bridges Major Component and Structure Renewal	**1,645**	-	1,645	-	-	-	-	1,645	-
Bridges Minor Component Renewal	**132**	-	132	-	-	-	-	132	-
Total Bridges	**1,777**	**-**	**1,777**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,777**	**-**
Footpaths and Cycleways									
Footpath & Cycleways Renewal	**994**	-	994	-	-	-	-	994	-
Gravel Path Surface Renewal	**18**	-	18	-	-	-	-	18	-
Total Footpaths and Cycleways	**1,012**	**-**	**1,012**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,012**	**-**
Drainage									
Minor Drainage System Renewal	**119**	-	119	-	-	-	-	119	-
Piped Systems Enhancement & Stormwater Quality Improvement	**314**	-	-	314	-	-	-	314	-
Wetlands and Retention Structure Renewal	**199**	-	199	-	-	-	-	199	-
Storage Structure & Open Drains Renewal	**250**	-	250		-	-	-	250	-
Storage Structure & Open Drains Upgrade	**125**	-	-	125	-	-	-	125	-
Total Drainage	**1,006**	**-**	**567**	**439**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,006**	**-**

2025/26 Budget
Capital Works Program

Capital Works Area	Project cost $'000	Asset expenditure type: New $'000	Renewal $'000	Upgrade $'000	Expansion $'000	Summary of funding sources: Grants $'000	Contrib'ns $'000	Council cash $'000	Borrow's $'000
Recreational, Leisure and Community Facilities									
Hard Court Renewal	**205**	-	205	-	-	-	-	205	-
Sports Fences Renewal	**175**	-	175	-	-	-	-	175	-
Ovals Upgrade	**330**	-	-	330	-	-	-	330	-
Total Rec, Leisure and Community Facilities	**710**	**-**	**380**	**330**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**710**	**-**
Waste Management									
Landfill Cell development	**250**	-	250	-	-	-	-	250	-
Total Waste Management	**250**	**-**	**250**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**250**	**-**
Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes									
Playspace Renewal	**435**	-	435	-	-	-	-	435	-
Skate Park Renewal	**56**	-	56	-	-	-	-	56	-
Public BBQ Shelter Renewal	**38**	-	38	-	-	-	-	38	-
Water Fountain Installation	**13**	13	-	-	-	-	-	13	-
Fence Renewal	**38**	-	38	-	-	-	-	38	-
Street Furniture Renewal	**50**	-	50	-	-	-	-	50	-
Retaining Wall Renewal Program	**125**	-	125	-	-	-	-	125	-
Total Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes	**755**	**13**	**742**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**754**	**-**
Off Street Car Parks									
Off Street Carparks Renewal	**225**	-	225	-	-	-	-	225	-
Total Off Street Car Parks	**225**	-	225	-	-	-	-	225	-
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	**20,255**	**13**	**19,354**	**888**	**-**	**2,720**	**-**	**17,534**	**-**
TOTAL NEW CAPITAL WORKS FOR 2025/26	**28,022**	**27**	**27,107**	**888**	**-**	**2,720**	**-**	**25,301**	**-**

2025/26 Budget
Capital Works Program

4.5.3 Works carried forward from the 2024/25 year

Capital Works Area	Project cost $'000	Asset expenditure type: New $'000	Renewal $'000	Upgrade $'000	Expansion $'000	Summary of funding sources: Grants $'000	Contrib'ns $'000	Council cash $'000	Borrow's $'000
PROPERTY									
Buildings									
Multi-use Pavilion Gaskin Park	**3,669**	3,669	-		-	994	-	175	2,500
Community Facilities	**5,460**	-	-	5,460	-	5,460	-	-	-
Maryvale Reserve Pavilion	**341**	-	341	-	-	341	-	-	-
Churchill Town Centre - Public Toilet	**683**	683	-	-	-	-	-	683	-
Glengarry Preschool	**1,089**	1,089	-	-	-	1,089	-	-	-
Regional Car Park Fund - Site 7 2 Kay Street, Traralgon	**22,268**	22,268	-		-	22,268	-	-	-
Regional Car Park Fund Site 8 Commercial Road, Morwell	**7,000**	7,000	-		-	7,000	-	-	-
Multi Use Pavilion Traralgon Rec Res (Flood Recovery)	**5,263**	5,263	-	-	-	2,563	-	2,700	-
Indoor Multi Sports Hall, Glenview Park Traralgon (Flood Recovery) - Subject to securing Commonwealth grant funding.	**2,209**	2,209	-	-	-	2,209	-	-	-
Total Buildings	**47,982**	**42,181**	**341**	**5,460**	**-**	**41,925**	**-**	**3,557**	**2,500**
TOTAL PROPERTY	**47,982**	**42,181**	**341**	**5,460**	**-**	**41,925**	**-**	**3,557**	**2,500**
INFRASTRUCTURE									
Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes									
Mathison Park Adventure Playground	**851**	-	-	851	-	851	-	-	-
Total Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes	**851**	**-**	**-**	**851**	**-**	**851**	**-**	**-**	**-**

2025/26 Budget
Capital Works Program

4.5.3 Works carried forward from the 2024/25 year

Capital Works Area	Project cost $'000	Asset expenditure type: New $'000	Renewal $'000	Upgrade $'000	Expansion $'000	Summary of funding sources: Grants $'000	Contrib'ns $'000	Council cash $'000	Borrow's $'000
Recreational, Leisure and Community Facilities									
Maryvale Reserve Playing Surface Works	**515**	-	-	515	-	515	-	-	-
Community Facilities	**9,937**	3,887	1,430	4,619	-	9,936	-	-	-
Total Rec, Leisure and Community Facilities	**10,452**	3,887	1,430	5,134	-	10,451	-	-	-
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	**11,303**	**3,887**	**1,430**	**5,985**	**-**	**11,302**	**-**	**-**	**-**
TOTAL CARRIED FWD WORKS FROM 2024/25	**59,285**	**46,068**	**1,771**	**11,446**	**-**	**53,227**	**-**	**3,557**	**2,500**
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS	**87,306**	**46,095**	**28,878**	**12,333**	**-**	**55,947**	**-**	**28,859**	**2,500**

2025/26 Budget
Capital Works Program

4.6 CAPITAL WORKS (OPERATING)

(These projects are of a capital nature but do not meet the definition of capital expenditure due to them either not being on Council owned/or controlled assets or not relating to an asset class recognised by Council. Expenditure on these projects appears in the Budgeted Comprehensive Income Statement).

Capital Works Area	Project cost $'000	Asset expenditure type: New $'000	Renewal $'000	Upgrade $'000	Expansion $'000	Summary of funding sources: Grants $'000	Contrib'ns $'000	Council cash $'000	Borrow's $'000
4.6.1 Current Budget									
PROPERTY									
Buildings									
Demolition of Dilapidated Council Buildings	**140**	-	-	-	-	-	-	140	-
Total Buildings	**140**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**140**	**-**
TOTAL PROPERTY	**140**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**140**	**-**
INFRASTRUCTURE									
Roads									
Guardrails Renewal Program	**58**	-	-	-	-	-	-	58	-
Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Program	**69**	-	-	-	-	-	-	69	-
Total Roads	**126**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**126**	**-**

2025/26 Budget
Capital Works Program

Capital Works Area	Project cost $'000	Asset expenditure type: New $'000	Renewal $'000	Upgrade $'000	Expansion $'000	Summary of funding sources: Grants $'000	Contrib'ns $'000	Council cash $'000	Borrow's $'000
Public Lighting									
Public Lighting & Flagpole Replacement Program	**62**	-	-	-	-	-	-	62	-
Total Public Lighting	**62**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**62**	**-**
Waste Management									
Landfill Rehabilitation	**1,350**	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,350	-
Transfer Station Upgrades	**63**	-	-	-	-	-	-	63	-
Total Waste Management	**1,413**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,413**	**-**
Off Street Car Parks									
Upgrade to DDA compliance	**46**	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	-
Total Off Street Car Parks	**46**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**46**	**-**
Other Infrastructure									
Fire Hydrants	**9**	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-
Eelhole Creek Erosion Control	**50**	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	-
Septic Renewal Program	**50**	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	-
Solar Panel Cleaning Program	**25**	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	-
Signage Renewal	**38**	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	-
Total Other	**171**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**171**	**-**
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	**1,819**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,819**	**-**
TOTAL NEW CAPITAL WORKS (OPERATING)	**1,959**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,959**	**-**

2025/26 Budget
Capital Works Program

Capital Works Area	Project cost $'000	Asset expenditure type: New $'000	Renewal $'000	Upgrade $'000	Expansion $'000	Summary of funding sources: Grants $'000	Contrib'ns $'000	Council cash $'000	Borrow's $'000
4.6.2 Works carried forward from the 2024/25 year									
Roads									
Gippsland Logistics & Manufacturing Precinct Stage 1B	**8,598**	-	-	-	-	8,598	-	-	-
Total Roads	**8,598**	-	-	-	-	8,598	-	-	-
Other Infrastructure									
Crinigan Rd Development Plan - sewer pump	**380**	-	-	-	-	380	-	-	-
Total Other	**380**	-	-	-	-	380	-	-	-
TOTAL CARRIED FWD WORKS (OPERATING) FROM 2024/25	**8,978**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**8,978**	**-**	**-**	**-**
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS (OPERATING)	**10,937**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**8,978**	**-**	**1,959**	**-**
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM FOR 2025/26	**98,243**	**46,095**	**28,878**	**12,333**	**-**	**64,925**	**-**	**30,817**	**2,500**

2025/26 Budget
Capital Works Program

4.7 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM SUMMARY YEARS 2 TO 4

For the years ended 30 June 2027, 2028 & 2029

	Asset Expenditure Types					Funding Sources				
2026/27	**Total $'000**	**New $'000**	**Renewal $'000**	**Expansion $'000**	**Upgrade $'000**	**Total $'000**	**Grants $'000**	**Contributions $'000**	**Council Cash $'000**	**Borrowings $'000**
Property										
Buildings	9,509	6,223	3,286	0	0	9,509	5,323	0	4,186	0
Total Buildings	9,509	6,223	3,286	0	0	9,509	5,323	0	4,186	0
Total Property	**9,509**	**6,223**	**3,286**	**0**	**0**	**9,509**	**5,323**	**0**	**4,186**	**0**
Plant and Equipment										
Plant, machinery and equipment	3,281	0	3,281	0	0	3,281	0	0	3,281	0
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	10	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Computers and telecommunications	871	0	871	0	0	871	0	0	871	0
Artworks	14	14				14	0	0	14	0
Total Plant and Equipment	**4,176**	**14**	**4,162**	**0**	**0**	**4,176**	**0**	**0**	**4,176**	**0**
Infrastructure										
Roads	14,826	0	14,704	122	0	14,826	3,230	0	11,596	0
Bridges	1,321	0	1,321	0	0	1,321	0	0	1,321	0
Footpaths and cycleways	1,037	0	1,037	0	0	1,037	0	0	1,037	0
Drainage	1,032	0	582	450	0	1,032	0	0	1,032	0
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	3,228	978	750	1,500	0	3,228	2,500	0	728	0
Waste management	513	0	513	0	0	513	0	0	513	0
Parks, open space and streetscapes	774	13	761	0	0	774	0	0	774	0
Aerodromes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Off street car parks	231	0	231	0	0	231	0	0	231	0
Other infrastructure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Infrastructure	**22,962**	**991**	**19,899**	**2,072**	**0**	**22,962**	**5,730**	**0**	**17,232**	**0**
Total Capital Works Expenditure	**36,647**	**7,228**	**27,347**	**2,072**	**0**	**36,647**	**11,053**	**0**	**25,594**	**0**

2025/26 Budget
Capital Works Program

2027/28	Asset Expenditure Types					Funding Sources				
	Total $'000	New $'000	Renewal $'000	Expansion $'000	Upgrade $'000	Total $'000	Grants $'000	Contributions $'000	Council Cash $'000	Borrowings $'000
Property										
Buildings	3,381	0	3,381	0	0	3,381	0	0	3,381	0
Total Buildings	3,381	0	3,381	0	0	3,381	0	0	3,381	0
Total Property	**3,381**	**0**	**3,381**	**0**	**0**	**3,381**	**0**	**0**	**3,381**	**0**
Plant and Equipment										
Plant, machinery and equipment	3,362	0	3,362	0	0	3,362	0	0	3,362	0
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	11	0	11	0	0	11	0	0	11	0
Computers and telecommunications	893	0	893	0	0	893	0	0	893	0
Artworks	15	15	0	0	0	15	0	0	15	0
Total Plant and Equipment	**4,281**	**15**	**4,266**	**0**	**0**	**4,281**	**0**	**0**	**4,281**	**0**
Infrastructure										
Roads	15,298	0	15,173	125	0	15,298	3,400	0	11,898	0
Bridges	1,367	0	1,367	0	0	1,367	0	0	1,367	0
Footpaths and cycleways	1,063	0	1,063	0	0	1,063	0	0	1,063	0
Drainage	1,058	0	597	461	0	1,058	0	0	1,058	0
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	746	0	399	347	0	746	0	0	746	0
Waste management	3,152	0	3,152	0	0	3,152	0	0	3,152	0
Parks, open space and streetscapes	793	13	780	0	0	793	0	0	793	0
Aerodromes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Off street car parks	236	0	236	0	0	236	0	0	236	0
Other infrastructure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Infrastructure	**23,713**	**13**	**22,767**	**933**	**0**	**23,713**	**3,400**	**0**	**20,313**	**0**
Total Capital Works Expenditure	**31,375**	**28**	**30,414**	**933**	**0**	**31,375**	**3,400**	**0**	**27,975**	**0**

2025/26 Budget
Capital Works Program

2028/29	Asset Expenditure Types					Funding Sources				
	Total $'000	New $'000	Renewal $'000	Expansion $'000	Upgrade $'000	Total $'000	Grants $'000	Contributions $'000	Council Cash $'000	Borrowings $'000
Property										
Buildings	3,478	0	3,478	0	0	3,478	0	0	3,478	0
Total Buildings	3,478	0	3,478	0	0	3,478	0	0	3,478	0
Total Property	**3,478**	**0**	**3,478**	**0**	**0**	**3,478**	**0**	**0**	**3,478**	**0**
Plant and Equipment										
Plant, machinery and equipment	3,446	0	3,446	0	0	3,446	0	0	3,446	0
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	11	0	11	0	0	11	0	0	11	0
Computers and telecommunications	915	0	915	0	0	915	0	0	915	0
Artworks	15	15	0	0	0	15	0	0	15	0
Total Plant and Equipment	**4,387**	**15**	**4,372**	**0**	**0**	**4,387**	**0**	**0**	**4,387**	**0**
Infrastructure										
Roads	15,608	0	15,480	128	0	15,608	3,400	0	12,208	0
Bridges	1,414	0	1,414	0	0	1,414	0	0	1,414	0
Footpaths and cycleways	1,090	0	1,090	0	0	1,090	0	0	1,090	0
Drainage	1,084	0	611	473	0	1,084	0	0	1,084	0
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	765	0	410	355	0	765	0	0	765	0
Waste management	269	0	269	0	0	269	0	0	269	0
Parks, open space and streetscapes	813	14	799	0	0	813	0	0	813	0
Aerodromes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Off street car parks	242	0	242	0	0	242	0	0	242	0
Other infrastructure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Infrastructure	**21,285**	**14**	**20,315**	**956**	**0**	**21,285**	**3,400**	**0**	**17,885**	**0**
Total Capital Works Expenditure	**29,150**	**29**	**28,165**	**956**	**0**	**29,150**	**3,400**	**0**	**25,750**	**0**

2025/26 Budget
Financial Performance Indicators

5a. Targeted performance indicators

The following tables highlight Council's current and projected performance across a selection of targeted service and financial performance indicators. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's intentions and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives.
The targeted performance indicators below are the prescribed performance indicators contained in Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. Results against these indicators and targets will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

Targeted performance indicators - Service

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual	Forecast	Target	Target Projections			Trend
			2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	+/o/-
Governance									
Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement	Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council	1	50	52	**53**	53	53	53	+
Roads									
Sealed local roads below the intervention level	Number of kms of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kms of sealed local roads	2	98.5%	97.0%	**95.0%**	95.0%	95.0%	95.0%	-
Statutory Planning									
Planning applications decided within the relevant required time	Number of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time / Number of decisions made	3	81.6%	80.0%	**85.0%**	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%	+
Waste Management									
Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill	Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins	4	60.7%	64.3%	**65.0%**	65.0%	65.0%	65.0%	+

2025/26 Budget
Financial Performance Indicators

Targeted performance indicators - Financial

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual	Forecast	Target	Target Projections			Trend
			2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	+/o/-
Liquidity									
Working Capital	Current assets / current liabilities	5	229.1%	178.3%	**203.8%**	224.2%	232.1%	234.9%	+
Obligations									
Asset renewal	Asset renewal and upgrade expense / asset depreciation	6	108.2%	119.4%	**111.1%**	77.7%	81.2%	74.0%	-
Stability									
Rates concentration	Rate revenue / adjusted underlying revenue	7	69.1%	59.5%	**60.4%**	63.8%	64.1%	64.0%	-
Efficiency									
Expenditure level	Total expenses / no. of property assessments	8	$ 4,115	$ 4,181	**$4,264**	$ 4,145	$ 4,191	$ 4,251	-

2025/26 Budget
Financial Performance Indicators

5b. Financial performance indicators

The following table highlights Council's current and projected performance across a range of key financial performance indicators. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's financial position and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives.

The financial performance indicators below are the prescribed financial performance indicators contained in Part 3 of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. Results against these indicators will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual	Forecast	Budget	Projections			Trend
			2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	+/o/-
Operating Position									
Adjusted underlying result	Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue	9		(6.5%)	**(6.6%)**	(6.8%)	(6.2%)	(7.5%)	-
Liquidity									
Unrestricted Cash	Unrestricted cash / current liabilities	10		(48.1%)	**(22.1%)**	(8.0%)	(7.8%)	(13.4%)	+
Obligations									
Loans & Borrowings	Interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue	11		15.5%	**11.7%**	8.9%	6.1%	3.9%	+
Loans & Borrowings	Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue			2.7%	**6.0%**	2.8%	2.7%	2.4%	+
Indebtedness	Non-current liabilities / own source revenue			21.9%	**22.7%**	18.4%	18.5%	16.1%	+
Stability									
Rates effort	Rate revenue / property values (CIV)	12		0.4%	**0.4%**	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	o
Efficiency									
Revenue level	Total General rates and Municipal charges / No. of property assessments	13		$1,731	**$1,762**	$1,794	$1,826	$1,859	+

Key to Forecast Trend:

+ Forecast improvement in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator
o Forecasts that Council's financial performance/financial position indicator will be steady
- Forecast deterioration in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator

2025/26 Budget
Financial Performance Indicators

Notes to indicators

5a. Targeted performance indicators

1. **Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement**
   Latrobe City Council have an engagement tool (Engagement HQ) which allows a more targeted and proactive approach to engagement. Community members will be able to register and indicate their interests for future engagement.
2. **Sealed local roads below the intervention level**
   Latrobe City Council has been high performing in this area previously and is aiming to exceed 95% year on year, which is consistent with our Road Asset Modelling
3. **Planning applications decided within the relevant required time**
   Proposed changes to the Planning & Environment Act are set to overhaul the planning system in Victoria. A realistic target has been set for 2024/25 and subsequent years.
4. **Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill**
   Introduction of new kerbside collection and processing contracts that will be focused on waste & recycling education to ensure the community understands their obligations towards recycling and waste minimisation is expected to result in improvement in this measure.
5. **Working Capital**
   Working capital is targeted to remain relatively stable between 2.1 to 2.3 dollars of current assets for every dollar of current liabilities projected over the four year period.
6. **Asset renewal**
   Asset renewal & upgrade expenditure has increased in 2025 and 2026 due to government grants and funding carried forward from previous years. The reduction in the ratio in future years is due to reduced capital grants for asset renewal, however the ratio has a temporary increase to 81.2% in 2028 when the next Landfill cell is scheduled to be built.
7. **Rates concentration**
   This ratio is expected to remain at around 65% over the target period, and demonstrates Council's reliance on rates income.
8. **Expenditure level**
   Expenditure per property assessment is targeted to increase by around 1.2% per annum over the forecast period. This is well below the projected CPI of 2.5% p.a. The decrease projected in 2027 is mainly due to higher expenditure in 2026 tied to non-recurrent grants i.e. Gippsland Logistics Precinct stage 1B project $8.6 million.

5b. Financial performance indicators

9. **Adjusted underlying result**
   Council's underlying deficit is forecasted to remain in deficit mainly due to restrictions on Council's ability to increase revenue and uplifts in depreciation expenses as a result of the construction in prior years of major new infrastructure. e.g. Gippsland Regional Aquatic Facility (GRAC), Gippsland Performing Arts Centre (GPAC) and Regional Carpark projects.
10. **Unrestricted Cash**
    Unrestricted cash is expected to improve from negative 48.1% to negative 13.4% over the projected period mainly due to reductions in Contract and Other liabilities associated with capital grants received in advance for major projects in the 2025 and 2026 financial years. This ratio is in negative as Council invests most of its surplus cash in financial assets and thereby maintains a relatively small cash balance compared to the size of restricted amounts such as unspent grants, trust funds and statutory reserves. These investments are timed to mature when the cash will be required.
11. **Debt compared to rates**
    These ratios are all projected to decrease after the 2025/26 financial year due to no new borrowings being projected over this period, at the same time some existing loans will be fully repaid. The repayment of an interest-only loan and the proposed new borrowings of $2.5M in the 2025/26 financial year are the reason for the movements in the ratio in the first year of the 4 year budget period.
12. **Rates effort**
    This ratio is expected to remain at 0.4% to 0.5% over the forecasted period.
13. **Revenue level**
    This ratio is expected to increase over the target period in line with expected rate cap increases of 2.5% pa

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

Fees and Charges

2025/2026

Appendix A
Fees Charges Schedule

Fee Name	Unit of Measure	2024/25 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)	2025/26 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)
Asset Protection			
Asset Protection Fee for Drainage Tapping in Urban Areas at Drainage Easements and Nature Strips Including Provision of Legal Point of Discharge or Drainage information			
Drainage Tapping in Urban Areas at Drainage Easements and Nature Strips Including Provision of Legal Point of Discharge or Drainage information	.	235.00	245.00
Asset Protection Fee for Vehicle Crossing Works			
Vehicle Crossing Works	.	115.00	120.00
Asset Protection Fees			
Building Site Asset Inspections - < $15,000	Excludes all Reblocking, Urban Front Fencing & Demolitions	No Charge	No Charge
Building Site Asset Inspections - > $15,000	Includes all Reblocking, Urban Front Fencing & Demolitions	280.00	295.00
Occupation of Parking Bays	Per bay per day	55.00	57.50
Road Occupations	No traffic management required	105.00	110.00
Road Occupations	Provision of traffic management	215.00	225.00
Road Openings	No traffic management required	110.00	115.00
Road Openings	Provision of traffic management	215.00	225.00
Asset Protection Fees for Service Installations in Areas by Parties Other Than Utilities or Their Agents			
Each additional 100m of Road Length	.	115.00	120.00
Road Length less than 100m	.	215.00	225.00
Asset Protection Penalty for Infringement Notice as Specified in Section 19 of Local Law No.3			
Asset Protection Penalty for Infringement Notice	Set by Statute (State Government)	2 fee units	2 fee units
Charge for Restoration of Road Openings in Urban and Rural Areas			
Restoration of Road Openings in Urban and Rural Areas	Actual cost, plus 10% of the actual cost, to cover administration expenses	Actual cost, plus 10%	Actual cost, plus 10%
Enquiries - Legal Point of Discharge or Drainage Information			
Urban Areas	Set by Statute (State Government)	9.77 fee units	9.77 fee units
Fees for Utilities and Their Agents for Applications Under Section 7 to the Road Management Act 2004			
Minor works conducted on, or on any part of the roadway, shoulder or pathway.	Set by Statute (State Government)	11 fee units	11 fee units
Minor works conducted on, or on any part of the roadway, shoulder or pathway.	Set by Statute (State Government)	11 fee units	11 fee units
Minor works not conducted on, or on any part of the roadway, shoulder or pathway.	Set by Statute (State Government)	5 fee units	5 fee units
Minor works not conducted on, or on any part of the roadway, shoulder or pathway.	Set by Statute (State Government)	5 fee units	5 fee units
Works, other than minor works conducted on, or on any part of the roadway, shoulder or pathway.	Set by Statute (State Government)	45 fee units	45 fee units
Works, other than minor works conducted on, or on any part of the roadway, shoulder or pathway.	Set by Statute (State Government)	20 fee units	20 fee units
Works, other than minor works not conducted on, or on any part of the roadway, shoulder or pathway.	Set by Statute (State Government)	25 fee units	25 fee units
Works, other than minor works not conducted on, or on any part of the roadway, shoulder or pathway.	Set by Statute (State Government)	5 fee units	5 fee units
Parking Headworks			
Parking Headworks Charge as Defined in Clause 11 of the Vehicle Crossing Policy.	.	3,950.00	4,100.00
Security Bonds as Specified in Local Law No.3			
Cost of Works < $15,000 Excludes Reblocking, Residential Front Fences & Demolition Works	Rural, Residential, Industrial and Commercial Building Sites for Builders with a 12 month Satisfactory Performance Record.	No Charge	No Charge
Cost of Works < $15,000 Excludes Reblocking, Residential Front Fences & Demolition Works	Rural, Residential, Industrial and Commercial Building Sites for Builders with an Unsatisfactory Performance Record.	530.00	550.00
Cost of Works > $15,000 Includes Reblocking, Residential Front Fences & Demolition Works	Rural Building Site	530.00	550.00
Cost of Works > $15,000 Includes Reblocking, Residential Front Fences & Demolition Works	Residential Building Site - No adjacent footpaths	530.00	550.00
Cost of Works > $15,000 Includes Reblocking, Residential Front Fences & Demolition Works	Residential Building Site - With adjacent footpaths	1,060.00	1,100.00
Cost of Works > $15,000 Includes Reblocking, Residential Front Fences & Demolition Works	Residential Building Site - Corner allotment, adjacent footpaths	1,590.00	1,650.00
Cost of Works > $15,000 Includes Reblocking, Residential Front Fences & Demolition Works	Residential Building Site - Multiple units, adjacent footpaths	2,120.00	2,200.00
Cost of Works > $15,000 Includes Reblocking, Residential Front Fences & Demolition Works	Industrial Building Site	2,650.00	2,755.00
Cost of Works > $15,000 Includes Reblocking, Residential Front Fences & Demolition Works	Commercial Building Site	5,570.00	5,795.00
Cost of Works > $15,000 Includes Reblocking, Residential Front Fences & Demolition Works	Multiple Building Sites - Builders with a 12 month Satisfactory Performance Record	11,150.00	11,595.00
Security Deposit as Detailed in Clause 10 of the Vehicle Crossing Policy			
Security Deposit	.	1,750.00	1,800.00

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Appendix A
Fees Charges Schedule

Fee Name	Unit of Measure	2024/25 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)	2025/26 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)
Building Services			
Building Certificates			
Building Certificate	Per certificate - 3.19 fee units	3.19 fee units	3.19 fee units
Building File Search Fee			
Building File Search Fee	Per Request	125.00	130.00
Additional buildings on same property	50% cost of Original Application	62.50	65.00
Building Permit Lodgement Fees			
Building Permit Lodgement Fee	Per lodgement - 8.23 fee units	8.23 fee units	8.23 fee units
Building Permits (disbursements excluded)			
Up to $10,000	Each permit	884.00	920.00
$10,001 to $100,000	Each permit	780.00	815.00
$100,001 to $1,000,000	Each permit	1,300.00	1,352.00
Greater than $1,000,000	Each permit	3,120.00	3,245.00
Permit Time Extensions and Inspections for Lapsed Permits			
Permit Time Extensions and Inspections for Lapsed Permits	Minimum	167.00	175.00
Pool Registration Fees			
Certificate of Compliance lodgement fee	1.38 fee units	1.38 fee units	1.38 fee units
Certificate of Non-Compliance lodgement fee	26 fee units	26 fee units	26 fee units
Pool History Search Fee	3.19 fee units	3.19 fee units	3.19 fee units
Registration Fee	2.15 fee units	2.15 fee units	2.15 fee units
Report and Consent			
First	For Siting Matters 27.45 fee units | Other Matters 19.61 fee units	Siting Matters 27.45 fee units | Other Matters 19.61 fee units	Siting Matters 27.45 fee units | Other Matters 19.61 fee units
Additional	50% cost of First Report and Consent	50% cost of First Report and Consent	50% cost of First Report and Consent
Demolition	5.75 fee units	5.75 fee units	5.75 fee units
POPE - Occupancy Permits	Treated as a Report and Consent for Siting Matters - 27.45 fee units	27.45 fee units	27.45 fee units
Temporary Structure Siting Approvals	Treated as a Report and Consent for Siting Matters - 27.45 fee units	27.45 fee units	27.45 fee units
Swimming Pool Inspection Fees			
Certificate of compliance where a non-compliance certificate has been issued	Each	104.00	110.00
Certificate of compliance where a non-compliance certificate has not been issued	Each	520.00	545.00
Community Halls			
Churchill Community Hall			
Commercial - Cleaning Charge	Cost recovery plus 10%	Cost recovery plus 10%	Cost recovery plus 10%
Commercial Hire	Base Rate 4 Hours	100.00	105.00
Community - Cleaning Charge	Cost recovery	Cost recovery	Cost recovery
Community Hire	Base Rate 4 Hours	60.00	60.00
Kernot Hall - Commercial Hire			
Cafe / Bar Operations	At request of hirer - POA	POA	POA
Cleaning Charge	Cost recovery plus 10%	Cost recovery plus 10%	Cost recovery plus 10%
Kitchen Usage	In addition to hall booking	315.00	328.00
Meeting Room Hire	Base rate (4 hours)	315.00	328.00
Technicians / Front of House Supervisor	Per hour/per staff member (3 hour minimum)	78.00	82.00
Usher	Per hour/per staff member (3 hour minimum)	70.00	73.00
Whole Venue (excludes Kitchen)	Per Hour (Minimum 5 hours) (includes 2 staff and standard cleaning))	300.00	312.00

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Appendix A
Fees Charges Schedule

Fee Name	Unit of Measure	2024/25 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)	2025/26 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)
Community Halls			
Kernot Hall - Community Hire			
Cafe / Bar Operations	At request of hirer - POA	POA	POA
Cleaning Charge	Cost recovery	Cost recovery	Cost recovery
Kitchen Usage	In addition to hall booking	160.00	160.00
Meeting Room Hire	Base rate (4 hours)	165.00	165.00
Technicians / Front of House Supervisor	Per hour/per staff member (3 hour minimum)	63.00	63.00
Usher	Per hour/per staff member (3 hour minimum)	55.00	55.00
Whole Venue (excludes Kitchen)	Per Hour (Minimum 5 hours) (includes 2 staff and standard cleaning)	150.00	150.00
Moe Town Hall			
Commercial - Cleaning Charge	Cost recovery plus 10%	Cost recovery plus 10%	Cost recovery plus 10%
Commercial Hire	Base Rate 4 Hours	750.00	780.00
Community - Cleaning Charge	Cost recovery	Cost recovery	Cost recovery
Community Hire - Theatrical	Base Rate 5 Hours (includes 1 staff member)	450.00	450.00
Ticketing Fee	Per complimentary ticket	2.10	2.10
Ticketing Fee	Per ticket	4.20	4.20
Newborough Hall			
Commercial - Cleaning Charge	Cost recovery plus 10%	Cost recovery plus 10%	Cost recovery plus 10%
Commercial Hire	Base Rate 4 Hours	100.00	105.00
Community - Cleaning Charge	Cost recovery	Cost recovery	Cost recovery
Community Hire	Base Rate 4 Hours	60.00	60.00
Sound Shell			
Commercial - Cleaning Charge	Cost recovery plus 10%	Cost recovery plus 10%	Cost recovery plus 10%
Commercial - Technical Support	Per Hour (Minimum 3 hours, Per person per hour)	78.00	82.00
Commercial Hire	Per Day	520.00	541.00
Community - Cleaning Charge	Cost recovery	Cost recovery	Cost recovery
Community - Technical Support	Per Hour (Minimum 3 hours, Per person per hour)	63.00	63.00
Community Hire	Per Standard Day	No Charge	No Charge
Traralgon East Community Centre			
Commercial - Cleaning Charge	Cost recovery plus 10%	Cost recovery plus 10%	Cost recovery plus 10%
Commercial Hire	Base Rate 4 Hours	100.00	105.00
Community - Cleaning Charge	Cost recovery	-	-
Community Hire	Base Rate 4 Hours	60.00	60.00
Traralgon South Hall			
Commercial - Cleaning Charge	Cost recovery plus 10%	Cost recovery plus 10%	Cost recovery plus 10%
Commercial Hire	Base Rate 4 Hours	100.00	105.00
Community - Cleaning Charge	Cost recovery	-	-
Community Hire	Base Rate 4 Hours	60.00	60.00
Traralgon Town Hall (Non Theatrical)			
Community Hire - Rehearsal	2 Hours	No Charge	No Charge

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Appendix A
Fees Charges Schedule

Fee Name	Unit of Measure	2024/25 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)	2025/26 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)
Family & Children's Services			
Early Learning Centres			
After Kinder Care	Hourly	20.50	21.50
Full Day Care	Per day	125.00	130.00
Full Time Care	5 full days/child/week.	572.00	595.00
Half Day Care	Per half day	85.00	88.50
Holding Fee	00% per place	100% per place	100% per place
Meeting Rooms (Moe PLACE, Churchill Hub)			
Meeting Room - Commercial	Per hour	32.80	34.00
Meeting Room - Commercial	Per Day	179.00	185.00
Meeting Room - Community Groups	Per hour	No Charge	No Charge
Moe PLACE Basketball Stadium			
Court Hire	Per day (9am - 6pm)	246.00	246.00
Court Hire - General	Per hour	57.00	57.00
Court Hire - Schools	Per hour	46.00	46.00
Half Court Hire - General	Per hour	30.00	30.00
Half Court Hire - Schools	Per hour	24.00	24.00
Moe PLACE Community Kitchen			
Kitchen Hire	Per hour	17.00	17.00
Kitchen Hire	Per day (9am - 6pm)	59.00	59.00
Moe PLACE Vacation Care			
Full Day Care	Per day	104.00	109.00
Family Health			
Nurse			
Attend Corporate Sessions	Per nurse per hour	71.50	75.00
Vaccinations Purchases			
Bexero	Per dose.	-	140.00
Boostrix	Per dose.	59.00	61.00
Flu	Per dose.	27.50	28.00
Gardasil	Per dose.	189.00	195.00
Hep A	Per dose.	110.50	115.00
Hep B	Per dose.	36.00	37.50
Meningococcal C	Per dose.	126.50	130.00
Twinrix	Per dose.	123.00	128.00

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Appendix A
Fees Charges Schedule

Fee Name	Unit of Measure	2024/25 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)	2025/26 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)
Gippsland Performing Arts Centre and Little Theatre			
Commercial Hire - Additional Labour			
Cafe/Bar Operations	At request of hirer - POA	POA	POA
Technicians / Front of House Supervisor	Per hour (3 hr minimum)	78.00	82.00
Usher	Per hour (3 hr minimum)	70.00	73.00
Commercial Hire - Functions & Events			
Conference Rooms	Base Rate 4 Hours	420.00	437.00
Meeting Room	Base Rate 4 Hours	220.00	229.00
Outdoor Event	Base Rate 5 Hours (includes 1 staff member)	1,125.00	1,170.00
Outdoor Event - Additional Hour	Per Hour	225.00	234.00
Commercial Hire - Theatrical			
Additional Equipment Hire	POA - Price on Application	POA	POA
Credit Card Fees	1.5% Credit Card and EFTPOS	1.5%	1.5%
Dark Day	Per day	600.00	624.00
GPAC - Additional Hours	Per Hour, includes 2 staff	370.00	385.00
GPAC Theatre	Base Rate 5 Hours	3,600.00	3,744.00
Little Theatre/Town Hall	Base Rate 5 Hours	1,000.00	1,040.00
Merchandise Sales	15% of gross sales	15% of gross sales	15% of gross sales
Ticketing Fee	Per complimentary ticket	2.10	2.20
Ticketing Fee	Per ticket	4.20	4.40
Community Hire - Additional Labour			
Cafe/Bar Operations	At request of hirer - POA	POA	POA
Technicians / Front of House Supervisor	Per hour (3 hr minimum)	63.00	66.00
Usher	Per hour (3 hr minimum)	55.00	58.00
Community Hire - Functions & Events			
Conference Rooms	Base Rate 4 Hours	200.00	208.00
Meeting Room	Base Rate 4 Hours	100.00	104.00
Outdoor Event	Base Rate 5 Hours (includes 2 staff)	530.00	552.00
Outdoor Event - Additional Hour	Per Hour	115.00	120.00
Community Hire - Theatrical			
Additional Equipment Hire	POA - Price on Application	POA	POA
Credit Card Fees	1.5% Credit Card and EFTPOS	1.5%	1.5%
Dark Day	Per day	550.00	572.00
GPAC Theatre	Base Rate 5 Hours (includes 2 staff)	1,300.00	1,352.00
GPAC Theatre - Additional Hours	Per hour (includes 2 staff)	260.00	271.00
Little Theatre/Town Hall	Base Rate 5 Hours (includes 1 staff member)	450.00	468.00
Ticketing Fee	Per complimentary ticket	1.10	1.20
Ticketing Fee	Per ticket	2.60	2.70

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Appendix A
Fees Charges Schedule

Fee Name	Unit of Measure	2024/25 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)	2025/26 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)
Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre (GRAC)			
Birthday Parties			
BYO Food - includes host, slides & games	Minimum 10 people, additional person $20 pp	210.00	210.00
Catered - includes hosts, slides, games & catering options	Minimum 10 people	POA	POA
Facility Hire			
Dedicated Water Slide Hire	2 hours minimum / per hour	108.20	108.20
Group Fitness Class	Per group / per hour	140.40	140.40
Group Fitness Class - Additional Instructor	Per hour	65.00	65.00
Meeting Room Hire	1 hour minimum / per hour	32.80	32.80
Whole Day Carnival	9am to 5pm (including 50m pool, 25m outdoor pool, AOE/competition room meeting room)	1,622.40	1,622.40
Spa, Sauna, Steam Room			
Adult	16 years and over	13.80	13.80
Concession	Pension, Seniors & Health Care	10.40	10.40
Waterslides - Weekdays			
Adult	Per session	10.50	10.50
Child	Per session	7.40	7.40
Concession	Per session	7.80	7.80
Waterslides - Weekends			
Adult	Per session	13.30	13.30
Child	Per session	10.00	10.00
Concession	Per session	10.00	10.00
WIBIT (Inflatable)			
Assisting Adult	*special conditions TBC	4.40	4.40
Participant	*special conditions TBC	8.70	8.70
Governance			
Community Public/Products Liability Insurance			
Part A - Venue/Facility Hirers	Per hire (up to 52 times per year)	19.00	19.00
Part B - Performers/Stallholders/Artists/Street Stallholders/Buskers/Tutors and Instructors	Per hire (up to 52 times per year)	41.00	41.00
Freedom of Information			
Application Fee	Per application	2 fee units	2 fee units
Photocopy Charges	Per side - A4 Black and White	0.20	0.20
Search Charge	Per hour	1.5 fee units	1.5 fee units
Supervision Charges -	Per hour	1.5 fee units	1.5 fee units
Health Services			
Additional Inspection Fees			
Food Act - Class 1 (Full Time)	Per Inspection	271.00	285.00
Food Act - Class 2A (Full Time)	Per Inspection	220.00	230.00
Food Act - Class 2B (Part Time)	Per Inspection	203.00	215.00
Food Act - Class 3A (Full Time)	Per Inspection	200.00	210.00
Food Act - Class 3B (Part Time)	Per Inspection	141.00	150.00
Public Health & Wellbeing Act - Additional Inspections	Per Inspection	170.00	180.00
Caravan Parks and Movable Homes			
Residential Tenancies	1-25 sites (17 fee units)	17 fee units	17 fee units
Residential Tenancies	26-50 sites (34 fee units)	34 fee units	34 fee units
Residential Tenancies	51-100 sites (68 fee units)	68 fee units	68 fee units
Residential Tenancies	101-150 sites (68 fee units)	68 fee units	68 fee units
Commercial Accommodation			
Annual Renewal	Includes motels and hostels	620.00	645.00
New Registration	Includes motels and hostels	710.00	740.00

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Appendix A
Fees Charges Schedule

Fee Name	Unit of Measure	2024/25 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)	2025/26 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)
Health Services			
Commercial Food Premises			
Class 1 (Full Time) - New	e.g. Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Childcare Centres	860.00	895.00
Class 1 (Full Time) - Renewal	e.g. Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Childcare Centres	786.00	820.00
Class 2A (Full Time) - New	e.g. Restaurants , Fast Food, Deli's	801.00	835.00
Class 2A (Full Time) - New	e.g. Supermarkets, Large Manufacturers	1,581.00	1,645.00
Class 2A (Full Time) - Renewal	e.g. Restaurants , Fast Food, Deli's	745.00	775.00
Class 2A (Full Time) - Renewal	e.g. Supermarkets, Large Manufacturers	1,467.00	1,526.00
Class 2B (Part Time) - New	Minimal unpacked potential hazardous foods	541.00	565.00
Class 2B (Part Time) - Renewal	Minimal unpacked potential hazardous foods	490.00	510.00
Class 3A (Full Time) - New	Water Carters	210.00	220.00
Class 3A (Full Time) - New	Minimal unpacked potential hazardous foods	480.00	500.00
Class 3A (Full Time) - Renewal	Water Carters	180.00	190.00
Class 3A (Full Time) - Renewal	Minimal unpacked potential hazardous foods	416.00	435.00
Class 3A Supermarket - New	Large scale supermarket selling packaged potentially hazardous foods	1,300.00	1,355.00
Class 3A Supermarket - Renewal	Large scale supermarket selling packaged potentially hazardous foods	1,196.00	1,245.00
Class 3B (Part Time) - New	Food is secondary activity (e.g. B&B)	312.00	325.00
Class 3B (Part Time) - Renewal	Food is secondary activity (e.g. B&B)	286.00	300.00
Class 3C (Full Time) - New	Food is secondary activity (e.g. B&B)	235.00	245.00
Class 3C (Full Time) - Renewal	Food is secondary activity (e.g. B&B)	210.00	220.00
Class 4 Low Risk Packaged - New	e.g. Liquor Outlets, Video Stores, Newsagents, Pharmacies etc.	fee exempt	fee exempt
Once off Short Term	Temporary food stall - major events	292.00	305.00
Food & Water Sample Administration Fee			
Private water supply sample	Per sample + Analyst Fee	235.00	245.00
Sample administration fee	2nd non compliant follow up	240.00	250.00
Health Premises			
New Premises Registration	Part Time (less than 3 days) - Hairdressing & Low Risk Beauty (eyelash tinting, spray tans, minor facial waxing, makeup)	281.00	295.00
New Premises Registration	Ear-Piercing Single Use - Medium Risk	345.00	360.00
New Premises Registration	Part Time (less than 3 days) - Beauty Treatments (eye lash extensions, body waxing, facials)	411.00	430.00
New Premises Registration	Part Time (less than 3 days) - Hairdressing & Low Risk Beauty (eyelash tinting, spray tans, minor facial waxing, makeup)	610.00	635.00
New Premises Registration	Fulltime Beauty Treatments- (eye lash extensions, body waxing, facials)	610.00	635.00
New Premises Registration	Fulltime Skin Penetration/Colonic - High Risk	610.00	635.00
Renewal Premises Registration	Ear-Piercing Single Use - Medium Risk	230.00	240.00
Renewal Premises Registration	Beauty Treatments - Part-time (3 days or less) - (eye lash extensions, body waxing, facials)	350.00	365.00
Renewal Premises Registration	Beauty Treatments - Fulltime- (eye lash extensions, body waxing, facials)	520.00	545.00
Renewal Premises Registration	Comm Skin Penetration/Colonic - High Risk	610.00	635.00
Renting chair in another premises - New Registration	Part Time (less than 3 days per venue) - Hairdressing & Low Risk Beauty (eyelash tinting, spray tans, minor facial waxing, makeup)	281.00	295.00
Renting chair in another premises - New Registration	Skin Penetration (incl tattooing, body piercing) 1-2 days per venue	380.00	395.00
Renting chair in another premises - New Registration	Fulltime Hairdressing & Low Risk Beauty (eyelash tinting, spray tans, minor facial waxing, makeup)	610.00	635.00
Renting chair in another premises - Renewal	Skin Penetration (incl tattooing, body piercing) 1-2 days per venue	350.00	365.00
Plan Approval/Establishment of New Business			
Food Act Premises	Per premise	500.00	520.00
Public Health and Wellbeing Act Premises	Pre premise	271.00	282.00

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Appendix A
Fees Charges Schedule

Fee Name	Unit of Measure	2024/25 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)	2025/26 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)
Health Services			
Septic Tanks - New Installations			
Additional Fixtures - Minor Alteration Regulation 16(1)(a), (3)	37.25 fee units	37.25 fee units	37.25 fee units
Conveyancing Enquiry	.	325.00	340.00
Extension to Septic Tank Application - Amend a Permit Regulation 198	More than two years old	172.00	180.00
Inspections	In excess of two - per inspection	170.00	177.00
Regulation 196(1)(a), (2) Alteration - Minor	37.25 fee units	37.25 fee units	37.25 fee units
Regulation 196(1)(b), (2) All System Types	48.88 fee units - first two inspections included	48.88 fee units	48.88 fee units
Regulation 196(1)(b), (2) Alteration - Major	48.88 fee units	48.88 fee units	48.88 fee units
Regulation 197	Transfer a permit - 9.93 fee units	9.93 fee units	9.93 fee units
Regulation 200	Renew a permit - 8.31 fee units	8.31 fee units	8.31 fee units
Search Fee	.	85.00	90.00
Septic Tank Report & Consent	Each	325.00	340.00
Transfer or Registration			
Food Act	Pre-purchase fee for existing business	220.00	230.00
Public Health and Wellbeing Act	Per transfer or registration	220.00	230.00
Residential Tenancies Act	Per transfer or registration - (5 fee units)	-	-
Latrobe City Traffic School			
Educational Group			
Hire of Traffic School	Per hour	48.00	48.00
Hire of Hand Cranked Tricycles			
With responsibility for repair or replacement of damaged unit	Per bike/day	3.50	3.50
Mobile Bike Education Trailer			
Hire of bike trailer (Deposit $200)	Per day	41.00	41.00
Private Groups			
Hire of Traffic School	Per hour	75.00	75.00
Latrobe Regional Airport			
Airport Annual Licence Fees			
Commercial	Per annum	1,770.00	1,850.00
Light Commercial	Per annum	880.00	950.00
Recreational	Per annum	180.00	200.00
AVDATA Movement Charges			
AVDATA movement charges	Per tonne / per movement	13.00	13.50
Movement Charges			
Grass Parking Fee's	Per tonne / per day	2.00	3.00
Hardstand Parking Fee's	Per tonne / per day	5.00	6.00
Public Liability Insurance Contribution			
Public Liability Insurance Contribution	Per recreational / no trading tenancy	401.00	420.00

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Appendix A
Fees Charges Schedule

Fee Name	Unit of Measure	2024/25 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)	2025/26 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)
Latrobe Regional Gallery			
Function and Event Hire			
.	Quoted based on staffing and catering requirements	POA	POA
LRG - Meeting Room 1			
Commercial Rental	Evenings/Weekends Base rate 4 hours	270.00	281.00
Commercial Rental	Full Day (10am - 4pm)	380.00	396.00
Community Rental	Half Days (4 hours)	No Charge	No Charge
Community Rental	Full Day (10am - 4pm)	No Charge	No Charge
Community Rental	Evening (After 5pm) Base rate 2 hours	165.00	165.00
LRG - Meeting Room 2			
Commercial Rental	Evenings/Weekends (Base rate 4 hours)	270.00	281.00
Commercial Rental	Full Day (10am - 4pm)	380.00	396.00
Community Rental	Half Days (4 hours)	No Charge	No Charge
Community Rental	Full Day (10am - 4pm)	No Charge	No Charge
Community Rental	Evening (After 5pm) (Base rate 2 hours)	165.00	165.00
LRG - Studio Workshop - Commercial			
Rental	Weekday - Full Day (10am - 4pm)	380.00	396.00
Rental	Evening (After 5pm) Base rate 4 hours	440.00	458.00
Rental	Weekend - Full Day (10am - 4pm)	440.00	458.00
LRG - Studio Workshop - Community			
Rental	Weekday - Full Day (10am - 4pm)	No Charge	No Charge
Rental	Weekend - Full Day (10am - 4pm)	No Charge	No Charge
Rental	Evening (After 5pm) (Base rate 2 hours)	165.00	165.00

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Fees Charges Schedule

Fee Name	Unit of Measure	2024/25 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)	2025/26 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)
Leisure Facilities			
Athletic and Cycling Track			
Club Hire.	Per hour.	52.50	52.50
Cycling / Athletic Club Hire of Bike/ Aths Track.	Per annum / seasonal agreement	1,118.00	1,118.00
Other/Athletic Carnival.	Full day 9am - 3pm.	637.00	637.00
School.	Per student	3.70	3.70
Fitness Program			
Casual Concession Gym	Pension, Seniors & Health Care Card	13.60	13.60
Casual Gym	Per person	18.00	18.00
Concession	Pension, Seniors & Health Care Card	11.20	11.20
Fitness Instructor	Per hour	75.00	75.00
Group Fitness	Per class	14.90	14.90
Life Fit	.	7.50	7.50
Personal Training	Additional person per 1/2 hour	21.00	21.00
Personal Training	Additional person per 1 hour	36.00	36.00
Personal Training	1/2 Hour	42.00	42.00
Personal Training	1 Hour	73.00	73.00
Youth Fit	Class for specific ages	10.00	10.00
Fitness Room Hire			
Hire.	Per hour.	55.00	55.00
Gippsland Regional Cricket Centre (GRCC)			
Ball Machine Hire	Per Hour	-	10.00
Cricket Team Sheet	Per game, per Team	110.00	110.00
Facility Hire	Full Facility per Day (8 hours)	1,650.80	1,650.80
GRCC outdoor net hire	Per net / per hour	42.70	42.70
Lane Hire	Per hour (up to 4 players)	44.00	44.00
Meeting Room	Per Hour	32.80	32.80
Parties	Per Party - 2 hrs (up to 10 people)	224.70	224.70
School Clinic	Per Clinic (3 hours)	168.50	168.50
Gippsland Regional Indoor Sports Stadium (GRISS)			
GRISS Function room hire (includes kitchen)	Per hour	52.00	52.00
GRISS show court hire (Courts 2,3 & 4)	Per hour	264.00	264.00
GRISS show court hire (Courts 7 & 8)	Per hour	152.40	152.40
GRISS show court hire (Courts 7 & 8)	Per hour	152.40	152.40
Indoor Pool - Swim Sauna (Churchill Only)			
Adult	Each Visit	10.70	10.70
After Entry/class	Each Visit	5.10	5.10
Concession	Each Visit	8.00	8.00
Indoor Pool - Swim Sauna Spa			
Adult	Each Visit	12.30	12.30
Adult	Visits x 10	110.70	110.70
After Entry/Class	Each Visit	6.30	6.30
Concession	Each Visit	9.30	9.30
Concession	Visits x 10	83.70	83.70
Indoor Pool - Swims			
Adult	16 years and over.	7.50	7.50
Child	Child 5-15 yrs & High School Student	5.40	5.40
Children	4 years and under with adult swim.	No Charge	No Charge
Concession	Pension, Seniors & Health Care Card	5.60	5.60
Family*	*As listed on Medicare Card	19.80	19.80
Schools	Per child	4.60	4.60

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Appendix A
Fees Charges Schedule

Fee Name	Unit of Measure	2024/25 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)	2025/26 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)
Leisure Facilities			
Membership - Administration Fee			
Upon Joining	.	78.00	78.00
Membership - Bronze			
Concession	Fortnightly via direct debit	19.10	19.10
Non Concession	Fortnightly via direct debit	25.50	25.50
Off-Peak (Mon-Fri 11am -3pm & Weekends - excl Pub Hols)	Fortnightly via direct debit	15.20	15.20
Membership - Silver			
Concession (Aged Pension, Seniors Card or DSP recipients)	Fortnightly via direct debit	23.40	23.40
Non Concession	Fortnightly via direct debit	31.00	31.00
Off-Peak (Mon-Fri 11am -3pm & Weekends - excl Pub Hols)	Fortnightly via direct debit	18.50	18.50
Membership - Gold			
Concession	Fortnightly via direct debit	28.00	28.00
Non Concession	Fortnightly via direct debit	37.40	37.40
Membership - Corporate			
20+ People	Discounts off fixed term memberships only	20% discount	20% discount
Other - Indoor Pools			
Carnival Hire	Per Day 9am - 5pm	1,096.00	1,096.00
Carnival Hire - incl 1 Lifeguard plus 1 Duty Manager	Per hour	230.00	230.00
Lane Hire	Per Hour	55.00	55.00
School Carnival Hire	Per Day 9am - 3pm	1,028.00	1,028.00
Wet Out of Hours - incl 1 Lifeguard plus 1 Duty Manager	Per hour plus entry fee	115.00	115.00
Other Charges			
Event Cleaning	Per hour (minimum 2 hours)	54.00	54.00
First Aid Officer	Per hour (minimum 2 hours)	63.00	63.00
Squash Courts			
Casual Visit	Per person / per 1/2 hour. Not valid for bookings	5.20	5.20
Hire	Per hour.	16.70	16.70
Stadium			
Adult Competition	Per player per game	7.30	7.30
Adult Training	Per player per session #	5.10	5.10
Concession Competition	High School Students playing in Senior Competitions, Pension, Seniors & Health Care Card	5.40	5.40
Concession Training	High School Students playing in Senior Competitions, Pension, Seniors & Health Care Card	4.30	4.30
Court Hire - General	Per court per hour	57.00	57.00
Court Hire - Schools	Per court per hour	46.00	46.00
Dry Out of Hours Fee	Per hour (plus entry fee)	67.80	67.80
Junior Competition (during junior competition times only)	Per player per game	5.30	5.30
Junior Training (0 - 17 years)	Per player per session #	4.20	4.20
Meeting Room Hire	Per hour	32.80	32.80
Netball Team Sheet	Per game, per Team	74.00	74.00
Schools	Per student	3.70	3.70
Stadium Programs	Per person / per program	5.20	5.20
Tournament Fee	Per court per day (9am - 5pm)	250.00	250.00
Tournament/Venue Hire Fee	Price on Application	POA	POA

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Appendix A
Fees Charges Schedule

Fee Name	Unit of Measure	2024/25 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)	2025/26 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)
Leisure Facilities			
Swim Lesson - Private			
Swim Lesson - Private 1:1	Per half hour class, per person	44.10	44.10
Swim Lesson - Private 1:2	Per half hour class, per person	33.20	33.20
Swim Lesson - Private 1:3	Per half hour class, per person	27.00	27.00
Swim Lesson - Private - Concession			
Swim Lesson - Private 1:1 - Concession	Per half hour class, per person	33.10	33.10
Swim Lesson - Private 1:2 - Concession	Per half hour class, per person	25.00	25.00
Swim Lesson - Private 1:3 - Concession	Per half hour class, per person	20.30	20.30
Swim Lessons - Group			
Adult	Per Class	16.80	16.80
Infants	Per Class - Supervision 1:8	15.10	15.10
Preschools	Per Class - Supervision 1:5	15.90	15.90
School Age	Per Class	16.80	16.80
Swim Instructor	Per Instructor, Per Hour	66.30	66.30
Transition/Lap It Up	Per Class	10.20	10.20
Swim Lessons - Group - Concession			
Health Care / Pension Card - Infants	Per Class - Supervision 1:8	11.35	11.35
Health Care / Pension Card - Preschool	Per Class - Supervision 1:5	11.95	11.95
Health Care Card / Pension - School Age	Per Class	12.60	12.60
Health Care, Pension & Senior Card - Adult	Per Class	12.60	12.60
Visit Pass - Group Fitness			
1/2 hr Personal Training	Visits x 10	378.00	378.00
1hr Personal Training	Visits x 10	657.00	657.00
Adult	Visits x 10	134.10	134.10
Concession	Visits x 10	100.80	100.80
Youth Fit 13-15	Visits x 10	90.00	90.00
Visit Pass - Gym			
Adult	Visits x 10	162.00	162.00
Concession	Visits x 10	121.00	121.00
Visit Pass - Indoor pools			
Adult	Visits x 10	67.50	67.50
Child	Visits x 10	48.60	48.60
Concession	Visits x 10	50.40	50.40
Family	Visits x 10	178.20	178.20
Visit Pass - Stadium			
Adult Stadium Competition	Visits x 10	65.70	65.70
Concession Competition	Visits x 10	48.60	48.60
Junior Competition	Visits x 10	47.70	47.70
Junior Training	Visits x 10	37.80	37.80
Stadium Programs	Visit x 10	46.80	46.80

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Appendix A
Fees Charges Schedule

Fee Name	Unit of Measure	2024/25 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)	2025/26 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)
Local Laws			
Animal Sales			
Cat Sale (including desexing fee)	Per animal	240.00	250.00
Dog or Cat Sale (already desexed)	Per animal	191.00	200.00
Dog Sale (including desexing fee)	Per animal	425.00	450.00
Dog & Cat Infringements			
In accordance with Domestic Animal Act 1994	Penalties will be applied as per the Domestic Animal Act	-	-
Dog & Cat Registration Fees			
Dangerous, Menacing or Renewals only for Restricted Dog Breeds	Full registration per animal	233.00	243.00
Domestic Animal Business	Per Annum	281.00	292.50
Domestic Animal Business - Animal	Per Animal	29.00	31.00
Full Registration	Per Animal	51.00	53.00
Non-Desexed Dog Full Registration	Per Animal	143.00	149.00
Non-Desexed Dog Pensioner Concession	Per Animal	71.50	74.50
Pensioner Registration	Per Animal	25.50	27.00
Registration as Foster Carer (81/1994 Part 5B)	Per Animal	66.00	70.00
Registration fee for fostered animal	Per Animal	9.00	10.00
Livestock			
Food and keep fees - Livestock / Poultry	Per animal per day	32.00	34.00
Livestock attendance for VicRoads	Per attendance	695.00	723.00
Livestock Infringements	Penalties will be applied as per the Livestock Act	-	-
Pound Release Large (horse, cow, bull, etc)	Per animal	201.00	210.00
Pound Release Small (sheep, pig, goat, etc)	Per animal	110.00	115.00
Other Fees/Infringements			
Administration Fee	Reconciliation and generation of an invoice to a property owner which has had force clear works completed by Council	94.00	98.00
Caravan as Temporary Accommodation permit	Clause 142 - Local Law No 2 - incorporates 6mth permit application for Health permit to reside in a caravan	68.00	71.00
Daily Storage Fee	Per vehicle per day	18.00	19.00
Dangerous Dog Signage Pack	Per pack	-	Cost recovery
Fire Hazard Infringement	Set by State Government- fee set after July 1 each year	-	-
Impound General (e.g. political signage, tents, or general items on Council Land	Per item	113.00	118.00
Litter Infringement	Set by State Government- fee set after July 1 each year	-	-
Local Laws Permit	All Clauses otherwise specified	67.00	70.00
Release fee for vehicles impounded in accordance with Schedule 11 of the Local Government Act - Immediate Tow Release Fee	Per vehicle, plus tow fee per vehicle if applicable	760.00	790.00
Release fee for vehicles impounded in accordance with Schedule 11 of the Local Government Act - Standard Tow Release Fee	Per vehicle, plus standard tow if applicable	405.00	425.00
Roadside Trading Permit	Clause 82 - Local Law No 2	492.00	512.00
School Crossing Flags	Per set	102.00	106.00
Shopping Trolley Release Fee	Per trolley	201.00	210.00
Standard Towing Fee	Per vehicle per tow	230.00	240.00
Temporary outdoor eating facilities	Per annum fee (inclusive of permit application fee) Consisting of up to 4 tables and a maximum of 12 chairs	169.00	176.00
Temporary outdoor eating facilities over four tables and/or over 12 chairs	Per annum fee (inclusive of permit application fee) Consisting of over 4 tables and/or over 12 chairs	344.00	358.00
Parking Infringements			
Parking Infringement	Infringement will be applied at maximum value, in accordance with the Road Safety Act	as per Road Safety Act	as per Road Safety Act

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Appendix A
Fees Charges Schedule

Fee Name	Unit of Measure	2024/25 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)	2025/26 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)
Local Laws			
Pound Release Fees - Domestic Animals			
Cat desexing - Female	Per animal	262.00	272.50
Cat desexing - Male	Per animal	143.00	149.00
Dog desexing - Female	Per animal	413.00	430.00
Dog desexing - Male	Per animal	243.00	253.00
Dog or cat microchipping	Per animal	74.00	77.00
Dog or cat release (where owner is identifiable by Council)	Per animal plus other applicable charges	40.00	42.00
Dog or cat release (where owner is unidentifiable by Council)	Per animal plus other applicable charges	129.00	135.00
Food and keep fees	Per animal per day	20.00	21.00
Miscellaneous Small Animal (Rabbit, Rodent, Poultry etc)	Per animal plus other applicable charges	11.00	12.00
Special desexing charge - female cat	Per animal	-	350.00
Special desexing charge - female dog	Per animal	-	550.00
Special desexing charge - male cat	Per animal	-	300.00
Special desexing charge - male dog	Per animal	-	500.00
Special Sustenance	Per animal per day	-	42.00
Subsequent Release	Per animal plus other applicable charges	138.00	143.50
Vaccination fee	Per animal	100.00	105.00
Vet Check fee	Per animal	72.00	90.00
Vet Report	Per animal	140.00	146.00
Outdoor Pools			
Competitions - School Swim Carnival Hire			
Extra Supervision Required - ratio 1:100 ratio	Per hour	64.90	64.90
Other Carnival Full Day (9am - 3pm)	Weekends or Public Holidays	898.10	898.10
School Carnival Full Day (9am - 3pm)	Includes 1 Duty Manager	528.80	528.80
School Carnival Half Day (9am -12pm / 12pm - 3pm)	Mon - Fri	368.30	368.30
Entry Fees			
Adult	16 years & over	5.60	5.60
Children	4 years and under with adult swim.	No Charge	No Charge
Children/Student	Child 5 - 15 yrs & High School Student	4.50	4.50
Concession	Pension, Seniors & Health Care Card	4.70	4.70
Family	As listed on Medicare Card	16.50	16.50
Out of Advertised Operating Hours Hire			
Includes 1 Life Guard plus 1 Duty Manager	Per hour + entry fee per person	94.70	94.70
Season Passes (Multi-Venue)			
Children/Student	Child 5 - 15 yrs & High School Student	85.60	85.60
Concession	Pension, Seniors & Health Care Card	88.50	88.50
Family	As listed on Medicare Card	275.50	275.50
Single Adult Pass	16 years & over	113.50	113.50
Property and Legal			
Off Street Car Parks			
Multi Story Car Park Permit - After Hours Call Out Fee	Per callout	Cost recovery	Cost recovery
Multi Story Car Park Permit - Car park space leases	Per space per annum	1,560.00	1,638.00
Off-Street Car Park Permit - Car park space leases	Per space per annum	1,040.00	1,118.00
Property and Legal			
Road Discontinuance/Closure & Sale of Land Application Fee	Per application	550.00	575.00
Replacement Permit Stickers			
Replacement Permit Sticker	First replacement in the financial year	No Charge	No Charge
Replacement Permit Sticker	Subsequent replacements in the same financial year	26.00	27.50

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Appendix A
Fees Charges Schedule

Fee Name	Unit of Measure	2024/25 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)	2025/26 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)
Property and Rates			
Property and Rates			
Dishonour Fee	Per dishonour occasion	10.00	15.00
Letters for Financiers	Per letter	-	25.00
POSTBillpay Dishonour Fee	Per dishonour occasion	-	40.00
Rates History Requests	Per hour	-	60.00
Re-issue of prior years Rates Notice (up to 7 years only)	Per copy	22.00	25.00
Solar Rebate Letter	per letter	-	25.00
Public Libraries			
Calico Library Bags			
Additional/Replacement	Per bag	No Charge	No Charge
New Member	Per bag	No Charge	No Charge
Damaged or Lost Items			
Beyond Repair - Magazine	Replacement cost plus processing fee	4.60	4.60
Replacement Cost	Minimum Charge	9.00	9.00
Talking Books	Replacement cost per CD	19.10	19.10
Events			
Adult Workshops Non Library Member	Full Day	35.40	35.40
Adult Workshops Library Member	Per Half Day	12.50	12.50
Adult Workshops Library Member	Full Day	29.20	29.20
Adult Workshops Non Library Member	Per Half Day	18.80	18.80
Author Talk (Special, Literary Festival, high profile) - Member	Per Event	28.10	28.10
Author Talk (Special, Literary Festival, high profile) - Non Member	Per Event	33.30	33.30
Author Talk (standard)	Per Event	No Charge	No Charge
Fees			
Inter Library Loan	All Academic Institutions;	Cost recovery	Cost recovery
Inter Library Loan	Interstate / International Loans.	Cost recovery	Cost recovery
Inter Library Loan	Other Victorian Public Libraries;	Cost recovery	Cost recovery
Replacement Cards.	Each	No Charge	No Charge
Laminating			
A3	Per sheet	4.20	4.20
A4	Per sheet	3.20	3.20
Library Meeting Room			
Cleaning Charge - Commercial Group	Per hour	-	Cost recovery plus 10%
Cleaning Charge - Community Group	Per hour	-	Cost recovery
Commercial	Per hour	35.00	37.00
Commercial	Full day - 10am-6pm	169.00	176.00
Community Group	Per hour	-	-
Moe Library Community Kitchen			
Cleaning Charge - Commercial Group	Per hour	-	Cost recovery plus 10%
Cleaning Charge - Community Group	Per hour	-	Cost recovery
Commercial	Per hour	35.00	37.00
Commercial	Full day - 10am-6pm.	169.00	176.00
Community Group	Per hour	-	-
Photocopying			
Black & White A3	Per side	0.40	0.40
Black & White A4	Per side	0.20	0.20
Colour Printing A3	Per side	1.50	1.50
Colour Printing A4	Per side	0.75	0.75

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Appendix A
Fees Charges Schedule

Fee Name	Unit of Measure	2024/25 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)	2025/26 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)
Public Libraries			
Research Fee			
Commercial/Community Group Request.	Per half hour (charged in 30min blocks)	33.30	34.70
Public Request.	Per half hour (charged in 30min blocks)	16.70	17.40
Senior Citizens Centres			
Moe Senior Citizen Centre, Newborough Senior Citizen Centre, Yallourn North Senior Citizens Centre, Morwell East Senior Citizen Centre (Vary Street), Morwell Seniors Citizen Centre (Maryvale Cresent), Gwalia Street Senior Citizen Centre (Traralgon), Monomeath Senior Citizen Centre (Traralgon)			
Commercial - Cleaning Charge	Cost recovery plus 10%	-	Cost recovery plus 10%
Commercial Hire	Base Rate 4 Hours	-	105.00
Community - Cleaning Charge	Cost recovery	-	Cost recovery
Community Hire	Base Rate 4 Hours	-	60.00
Sports Stadiums, Ground & Reserves			
Community Room Hire (Traralgon West Sports Complex Upstairs Pavilion , Traralgon Railway Reservoir Conservation Reserve Community Room, Latrobe City Synthetic Sports Field Upstairs Pavilion , Morwell Recreation Reserve East Pavilion, Ted Summerton Reserve Upstairs Pavilion, Morwell Centenary Rose Garden Wing			
Additional Costs	Additional bins, cleaning & utility costs - Cost recovery	Cost recovery	Cost recovery
Commercial Groups	Per hour	38.00	40.00
Community Group - Not for Profit	Per hour	-	-
Outdoor Netball Centres and Tennis Centres Courts			
Seasonal allocation - netball and tennis courts	Per court, per annum	120.00	120.00
Personal Trainers/Boot Camps/Sport Coaches			
All trainers/boot camp/coaches	Per hour	-	12.00
All trainers/boot camp/coaches	Per month	63.00	63.00
Recreation Reserves and Pavilions			
Casual Use - Additional Costs	Additional bins, cleaning & utility costs - Cost recovery	Cost recovery	Cost recovery
Casual Use - For Profit Groups Businesses and Sporting Groups	Per day	607.00	607.00
Casual Use - Latrobe City Schools	Per day	No Charge	No Charge
Casual Use - Latrobe City Sporting Clubs and Recreation/Community Groups	Per day	42.00	42.00
Casual Use - Non Latrobe City Sporting Clubs and Recreation/Community Groups	Per day	163.00	163.00
Pre-Season Facility Charge - Junior - Category A	Per month	147.00	147.00
Pre-Season Facility Charge - Junior - Category B	Per month	46.00	46.00
Pre-Season Facility Charge - Junior - Category C	Per month	35.00	35.00
Pre-Season Facility Charge - Junior - Category Premier	Per month	147.00	147.00
Pre-Season Facility Charge - Senior - Category A	Per month	294.00	294.00
Pre-Season Facility Charge - Senior - Category B	Per month	91.00	91.00
Pre-Season Facility Charge - Senior - Category C	Per month	68.00	68.00
Pre-Season Facility Charge - Senior - Category Premier	Per month	294.00	294.00
Season Facility Charge - Junior - Category A	Per six month allocation	1,792.00	1,792.00
Season Facility Charge - Junior - Category B	Per six month allocation	865.00	865.00
Season Facility Charge - Junior - Category C	Per six month allocation	232.00	232.00
Season Facility Charge - Junior - Category Premier	Per six month allocation	1,792.00	1,792.00
Season Facility Charge - Senior - Category A	Per six month allocation	3,612.00	3,612.00
Season Facility Charge - Senior - Category B	Per six month allocation	1,430.00	1,430.00
Season Facility Charge - Senior - Category C	Per six month allocation	382.00	382.00
Season Facility Charge - Senior - Category Premier	Per six month allocation	3,612.00	3,612.00

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Appendix A
Fees Charges Schedule

Fee Name	Unit of Measure	2024/25 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)	2025/26 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)
Sports Stadiums, Ground & Reserves			
Regional Centres of Excellence (includes GSEP, MRR,TSR)			
Commercial Rate - Event Hire - Off Peak (Mon-Thurs excl Public Holidays)	Additional costs - Cost Recovery	Cost recovery	Cost recovery
Commercial Rate - Event Hire - Off Peak (Mon-Thurs excl Public Holidays)	Hourly Hire (8am - 5pm) per hour	237.00	247.00
Commercial Rate - Event Hire - Off Peak (Mon-Thurs excl Public Holidays)	Hourly Hire (5pm - midnight) per hour	474.00	493.00
Commercial Rate - Event Hire - Off Peak (Mon-Thurs excl Public Holidays)	Day Hire (8am - 5pm)	737.00	767.00
Commercial Rate - Event Hire - Off Peak (Mon-Thurs excl Public Holidays)	Night Hire (5pm - midnight)	1,467.00	1,526.00
Commercial Rate - Event Hire - Off Peak (Mon-Thurs excl Public Holidays)	All Day (8am - midnight)	2,204.00	2,293.00
Commercial Rate - Event Hire - Peak (Fri-Sun & Public Holidays)	Additional costs - Cost Recovery	Cost recovery	Cost recovery
Commercial Rate - Event Hire - Peak (Fri-Sun & Public Holidays)	Hourly Hire (8am - 5pm) per hour	364.00	379.00
Commercial Rate - Event Hire - Peak (Fri-Sun & Public Holidays)	Hourly Hire (5pm - midnight) per hour	732.00	762.00
Commercial Rate - Event Hire - Peak (Fri-Sun & Public Holidays)	Day Hire (8am - 5pm)	1,474.00	1,533.00
Commercial Rate - Event Hire - Peak (Fri-Sun & Public Holidays)	Night Hire (5pm - midnight)	2,942.00	3,060.00
Commercial Rate - Event Hire - Peak (Fri-Sun & Public Holidays)	All Day (8am - midnight)	4,407.00	4,584.00
Community Rate - Event Hire - Off Peak (Mon-Thurs excl Public Holidays)	Additional costs - Cost Recovery	Cost recovery	Cost recovery
Community Rate - Event Hire - Off Peak (Mon-Thurs excl Public Holidays)	Hourly Hire (8am - 5pm) per hour	105.00	105.00
Community Rate - Event Hire - Off Peak (Mon-Thurs excl Public Holidays)	Hourly Hire (5pm - midnight) per hour	211.00	211.00
Community Rate - Event Hire - Off Peak (Mon-Thurs excl Public Holidays)	Day Hire (8am - 5pm)	335.00	335.00
Community Rate - Event Hire - Off Peak (Mon-Thurs excl Public Holidays)	Night Hire (5pm - midnight)	659.00	659.00
Community Rate - Event Hire - Off Peak (Mon-Thurs excl Public Holidays)	All Day (8am - midnight)	988.00	988.00
Community Rate - Event Hire - Peak (Fri-Sun & Public Holidays)	Additional costs - Cost Recovery	Cost recovery	Cost recovery
Community Rate - Event Hire - Peak (Fri-Sun & Public Holidays)	Hourly Hire (8am - 5pm) per hour	167.00	167.00
Community Rate - Event Hire - Peak (Fri-Sun & Public Holidays)	Hourly Hire (5pm - midnight) per hour	335.00	335.00
Community Rate - Event Hire - Peak (Fri-Sun & Public Holidays)	Day Hire (8am - 5pm)	659.00	659.00
Community Rate - Event Hire - Peak (Fri-Sun & Public Holidays)	Night Hire (5pm - midnight)	1,311.00	1,311.00
Community Rate - Event Hire - Peak (Fri-Sun & Public Holidays)	All Day (8am - midnight)	1,962.00	1,962.00
Sundry Charges - Kiosk Hire - Commercial	Per Kiosk / per session	206.00	215.00
Sundry Charges - Kiosk Hire - Community	Per Kiosk / per session	103.00	103.00
Synthetic Field / Pitch Hire			
Additional costs	Additional bins, cleaning & utility costs - Cost recovery	Cost recovery	Cost recovery
Half Field - Casual Users	Per hour	36.00	36.00
Half Field - Lights	Per hour	25.00	25.00
Half Field - Tournaments	Per day	176.00	176.00
Whole Field - Association / Club	Per season	-	-
Whole Field - Casual Use - Latrobe City Schools	per day	-	-
Whole Field - Casual Users	Per hour	75.00	75.00
Whole Field - Lights	Per hour	33.00	33.00
Whole Field - Tournaments	Per day	352.00	352.00

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Appendix A
Fees Charges Schedule

Fee Name	Unit of Measure	2024/25 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)	2025/26 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)
Statutory Planning			
All Other Development			
$1,000,001 to $5,000,000 - Fee for permit application	230.5 fee units	230.5 fee units	230.5 fee units
$1,000,001 to $5,000,000 - Fee to amend permit	230.5 fee units	230.5 fee units	230.5 fee units
$100,001 to $1,000,000. - Fee for permit application	104.5 fee units	104.5 fee units	104.5 fee units
$100,001 to $1,000,000. - Fee to amend permit	104.5 fee units	104.5 fee units	104.5 fee units
$15,000,001 to $50,000,000 - Fee for permit application	1732.5 fee units	1732.5 fee units	1732.5 fee units
$15,000,001 to $50,000,000 - Fee to amend permit	230.5 fee units	230.5 fee units	230.5 fee units
$5,000,001 to $15,000,000 - Fee for permit application	587.5 fee units	587.5 fee units	587.5 fee units
$5,000,001 to $15,000,000 - Fee to amend permit	230.5 fee units	230.5 fee units	230.5 fee units
More than $50,000,000 - Fee for permit application	3894 fee units	3894 fee units	3894 fee units
More than $50,000,000 - Fee to amend permit	230.5 fee units	230.5 fee units	230.5 fee units
Up to $100,000 - Fee to amend permit	77.5 fee units	77.5 fee units	77.5 fee units
Up to $100,000 - Fee for permit application	77.5 fee units	77.5 fee units	77.5 fee units
Fees Under Regulation			
Alteration of a plan under section 10(2) of the Act	7.5 fee units	7.5 fee units	7.5 fee units
Amendment/re-certification of a certified plan under section 11(1) of the Act	9.5 fee units	9.5 fee units	9.5 fee units
For certification of a plan of subdivision	11.8 fee units	11.8 fee units	11.8 fee units
Single dwelling			
$100,001 to $500,000 - Fee for permit	87 fee units	87 fee units	87 fee units
$100,001 to $500,000 - Fee to amend permit	87 fee units	87 fee units	87 fee units
$10,001 to $100,000. - Fee for permit	42.5 fee units	42.5 fee units	42.5 fee units
$10,001 to $100,000. - Fee to amend permit	42.5 fee units	42.5 fee units	42.5 fee units
$1M to $2M - Fee for permit	101 fee units	101 fee units	101 fee units
$1M to $2M - Fee to amend permit	94 fee units	94 fee units	94 fee units
$500,001 to $1,000,000 - Fee for permit	94 fee units	94 fee units	94 fee units
$500,001 to $1,000,000 - Fee to amend permit	94 fee units	94 fee units	94 fee units
Up to $10,000 - Fee for permit	13.5 fee units	13.5 fee units	13.5 fee units
Up to $10,000 - Fee to amend permit	13.5 fee units	13.5 fee units	13.5 fee units

NA = Not Available
POA = Price on Application

Appendix A
Fees Charges Schedule

Fee Name	Unit of Measure	2024/25 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)	2025/26 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)
Statutory Planning			
Subdivision			
Realignment of a common boundary between 2 lots or to consolidate 2 lots or more	89 fee units	89 fee units	89 fee units
Realignment of a common boundary between 2 lots or to consolidate 2 lots or more	89 fee units	89 fee units	89 fee units
Subdivide an Existing Building - Fee for permit application	89 fee units	89 fee units	89 fee units
Subdivide an Existing Building - Fee to amend permit	89 fee units	89 fee units	89 fee units
Subdivide land into 2 lots - Fee for permit application	89 fee units	89 fee units	89 fee units
Subdivide land into 2 lots - Fee to amend permit	89 fee units	89 fee units	89 fee units
To create, vary or remove a restriction within the meaning of the Subdivision Act 1998; or To create or remove a right of way; or To create,vary or remove an easement other than a right of way; or To vary or remove a condition in the nature of an easement other than a right of way in a Crown grant	89 fee units	89 fee units	89 fee units
To create, vary or remove a restriction within the meaning of the Subdivision Act 1998; or To create or remove a right of way; or To create,vary or remove an easement other than a right of way; or To vary or remove a condition in the nature of an easement other than a right of way in a Crown grant	89 fee units	89 fee units	89 fee units
To subdivide land - Fee for permit application	89 fee units per 100 lots	89 fee units per 100 lots	89 fee units per 100 lots
To subdivide land - Fee to amend permit	89 fee units per 100 lots created	89 fee units per 100 lots created	89 fee units per 100 lots created
Use - To propose a new use of land or to change the use of land			
Fee for Permit Application	89 fee units	89 fee units	89 fee units
Fee to Amend Permit	89 fee units	89 fee units	89 fee units
Other			
A permit not otherwise provided for by - Fee for permit application	89 fee units	89 fee units	89 fee units
A permit not otherwise provided for by - Fee to amend permit	89 fee units	89 fee units	89 fee units
VicSmart			
More than $10,000 - Fee for permit application	29 fee units	29 fee units	29 fee units
More than $10,000 - Fee to amend permit	29 fee units	29 fee units	29 fee units
Subdivide or Consolidate land - Fee for permit application	13.5 fee units	13.5 fee units	13.5 fee units
Subdivide or Consolidate land - Fee to amend permit	13.5 fee units	13.5 fee units	13.5 fee units
Up to $10,000 - Fee for permit application	13.5 fee units	13.5 fee units	13.5 fee units
Up to $10,000 - Fee to amend permit	13.5 fee units	13.5 fee units	13.5 fee units
Administrative Charges			
Certificate of Compliance under Section 97N	Per Application	364.00	379.00
Endorsed Plans: Plans to be endorsed under planning permit conditions	Per Application	364.00	379.00
Extend the expiry of a permit	Per Application	364.00	379.00
Extension of time (expiry) second application	Per application	470.00	489.00
Extension of time (expiry) third and subsequent applications	Per application	648.00	674.00
For an agreement to proposal to amend or end an agreement under Section 173 of the Act	Per Application	726.70	756.00
Planning review of a draft S173 Agreement	Per review	415.00	432.00
Pre-application meeting (complex - with written planning advice)	Per application	228.00	237.00
Pre-application meeting (simple - with written planning advice)	Per application	150.00	156.00
Search for and provide a copy of a permit	Per application	171.00	178.00
Secondary Consent	Per permit	502.00	522.00
Where the planning scheme specifies that a matter must be done to the satisfaction of the responsible authority or municipality	Per Application	364.00	379.00
Written consent	Per application	364.00	379.00
Written Planning Advice Requests - Major Application	Per response	228.00	237.00
Written Planning Advice Requests - Minor Application	Per response	130.00	135.00

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Appendix A
Fees Charges Schedule

Fee Name	Unit of Measure	2024/25 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)	2025/26 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)
Strategic Planning			
Administration Charges			
Costs and expenses for a Planning Panel to be appointed, hear and consider submissions, and prepare a report under Part 8 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.	Full fee recovery of government charges	Cost recovery	Cost recovery
General written advice of planning scheme amendment histories.	Per hour - additional charges maybe payable depending on enquiry	150.00	156.00
20(4) Amendment			
For requesting the Minister to prepare an amendment to a planning scheme exempted from the requirements referred to in section 20(4) of the Act.	270 fee units	270 fee units	270 fee units
20(A) Amendment			
For requesting the Minister to prepare an amendment to a planning scheme exempted from certain requirements prescribed under section 20A of the Act.	65 fee units	65 fee units	65 fee units
96(A) Amendment			
Under section 96A(4)(a) of the Act: The sum of the highest of the fees which would have applied if separate applications were made and 50% of each of the other fees which would have applied if separate applications were made. This relates to Stage 1 fees and planning permit application fees.	Statutory State Government Fees	-	-
Proponent-Led Amendments			
Stage One			
Considering a request to amend the planning scheme; and Taking action required by Division 1 of Party 3 of the Planning and Environment Act of 1987; and Considering any submissions which do not seek a change to the amendment; and if applicable, abandoning the amendment in accordance with Section 28.	206 fee units	206 fee units	206 fee units
Stage Two			
Considering submissions which seek a change to an amendment, and where necessary referring the submissions to a panel; and Providing assistance to a panel in accordance with Section 158; and Making a submission in accordance with Section 24(b), and Considering the report in accordance with Section 27; and After considering submissions and the report in accordance with Section 27, if applicable, abandoning the amendment in accordance with Section 28.	1-10 Submissions	1021 fee units	1021 fee units
Considering submissions which seek a change to an amendment, and where necessary referring the submissions to a panel; and Providing assistance to a panel in accordance with Section 158; and Making a submission in accordance with Section 24(b), and Considering the report in accordance with Section 27; and After considering submissions and the report in accordance with Section 27, if applicable, abandoning the amendment in accordance with Section 28.	11-20 Submissions	2040 fee units	2040 fee units
Considering submissions which seek a change to an amendment, and where necessary referring the submissions to a panel; and Providing assistance to a panel in accordance with Section 158; and Making a submission in accordance with Section 24(b), and Considering the report in accordance with Section 27; and After considering submissions and the report in accordance with Section 27, if applicable, abandoning the amendment in accordance with Section 28.	21+ Submissions	2727 fee units	2727 fee units
Stage Three			
Adopting the amendment or part of the amendment in accordance with Section 29; and Submitting the amendment for approval in accordance with Section 31.	32.5 fee units	32.5 fee units	32.5 fee units
Stage Four			
Considering a request to approve an amendment in accordance with Section 35; and Giving notice of approval of an amendment in accordance with Section 36.	32.5 fee units	32.5 fee units	32.5 fee units
Strategic Planning / Urban Growth			
Planning & Environment (Fees) Regulations 2016 Section 18			
Assessment of Development Plans (incl. amendments of Development Plans)	Per assessment	22 fee units	22 fee units

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POA = Price on Application

Appendix A
Fees Charges Schedule

Fee Name	Unit of Measure	2024/25 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)	2025/26 Fee (GST inclusive if applicable)
Traffic Management Permit			
Memorandum of Authorisation (MoA) permit applications			
MOA Permit Application - lane closure	Per permit application	10 fee units	10 fee units
MOA Permit Application - lane closure	Per permit application	30 fee units	30 fee units
MOA Permit Application - no lane closure	Per permit application	4 fee units	4 fee units
Waste Management - Landfill			
Clean Fill			
Clean Fill - Only if required at Landfill (Test certificate required that soil meets EPA cleanfill criteria)	Per tonne - including landfill levy	136.00	165.00
Hazardous Waste			
Asbestos - Domestic - Latrobe City Residents	Per cubic metre (m3)	66.00	69.00
Asbestos - Domestic - Non Latrobe City Residents (must be removed and deposited by the resident, otherwise prescribed waste rate)	Per 20kg package (Maximum of 6 x 20kg packages correctly wrapped per customer)	30.00	32.00
Category C contaminated soil	Per tonne	293.00	312.00
Category D contaminated soil	Per tonne	293.00	312.00
Industrial Waste			
Synthetic Mineral Fibre Wrapped - Domestic	Per cubic metre (m3)	40.00	42.00
Putrescible Waste & Inert Waste			
Putrescible Waste & Inert Waste	Per tonne (excluding contractual arrangements) minimum charge 1 tonne	300.00	344.00
Waste Management - Transfer Stations			
E-Waste (Electrical Items)			
All E-Waste including Computers, monitors, TVs and peripherals	Endorsed in scope (per item)	No Charge	No Charge
E-Waste - Out of scope - large item	Per item	9.00	9.50
E-Waste - Out of scope - small item	Per item	7.00	7.50
General (Standard Non-Heavy) Waste			
General (Standard Non-Heavy) Waste	Per cubic metre (m3)	54.00	70.00
General Heavy Waste			
Building, Demolition or Renovation Waste (Plaster, Cement Sheeting, Tiles on Backings)	Per Tonne	300.00	344.00
Mattress or Base			
Double/Queen/King	Per item	47.00	49.00
Single	Per item	31.00	32.50
Motor Oil Containers			
Price per litre	Per litre	2.00	-
Other Waste Management			
Domestic Waste Card	Per annum	235.00	245.00
Synthetic Mineral Fibre (SMF) Plastic Bags	Each	5.00	5.20
Recyclable Goods - Free of Charge			
Recyclable Goods	Per Item	No Charge	No Charge
Small Items			
Mobile Garbage Bin (120ltr wheelie bin)	Per item	6.00	6.50
Mobile Garbage Bin (240ltr wheelie bin)	Per item	12.00	13.00
Tyres			
Car or Motor Cycle	Per tyre	11.00	11.50
Four wheel drive	Per tyre	22.00	23.00
Tyres on Rims			
Car or Motor Cycle	Per rim	18.00	19.00
Four wheel drive	Per rim	36.00	37.50

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Appendix B - Detailed 2025/26 Capital Works Program - Current Budget

This Appendix provides a more detailed list of the activities planned for the program works outlined in Section 4.5 Capital Works Program. These list are indicative of planned works at the time of developing the budget but Council's ability to deliver these projects may be impacted depending on actual costs being over budget and or other high priority issues that may arise.

Program	Location	Expenditure
25/26 Capital Works Program		
Buildings & Improvements		
Building Renewal Program		
Art Resource Collective Yinnar - Mechanical - Air conditioning in main office	Yinnar	5,000
Brown Coal Museum - Ceiling, Full paint / Design for DDA ramp	Yallourn North	165,000
Cameron Street Preschool And Traralgon East Community Centre - Painting, office, kitchen and toilets	Traralgon	12,000
Crinigan Bushland Reserve Toilets - Investigate Connection to mains power	Morwell	10,000
Crinigan South Reserve Community Hall - Floor coverings in Kitchen	Morwell	10,000
Elizabeth Wilmot Preschool - Painting, full external	Morwell	30,000
Eric Taylor Reserve Clubrooms - Roof	Traralgon	20,000
Glendonald Park Preschool And Churchill Maternal And Child Health Centre - Renewal of veranda	Churchill	75,000
Kevin Lythgo Reserve Pavilion - Bathrooms / Security Grills and shutters	Traralgon	370,000
Latrobe City Corporate Headquarters - External Cladding reseal and decking / Upstairs main kitchen and east end kitchenette / Upstairs main kitchen ceiling	Morwell	152,500
Latrobe City Traffic School Pavilion - Kitchen	Morwell	15,000
Latrobe City Works Depot Morwell Office And Shedding - Demolish old toilet, construct new meeting rooms	Morwell	500,000
Latrobe Leisure Morwell Basketball Pavilion - Court 1 Sky Lights replacement	Morwell	20,000
Maryvale Crescent Preschool - Painting, full internal	Morwell	20,000
Morwell East Senior Citizens - Window and door renewal	Morwell	75,000
Newborough Senior Citizens Centre - Roof	Newborough	60,000
Ronald Reserve (Oval 1) Pavilion - Window and security grill renewal	Morwell	60,000
Salto locks	Various	50,000
Traralgon Civic Centre Library and Service Centre - Fascia/Cladding and Meeting Room Kitchenette	Traralgon	315,000
Traralgon South Preschool - Painting, full internal	Traralgon South	20,000
Traralgon West Sports Complex Pavilion - Toilet floor coverings (downstairs)	Traralgon	30,000
Tyers Preschool - Extension/Bathroom Renewal	Tyers	400,000
W.H. Burrage Reserve Pavilion (Baseball) - Bathroom & toilet renewal / Roof	Newborough	416,400
W.H. Burrage Reserve Soccer Pitches Pavilion - Bathroom & toilet renewal	Newborough	393,750
Yallourn North Preschool And Maternal And Child Health - Roof	Yallourn North	70,000
Yinnar Preschool And Maternal And Child Health Centre - Painting, full internal	Yinnar	20,000
Building Renewal Program Total		3,314,650
Leisure Facilities Renewal & Upgrade Program		
Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre (GRAC) - Add extra ventilation to aqua plant room, Compressor x2, Replace remaining pit lids	Traralgon	45,000
Gippsland Regional Indoor Sports Stadium 1 (Griss) - Court 1-4 Timber floors renewal	Traralgon	72,000
Latrobe Leisure Churchill - Fitness room heating and cooling, New sink area, Pipe work supports, Re Paint pool deck	Churchill	70,000
Latrobe Leisure Moe Newborough Leisure Centre - Replace Roller door, Sand Filter change, UV Spa	Moe/Newborough	60,000
Latrobe Leisure Morwell Indoor Pool - Chlorine Bund, Main Pool filter sand change , Pipe work renewal and removal of old infrastructure , Replace learn to swim pump, Spa filter sand change, Toddler pool sand change , Various storage works	Morwell	105,000
Latrobe Leisure Yallourn North Outdoor Pool Changerooms - Renew, replace or decommission solar heating / Sand Filter	Yallourn North	22,000
Moe Outdoor pool - Storage works	Moe/Newborough	5,000
Leisure Facilities Renewal & Upgrade Program Total		379,000
Buildings & Improvements Total		**3,693,650**

Appendix B - Detailed 2025/26 Capital Works Program - Current Budget

This Appendix provides a more detailed list of the activities planned for the program works outlined in Section 4.5 Capital Works Program. These list are indicative of planned works at the time of developing the budget but Council's ability to deliver these projects may be impacted depending on actual costs being over budget and or other high priority issues that may arise.

Plant / Furniture / Equipment		
Plant		
Plant & Equipment Renewal - Plant Replacement	Various	1,769,000
Plant Total		1,769,000
Fleet		
Fleet Renewal - Vehicle Replacement	Various	1,385,000
Fleet Total		1,385,000
Leisure Centre Equipment Replacement		
Leisure Equipment Renewal	Various	45,800
Leisure Centre Equipment Replacement Total		45,800
Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture		
Office Equipment - Desks, chairs	Various	10,000
Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture Total		10,000
Computers and Telecommunications		
IT Equipment - Desktops/Laptops, Printers, Copiers, Network, Systems, Mobility	Various	850,000
Computers and Telecommunications Total		850,000
Artworks (new)		
Gallery Collection New	-	13,740
Artworks (new) Total		13,740
Plant / Furniture / Equipment Total		**4,073,540**
Roads		
Gravel Road Resheets Program		
Gravel Road Resheets Program	Various	899,600
Gravel Road Resheets Program Total		899,600
Road Reseal Program		
Surface Renewal - Spray Seal & Asphalt Program (including Pavement Preparation / Kerb Preparation and line marking)	Various	5,976,177
Kerb Reconstruction Program	Various	374,400
Road Reseal Program Total		6,350,577
Road Pavement Rehabilitation		
Road Reconstruction - Bank Street, Traralgon	Traralgon	450,000
Road Reconstruction - Loch Park Road, Traralgon (Stage 2- Henry Street-Princess Hwy)	Traralgon	1,400,000
Road Reconstruction - Margaret Street, Moe	Moe	2,100,000
Road Reconstruction - Walker Parade, Churchill	Churchill	3,000,749
Road Pavement Rehabilitation Total		6,950,749
Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Program		
Roundabout and traffic islands Corner Churchill Road and Vary Street, Morwell	Morwell	68,700
Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Program Total		68,700
Road Reconstruction Design		
Road Reconstruction Design - Pindari Road, Kandra Road	Moe South	60,000
Haunted Hills Road, Newborough	Newborough	40,000
Road Reconstruction Design Total		100,000
Landfill access road renewal		
Landfill access road renewal	Traralgon South	100,000
Landfill access road renewal Total		100,000
Construction of CFA & Garbage Truck Turn-Arounds		
Installation of drainage pipes and endwalls - CFA turnaround -Godridge Road, Morwell	Morwell	40,000
Crushed rock turn-around road expansion - CFA turnaround - Pindari	Various	10,000
Construction of CFA & Garbage Truck Turn-Arounds Total		50,000
Roads Total		**14,519,626**

Appendix B - Detailed 2025/26 Capital Works Program - Current Budget

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Bridges & Culverts		
Bridges Major Component and Structure Renewal		
Barrier replacement. - Hazelwood Drive	Morwell	524,000
Replacement of headwalls - Andersons Road	Yallourn North	271,000
Sandblast and paint - Old Sale Road	Newborough	150,000
Full replacement - Waterhole Creek - Airlie Bank	Morwell	500,000
Replacement of deck and rails - Victory Park	Traralgon	200,000
Bridges Major Component and Structure Renewal Total		1,645,000
Bridges Minor Component Renewal		
Minor component renewal	Various	132,000
Bridges Minor Component Renewal Total		132,000
Bridges & Culverts Total		**1,777,000**
Footpaths & Cycleway		
Footpath & Cycleways Renewal		
Footpath Bay Renewal- Program following annual RMP inspection - Various	Various	916,000
Path Grinding Program- Program following annual RMP inspection - Various	Various	77,860
Footpath & Cycleways Renewal Total		993,860
Gravel Path Surface Renewal		
Resheeting- Improve track surface Crinigan Bushland Reserve - Crinigan Reserve tracks	Morwell	18,320
Gravel Path Surface Renewal Total		18,320
Footpaths & Cycleway Total		**1,012,180**
Drainage		
Minor Drainage System Renewal		
New open drain and culvert crossing - Mt Hope Road, Tyers	Tyers	22,900
Renewal of existing broken pipes - Harold Preston Reserve, Traralgon	Traralgon	45,800
Replace outfall and footpath - Vincent Road Outfall	Morwell	50,000
Minor Drainage System Renewal Total		118,700
Piped Systems Enhancement & Stormwater Quality Improvement		
Design and construct pits and pipes - Main Street, Yinnar	Yinnar	64,000
Disaster Read Fund - Glengarry Flood Mitigation co-funding - Glengarry	Glengarry	250,000
Piped Systems Enhancement & Stormwater Quality Improvement Total		314,000
Wetlands and Retention Structure Renewal		
Install safety gates and fencing to limited sites handed over in 2024-2025 - Safety gates and fencing	Various	15,000
Wetlands & Detention Structure Works - The Acreage, Tyers	Tyers	183,750
Wetlands and Retention Structure Renewal Total		198,750
Storage Structure & Open Drains Renewal		
Design, demolish, and construct open drain/ waterway - Bert Christensen Reserve, Tyers	Tyers	250,000
Storage Structure & Open Drains Renewal Total		250,000
Storage Structure & Open Drains Upgrade		
Design and construct driveway culverts and road crossing box culvert - Montane Estate Open Drain	Newborough	100,000
Driveway culverts upgrade and roadside open drains works - The Acreage, Tyers	Tyers	25,000
Storage Structure & Open Drains Upgrade Total		125,000
Drainage Total		**1,006,450**

Appendix B - Detailed 2025/26 Capital Works Program - Current Budget

This Appendix provides a more detailed list of the activities planned for the program works outlined in Section 4.5 Capital Works Program. These list are indicative of planned works at the time of developing the budget but Council's ability to deliver these projects may be impacted depending on actual costs being over budget and or other high priority issues that may arise.

Recreational, Leisure and Community Facilities		
Hard Court Renewal		
1 Basketball Court - Northern Reserve Morwell	Morwell	50,000
4 Tennis Courts - Gaskin Park Tennis Courts	Churchill	88,000
4 Tennis Courts - Pax Hill Tennis Courts	Traralgon	9,000
2 Tennis Courts - Yinnar Recreation Reserve Tennis Courts	Yinnar	50,000
2 Tennis Courts - Hazelwood North Tennis Courts	Hazelwood North	7,500
Hard Court Renewal Total		204,500
Sports Fences Renewal		
Replace fencing around AFL oval - Apex Park	Traralgon	150,000
Replace fencing around Soccer Pitch - Condition Assessment - Baillie Reserve	Tyers	25,000
Sports Fences Renewal Total		175,000
Ovals Upgrade		
Install Irrigation and Drainage on the AFL oval - Baillie Reserve	Tyers	330,000
Ovals Upgrade Total		330,000
Recreational, Leisure and Community Facilities Total		**709,500**
Waste Management		
Landfill Cell Construction		
Hyland Highway Cell 7 Construction	Traralgon South	250,000
Landfill Cell Construction Total		250,000
Waste Management Total		**250,000**
Parks / Open Spaces / Streetscapes		
Playspace Renewal		
Playspace Renewal - Explorers Park	Traralgon	229,000
Playspace Renewal - John Street Reserve	Newborough	206,100
Playspace Renewal Total		435,100
Skate Park Renewal		
Ramp repairs - Traralgon Skate Park	Traralgon	13,740
Ramp repairs - Glengarry Skate Park	Glengarry	11,908
Ramp repairs - Toongabbie Skate Park	Toongabbie	10,992
Ramp repairs - Yallourn Nth Skate Park	Yallourn North	19,236
Skate Park Renewal Total		55,876
Public BBQ Shelter / Drinking Fountains Renewal		
Install fountains donated by Gippsland Water - Water Fountain - Renew and New	Various	12,500
Renew/Replace BBQ Shelter around New Skate Park - Jaycees Park	Tyers	37,500
Public BBQ Shelter / Drinking Fountains Renewal Total		50,000
Fence Renewal		
Renew fencing between Rec Reserve and Park - Jaycees Park	Tyers	37,500
Fence Renewal Total		37,500
Street Furniture		
Street Furniture Renewal program	Various	50,380
Street Furniture Total		50,380
Retaining Walls		
Retaining Wall Brick 100m - Morwell Park netball court	Morwell	82,440
Retaining Wall Timber 10m - Moe Place playground	Moe	43,052
Retaining Walls Total		125,492
Parks / Open Spaces / Streetscapes Total		**754,348**
Off-street Car parks		
Off Street Carparks Renewal		
Carpark Renewal Program	Various	225,000
Off Street Carparks Renewal Total		225,000
Off-street Car parks Total		**225,000**
25/26 Capital Works Program Total		**28,021,294**

Appendix B - Detailed 2025/26 Capital Works Program - Current Budget

This Appendix provides a more detailed list of the activities planned for the program works outlined in Section 4.5 Capital Works Program. These list are indicative of planned works at the time of developing the budget but Council's ability to deliver these projects may be impacted depending on actual costs being over budget and or other high priority issues that may arise.

25/26 Capital Works Operating Program		
Buildings & Improvements		
Building Demolition Program		
Glendonald Park Toilet Block - Demolish old public toilet	Churchill	30,000
Morwell Recreation Reserve Toilet Block - Demolish old open air public toilet	Morwell	30,000
Traralgon Recreation Reserve Clubrooms - Demolish building	Traralgon	80,000
Building Demolition Program Total		140,000
Buildings & Improvements Total		**140,000**
Roads		
Guardrails		
Guardrail replacement - Haigh Street, Moe	Moe	45,750
Guardrail replacement - Wattle Crescent, Churchill	Churchill	12,000
Guardrails Total		57,750
Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Program		
Reactive traffic safety requests	Various	55,000
DDA Traffic & Pedestrian Renewal	Various	13,740
Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Program Total		68,740
Roads Total		**126,490**
Public Lighting		
Public Lighting		
Light Pole & Flag Pole Renewal Program	Various	62,288
Public Lighting Total		62,288
Public Lighting Total		**62,288**
Waste Management		
Landfill Rehabilitation		
Decommissioning Leachate Pond 01 and convert to a stormwater pond	Traralgon South	100,000
Landfill Rehabilitation Program - Morwell	Morwell	250,000
Landfill Rehabilitation Program - Yinnar	Yinnar	500,000
Landfill Rehabilitation Program- Hyland Highway	Traralgon South	350,000
Landfill Stormwater Management Plan & Upgrade infrastructure - works required before Cell 6 capping design approval	Traralgon South	150,000
Landfill Rehabilitation Total		1,350,000
Transfer Station Upgrades		
Generator Upgrades, Safety linemarking, New bin	Various	63,000
Transfer Station Upgrades Total		63,000
Waste Management Total		**1,413,000**
Off-street Car parks		
Off Street Carparks		
DDA - Multiple locations and prioritised with input from DAICEG and Positive Aging	Various	45,800
Off Street Carparks Total		45,800
Off-street Car parks Total		**45,800**

Appendix B - Detailed 2025/26 Capital Works Program - Current Budget

This Appendix provides a more detailed list of the activities planned for the program works outlined in Section 4.5 Capital Works Program. These list are indicative of planned works at the time of developing the budget but Council's ability to deliver these projects may be impacted depending on actual costs being over budget and or other high priority issues that may arise.

Other Infrastructure		
Fire Hydrants		
Reactive program	Various	9,160
Fire Hydrants Total		9,160
Eelhole Creek Erosion Control - Project		
Erosion Control - Eelhole Creek	Churchill	50,000
Eelhole Creek Erosion Control - Project Total		50,000
Septic Renewal Program		
Septic Renewal - Program	Various	50,000
Septic Renewal Program Total		50,000
Solar Panel Cleaning Program		
Solar Panel - Cleaning Program	Various	24,750
Solar Panel Cleaning Program Total		24,750
Signage		
Signage Renewal- reactive	Various	37,500
Signage Total		37,500
Other Infrastructure Total		**171,410**
25/26 Capital Works Operating Program Total		**1,958,988**

Respondent No: 1
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: Apr 29, 2025 22:11:41 pm
Last Seen: Apr 29, 2025 22:11:41 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

My Submission is for a complete survey and implementation of more disability parking spaces across the Latrobe Shire Council.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 2
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: Apr 29, 2025 22:39:38 pm
Last Seen: Apr 29, 2025 22:39:38 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I believe that only increasing rates by 1.5% is short sighted. If a 3% increase is not implemented, council will always be behind the ball in future. It's important to maintain the current level of services and without this increase, it feels like the current level of services will be hard to maintain.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 3
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: Apr 30, 2025 07:09:27 am
Last Seen: Apr 30, 2025 07:09:27 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Michael Hoskin

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

The valley is dying. Overseas tourism is what we need, not only tourism but an influx of visitors. We need international sports events in the valley, this is many and varied but eg, the world sthill timber sports, a marathon such as the Boston, an airshow like Avalon, the submissions are endless, we just need active keen councillors.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 4
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: Apr 30, 2025 16:14:00 pm
Last Seen: Apr 30, 2025 16:14:00 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Submission to the Draft 2025/26 Latrobe City Council Budget Subject: Request for a Playground in Gaskin Rise Estate or Gaskin Park, Churchill Dear Councillors, Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft 2025/26 Budget. I write to advocate for the inclusion of a new playground within either the Gaskin Rise Estate or alternatively at Gaskin Park Oval, Churchill. This request is supported by community need and is consistently backed by multiple Council-endorsed strategic documents and design guidelines. Strategic Planning Context A playground was originally included in the development plans for Gaskin Rise, forming part of a vision for a family-friendly community supported by accessible open space. However, this essential infrastructure has not yet been delivered, despite the growing number of young families now residing in the estate. The need for appropriately located open space and playground facilities is clearly outlined in the Churchill West Development Plan (Draft): • Section 2.3.3 – Local Open Space acknowledges that while the existing open space in Churchill is large, it is not suitably distributed, and that "an opportunity exists to present two major parks of approximately 1 hectare" that provide “play equipment, barbecue, playground and passive open space”. The plan notes that ResCode standards require 1-hectare parks within 400 metres of residential allotments — a requirement currently unmet in Gaskin Rise. • Section 4.6.2 – Local Parks and Local Play Areas further highlights that “local play areas and open space of approximately 1 hectare [should be] within 500 metres of all new dwellings” in accordance with Council’s own Public Open Space Strategy and Healthy by Design policy. It proposes two central local parks with furnishings and play equipment that serve as both recreational and visual focal points. These spaces were intended to be visible, accessible, and embedded in the pedestrian network — all features urgently needed in Gaskin Rise. Gaskin Park Master Plan In addition, the Gaskin Park Master Plan reinforces this priority: • Page 13 identifies a “new playground facility” as necessary to support families and young children during game days. • Section 3.7 – Picnic Area recommends “a new picnic and playground area between the two ovals which incorporates barbecues, shelters and seating”, creating a safe and inclusive space for children and families close to key community facilities. Community Need and Alignment with Council Priorities The Gaskin Rise Estate continues to grow, yet families lack a safe and designated local area for children to play, socialise, and enjoy outdoor activity. Delivering a playground now would: • Meet Council planning standards and community expectations. • Support childhood development, social inclusion, and family wellbeing. • Enhance Gaskin Park’s value as a central, activated community precinct. • Maximise return on current investment, including the $3.7 million allocated to the Multi-use Pavilion in this year’s budget. Request I respectfully request that Council: • Allocate funding in the 2025/26 Budget to deliver a playground within the Gaskin Rise Estate, or • Progress delivery of the Gaskin Park Master Plan Playground as an immediate priority. This investment will meet a clearly defined and widely supported need — and honour Council’s longstanding commitment to equitable, family-friendly open space in Churchill. Thank you for your consideration. Kind regards, [redacted]
Resident, Gaskin Rise Estate, Churchill

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 5
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 02, 2025 15:18:45 pm
Last Seen: May 02, 2025 15:18:45 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I believe ratepayers like myself would be happy with a 3% rate increase rather than the 1.5% that is proposed, if people were educated about the implications of a smaller rate increase. I feel people will be unhappy as there could be reduced services or less money in the budget for things such as roadworks. I think the 3% rate increase should be applied and people will probably have no issue with this.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 6
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 05, 2025 12:47:33 pm
Last Seen: May 05, 2025 12:47:33 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Chris Hawthorne

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I wish to highlight the urgent need for replacement of curb and channel and driveways in Wininfred Street. This street is 77 years old and Latrobe Council has no record of any renewal works done since. I have photographs of crumbling missing pieces of curb. Its allowing a great deal of ground water to accumlate and flood plants near by killing them. included in this work we could do with a drainage pit allowing ground water to escape at the corner of Gay Street and Wininfred Street. Please write back and instruct wherther you need photos or anything else. Regards Chris

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

Respondent No: 7
Login: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]

Responded At: May 06, 2025 09:26:00 am
Last Seen: May 05, 2025 23:01:55 pm
IP Address: [redacted]

Q1. **Name** Silvia R. Krambeck

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Dear Latrobe City Council The Latrobe Regional Gallery deserves funding for the employment of a suitable Senior Curator, Assistant Curator, Registrar Collections, Art Educator and an extra Gallery Technician. It is disappointing that the recommendations put forward after the consultations professionally facilitated by Walking Through Walls' consultants appear to be not implemented. Until when are you going to operate in this unethical manner contrary to industry standards. This Gallery and this Council have a duty of care to the Collections and its artists. I vote for NO CAR PARK IN KAY STREET and I vote FOR FUNDS TO PROPERLY OPERATE THIS ART MUSEUM FOR THE BENEFIT OF MORWELL AND THE REGION. It seems someone in your management structure needs to be educated on the benefits of a well managed art museum. There are many examples in Victoria. Look at the Gippsland Art Gallery, Hamilton Gallery, Castlemaine and of course Bendigo. The benefits are qualitative and very much quantitative. Please make a point of visiting these galleries and talking to their directors to learn how you could put Morwell in the map besides The Mushroom Case!!! You have a treasure in your hands and you do not know how to make the most of it. Read the case of Bilbao in Spain and the Guggenheim. You are populated by self-serving advisors wearing too many hats. You must implement some ethical principles immediately. Many thanks for considering my advice. No vested interests on my part!! Best wishes, Silvia R. Krambeck

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 8
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 06, 2025 13:34:56 pm
Last Seen: May 06, 2025 13:34:56 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Rodney Scherer

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I want council to address the lack of qualified visual arts staff at Latrobe Regional Gallery. That proper professional art museum practices are carried out. That our cultural heritage and assets in the form of the permanent art collection are displayed permanently in the gallery for which it was designed and refurbished in 2000-2001 at a cost of $6 million. I want to see the gallery program included in Council tourism and events promotions. The gallery permanent collection is a valuable asset for the community and needs to be preserved, maintained and enjoyed by the citizens and ratepayers of Latrobe City. Council receives state government subsidies for this purpose and as a ratepayer I expect the very best professional practice and governance of our cultural assets.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 9
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 11, 2025 14:45:28 pm
Last Seen: May 11, 2025 14:45:28 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Alan Burton

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Retirement & Lifestyle Village residents need you to understand that there is an extreme inequity in the way we are treated in the current rating system applied in Latrobe City. As such Council and Councillors should change the decision to not provide a differential rate at this time and approve the introduction of a 25% differential rate for Retirement and Lifestyle Villages from the 2025/2026 year onwards. Notes in support of the Draft Revenue & Rating Plan 2025 – 2029 released for Public Exhibition state that Council undertook a detailed review of the differential rating position for Retirement Villages in 2014 and that review identified that Retirement Villages located within the municipality remain largely reliant on Council for the provision of services and residents are not contributing a disproportionate amount of rates. Obviously some residents of Retirement Villages use facilities, assets and open spaces outside of their village but the extent of use would be minimal compared to rate payers outside of retirement villages as we have our own facilities, assets and open spaces which include restaurants, dining rooms, cafés, meeting rooms, lounges, media rooms, workshops, dart boards and card tables, gyms, pools, libraries, hairdressers, pool and table tennis tables, putting and bowling greens, vegetable gardens, barbecues and outside exercise equipment some of which are also utilised by some residents from outside Retirement Villages. Further the average age of residents in Dalkeith Heights is 81 and 93 of the 158 units are occupied by residents living alone who are predominantly females who do not often leave the Village. In so far as disproportionate rates we are paying the same rates as those outside Retirement Villages and the only service we receive from Council is rubbish picked up weekly which all rate payers pay as a separate figure on rates notices. And we pay to maintain facilities, assets and open spaces in our own Village without any contribution from Council or residents outside Retirement Villages. Given all this we find it surprising that Council has recognised that Villages remain largely reliant on Council. It actually seems to be the other way around as Council in the current financial year will receive around $190000 in rates from Dalkeith Heights alone without providing any other service than rubbish removal which is paid for separately to rates. So I repeat that we need you to understand that there is an extreme inequity in the way Retirement and Lifestyle Villages are treated in the current rating system applied in Latrobe City. The only sensible thing for Council and Councillors to do to correct this extreme inequity is to change Council's decision to not provide a differential rate at this time and approve the introduction of a 25% differential rate for Retirement and Lifestyle Villages from the 2025/2026 year onwards

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 10
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 12, 2025 15:46:31 pm
Last Seen: May 12, 2025 15:46:31 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Susan Bechaz

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I wish to once again object to the Council Rating system which will not give residents in Retirement Villages the 25% discount asked for as it has been proved that Council are getting way more in Rates than they are paying out in costs in relation to Retirement Village properties so they are blatently ripping off Retirement Village property owners

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 11
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 13, 2025 13:55:09 pm
Last Seen: May 13, 2025 13:55:09 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 12
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 13, 2025 14:43:54 pm
Last Seen: May 13, 2025 14:43:54 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15,000 to the Moe Botanic Gardens Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy, create jobs and boost tourism

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 13
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 13, 2025 15:05:35 pm
Last Seen: May 13, 2025 15:05:35 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create more jobs and nice places to attract locals and visitors.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No:	14	**Responded At:**	May 13, 2025 15:06:15 pm
Login:	Anonymous	**Last Seen:**	May 13, 2025 15:06:15 pm
Email:	n/a	**IP Address:**	n/a

Q1.	**Name**	John Wasiukiewicz
Q2.	**Email**	[redacted]
Q3.	**Confidentiality**	You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs."

Q5.	**Upload your submission**	not answered

Respondent No: 15
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 13, 2025 16:21:02 pm
Last Seen: May 13, 2025 16:21:02 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Tim OWEN

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I recall going to a public consultation session 20 years ago in relation to the Master Plan for the Moe Botanic Gardens. One of the suggestions I made was to incorporate a fenced off-leash dog park as part of the extensive grounds. I was disappointed and frustrated when the master plan was published with no such infrastructure included - the suggestion wasn't even noted in the consultants extensive report. After some years of 'sitting out' LCC consultations processes due to 'loosing faith' that I'd be heard, I engaged in the more recent consultation regarding the Fenced Dog Park Implementation Plan and was thrilled to see that finally the Moe Botanic Gardens had been identified as the preferred site for such infrastructure - but no indication of when or how it would be delivered. Latrobe City Councillors - Its time has come. The 2025-26 Budget is the mechanism through which funding should be allocated to this much wanted, and low cost piece of public infrastructure. It requires no further justification - just a budget allocation. Please. Pretty please.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 16
Login: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]

Responded At: May 13, 2025 16:59:35 pm
Last Seen: May 13, 2025 06:56:29 am
IP Address: [redacted]

Q1. **Name**	[redacted]
Q2. **Email**	[redacted]
Q3. **Confidentiality**	Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs.

Q5. **Upload your submission**	not answered

Respondent No: 17
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 13, 2025 17:54:47 pm
Last Seen: May 13, 2025 17:54:47 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 18
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 13, 2025 19:21:19 pm
Last Seen: May 13, 2025 19:21:19 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name**	Sarah Parker
Q2. **Email**	[redacted]
Q3. **Confidentiality**	You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs.

Q5. **Upload your submission**	not answered

Respondent No:	19	**Responded At:**	May 13, 2025 20:02:08 pm
Login:	Anonymous	**Last Seen:**	May 13, 2025 20:02:08 pm
Email:	n/a	**IP Address:**	n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No:	20	**Responded At:**	May 14, 2025 07:52:34 am
Login:	Anonymous	**Last Seen:**	May 14, 2025 07:52:34 am
Email:	n/a	**IP Address:**	n/a

Q1.	**Name**	Susan Lawrence
Q2.	**Email**	[redacted]
Q3.	**Confidentiality**	You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15,000 to Moe Botanical Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and Create Jobs

Q5.	**Upload your submission**	not answered

Respondent No: 21
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 14, 2025 10:55:41 am
Last Seen: May 14, 2025 10:55:41 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Damian Andrews

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I am writing to request that Council allocate $15,000 in the 2025/26 Budget for the development of a Landscape Masterplan for the Moe Botanic Garden. This amount represents just 0.017% of the proposed capital works budget, yet it unlocks significant community, economic, and environmental value. The masterplan is a critical first step toward upgrading and revitalising the gardens—an asset that serves both residents and visitors. The masterplan would: - Enable future staged improvements (e.g. fenced dog park, gardens, educational features) - Strengthen Moe's tourism appeal and local pride - Support job creation and economic activity through increased visitation and community use - Reflect the strong community support already demonstrated by multiple local organisations Without this allocation, progress will be delayed until at least 2027 with implementation delayed further, postponing the many benefits this project could begin delivering now. I urge Council to include this modest but high-impact investment in the final 2025/26 Council Budget. Thank you for considering this submission.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No:	22	**Responded At:**	May 14, 2025 10:57:02 am
Login:	Anonymous	**Last Seen:**	May 14, 2025 10:57:02 am
Email:	n/a	**IP Address:**	n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs."

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No:	23	**Responded At:**	May 14, 2025 13:35:34 pm
Login:	Anonymous	**Last Seen:**	May 14, 2025 13:35:34 pm
Email:	n/a	**IP Address:**	n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate a minimum of $15,000 to Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 24
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 14, 2025 18:00:43 pm
Last Seen: May 14, 2025 18:00:43 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

How is Latrobe City council is going to make a saving to make up for the lower percentage rate increase? Will any Latrobe city employees lose their jobs due to the small increase on rates instead of the 3%?

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No:	25	**Responded At:**	May 15, 2025 12:48:09 pm
Login:	Anonymous	**Last Seen:**	May 15, 2025 12:48:09 pm
Email:	n/a	**IP Address:**	n/a

Q1.	**Name**	[redacted]
Q2.	**Email**	[redacted]
Q3.	**Confidentiality**	Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs

Q5.	**Upload your submission**	not answered

Respondent No: 26
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 15, 2025 13:35:31 pm
Last Seen: May 15, 2025 13:35:31 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

"Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs." Use it to make Moe even more special.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 27
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 15, 2025 19:37:42 pm
Last Seen: May 15, 2025 19:37:42 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanical Garden master plan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 28
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 15, 2025 19:38:13 pm
Last Seen: May 15, 2025 19:38:13 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanical Garden master plan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 29
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 15, 2025 20:06:48 pm
Last Seen: May 15, 2025 20:06:48 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 30
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 15, 2025 23:31:54 pm
Last Seen: May 15, 2025 23:31:54 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

"Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs".

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 31
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 16, 2025 09:44:29 am
Last Seen: May 16, 2025 09:44:29 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Kate Storr

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15000, for the Moe Botanic Gatdens. My grandfather Claude Staff, was a Mayor of Moe, he dedicated a huge amount of hos time and money to the city of Moe. There is a garden dedicated in his honour... it alone is in need of attention.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 32
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 16, 2025 17:39:24 pm
Last Seen: May 16, 2025 17:39:24 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Dear Councillors, I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed 1.5% rate increase for the upcoming financial year. Given the current economic climate, this increase appears insufficient to address the escalating costs / growing demands on Council services / community needs. Cost of Living and Rate Capping The Fair Go Rates system aims to alleviate household budget pressures by capping rate increases, the 1.5% proposal falls below the 3% cap set for the 2025–26 financial year . This cap was designed to balance affordability with the need for councils to maintain service levels. A rate increase of 1.5% may not adequately cover the rising costs associated with inflation, population growth, and the increasing complexity of community needs particularly with the Yallourn Power Station scheduled to close in 2028. Employee Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) Latrobe City Council employees have secured annual salary increases of 3% each year . This reflects the need to retain skilled staff and acknowledge their contributions. However, such increases may not be sustainable under the proposed rate increase, potentially leading to budgetary constraints that could affect service delivery. Population Growth and Service Demand Our community is experiencing growth, leading to higher demands for services and infrastructure. The closure of Yallourn Power Station further underscores the need for investment in business diversification, development and economic resilience. Without adequate funding, there is a risk of service degradation, which could adversely impact community well-being. Sustainable Budgeting and Long-Term Planning Latrobe has invested considerably and has some amazing infrastructure such as GRISS and GPAC. Maintaining infrastructure is crucial. Balancing current cost of living, State Gov increases to rates/levies, Local Government income streams and the long-term sustainability of our budget is essential. The proposed rate increase adversely limits revenue growth, Rates is Council largest income sources, and with limited alternative funding sources, the council may face challenges in meeting future obligations, and this will only be further compounded over time, jeopardising financial sustainability. Community Health & Wellbeing Council is integrating the MPH&WP into the Council Plan. This process should highlight the challenges our community is facing, particularly our priority groups - Increasing rates of homelessness, people experiencing increasing rates of family violence, higher than State average rates of disability and chronic health conditions, etc. A lower rate cap favours those who already own their home, investors, or those who have the ability to mortgage a home. A lower rate increase will only further disadvantage those who are really doing it tough right now by limiting Council's financial options to deliver much needed services, infrastructure and employment opportunities. Instead Council could expand their hardship policies to better support ratepayers facing financial difficulties. Conclusion In light of the above considerations, I urge the council to: • Reevaluate the proposed 1.5% rate increase in favour of a more substantial adjustment within the 3% cap. • Develop and implement comprehensive hardship policies to support vulnerable ratepayers. • Continue to advocate for additional funding from state and federal governments to address infrastructure and service needs. • Prioritise long-term financial planning to ensure the sustainability of services and community well-being. Thank you for considering this feedback

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 33
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 16, 2025 18:07:28 pm
Last Seen: May 16, 2025 18:07:28 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Submission to Dear Councillors, Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft 2025/26 Budget. I write to advocate for the inclusion of a new playground at Gaskin Park or Gaskin Rise Estate, Churchill. This request is supported by community need and is consistently backed by multiple Council-endorsed strategic documents and design guidelines. Strategic Planning Context - Gaskin Park Master Plan The Gaskin Park Master Plan reinforces this priority: • Identifies a "new playground facility" as necessary to support families and young children during game days. • Section 3.7 – Picnic Area recommends "a new picnic and playground area between the two ovals which incorporates barbecues, shelters and seating", creating a safe and inclusive space for children and families close to key community facilities. Community Need and Alignment with Council Priorities The Gaskin Rise Estate continues to grow, and with the new ovals set to be in use soon, the area will become home to many local sporting clubs and community users, including Netball, Tennis, Teeball/Baseball, Football, Cricket, and Bowls. Despite this growing community activity, families still lack a safe and designated local area for children to play, socialise, and enjoy outdoor activity. A playground would not only support the everyday needs of local residents but also provide essential infrastructure on busy game days and training nights when families gather at the reserve. Delivering a playground now would: • Meet Council planning standards and community expectations. • Support childhood development, social inclusion, and family wellbeing. • Enhance Gaskin Park's value as a central, activated community precinct. • Maximise return on current investment, including the $3.7 million allocated to the Multi-use Pavilion in this year's budget. Request I respectfully request that Council: • Allocate funding in the 2025/26 Budget to deliver a playground within the Gaskin Park Master Plan Playground as an immediate priority. This investment will meet a clearly defined and widely supported need — and honour Council's longstanding commitment to equitable, family-friendly playground in Churchill. Thank you for your consideration. Kind regards,

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 34
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 17, 2025 09:26:59 am
Last Seen: May 17, 2025 09:26:59 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Kerry Mills

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

We need $15,000 out of the $87 million capital works budget to upgrade Moe's Botanical Garden. Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs. We can grow something incredible—for today and for generations to come at the Moe Botanic Garden.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 35
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 17, 2025 09:34:06 am
Last Seen: May 17, 2025 09:34:06 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please include $15000 to the Moe Botanic Gardens master plan, increase the Latrobe City economy and employment. It is an asset to our community that needs to be developed, somewhere for visitors to enjoy while using the rail trail.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 36
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 17, 2025 09:39:58 am
Last Seen: May 17, 2025 09:39:58 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

What if MOE BOTANIC GARDEN could be more? Would you like: A safe, fenced dog park where pets can run free Beautiful themed gardens that change with the seasons A space where kids learn about nature, art, and the environment A destination where people come to take photos, picnic, and unwind That vision starts with a masterplan—and we have a chance to make it happen. BUT, there's no money allocated in the 2025/26 Draft Budget to get started. All we need is $15,000 out of the $87 million capital works budget to fund a masterplan that unlocks this and more. Council is asking for public feedback right now. Speak up for your Moe Botanic Garden garden! Submit here before 27 May: https://yoursay.latrobe.vic.gov.au/council-budget-2025-26 Suggested message (or draft your own): "Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs." You can grow something incredible—for today and for generations to come at the Moe Botanic Garden.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 37
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 17, 2025 11:00:13 am
Last Seen: May 17, 2025 11:00:13 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Update and allocate funding for Moe botanical garden

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 38
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 17, 2025 11:13:59 am
Last Seen: May 17, 2025 11:13:59 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15000 to a Moe Botanical garden masterplan. Help bring in tourists boost the economy and create jobs.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 39
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 17, 2025 11:44:11 am
Last Seen: May 17, 2025 11:44:11 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Wendy

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

"Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs." .

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 40
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 17, 2025 12:45:57 pm
Last Seen: May 17, 2025 12:45:57 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality**

Please withhold my name from public documents

You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 41
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 17, 2025 13:32:53 pm
Last Seen: May 17, 2025 13:32:53 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Moe botanic garden especially the much needed dog park for everyone safety

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 42
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 17, 2025 13:50:50 pm
Last Seen: May 17, 2025 13:50:50 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality**

Please withhold my name from public documents

You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

"Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs." You can grow something incredible—for today and for generations to come at the Moe Botanic Garden. We desperately need a fenced dog park in our area.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 43
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 17, 2025 13:52:01 pm
Last Seen: May 17, 2025 13:52:01 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality**

Please withhold my name from public documents

You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

"Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs." You can grow something incredible—for today and for generations to come at the Moe Botanic Garden. We desperately need a fenced dog park in our area.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 44
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 17, 2025 21:54:33 pm
Last Seen: May 17, 2025 21:54:33 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15000 to a Botanic Gardens masterplan so we can get a much needed off lead area for dogs built

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 45
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 18, 2025 09:28:47 am
Last Seen: May 18, 2025 09:28:47 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Dear Councillors, I write to you as a concerned resident and advocate for community wellbeing in the Traralgon area. I respectfully submit the following recommendations for inclusion in the upcoming council budget: 1. Increased Investment in Playgrounds for Traralgon Traralgon is one of the fastest-growing towns in the Latrobe City municipality, with a diverse and expanding population. The average age of residents in Traralgon is approximately 39 years, reflecting a strong mix of young families, working professionals, and older residents. However, our existing playground infrastructure is increasingly inadequate to meet the needs of this growing community. We have not seen Newman Park improved for a very long time. Additionally the flying fox has been broken for at least 3 years. Many of our local playgrounds are outdated or lack inclusive design features for children of all abilities. Additional funding is urgently needed to upgrade existing parks and create new, safe, and accessible play spaces in under-served areas. This investment will support early childhood development, encourage active lifestyles, and enhance social connection among families. Additionally some sort of water play such as a splash park would be amazing. 2. Establishment of an Outdoor Gym in Traralgon There is growing community interest in accessible, low-cost fitness opportunities. An outdoor gym in a central location such as Victory Park or Agnes Brereton Reserve would provide residents of all ages with free access to physical activity, helping to reduce chronic disease risk and improve mental health. Outdoor gyms have been successfully implemented in other parts of Victoria and offer a cost-effective way to support community wellbeing and activate public spaces. With Traralgon's average age nearing 40, there is a pressing need for infrastructure that supports adult and older adult health as well. 3. Maintain Affordable Fees for Council Facilities Council-run facilities such as the Traralgon Sports Stadium, Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre, and local community halls play a vital role in promoting social inclusion, recreation, and lifelong learning. It is critical that fees and charges for these facilities remain affordable and accessible to all residents, particularly families, pensioners, and young people. Rising costs can disproportionately impact those already facing financial hardship and risk excluding some community members from essential services. We urge Council to freeze or limit fee increases. In conclusion, I respectfully ask that Council prioritise investment in Traralgon's public spaces and services to ensure that our town remains a healthy, inclusive, and vibrant place to live. Upgraded playgrounds, an outdoor gym, and affordable access to community facilities are smart investments that will yield long-term benefits for residents of all ages. Thank you for considering this submission. Sincerely, [redacted]

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 46
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 18, 2025 10:50:59 am
Last Seen: May 18, 2025 10:50:59 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Philip Seers

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15000 to the Moe Botanic Gardens Master plan so that Moe can continue to make the most of a treasured asset.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 47
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 18, 2025 12:59:08 pm
Last Seen: May 18, 2025 12:59:08 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Kieta

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Gardens Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 48
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 18, 2025 14:12:06 pm
Last Seen: May 18, 2025 14:12:06 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I would like the Rates for 2025 2026 to be kept at 1.5 percent, not 3 percent The reason being the cost of living has already put stress on our budget, now the Fire Services Levy will already add more stress to an already stretched budget, it would be another financial blow to my family and to all in our community.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 49
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 18, 2025 14:16:39 pm
Last Seen: May 18, 2025 14:16:39 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Neil Starkey

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

We , being my Wife & I are against the full 3% increase

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 50
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 18, 2025 14:29:34 pm
Last Seen: May 18, 2025 14:29:34 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Norman Collin

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I do not agree to pay the full amount of rates charge that several of our councillors want us to pay 3% you can look at our past rates notices you will see we already pay nearly $10,000 in rates a year ,based on your councils independent assessment they claim it's the value of our land is why we pay so much ,but if we were to sell the property we would not get anywhere near this amount so it's a no from me..

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 51
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 18, 2025 15:33:53 pm
Last Seen: May 18, 2025 15:33:53 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name**	Daniel McDonald
Q2. **Email**	[redacted]
Q3. **Confidentiality**	You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please do the full 3% rate increase

Q5. **Upload your submission**	not answered

Respondent No: 52
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 18, 2025 20:53:06 pm
Last Seen: May 18, 2025 20:53:06 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Rhonda O'Dea

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please find uploaded my full Draft Budget Submission regarding an upgrade of the condition and safety of the 350-metre gravel section of Rocla Road, Traralgon East.

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

SUBMISSION TO LATROBE CITY COUNCIL 2025/2026 DRAFT COUNCIL BUDGET

From Rhonda O'Dea
[redacted]

18th May 2025

I am writing to formally request an upgrade of the 350-metre gravel section of Rocla Road, Traralgon East, to include sealing it, making improvements to the Intersection at Dranes Road and the installation of a STOP sign at said intersection, be considered for inclusion in the 2025/26 budget.

This request is due to the ongoing concerns regarding its condition and impact on residents and commuters as it presents serious safety issues.

I personally was the victim of a near fatal injury when a vehicle lost control on the heavily corrugated section last December, only escaping injury by being alert to the presenting danger and driving up onto the elevated grass verge avoiding a collision.

A stop sign would provide much needed caution to the danger at the T-intersection due to limited visibility. When making a left-hand turn vehicles turn wide into oncoming traffic and many over shoot the intersection and hit the opposing safety barrier.

I recently presented a petition to Latrobe City Council with over 200 signatures of commuters using this section of Rocla Road requesting the upgrades.

For decades this section of Rocla Road has been ignored despite numerous presentations to Council.

Rocla Road, Traralgon East is a public through road and provides a critical link within our community for access to the diverse businesses within the industrial estate and south of the Princes Highway via a roundabout. Residents from Glengarry, Tyers and Toongabbie, plus tradespeople servicing these areas are constant users of Rocla Road.

Since my concerns were raised in December 2024, Asset Manager, Daniel Kelabora, has been active in instigating improvements to the surface of this gravel section with constant roadworks, involving grading and adding surface material, at a significant and constant cost to Latrobe City Council.

However, decades of history demonstrates that with weathering/rain and heavy traffic use the surface always returns to a corrugated and pothole mess. Decades of roadworks has not resolved the ongoing safety issues that constantly present themselves.

Sealing of this gravel section of Rocla Road and installing a STOP sign at the intersection are the only logical solutions to address the safety of commuters and resolve the need for constant roadworks maintenance and the required funding.

Respondent No: 53
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 19, 2025 08:53:56 am
Last Seen: May 19, 2025 08:53:56 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Marlene Hearne

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Imagine what Moe Botanic Garden could become… Families gather under shady trees Dogs enjoy a safe, fenced-off leash park Kids learn about plants and nature Couples take wedding photos surrounded by flowers Visitors stop, stay, and spend It's possible—but only if we get the ball rolling now. Right now, the Latrobe City Draft Budget for 2025/26 has NO money set aside to start a masterplan for the Moe Botanic Garden. All it takes is $15,000—a tiny sliver of the $87 million capital works budget. Without it? Nothing happens until 2027 or later. A masterplan is essential to unlock future improvements, attract tourism, support local jobs, and shape the garden's future. Here's "Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs."

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 54
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 19, 2025 12:30:23 pm
Last Seen: May 19, 2025 12:30:23 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Linda Krispyn

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Every great town has a place that brings people together. For Moe, that place could be the Moe Botanic Garden—but only if we plan for it. Right now, there is no funding in the 2025/26 Draft Budget to create a masterplan. And without a plan, we can't move forward. Here's what's at stake: A chance to develop safe, welcoming spaces for families and pets More events, more visitors, and more support for local businesses A destination that brings pride to locals and attention from tourists All it takes is $15,000 to create a masterplan from the $87 million capital works budget. Council is asking the community what matters. Your can tell them: This matters. Make your submission before 27 May: https://yoursay.latrobe.vic.gov.au/council-budget-2025-26 You can simply write (or something like that): "Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs." You have the power to encourage the Council to invest in Moe's beauty, community, and legacy. Because Moe deserves it.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 55
Login: Darell Blewett
Email: [redacted]

Responded At: May 19, 2025 14:50:11 pm
Last Seen: May 19, 2025 04:47:57 am
IP Address: [redacted]

Q1. **Name** Darell Blewett

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

re differential rate injustice

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

To: Latrobe City Council

Monday 19th May 2025

Dear Councilors,

It is with a great deal of dismay that I recently came to realise that the Council draft budget for 2025/26 and the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan for 2025-2029 clearly indicated that Council did not intend to introduce a Differential Rate for those living in the Dalkeith Heights Retirement Village.

I would like Council to reconsider their decision based upon the following aspects:-

1. Yes, those in the Village clearly appreciate that a payment of rates is necessary as we all, at times, utilise the broad range of services provided to all Latrobe City residents. For example, Parks and Gardens, Library, Recreational Centre and other facilities which our rates support.
2. However, at the current time residents within the Village are heavily discriminated against due to:
    - Residents in the village do not own their own property. Our units remain the property of Benetas.
    - We do pay annual rates to Latrobe City which includes our weekly garbage collection.
    - **Latrobe City has no responsibility** for any maintenance and the like within the grounds of Dalkeith Heights (eg. Roads, gardens, lighting and the like). To meet this demand residents pay a monthly rate to Benetas Management.
    - As residents within the Village we are in fact paying rates to Latrobe City and to Benetas which equates to paying double the rates. Paying twice in fact.
    - All we are asking is for a differential rate to be applied – yes, contribute to the Latrobe City services, but to be paying for aspects we do not receive is inequitable and an injustice and should be reconsidered sooner than later.

In conclusion I urge Council to reconsider their decision and to consider the fairness of what is proposed in your Draft Budget as it is difficult to comprehend the unforgiving stance adopted.

Yours sincerely,

Darell Blewett

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Respondent No: 56
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 19, 2025 17:50:06 pm
Last Seen: May 19, 2025 17:50:06 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I reject council rates being increased to 3% and should be kept at 1.5% especially in this time of cost of living crisis.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 58
Login: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]

Responded At: May 20, 2025 16:49:25 pm
Last Seen: May 20, 2025 06:42:30 am
IP Address: [redacted]

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Don & I are in favour of a Differential Rate for Retirement villages, we are very disappointed that you currently do not intend to approve a differential rate . We would like you to reconsider your decision and for you to approve a differential rate

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 59
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 21, 2025 00:25:52 am
Last Seen: May 21, 2025 00:25:52 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Mark Smith

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Dear Latrobe City Council, I write to you regarding the current council budget which is open for submissions. I write regarding the situation of the Morwell Recreation Reserve and the summer tenant sport of cricket. Cricket was the founding sport of the Recreation Reserve from when it opened in 1920, and cricket remained a key sport at the Reserve up until the mid-1990s when Gippsland Power Football Club was formed in 1993 and has gradually grown from a part time tenant of the reserve along with the Morwell Cricket Club and Morwell Football Netball Club (which came to the reserve in 1927). It is particularly since the redevelopment of the Reserve which was fully completed in 2023 that cricket has very much struggled at the reserve. No First Grade cricket game has taken place at the Reserve since March 2022, with the Reserve having since been redeveloped its surface over the summer of 2022/23 and has only hosted semi regular lower grade senior fixtures since. The reason for only hosting these lower grade senior fixtures since that time is very much due to the state in which the turf cricket wickets are presented at the start of the cricket season due to excessive amounts of AFL being played on the field during the winter season, right up to and including local league Grand Finals and various underage carnivals that take place on the reserve. The Morwell Cricket Club can't be expected to look after the turf wickets on that oval as well as the turf cricket wickets on the Keegan St oval on a sustainable basis. It is hard enough for community cricket clubs to look after one turf wicket oval, let alone two turf wicket ovals, with the club fortunate enough to have two very dedicated aging volunteers who do the work on the turf cricket pitches, however it is fair to be said that the days of those two volunteers considerable efforts are numbered. The Morwell Cricket Club did ask for a curator be employed to look after the turf cricket wickets as Latrobe City Council does for the other Premier A Class shared cricket and football oval in the council boundary, that being the Ted Summerton Reserve in Moe, however council denied that request in last years budget. I also put in a personal request for a curator to be employed on the Morwell Recreation Reserve for such a task last year. I have heard of numerous suggestions that the Morwell Cricket Club vacate the Morwell Recreation Reserve and just play at the neighbouring Keegan St oval and Northern Reserve. I put it to council that the suggestion is against Councils Community Vision and Council Plan on numerous levels around Social Inclusiveness, Connection, Sustainability & Community Activation. I also put it to Latrobe City Council that that suggestion is against the Recreation Infrastructure Funding Policy, whose objectives include Facilities being developed as Multi-Use and Gender Inclusive to encourage the broadest participation by all community members. The Recreation and Infrastructure Funding Policy also recognises cricket as well as AFL as a Regional sport for the Morwell Recreation Reserve. Furthermore I wish to highlight to Latrobe City Council the recently re-signed Division of Seasons and Occupation of Crown Lands used as grounds for Cricket and AFL Football ("Football") competitions, signed by Cricket Victoria, AFL Victoria and the Victorian Government that can be found in this link EXECUTED-Ministerial-Determination-on-the-Division-of-Seasons-and-Occupation-of-Crown-Lands-2025-to-2028.pdf. Imagine suggesting to a Football Netball Club, for arguments sake, that they move their netball section, junior and reserve teams away from playing at the same venue as the senior team, they would not have a bar of it. I put it to Council that the Morwell Cricket Club, should they abandon the Morwell Recreation Reserve, as has been suggested, that the club would be far worse off than before the upgrades that took place at the Morwell Recreation Reserve following the closure of the Hazelwood Power Station and the funding that came to the Reserve as part of that, as previously the club had an A class and C class oval right next to each other, but the suggestion would be to have a B class and C class oval split several kilometres apart from each other. I put it to council that the Morwell Cricket Club should not be disadvantaged by the placement of Gippsland Power at the reserve, to which the cricket club had no say, and the growing influence that AFL has

had at the reserve as a result of that placement, to the Morwell Recreation Reserve now being known as the Gippsland Regional AFL Centre of Excellence, resulting in more AFL being played on the oval, excessively damaging the turf cricket wickets giving cricket volunteers excessive demands to be able to get those wickets into a fit state to play on. Council has worked very hard over many years to connect Netball to the Football sections of clubs, get soccer clubs to have two fields next to one another for each club, Baseball Clubs to have two fields together, Basketball in hubs, netball hubs etc. Of the 121 cricket clubs that have existed in the greater Latrobe City area since 1919 when the local cricket leagues foundations were laid, 20 of them remain. No club has folded (with the exception of the Yallourn based clubs) that has had two fields next to each other. Of the 18 cricket clubs to have existed in Morwell over those years, it is notable that only 2 remain, the only two clubs to have ever had two grounds next to each other, Morwell and Latrobe Cricket Clubs. It works very well for cricket clubs to have two fields next to each other, one for turf wickets for the higher ranked teams in that club, and another field for the lower graded and junior teams. Within those 20 existing clubs, 12 of those clubs have two fields next to each other, with two more (Churchill and Trafalgar) nearly entering that list of clubs to have fields next to each other with works in differing stages to progress to being able to achieve that situation. Most notably, given the damage that AFL does do to cricket turf wickets, many of the AFL shared ovals have the concrete pitch on the AFL oval, with the cricket turf pitch on the secondary oval. I suspect having a hard wicket on the Morwell Recreation Reserve and a Turf Wicket on the Keegan St oval would make for an ideal solution to this problem, similar to the situation that exists at Yinnar, Mirboo North, soon to be Churchill on its B class main oval at Gaskin Park, Trafalgar in due course and numerous other examples around Gippsland. However it is doubtful if either of the AFL clubs based at the Morwell Recreation Reserve would support having a concrete pitch on that oval. There are two other concrete pitches on ovals in the same AFL league that the Morwell Football Netball Club plays in. Those being Western Park in Warragul which has had the concrete pitch recently installed there, replacing the previous turf wicket that was there, with the turf wicket for that club now being now placed on the new oval that is located across the road from Western Oval, and at the Drouin Recreation Reserve, which is currently under redevelopment, but the concrete pitch will remain on that oval. I am not fully aware of the situation at all of the grounds in the league that Gippsland Power Football Club play in regarding turf cricket wickets, I am aware of many of the grounds in that league having turf cricket wickets on them, but none having a concrete pitch on them. But the Morwell Cricket Club should not be disadvantaged by a situation over which it had no control, that being the placement of Gippsland Power FC on that oval in 1993 and the subsequent growth in that clubs, and the sport of AFL, presence at the Morwell Recreation Reserve. I also put it to council that the value of the Morwell Recreation Reserve is greater to the Latrobe City Council community than Ted Summerton Reserve. The amount of AFL at the venue through the two clubs based at the oval, one of whom attracts visitations from outside the region, and also as a cricket venue with two turf wicket cricket grounds side by side that can attract considerable cricketing events to it make the Morwell Recreation Reserve facility at least as worthy of having a turf cricket wicket curator employed there as does Ted Summerton Reserve. Along similar lines, the Morwell Recreation Reserve is currently regarded as the AFLs preferred location in the Gippsland region for any pre-season AFL type games or AFLW matches. However these regional games have ceased to exist in recent seasons since the creation of the “Gather Round” that has stretched the length of the AFL home and away season, and I put it to council that after the soon to commence upgrades at Ted Summerton Reserve, that Ted Summerton Reserve would be a far more appropriate venue for such games, should any further take place, rather than the Morwell Recreation Reserve these days that still has areas of stones in the car parks, incomplete paving of road ways, lack of media facilities and other infrastructure that Ted Summerton Reserve will soon to have, thus making Ted Summerton Reserve the far more appropriate venue for such games, in the unforeseeable event that any actually take place in our local area. There is an idea of moving the turf wickets on the Morwell Recreation Reserve from being either side of the centre circle, to an area around what might be termed Centre Half Forward at the Northern End. However this idea is only for three turf wickets, and there is no real guarantee that this solution will be much better than the present situation. I put it to council that at least four wickets are required on the Morwell Recreation Reserve, as there presently is, as three wickets is certainly not enough (Most turf ovals have 5 or 6 pitches), and as such the turf wickets on the Keegan St oval would have to be used fairly regularly, and how can those turf wickets at Keegan St be sustainably regularly maintained for use when weeknight cricket is played there, on average, four nights a week? I do wish to very much stress here to Latrobe City Council that there is junior and Women’s cricket played at the Keegan St Reserve on average four nights per week, sometimes five nights a week, resulting in sustainably, there is no way that the turf wicket at Keegan St can be maintained on that oval should the current arrangement continue. It must be that there is a turf wicket that is used on one of the ovals out of the Morwell Recreation Reserve and Keegan St Reserve, with the other being the hard wicket oval for such weeknight games to occur without one section of the Morwell Cricket Club running into conflict with the other, and thus benefiting all users of all clubs at the combined Reserves. Given all of that, I propose to council once again, that council find

a workable solution to the current cricketing situation at the Morwell Recreation Reserve that works for all user clubs, and all sections of all user clubs, and sports of the reserve, to maintain that Reserve being a multi-use facility all year round that it has been for near on 100 years in a sustainable manner for the community in accordance with the Latrobe City Council Community Vision and Council Plan, Councils Recreation Infrastructure Funding Policy and the Division of Seasons and Occupation of Crown Lands used as grounds for Cricket and AFL Football ("Football") competitions as signed by AFL Victoria, Cricket Victoria and the Victorian Government. Yours Sincerely, Mark Smith.

Q5. **Upload your submission**

[redacted]

Dear Latrobe City Council,

I write to you regarding the current council budget which is open for submissions.

I write regarding the situation of the Morwell Recreation Reserve and the summer tenant sport of cricket.

Cricket was the founding sport of the Recreation Reserve from when it opened in 1920, and cricket remained a key sport at the Reserve up until the mid-1990s when Gippsland Power Football Club was formed in 1993 and has gradually grown from a part time tenant of the reserve along with the Morwell Cricket Club and Morwell Football Netball Club (which came to the reserve in 1927).

It is particularly since the redevelopment of the Reserve which was fully completed in 2023 that cricket has very much struggled at the reserve.

No First Grade cricket game has taken place at the Reserve since March 2022, with the Reserve having since been redeveloped its surface over the summer of 2022/23 and has only hosted semi regular lower grade senior fixtures since.

The reason for only hosting these lower grade senior fixtures since that time is very much due to the state in which the turf cricket wickets are presented at the start of the cricket season due to excessive amounts of AFL being played on the field during the winter season, right up to and including local league Grand Finals and various underage carnivals that take place on the reserve.

The Morwell Cricket Club can’t be expected to look after the turf wickets on that oval as well as the turf cricket wickets on the Keegan St oval on a sustainable basis. It is hard enough for community cricket clubs to look after one turf wicket oval, let alone two turf wicket ovals, with the club fortunate enough to have two very dedicated aging volunteers who do the work on the turf cricket pitches, however it is fair to be said that the days of those two volunteers considerable efforts are numbered.

The Morwell Cricket Club did ask for a curator be employed to look after the turf cricket wickets as Latrobe City Council does for the other Premier A Class shared cricket and football oval in the council boundary, that being the Ted Summerton Reserve in Moe, however council denied that request in last years budget.

I also put in a personal request for a curator to be employed on the Morwell Recreation Reserve for such a task last year. I have heard of numerous suggestions that the Morwell Cricket Club vacate the Morwell Recreation Reserve and just play at the neighbouring Keegan St oval and Northern Reserve.

I put it to council that the suggestion is against Councils Community Vision and Council Plan on numerous levels around Social Inclusiveness, Connection, Sustainability & Community

Activation. I also put it to Latrobe City Council that that suggestion is against the Recreation Infrastructure Funding Policy, whose objectives include Facilities being developed as Multi-Use and Gender Inclusive to encourage the broadest participation by all community members. The Recreation and Infrastructure Funding Policy also recognises cricket as well as AFL as a Regional sport for the Morwell Recreation Reserve.

Furthermore I wish to highlight to Latrobe City Council the recently re-signed Division of Seasons and Occupation of Crown Lands used as grounds for Cricket and AFL Football ("Football") competitions, signed by Cricket Victoria, AFL Victoria and the Victorian Government that can be found in this link EXECUTED-Ministerial-Determination-on-the-Division-of-Seasons-and-Occupation-of-Crown-Lands-2025-to-2028.pdf.

Imagine suggesting to a Football Netball Club, for arguments sake, that they move their netball section, junior and reserve teams away from playing at the same venue as the senior team, they would not have a bar of it.

I put it to Council that the Morwell Cricket Club, should they abandon the Morwell Recreation Reserve, as has been suggested, that the club would be far worse off than before the upgrades that took place at the Morwell Recreation Reserve following the closure of the Hazelwood Power Station and the funding that came to the Reserve as part of that, as previously the club had an A class and C class oval right next to each other, but the suggestion would be to have a B class and C class oval split several kilometres apart from each other. I put it to council that the Morwell Cricket Club should not be disadvantaged by the placement of Gippsland Power at the reserve, to which the cricket club had no say, and the growing influence that AFL has had at the reserve as a result of that placement, to the Morwell Recreation Reserve now being known as the Gippsland Regional AFL Centre of Excellence, resulting in more AFL being played on the oval, excessively damaging the turf cricket wickets giving cricket volunteers excessive demands to be able to get those wickets into a fit state to play on.

Council has worked very hard over many years to connect Netball to the Football sections of clubs, get soccer clubs to have two fields next to one another for each club, Baseball Clubs to have two fields together, Basketball in hubs, netball hubs etc. Of the 121 cricket clubs that have existed in the greater Latrobe City area since 1919 when the local cricket leagues foundations were laid, 20 of them remain. No club has folded (with the exception of the Yallourn based clubs) that has had two fields next to each other. Of the 18 cricket clubs to have existed in Morwell over those years, it is notable that only 2 remain, the only two clubs to have ever had two grounds next to each other, Morwell and Latrobe Cricket Clubs.

It works very well for cricket clubs to have two fields next to each other, one for turf wickets for the higher ranked teams in that club, and another field for the lower graded and junior teams.

Within those 20 existing clubs, 12 of those clubs have two fields next to each other, with two more (Churchill and Trafalgar) nearly entering that list of clubs to have fields next to each other with works in differing stages to progress to being able to achieve that situation.

Most notably, given the damage that AFL does do to cricket turf wickets, many of the AFL shared ovals have the concrete pitch on the AFL oval, with the cricket turf pitch on the secondary oval. I suspect having a hard wicket on the Morwell Recreation Reserve and a Turf Wicket on the Keegan St oval would make for an ideal solution to this problem, similar to the situation that exists at Yinnar, Mirboo North, soon to be Churchill on its B class main oval at Gaskin Park, Trafalgar in due course and numerous other examples around Gippsland.

However it is doubtful if either of the AFL clubs based at the Morwell Recreation Reserve would support having a concrete pitch on that oval. There are two other concrete pitches on ovals in the same AFL league that the Morwell Football Netball Club plays in. Those being Western Park in Warragul which has had the concrete pitch recently installed there, replacing the previous turf wicket that was there, with the turf wicket for that club now being now placed on the new oval that is located across the road from Western Oval, and at the Drouin Recreation Reserve, which is currently under redevelopment, but the concrete pitch will remain on that oval.

I am not fully aware of the situation at all of the grounds in the league that Gippsland Power Football Club play in regarding turf cricket wickets, I am aware of many of the grounds in that league having turf cricket wickets on them, but none having a concrete pitch on them.

But the Morwell Cricket Club should not be disadvantaged by a situation over which it had no control, that being the placement of Gippsland Power FC on that oval in 1993 and the subsequent growth in that clubs, and the sport of AFL, presence at the Morwell Recreation Reserve.

I also put it to council that the value of the Morwell Recreation Reserve is greater to the Latrobe City Council community than Ted Summerton Reserve. The amount of AFL at the venue through the two clubs based at the oval, one of whom attracts visitations from outside the region, and also as a cricket venue with two turf wicket cricket grounds side by side that can attract considerable cricketing events to it make the Morwell Recreation Reserve facility at least as worthy of having a turf cricket wicket curator employed there as does Ted Summerton Reserve.

Along similar lines, the Morwell Recreation Reserve is currently regarded as the AFLs preferred location in the Gippsland region for any pre-season AFL type games or AFLW matches. However these regional games have ceased to exist in recent seasons since the creation of the “Gather Round” that has stretched the length of the AFL home and away season, and I put it to council that after the soon to commence upgrades at Ted Summerton Reserve, that Ted Summerton Reserve would be a far more appropriate venue for such games, should any further take place, rather than the Morwell Recreation Reserve these

days that still has areas of stones in the car parks, incomplete paving of road ways, lack of media facilities and other infrastructure that Ted Summerton Reserve will soon to have, thus making Ted Summerton Reserve the far more appropriate venue for such games, in the unforeseeable event that any actually take place in our local area.

There is an idea of moving the turf wickets on the Morwell Recreation Reserve from being either side of the centre circle, to an area around what might be termed Centre Half Forward at the Northern End. However this idea is only for three turf wickets, and there is no real guarantee that this solution will be much better than the present situation. I put it to council that at least four wickets are required on the Morwell Recreation Reserve, as there presently is, as three wickets is certainly not enough (Most turf ovals have 5 or 6 pitches), and as such the turf wickets on the Keegan St oval would have to be used fairly regularly, and how can those turf wickets at Keegan St be sustainably regularly maintained for use when weeknight cricket is played there, on average, four nights a week?

I do wish to very much stress here to Latrobe City Council that there is junior and Women's cricket played at the Keegan St Reserve on average four nights per week, sometimes five nights a week, resulting in sustainably, there is no way that the turf wicket at Keegan St can be maintained on that oval should the current arrangement continue. It must be that there is a turf wicket that is used on one of the ovals out of the Morwell Recreation Reserve and Keegan St Reserve, with the other being the hard wicket oval for such weeknight games to occur without one section of the Morwell Cricket Club running into conflict with the other, and thus benefiting all users of all clubs at the combined Reserves.

Given all of that, I propose to council once again, that council find a workable solution to the current cricketing situation at the Morwell Recreation Reserve that works for all user clubs, and all sections of all user clubs, and sports of the reserve, to maintain that Reserve being a multi-use facility all year round that it has been for near on 100 years in a sustainable manner for the community in accordance with the Latrobe City Council Community Vision and Council Plan, Councils Recreation Infrastructure Funding Policy and the Division of Seasons and Occupation of Crown Lands used as grounds for Cricket and AFL Football ("Football") competitions as signed by AFL Victoria, Cricket Victoria and the Victorian Government.

Yours Sincerely,

Mark Smith.

Respondent No:	60	**Responded At:**	May 21, 2025 17:34:37 pm
Login:	Anonymous	**Last Seen:**	May 21, 2025 17:34:37 pm
Email:	n/a	**IP Address:**	n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I am a resident in a retirement village and I was very disappointed to see that council could not see fit to approve a differential rate for the retirement villages. Council do not provide any services to retirement villages but rate the units under the same system as all other residents in the Latrobe City area which creates an extreme inequity. I encourage councillors to have the strength to over ride the council's decision and to approve a differential rate ongoing in this year's budget (2025/26.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 61
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 21, 2025 17:53:38 pm
Last Seen: May 21, 2025 17:53:38 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I am a resident in a retirement village and I was very disappointed to see that council could not see fit to approve a differential rate for the retirement villages. Council do not provide any services to retirement villages but rate the units under the same system as all other residents in the Latrobe City area which creates an extreme inequity. I encourage councillors to have the strength to ove ride the council's decision and to approve a differential rate ongoing in this year's budget (2025/26).

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 62
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 21, 2025 18:44:02 pm
Last Seen: May 21, 2025 18:44:02 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Louise Wargent

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15,000 to Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No:	63	**Responded At:**	May 21, 2025 19:09:25 pm
Login:	Anonymous	**Last Seen:**	May 21, 2025 19:09:25 pm
Email:	n/a	**IP Address:**	n/a

Q1. **Name** Chloe Pollard

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

"Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs." YOU can shine a light on what Moe can become—not just during the day, but after dark too.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 64
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 23, 2025 21:12:42 pm
Last Seen: May 23, 2025 21:12:42 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Vincent Hill

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs. Moe deserves to have the potential of this space realised.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 65
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 25, 2025 06:46:24 am
Last Seen: May 25, 2025 06:46:24 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create local jobs.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 66
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 25, 2025 16:50:22 pm
Last Seen: May 25, 2025 16:50:22 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Proposed new criteria for Farm Rate with Differential

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

LCC Draft budget regarding proposed changes to the farm rate with Differential.

Latrobe City staff and Councillors (LCC) need to look at the budget deficit in other ways, than impacting those on farm rate with differential. Many in the rural sector, receiving the farm rate differential, are battling historically dry conditions. The farmers will be slugged by the State Government's new Emergency Services Volunteer Fund Levy, which has been passed. This is not the time to consider making changes to the farm rate differential when those in the LCC area provide valuable food resource for Victoria and Australia with dairy and livestock, tree farming and horticulture whether they be large or small.

Farmers in general do not have access to many of the services they pay for through rates which are provided in urban area, for example street lighting and concrete footpaths.

Councillors, the CEO and rates department staff often see the farm rate with differential as a "discount" rather than as a lever to equalise rates burden across all sectors i.e., use to make system fairer.

LCC – Our Commitment – Consistent, fair and in line with Council policies and legislation. This LCC proposal is unfair and inconsistent. One LCC department (planning) saying we are viable agriculture and rezoning the land from RLZ to FZ2, and another LCC department (rates) proposing that we will not be eligible for farm rate differential.

South Gippsland shire council is proposing to reduce agricultural rates by lowering the farm differential from 70 to 65 per cent. The Gippsland council has proposed to lower its differential rates for farm properties to help cushion potential steep increases in the state government's controversial fire and emergency services levy, it was quoted by the media.

Wellington shire council is proposing to achieve savings through a management restructure, and removing two senior management roles to strengthen long term financial stability.

Has the Council published rating strategy with a **rationale** for the different rate levels and all the proposed criteria? What message do LCC want to come out of this proposed change for a minority group? LCC costs have increased with wage, superannuation, insurance and work cover cost increases. Remember the farmer is also experiencing these cost increases. A farmer always needs to increase productivity. Are LCC staff increasing productivity?

The farm land criteria set out in the LCC 2025/26 budget is going to be time consuming for the LCC rates department to monitor. I have serious concerns with Criteria 3 – Commercial Viability. As farmers we do maintain official accounting records for the farm, however I do not think that the LCC rates department will have any legal right to expect these records, or evidence to be provided to them as proof of one's commercial viability.

We don't have confidence that LCC staff are capable of protecting information as required by Privacy Laws. We have previously experienced breach of our privacy by LCC staff. When advertising a land subdivision on notice in the LCC offices, the documentation on view for the public to view included our personal information, names and a copy of the cheque for

the payment of the application with my husband's signature, copy of the actual cheque with the account number, BSB and account name.

When amendment C105 to the Latrobe Planning Scheme took place, LLC staff presented photos of our land and a neighbour's and described as, "agriculture opportunity demonstrated uses currently being undertaken with the precinct are considered to be inconsistent with the objectives of the Rural Living zone". Resulted in change for us from RLZ to Farm Zone, and now the Rates Department are proposing new rules by the eligibility for the farm rate differential and the ratepayer will be required to meet all the following criteria. Onus and more work for the ratepayer. We are in drought conditions currently, feeding stock each day and providing paperwork to prove eligibility will be another time-consuming task.

Every farm will be different, and all the 3 criteria which are proposed, will require the LCC to employ more staff to work through the individual farmer, i.e., some farmers may have land in two municipalities i.e., Wellington and LLC. Is LCC going to require the ratepayer to employ a consultant to prove farm viability along with budgets. Are you going to employ auditors to look at the financial reports for the companies which conduct plantation timber production in the LCC as proof of their commercial viability. These are all relevant facts you should be considering. Staff with more expertise to look at the 3 criteria which are proposed in the depth required, and with the legal expertise required.

A young farmer has just purchased a dairy farm, with a large portion of the farm purchase price borrowed. How long before that farm, will meet Criteria 3 - "commercial viability"? There is not going to be evidence of previous years in this case.

Farmer who had paid rates on farm land was referred to the debt collection agency, after the rates department could not sort the payment out. Even after being raised with the LCC Finance officer the issue took months to resolve. Example of no confidence in the LCC staff capable to sort complex problems out. Took many months to sort out a payment problem.

I note the comment that council will work with the ratepayers to transition them back to the general rate by July 2027. We have worked with the LCC rates departments staff in the past, and the ratepayer is the one doing all the research and providing all the paperwork to them.

Our land has been included in several Rural Living Studies completed by LLC.
Rural Living Study completed in 2002 and which progressed by planning scheme amendment C7 in 2003. The 2002 study and planning panel considered amendment C7 and recommended that land be rezoned to a Farming Zone equivalent. The amendment was adopted by Council in late 2004.
Live Work Latrobe completed in 2018 and which progressed by planning scheme Amendment C105 and gazetted 25 October 2019.
Land currently zoned at that time Rural Living Zone be rezoned to proposed Farming Zone Schedule 2 – Mixed farming. Despite appearing at the panel hearing and speaking at the Council Meeting the land was rezoned to Farming zone from Rural Living zone.

The LCC departments and councillors need to be consistent in their planning amendments and fair rate proposals. The LCC rates department is proposing and requiring us to meet all 3 criteria to be eligible for the farm rate with differential. Keep it simple, not complex.

The proposed farm rate with differential proposed criteria is overly complex, as the majority of farmers diversify to make ends meet. Farmers already have a heavy financial burden placed on them with taxes, levies, insurance etc. Add in a drought, a fire or flood and it could see farmers struggling to recover financially for many years. We have experienced all these.

Keep it simple.
Latrobe City Council current website:
Only 2 criteria:
- "no less than 2 hectares" &
- "Used PRIMARILY for commercial farming activity i.e., operates a business seeking to make a profit ".

Respondent No: 67
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 25, 2025 17:03:17 pm
Last Seen: May 25, 2025 17:03:17 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please allocate $15,000 to a Moe Botanic Garden Masterplan to help boost the Latrobe City economy and create jobs." You can help grow a legacy. For us. For Moe. For the future.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 68
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 25, 2025 19:03:24 pm
Last Seen: May 25, 2025 19:03:24 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Eloise Cluning

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please reconsider changes to properties covered by “Farm” rates. Most properties affected by the change still carry livestock. We are in the midst of a severe drought where prices of hay and feed have risen exponentially as well as all other costs involved with managing rural farm properties. For my own property, the changes to the rates would see around 40% increase in the rates component or $1,000. This is before any increases by the ESVF tax.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 69
Login: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]

Responded At: May 26, 2025 11:24:58 am
Last Seen: May 26, 2025 01:15:57 am
IP Address: [redacted]

Q1. **Name** Ross McKenzie

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

As residents of a retirement village in Traralgon, we are disapointed in Councils decision not to approve a differential rate for villages like ours and hope that serious consideration is given in future budgets.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 70
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 26, 2025 11:56:05 am
Last Seen: May 26, 2025 11:56:05 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Opposing increasing to Farm Differential Rates

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

Date: 26th May 2025
To: Latrobe City Council
From: [redacted]
Address: [redacted]
Contact: [redacted]

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Increases in Farm Differential Rates

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to formally express our opposition to the proposed increases in farm differential rates within the Latrobe City Council Municipality.

As a local farmer within Latrobe City Council, I recognize the important role agriculture plays in our local economy and the broader region. However, the suggested rate increases place an undue financial burden on farmers, many of whom are already facing significant challenges, including fluctuating commodity prices, increasing input costs, and the ongoing impacts of costs of living.

It is also important to acknowledge that many commercial farms within our region operate successfully on landholdings smaller than 40 hectares or have smaller allotments with adjoining titles that create their whole farm. Charging them increased rates on each title is unfair and undue. Advances in technology and intensive farming practices have allowed these smaller farms to remain viable and contribute significantly to the local economy. Increasing differential rates without considering the productivity and scale of these smaller farms disproportionately impacts operators who lack the advantage of large land areas.

Farm businesses operate on tight margins, and raising differential rates at this time will compromise the viability of many local farms. The Latrobe city municipality is built on strong rural communities many of whom are farming families raising their children on the land. These same families are the volunteers of the CFA, the CWA and community sporting groups who don't need another slap in the face.

I urge the Council to consider alternative funding options or to maintain farm differential criteria and rates at their current levels, ensuring that farmers can continue to contribute sustainably to the community without facing additional financial pressures.

Thank you for considering my views on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Respondent No: 71
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 26, 2025 12:21:55 pm
Last Seen: May 26, 2025 12:21:55 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Ian Bennett

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I refer to the Retirement Village differential rate application/review. The result of the review carried out in 2024 did not consider that the council does not provide any service other than Garbage collection (which is separately charged) within the village such as footpath and road maintenance, street lighting, etc. These services are provided by the Village operators and residence pay these cost through their body corp fees. This is a huge savings to the council and as such should be reflected in the rates charged by the council. I ask the council to support the application for a 25% differential rate discount for Retirement Villages to address this inequity.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 72
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 26, 2025 14:11:56 pm
Last Seen: May 26, 2025 14:11:56 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Objection to Farm Rate Criteria, see uploaded submission. It wouldn't let me leave this blank. Thank you

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

Farm Rate

I believe the new proposed conditions on Farm Rate with Differential is un-Australian and to impose the rigid 3 criteria for which we must meet all 3 is unfair.

A farm comes in shapes, sizes and complexities.

We all run our businesses on different scales and production. Productivity and revenue are also very different for every one of us.

The criteria are overly complex as many farmers diversify to make ends meet.

Add to that the already heavy financial burden placed on farmers with taxes and levies.

Therefore, I would like to lodge an objection to any changes in the criteria.

[redacted]

26/05/25

Respondent No: 73
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 26, 2025 16:05:56 pm
Last Seen: May 26, 2025 16:05:56 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

We wish to oppose the proposed Criteria changes to the Farm Differential Rates. Sad to say if the Criteria changes go ahead we will not qualify, as our Churchill Farm is only 72 Acres. Our Farming Enterprise consists of farms smaller than the proposed 40 Hectares. Over recent years we have had to source Part Time employment to Supplement income to help pay the ever increasing cost of living. After a full day at Employment Work we need to go to both Farms to feed out Hay to our Cattle Herds which adds hours to an already full day. To increase our Rates by taking away our Eligibility of the Farm Differential Rates will greatly impact our quality of life as we struggle to meet the current cost of living. We strongly urge you to reconsider your proposed changes and ask that you would kindly abolish them for us and the local farmers.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 74
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 26, 2025 18:00:39 pm
Last Seen: May 26, 2025 18:00:39 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Submission regarding proposed draft budget farm rate differential changes see submission below

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

latrobe city draft budget changes to farm rate differential as proposed by rates department

After due consideration i oppose the proposed changes to the farm rate differential on the following grounds :

The Valuation of Lands Act 1960 states TO set a fair and equitable rate for farms : a differential may be set by Councils to achieve this.

The minimum area to be two hectares of food producing land.

For Council to approve the proposed minimum area to forty hectares of food producing land would be a breach of the act.

Fertile soils within latrobe can produce the following food products : Horticulture : vegetables, citrus apple orchards, grape vinyards.

Dairy, milk cheese butter yoghurts.

Beef: bullocks steers vealers and female breeders

Sheep: prime spring lamb.

All the above can be produced on less than forty hectares.

All the above must be performed in Farm Zone :

To meet the proposed criteria : must be a viable profitable business !!

Drought, Flood, Market fluctuation : local and international , include the Aus Dollar valuation.

also each farm business entity may choose to not make profit !! That is there right and to be dealt with via the ATO, not a council responsibility.

The Annual Property Valuations carried out allow the Rate Department to collect Maximum Rate Revenue

Farm productivity improvements: fencing, stock yards, out buildings, stock water, roads laneways, etc, all send the CIV skywards.

The Rate Revenue collected from all size properties within farm zone with the differential in place with the present criteria is substantial.

My recommendation to all councilors and Rates Department is to not adopt the proposed changes and leave as is the farm rate differential to all properties within the Farm Zone.

Yours Truly,

[redacted]

1 of 1 26/05/2025, 4:31 pm

Respondent No: 75
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 26, 2025 19:18:46 pm
Last Seen: May 26, 2025 19:18:46 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Latrobe City Coucncil Watch.

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Community Budget Feedback Submission This submission is made on behalf of a group of concerned residents from the Latrobe community who have reviewed the proposed budget with interest and care. As active stakeholders in the future of our municipality, we believe it is important to provide constructive feedback that reflects local priorities, promotes transparency, and ensures responsible financial management. The following questions and comments are offered in the spirit of community participation and are intended to support Council in delivering a fair, balanced, and forward-looking budget.

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

26th May 2025.

Latrobe City Council Budget Feedback Submission
Submitted on behalf of Latrobe City Council Watch (LCCW)

The following submission has been compiled by Latrobe City Council Watch (LCCW) and reflects a series of questions and concerns raised by members of the Latrobe community. These questions have been gathered through ongoing consultation with residents, ratepayers, and stakeholders, and are presented here as part of the formal feedback process relating to the Latrobe City Council's annual budget.

Each question included in this submission is considered relevant and appropriate and warrants genuine and transparent consideration in alignment with the Council's commitment to community consultation, as outlined in its policies and procedures.

Questions:

1/ What is the long-term resolution for the mitigation of the Traralgon Rec Reserve Flooding issue?

2/ Funds to be set aside in the budget to be used for people facing, or would face financial hardship, and their case be supported by independent financial advisors to support their application for rate relief and or rate waiver.

3/ Why is Council borrowing $2.5 million to fund the Gaskin Park Pavilion project (costing $3.7 million), whilst carrying a surplus of $52.1 million? "What is the rationale behind Latrobe City Council's decision to borrow funds for infrastructure development?"

4/ What long term infrastructure projects are being planned which creates long term employment for the region? Long-term employment initiatives should be embedded within the budget to support sustainable economic growth and local job creation.

5/ Can Council provide a forecast of rate income expected to be generated from new residential, commercial, and industrial construction across the Latrobe Local Government Area over the next five years, and how is this projected revenue accounted for in the budget?

6/ Which carry-over projects have experienced delays, what are their names and locations, and what are the reasons for these delays? Is the expenditure resulting from project delays

and the associated carry-over surpluses clearly reflected in the budget? If not, can Council explain why this information has not been included?

7/ Is the allocated cost of $700,000 for the construction of a public toilet proportionate to the scope of works, and how has this figure been justified in the budget?

8/ What is the justification for borrowing to fund this project and other proposed initiatives, rather than reprioritising existing budget allocations?

9/ What is the debt strategy for the next 3–5 years given revenue constraints?

10/ What specific and actionable steps will be implemented to address the structural deficit?

11/ Which services or assets are currently being assessed to enhance long-term sustainability?

12/ What newly introduced roles or services are driving the increase in staff costs at Latrobe City Council?

13/ Which newly created roles or expanded services account for the rise in staff costs?

14/ Is a comprehensive efficiency review scheduled for all service units?

15/ What proportion of Latrobe City Council's rates income is allocated to staffing expenses?

16/ What are the specific changes proposed to farm rate eligibility?

17/ Was the option of implementing a differential rate for retirement villages thoroughly examined?

18/ How are performance metrics being utilised to guide future service improvements, and where is this detailed in the budget?

19/ Which services are planned for review in 2025/26 and why?

20/ In what ways will performance metrics be applied to support and enhance future service improvements?

21/ Which services are scheduled for review in the 2025/26 period, and what are the reasons behind their selection?

22/ What strategies does Latrobe City Council have in place to attract business investment, over and above Budget listed initiatives, to the LGA, and where are these outlined in the 2025/26 budget?

We trust that adequate attention will be given to each point raised, and we welcome further discussion or clarification if required. For any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us via the details provided.

Signed

p.p. N Blundell.

Secretary

Latrobe City Council Watch.

Respondent No: 76
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 26, 2025 20:59:18 pm
Last Seen: May 26, 2025 20:59:18 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

To whom it may concern. I'm writing to you today to add my two cents worth on this rate changes matter that is being discussed among council members tonight(26/5/25). We as farmers are doing it tough out there, not just this season which has been exceptionally dry, but have been battling hard at interest repayments since the release of the covid virus amongst Australians (and the rest of the world). I really don't see the need for local government to take it out on the very portion of people who has a passion for the land, a passion to feed the nation and a passion to leave something behind for generations to come. With just one "clean up" act as mentioned by a certain councillor on last Monday(19/5/25) you can and potentially break many a farmer that is trying to make a living and create something to leave behind for their offspring who also loves the land. This also makes it hard and unattractive for young farmers to want to enter into farming, there is no incentive to get into farming at all with everything you are proposing. You are going to add to the already exploding mental health issues we are facing in the Latrobe valley, you are going to add a number of tomb stones to cemeteries across the Valley with suicides of farmers not being able to pay rates, interest and service their loans on farmland on which they slowly but surely want to expand their enterprises. You as council are always wanting investment of business in the Latrobe valley, which includes farmers, because they do run a business. These businesses are facing more challenges than your average business in town, we are dealing with nature here and even though the valley is a very blessed part of Australia regarding rainfall, there is times of severe drought, fires and flooding occurring in the region. There is never one day that is the same on a farm, there is lambing , calving , outbreak of animal diseases. Improving pastures is always high on the list for farmers, seed is expensive as well as fertiliser and crops are not always a guaranteed success as there is that many insects/ parasites that can be fought with very expensive insecticides, which is not always the best solution for the environment. Labour is hard enough to find as well to afford and the work force around the Valley is not willing to do the hard yards. This results in most farmers that has to have daytime job ,to come out to their farm block which might not even be their primary residence , to feed out fodder, to maintain fences; fix water leaks, pull calves/lambs from animals struggling to give birth or whatever the case might be on the farm that specific day. Yes, it's easy for you to say, sell your farm , take a holiday, you don't need to work so hard. The fact stands , it's our passion to look after the land and preserve it for the future generations, we feed a nation and even the international community, as Australian produce , is produced with the highest level of care and standards. It's something to be proud of as the local council and not something that we should be punished for because of local, state and federal government budget blowouts that is now sought from the everyday Australian and the farmers which is the heart of this nation. With all this said, I am certain that you can see that I am passionately opposing this proposal of yours, as we will no longer be eligible for the farm differential rates. This will greatly impact our operation and most likely result in the sale of our land as a young couple that has hopes and dreams to build on the land and see our children grow and love the land to the best of their abilities.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 77
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 27, 2025 07:46:49 am
Last Seen: May 27, 2025 07:46:49 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Latrobe CITY FARM RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Submission by Latrobe City FARM RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (L. Duncan - Secretary)

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

To Latrobe City Council 26th may 2025

On behalf of the Committee and Members of the Latrobe City Farm Ratepayers Association (LCFRA), we firmly **oppose all proposed changes in the 2025–2026 draft budget concerning the Farm differential.**

For over 40 years, submissions have been made to council advocating for the retention of the Farm differential, ensuring fair and reasonable classification of farmland.

The proposed changes are not only unjust but also contradict the fundamental principles of applying a differential rate. The revised criteria will exclude many farmers in our region from meeting the new definition of a 'FARM ', failing to account for several essential considerations .

*In the **2021–2025 budget**, Latrobe City Council recognized that **without a differential rate, farmers would bear a disproportionate share of the Council's rates revenue**.*
The Council also acknowledged that:

- *Farming generates **lower financial returns** compared to other land uses, given the assets involved, including land.*
- *As a result, farmers have a **reduced capacity to pay**.*
- *Given the **critical role of agriculture in the local economy**, ongoing **rate differential is essential** to support and sustain the sector*

The Importance of the Farm Differential
The Draft Budget Criteria changes have raised issues that are not in line with the purpose of applying a farm differential.
The **farm differential rate** is designed to **ensure fairness** by recognizing the unique financial challenges of farming. Differentials are used by council in Rating FARMS in recognition that FARMS rates are calculated on Captial Improved Value which does not equate to **ability to pay** .
The key principle is that **as farmland values increase (CIV), the differential rate should be applied to FARM rated properties**, ensuring that the **rate burden on farmers remains stable and equitable** across all ratepayers.
This approach promotes a **fairer distribution of rates** between different land classifications, preventing excessive financial pressure on farmers.
Additionally, we urge councils to **focus on greater efficiencies and cost savings** rather than shifting costs onto specific land types. Maintaining a **balanced and sustainable rate system** is essential for the long-term viability of farming communities.

Criteria 1 - Land Size

The **Valuation of Land Act 1960** defines farmland based on two key factors:
a minimum land size of **2 hectares** and its use for primary production.
Councils are legally required to adhere to this definition when determining rate classifications.

Additionally, **The Local Government Act 1989** grants councils the authority to apply differential rates to farmland; however, it does not permit them to redefine what qualifies as a **farm.**
The definition established by the **Valuation of Land Act 1960** is binding and must be followed.

Given this, the Council does not have the authority to arbitrarily alter or impose a new minimum land size of 40 hectares (98 acres).
Such a change falls outside its jurisdiction and governance powers.
Therefore:
Properties Over 2 hectares, on own title, if in farm ZONE should be Automatically included in farm differential.

Criteria 3. Commercial Viability
The land must be used by a registered business :
(i) Has an ABN & **is registered for GST & has primary production registration**

It is overreaching for the Council to dictate how farmers should operate their businesses.

The requirement that farmland must be used by a registered business raises concerns, particularly regarding GST registration.

- GST registration is not mandatory for all businesses.
- It also implies that farmers must have an income exceeding $75,000, which is not a universal standard for agricultural operations.
  This approach fails to consider the diverse financial realities of farming and the challenges many farmers face in maintaining their businesses**.**

Primary production registration*-this is unclear.- is that with the ATO ?*

(ii) ***that is of sufficient scale to have some element of independent viability WITHOUT the need to be supported by OFF FARM INCOME*** –

The Council's approach overlooks the reality that many farmers, struggling with financial hardship, often rely on supplementary income to cover rising expenses such as rates, loans, electricity, fuel, and other farm-related costs.
This disconnect demonstrates a lack of understanding of the challenges farmers face.
Furthermore, while farmers aim to generate a profit—as outlined in the **Land Act**—this clause fails to acknowledge that external factors often force them to seek secondary income.

These can include :

- **Weather conditions** – Droughts, fires, floods, and unpredictable climate patterns can severely impact production.

- **Market fluctuations** – Changes in market & stock prices can greatly reduce profitability.
- **Pests and diseases** – Outbreaks affecting crops or livestock can lead to losses and or increased costs for treatment and prevention.
- **Interest rates and loan accessibility** – Many farmers depend on loans, and rising interest rates make borrowing more expensive.
- **Natural resource availability** – Limited access to water, fertile soil, and grazing land due to environmental changes or government policies can restrict farming operations.

Recognizing these challenges is essential to ensuring fair and sustainable policies that support farmers rather than placing additional financial strain on them

Add to that Increased transport costs to market , insurance , the 1.5 % rate increase on top of municipal charges , waste , epa then the Emergency Services Levy

(iii) That is making or seek to make a profit on a continuous or repetitive basis form the primary use

Not all businesses operate at a profit, and their financial performance should not be subject to scrutiny. For example,some farmers look at long range income

- **reinvesting profits** - can involve upgrading equipment, improving infrastructure, purchasing better seeds or livestock, water improvement or expanding operations to enhance productivity and sustainability. This strategy helps businesses grow without relying on external funding.

To then place FARMERS who do not or cannot comply with **ALL OF** THE new CONDITIONS OR ELIGIBILTY criteria for FARM differential , back onto a General rate is unfair and **fails to recognize the financial realities of farming**. Many farmers rely on the **farm differential** to ensure their rates remain manageable, given the unpredictable nature of agriculture. **Forcing them onto the general rate**—despite their genuine farming operations—places **an excessive financial burden** on them, threatening their ability to sustain their livelihoods.

The Council must **consider the long-term impact** of these changes and ensure that rate policies reflect the true challenges farmers face.

Protecting Farmers, Protecting Lives

The rising financial burden on Victorian farmers is more than just numbers—it is costing lives. Farmers across the state are struggling under immense financial pressure, with many facing overwhelming debt and uncertainty.

We urge the Council to **acknowledge the human cost of its policies** and ensure fair and equitable farm rates that supports all of the farming community. The survival of our farmers depends on it.

We (LCFRA and it members) strongly urge the Council to abolishing the changes in the draft budget to ensure All farmers irrespective of how the council believes they SHOULD run their business and to ensure they are ALL treated fairly.

On behalf of Latrobe City Farm Ratepayers Association
Leeanne Duncan (secretary)

PRESIDENT

Graeme Ohara

[redacted]

[redacted]

Mobile – [redacted]

SECRETARY

Leeanne Duncan

[redacted]

[redacted]

Mobile – [redacted]

23rd March 2025

SUBMISSION TO LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

FARM RATE DIFFERENTIAL

Our committee and members thank the council for the opportunity to present this submission for the retention of our Farm Rate Differential. We acknowledge and commend the Council for their support in previous years.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Our Farm Rate Differential has been in place for over 40 years. The Minister for Local Government encourages all regional councils to reduce the rate burden placed on farms, by the use of the Differential Rate System Valuation of Land Act, 1960.

The NAV of farmland was legislated at five percent of the CIV of the said property. The NAV purported to represent the return of the property in rent or lease situation. The rate of return on farmland does not return five percent. Farm ratepayers pay significantly more than township ratepayers and have less access to the services offered by the council. Our committee members congratulate past councils for recognizing the inequity that does exist. The impact of a potential zone change, from farm zone to rural residential, allows the council to implement the potential rate. This results in a

substantial rate increase with no change in the farmers' usage of land or income. This has threatened the farm sustainability of some farms in our area.

FARMLAND RATING

The influx of city investors with substantial off-farm income paying unsustainable high prices will bring about a revaluation of properties supported by off-farm income. Farming is a land-based activity. As the farm business improves its productivity via the land the land value increases, lifting its assessable rate value.

Our association supports the council to maximise the municipal charge to up to twenty percent of the total rate value. We view this charge as an equal contribution by rate payers.

COMMENTS OF CONCERN FROM MEMBERS

Farmers have seen an excessive dry hot summer impacting our pasture and base feed regime. Full time farmers have concerns about the recent sales of farmland by purchasers with substantial non-agricultural income. This has led to increases of up to 20% in some areas. The recent introduction of US tariffs for cattle, sheep, grains, and wines, will negatively impact our farm incomes.

ZONING CHANGES

Zoning changes require careful planning, rating should continue for Farm Zones 1 & 2 (EG) agriculture to Rural Living until such time as the owner submits a plan of subdivision within its zoned category. Valuers can introduce the POTENTIAL RATE thus rendering the farm property unviable due to the increased rate burden. In some cases, ten plus years pass before the development eventuates.

CONCLUSION

The farm rate differential is a tool provided by the Local Government Act to assist in setting an equitable rate. Farm businesses are logistically low users of council services, but they contribute substantially to both Latrobe City's economy and rate revenue. Agricultural production within Latrobe City is a large contributor for the Gippsland Food Bowl. The seasons have changed dramatically with drought and bushfires, then turning into flooding rains and causing severe damage to farming land, and the costs involved in refencing and pasture restoration.

Yours faithfully

Graeme O’Hara

Latrobe City Farm Ratepayers Association

Respondent No: 78
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 27, 2025 07:48:22 am
Last Seen: May 27, 2025 07:48:22 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

UPDATED VERSION We wish to oppose the proposed Criteria changes to the Farm Differential Rates. Sad to say if the Criteria changes go ahead we will not qualify. Our Farming Enterprise consists of 4 farms (one, of which we Lease) totalling to 300 Acres of Land being farmed and yet none meet the proposed 40 Hectares requirement. Over recent years we have had to source Part Time employment to Supplement income to help pay the ever increasing costs of Farming. After a full day at Employment Work we need to go to all Farms to feed out Hay to our Cattle Herds which adds hours to an already full day. To increase our Rates by taking away our Eligibility of the Farm Differential Rates will greatly impact our viability to the successful running of our Farming Enterprise. We strongly urge you to reconsider your proposed changes and ask that you would kindly abolish them for us and the local farmers. This proposal is heavy handed as majority of Farmers endure hard times, as well as good times, for the satisfaction of farming. Enduring unprofitable times such as Drought, needing to buy in Feed etc put extra pressure on the finances. At the moment the Farming Enterprise subsidy is only on one Rates Notice where as it should be on the combined rates of all farms.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 81
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 26, 2025 14:00:24 pm
Last Seen: May 26, 2025 14:00:24 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please find my written submission attached.

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

Council Submission:
2025/26 Draft Council Budget

This submission outlines the negative impacts of keeping municipal basis of a 1.50% increase in municipal rates and charges (excluding waste services charges) which is below the 3.0% maximum increase in rates permissible under the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) for the 2025/26 financial year.

I summary I have concerns that the plan and intentions of council have not been clearly communicated to the community, and the intended or unintended consequences of such a minimal rate increase.

I also believe that this increase is one driven by populism rather than a pragmatic fiscal approach by councillors. The expected savings by limiting rate increases to property owners are frankly, minimal.

I ask that the council consider these points to ensure sustainable financial planning and service delivery.

My concerns can be summarised as follows:

Diminished Purchasing Power

When rates do not keep pace with inflation, the real value of council revenue declines, potentially leading to an inability for the council to maintain expected service levels.

Impacts of Council Staff Engagement

A reduced level of ratings could have adverse effects on staff engagement through the inability to achieve quality work outcomes.

The reduced level of funding coupled with a potential change to council's review of the procurement approval, contract award and contract variations and delegations, could all lead to potential organisational roadblocks, disempowerment and frustration resulting in low employee engagement and likely turnover.

Service Delivery Risks

Core services such as road maintenance, and community programs may face cutbacks or reduced quality due to funding shortfalls.

Deferred Infrastructure Maintenance

Inadequate funding can lead to reductions in essential maintenance, resulting in higher long-term remedial costs and potential community risks.

Increased Reliance on Debt or External sources

Councils may be forced to borrow, or depend on external funding, in particular from the Victorian Government who are fiscally challenged, all compromising the future financial position of the council.

Intergenerational Inequity

Suppressing rates today can shift the financial burden to future ratepayers, who may face steeper increases or degraded infrastructure.

Reduced Capacity for Investment

Limited revenue growth through rates constrains the council's ability to invest in future-focused initiatives such as climate resilience, public safety, and urban renewal projects across Latrobe City's main towns and smaller communities..

Budgetary Imbalance and Structural Deficits

A persistent low rating approach can lead to chronic budget deficits, undermining long-term financial planning and stability. This will be worsened by a reducing rating level from coal power stations as they retire.

Erosion of Community Expectations

Residents may expect consistent or improved services, but underfunding can lead to dissatisfaction and reduced trust in the council.

Inability to match Revenue with Input Costs

As Council locks in the rates for service delivery, they are unable to increase fees and revenue to cover any increases in input costs such as materials or labour. This can lead to a deficit in revenue versus costs to supply services.

Conclusion

In conclusion, keeping municipal rates below the rate of inflation poses significant risks to the financial health and service delivery capabilities of Latrobe City Council.

I remain of the view that a prudent approach is to adjust rates in line with inflation, in parallel with identifying opportunities to reduce costs and maximise the effectiveness of expenditure commitments, all designed to ensure sustainable growth, maintain service quality, and uphold community trust.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

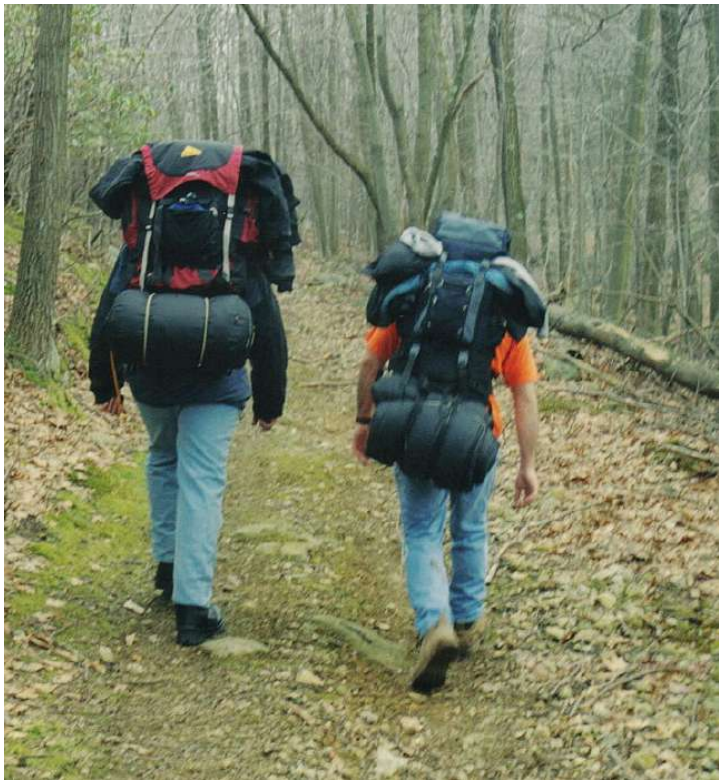
New Year's Resolutions 2025
Wish List for Latrobe City

As we step into 2025, the future for Latrobe City is brighter than ever. Below are some items which have the potential to reshape Latrobe City's future into one of abundance and reframe Latrobe City as a must visit destination, for both national and international travellers. This list is not exhaustive, it's a little something to whet your appetite.

Moe Mural Trail - A Designated Tourist Drive

Already considered a must-visit by those in the know, official designation of the Moe Mural Trail as a Tourist Drive would further enhance the ability of this unique attraction to draw visitors. Designation allows for standardised brown and white tourism signs along major routes, effectively guiding tourists to discover Moe and Newborough. Moe's Mural Trail is a key point of difference, drawing people in, and once here, they have the opportunity to delve deeper into the many other unique attractions to see and experience in Latrobe City's towns. This has a flow-on effect to local businesses, including cafes and accommodation, which helps create more jobs, particularly for younger people, encouraging them to stay in the region.

Master Plan To Link Walking and Riding Trails



Develop a master plan for an interconnected network of trails through Latrobe City and connecting to other trails such as the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail. Linking existing rail trails, walking paths, and riding tracks into strategic loops would open up exciting multi-day adventure opportunities. Visitors could arrive by train and embark on journeys of varying lengths and difficulties, discovering our region's natural beauty and rich heritage. Strategically placed basic camping spots along these trails would enable genuine trail experiences, while connections to local towns would allow travellers to resupply and explore our communities. This integrated trail network would position Latrobe City as a premier destination for outdoor enthusiasts, drawing visitors from across Victoria and beyond, while providing new recreational opportunities for local residents.

New Year's Resolutions 2025 Wish List for Latrobe City

72 Hour Caravan Stays with Dump Point

Designated 72-hour caravan stays in Moe, Morwell, and Churchill provides a compelling reason for travellers to pause and explore Latrobe City. With 2023 recorded the highest number of caravaners and 2024 trending higher, the timing is perfect to capture this growing market. These strategically placed sites would fill a crucial gap in facilities for travellers heading along the coast to/from NSW, where dump points and extended stay areas are notably absent. Convenient facilities including dump points, will put Latrobe City clearly on the map for grey nomads and traveling families, transforming Latrobe City into a worthwhile destination. The sites would serve as convenient bases for visitors attending local events and festivals, further enhancing our tourism appeal while providing economic benefits for local businesses.

ANZAC / Memorial Drive - Latrobe City

A distinctive opportunity exists to create Australia's first dedicated ANZAC memorial tourist drive, linking the significant war memorials and cenotaphs across Latrobe City. Each town in Latrobe City holds unique stories of service and sacrifice, with memorials that reflect their individual contributions to Australia's military history. A designated memorial drive can connect these sacred sites, allowing visitors to experience and reflect upon the diverse ways Latrobe City contributed to securing the freedoms we enjoy today. Formal ANZAC designation would require approval, until then establishing this route as a memorial drive would create a meaningful journey through our shared history, offering both locals and visitors a deeper understanding of our region's military heritage. This unique tourist drive would not only honour those who served but also preserve and share their stories for future generations.

Heritage List Yallourn W Cooling Towers

The iconic cooling towers of Yallourn W Power Station stand as pioneering monuments in Australia's energy history, being the first of their kind in the nation. A plan to heritage list these historic structures, alongside the already protected Yallourn Production Centre ('White House'), presents a unique opportunity to preserve our region's significant industrial heritage. These distinctive towers represent a pivotal moment in Australia's power generation history and could become a compelling tourist destination, similar to how other regions worldwide have transformed industrial infrastructure into cultural landmarks. Heritage listing would ensure these remarkable structures remain as reminder of Latrobe Valley's crucial role in powering Victoria's growth, while creating opportunities for future tourism development. This forward-thinking approach would help Latrobe City transition from its industrial past to a future that celebrates and shares its rich energy heritage.

New Year's Resolutions 2025 Wish List for Latrobe City

Help Organisations Become Tourist Destinations

Supporting local organisations and businesses to become recognised tourist destinations unlocks unique experiences already in Latrobe City. The Latrobe Valley Model Railway Association, with its world-class layouts and regular opening hours, fits this potential. When paired with the Gippsland Model Engineering Society's remarkable miniature steam train rides, Latrobe City could become a significant draw for tourists. This is one example of many organisations close to meeting tourist destination criteria. With targeted support to enhance facilities, expand opening hours, or improve accessibility, they could transform from local treasures into regional tourist drawcards. This approach creates new tourism opportunities and strengthens community organisations and preserves valuable local knowledge and skills.

Community Christmas Decorations

A vibrant opportunity exists to transform Latrobe City's festive season through a unique community-driven Christmas decorations project. This innovative approach brings together local talent, including Men's Sheds, artists, schools, and community groups, to create distinctive decorations that reflect Latrobe City's character. Rather than purchasing expensive commercial decorations, this collaborative initiative significantly reduces cost while encouraging community pride and engagement. By involving local craftspeople and organisations, we can create memorable Christmas displays that are uniquely ours, while building stronger community connections and creating valuable skills development opportunities for participants.

Updating Wayfinding Signage

Up to 25,000 vehicles passing through Latrobe City daily. A comprehensive signage upgrade presents a significant opportunity to transform passing traffic into engaged visitors. Latrobe City's outdated signage fail to showcase many remarkable attractions. A strategic initiative to install modern, high-impact signage along major routes, coupled with clear directional and interpretive signs at key locations, would make our attractions more visible and accessible. This coordinated approach to wayfinding, including listings on WikiCamps and TripAdvisor will guide visitors to Latrobe City's diverse attractions and also enhance their overall experience through informative on-site interpretation. By implementing a signage plan, we can effectively put Latrobe City's currently hidden gems on the map, encouraging more travellers to stop, explore, and contribute to our local economy.

New Year's Resolutions 2025 Wish List for Latrobe City

Create a Tourism Toilet Plan

While Latrobe City Council's Public Toilet Plan 2023-2033 provides a comprehensive framework for improving public amenities, there's an opportunity to enhance its tourism focus. Currently, many of our key tourist destinations and natural attractions lack adequate facilities, including Narracan Falls, Lake Narracan and other bushland reserves. Although the current plan includes new facilities at Edward Hunter Reserve, most proposed new installations are concentrated in CBD areas. A review of the plan with a stronger tourism lens could help identify strategic locations along popular walking trails, at scenic lookouts, and at key tourist attractions. This tourism-focused approach would support longer visitor stays and enhance the experience at Latrobe City's natural and cultural attractions, ultimately contributing to Latrobe City's development as a must-visit destination.

Lake Narracan Campsite

Establishing a dedicated campsite at Lake Narracan presents a significant opportunity to transform this popular recreational area into a premier outdoor destination. With its expansive waterfront, existing boat ramp, and proximity to towns, a well-planned campsite with modern amenities would create a perfect base for water sports enthusiasts, fishing families, and nature lovers. By providing essential facilities including powered and unpowered sites, modern toilet and shower blocks, and basic camp kitchens, the site could attract both short-stay campers and visitors looking for extended stays to explore the region. This development would complement existing recreational activities at the lake while creating new opportunities for tourism growth. Strategic placement of facilities would ensure minimal environmental impact while maximising lake views and access.

A Real Moe Botanical Garden

Transforming Moe Botanic Gardens into a true botanical destination would create a significant drawcard. Originally envisioned as a proper botanical garden, this beautiful space has untapped potential to become a premier location for wedding photography, special events, and passive recreation. With thoughtful landscaping, themed garden beds, and enhanced pathways, the gardens could rival other regional botanical attractions while providing a unique venue that captures special moments. The development would complement Latrobe City's existing attractions like the Morwell Centenary Rose Garden, creating another florally-rich destination for garden enthusiasts and photographers. Investment in this space would enhance Moe's aesthetic appeal and generate economic benefits through increased visitation and event bookings. The gardens' central location, existing mature trees, and established infrastructure provide an excellent foundation for creating a showcase botanical space that celebrates our region's horticultural potential.

New Year's Resolutions 2025 Wish List for Latrobe City

Strzelecki Koala Habitat and Visitors Centre

A Strzelecki Koala Habitat and Visitors Centre represents a transformative opportunity to establish Latrobe City as a leading destination for eco-tourism while protecting one of Australia's most important koala populations. This ambitious project would create a world-class facility near Morwell National Park, combining wildlife conservation, research, and tourism in a unique setting. With projected visitation of 50,000 people annually and an estimated economic impact of $6.7 million per year, the centre would generate significant benefits through tourism revenue, job creation, and increased spending at local businesses. Drawing inspiration from successful attractions like Phillip Island Nature Parks, this initiative would not only safeguard the unique Strzelecki koala population but also provide educational opportunities for 5,000 students annually while establishing our region as a hub for biodiversity research.

Raising Eden Community Plant Nursery

Recognition of an innovative partnership between the Newborough Yallourn Men's Shed and Raising Eden aims to transform Latrobe City's approach to community beautification. The recently established Community Plant Nursery, featuring a donated 6m x 4m greenhouse, will serve as a hub for growing plants that enhance our region's public spaces. This citizen-led initiative not only reduces council costs but creates meaningful opportunities for community engagement, particularly among young people who can take ownership of local parks and gardens. At the nursery, residents and community groups can participate in growing plants that meet council requirements while contributing to the region's visual appeal. The project exemplifies a new era of council-community collaboration, supporting broader tourism initiatives while encouraging civic pride.

Revitalise Latrobe City's Outdoor Pools

Transform Latrobe City's underutilised outdoor pools into vibrant community hubs creates an exciting opportunity to enhance Latrobe City's recreational landscape. These facilities, which were once the heart of summer social life, offer untapped potential with their expansive grounds, existing infrastructure, and water features. By reimagining these spaces as multi-purpose venues, they could host markets, outdoor cinema nights, food festivals, and community events while maintaining their core swimming function. The presence of established amenities including halls, toilets, and parking makes them ideal for both regular activities and special events. This activation strategy would not only provide new entertainment options for residents but could also create unique event spaces that attract visitors to Latrobe City. By incorporating modern features and social spaces, these revitalised facilities could once again become summer destinations that encourage outdoor activity among young people while generating economic benefits.

New Year's Resolutions 2025 Wish List for Latrobe City

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New Year's Resolutions 2025 Wish List for Latrobe City

Fenced Children's Play Areas

Installing fenced children's play areas across Latrobe City represents a strategic investment in family-friendly infrastructure. This initiative would transform key locations into safe, engaging destinations for both residents and visitors. Beyond simply providing secure play environments, these fenced areas would serve as community hubs that encourage longer stays and increased visitation to nearby attractions and businesses. The project aligns perfectly with broader tourism goals, particularly when positioned near existing drawcards like the Gippsland Model Engineering Society's rideable steam trains. This thoughtful approach to family infrastructure would not only address community safety concerns but also strengthen Latrobe City's appeal as a family-friendly destination, contributing to increased tourism spending and enhanced liveability.

Make Churchill a Primary Education Hub

Churchill has the foundation to transform into a globally recognised education hub by leveraging its unique advantages: an established Federation University campus, strategic location, and untapped infrastructure potential. This initiative could position Churchill as a leader in specialised education and innovation, while offering students an attractive alternative to metropolitan universities with its lower living costs and peaceful environment. By repurposing existing assets like Hazelwood House and developing cutting-edge programs in STEM, environmental sciences, and digital learning, Churchill could attract both domestic and international students while creating significant economic opportunities. The project promises to stimulate local job creation, boost business growth, and enhance community vibrancy through increased population and civic engagement.

Heat Moe's Outdoor Pool

Heating Moe's Outdoor Pool represents a transformative opportunity to create a year-round aquatic facility that would address long-standing disparities in regional swimming access. Currently limited to operation between November and March when temperatures exceed 25°C, heating the pool would dramatically extend its usability and unlock its potential as a vital community asset. While neighbouring towns like Warragul, Traralgon, and Sale have received significant aquatic facility investments, this upgrade would ensure Moe residents have equitable access to year-round swimming. Beyond providing essential health and fitness benefits, a heated pool would enable year-round swimming lessons, support competitive training, and create opportunities for swimming carnivals and events that could attract visitors to the region. Using energy-efficient heating solutions, this investment aligns with council priorities for community wellbeing while offering significant social and economic returns through increased utilisation and improved public health.

New Year's Resolutions 2025 Wish List for Latrobe City

Re-Zone Morwell CBD to Multi-Use

Transformation of Morwell's CBD into a vibrant, mixed-use urban hub represents a visionary approach to regional development that deserves priority in Council planning. This project aims to breathe new life into the heart of Morwell through strategic integration of residential, commercial, and cultural spaces. By introducing diverse housing options and modern amenities, the revitalised CBD can attract young professionals, families, and retirees while supporting local businesses. The project's emphasis on walkable streets, green spaces, and community gathering places will create an attractive, sustainable environment that encourages both daytime and evening activity. This development has significant flow-on benefits, including increased employment opportunities, particularly for young people, helping to retain local talent, boosting property values and creating more local jobs.

Expand Bus Shelter Coverage

Expanding bus shelter coverage across Moe and the broader Latrobe City represents infrastructure that warrants inclusion in Council planning. This practical initiative addresses a pressing community need, particularly for schoolchildren and regular commuters who currently face exposure to harsh weather conditions while waiting for buses. Installing additional shelters, especially along school routes, will significantly enhance the public transport experience. The project's focus on weather protection and user comfort has broader implications for community wellbeing, potentially increasing public transport usage and improving school attendance. This initiative supports the Council's commitment to accessible transport and community safety, contributing to Latrobe City's reputation as a liveable, family-friendly region that prioritises the needs of its residents.

Improve Moe's Footpaths

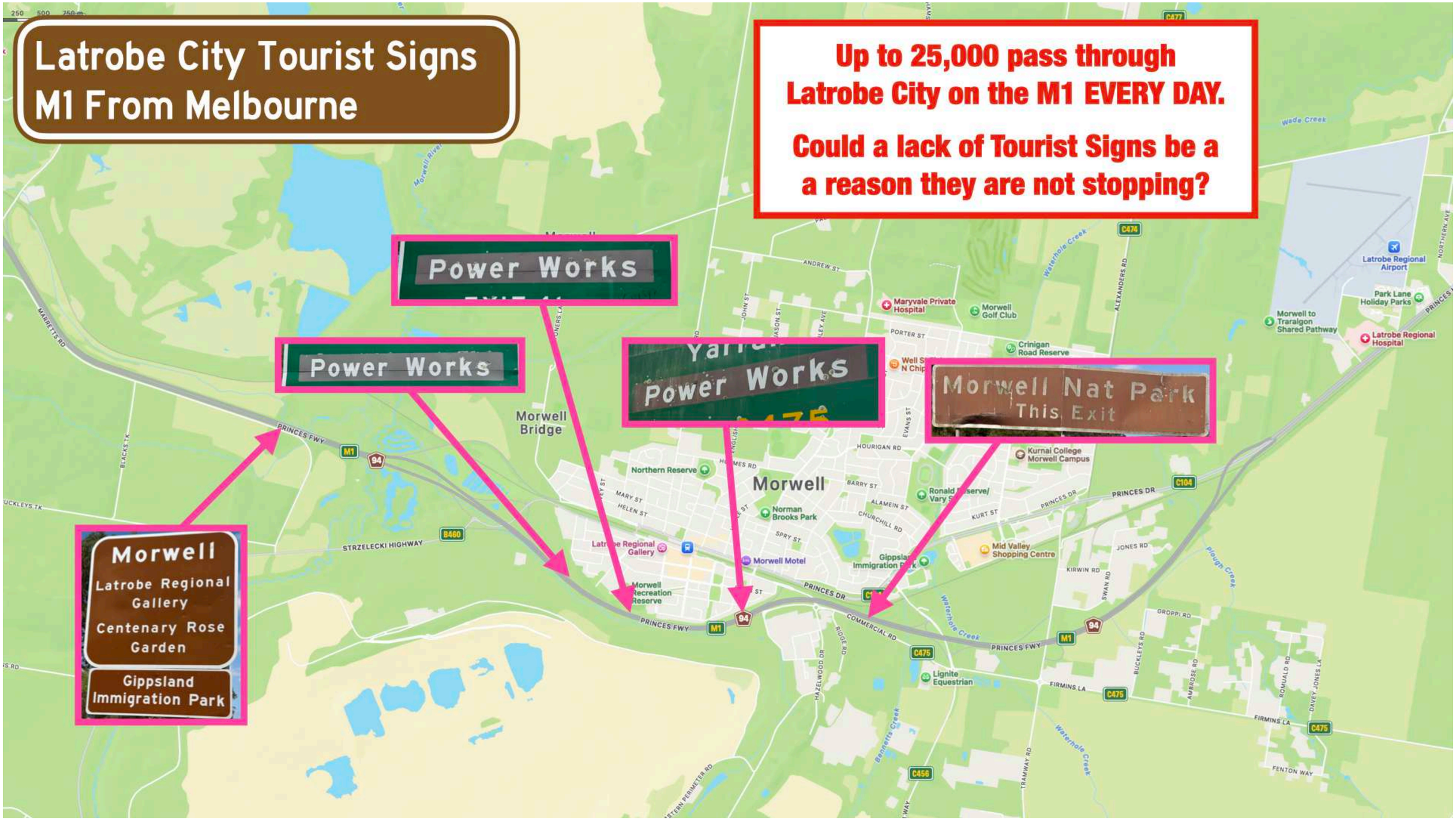
An upgrade of Moe's footpath network represents a safety-focused initiative addressing widespread community concerns about deteriorating pathways that currently pose risks to pedestrians, particularly seniors, families with young children, and people with mobility challenges. The project aims to systematically repair and replace damaged sections, install better lighting, and add accessibility features like tactile indicators and curb ramps. Beyond immediate safety benefits, improved footpaths will encourage walking, enhance business district accessibility, and demonstrate Council's commitment to inclusive community infrastructure. A phased implementation approach ensures minimal disruption while delivering maximum community benefit. This strategic investment in Moe's pedestrian infrastructure aligns perfectly with Council's goals for public safety and accessibility, while supporting local economic vitality through increased foot traffic in shopping areas.

"The prime purpose of tourist signing is to give visitors direction or guidance to tourist attractions and accommodation."

The focus of tourist signs is on providing clear and helpful directions to enhance the travel experience for visitors, ensuring they can easily locate attractions and accommodations.

Source: Section 1 of the VicRoads Tourist Signing Guidelines

Latrobe City Tourist Signs
M1 From Melbourne
Up to 25,000 pass through
Latrobe City on the M1 EVERY DAY.
Could a lack of Tourist Signs be a
a reason they are not stopping?
Old Gippstown
THIS EXIT
vicroads
Haunted Hills Mountain Bike Park
THIS EXIT
vicroads
OD 9
Haunted Hills
Mountain Bike Park
THIS EXIT
PPSTOWN HERITAGE PARK
TURN LEFT km
Moe
Newborough
Yallourn
Yallourn North
Yallourn Heights
Haunted Hills
Moe South
PRINCES FWY
M1
94
C467
C471


Latrobe City Tourist Signs
M1 From Melbourne
Up to 25,000 pass through
Latrobe City on the M1 EVERY DAY.
Could a lack of Tourist Signs be a
a reason they are not stopping?
Power Works
Power Works
Power Works
Morwell Nat Park
This Exit
Morwell
Latrobe Regional Gallery
Centenary Rose Garden
Gippsland Immigration Park
Morwell Bridge
Morwell
Northern Reserve
Latrobe Regional Gallery
Morwell Motel
Morwell Recreation Reserve
Norman Brooks Park
Maryvale Private Hospital
Morwell Golf Club
Crinigan Road Reserve
Kurnai College Morwell Campus
Mid Valley Shopping Centre
Lignite Equestrian
Latrobe Regional Airport
Park Lane Holiday Parks
Morwell to Traralgon Shared Pathway
Latrobe Regional Hospital
PRINCES FWY
M1
94
PRINCES DR
C104
C474
C475
C456
B460
STRZELECKI HIGHWAY
COMMERCIAL RD
HOURIGAN RD
ANDREW ST
PORTER ST
BARRY ST
ALAMEIN ST
CHURCHILL RD
KURT ST
JONES RD
KIRWIN RD
GROPPI RD
FIRMINS LA
FENTON WAY
HAZELWOOD DR
TRAMWAY RD
Waterhole Creek
Bennetts Creek
Wade Creek
Plough Creek

Latrobe City Tourist Signs
M1 From Melbourne
Up to 25,000 pass through Latrobe City on the M1 EVERY DAY.
Could a lack of Tourist Signs be a a reason they are not stopping?
STAR HOTEL 1875
ART, CRAFT, COFFEE
Tarra Bulga Nat. Park
ARTS CENTRE
Traralgon West Nursery
TURN LEFT
200m
PETERKIN ST
NEWMAN PARK
Traralgon West Nursery
Traralgon
Traralgon East
Latrobe River
APM Aeration Pond
Gippsland Memorial Park
St Paul's
Pax Hill PIZZA TO GO
Agnes Brereton Park
Latrobe Performing Arts Centre
Kmart
Bunnings
Jump & Climb
Glenview Park
Traralgon Croquet Club
Traralgon Recreation Reserve & Showgrounds Fire Tracks
Traralgon College
Traralgon Golf Club
Big Al's Pizza
Montfort Manor
Latrobe Regional Airport
Park Lane Holiday Parks
Morwell to Traralgon Shared Pathway
Latrobe Regional Hospital
PRINCES HWY
PRINCES ST
GORDON ST
GWALIA ST
FIRMIN ST
MORGAN DR
MARSHALLS RD
MAHOGANY DR
OLD MELBOURNE RD
BRADFORD DR
BANK ST
OAK AVE
WALSHS RD
RETREAT RD
MELROSSA RD
SHIELDS RD
HOURIGAN DR
WIDOWS LA
M1
94
A1
C476
C482

Essential Criteria for Tourist Attraction Signage:

To qualify for tourist signage, an attraction must meet the following essential criteria:

1. **Tourism as a Core Activity**: The primary function of the business must be tourism-related, providing experiences that attract visitors.
2. **Substantive Tourism Experience**: The attraction should offer a significant tourism experience beyond any commercial or retail activities.
3. **Compliance with Regulations**: Possession of all relevant State and local government licenses and approvals, including health, planning, and parking requirements, is mandatory.
4. **Public Accessibility**: The attraction must be open to the public without prior booking during its normal operating hours.
5. **Operating Hours**: It should operate on weekends and at least three other days of the week, including public and school holidays, for a minimum of seven hours per day.
6. **Visitor Information Listing**: Inclusion in the database of the nearest accredited Visitor Information Centre, detailing opening hours, admission prices, location, and directions, is required.
7. **Promotion and Directions**: The attraction must actively promote its location and provide clear directions to visitors from outside the local area.
8. **On-Site Signage**: Appropriate signage within the property line should make the attraction easily identifiable to passing motorists.
9. **Trained Staff**: Employment of appropriately trained visitor contact staff is essential to enhance the visitor experience.
10. **Visitor Records**: Maintaining records of visitor numbers and feedback helps in assessing and improving the attraction's offerings.

Desirable Criteria:

While not mandatory, the following are considered advantageous:

- **Membership and Accreditation**: Being a member of a recognised local, regional, or peak sector tourism organisation and/or accreditation under a scheme approved by the Tourism Accreditation Board of Victoria.
- **Parking Facilities**: Provision of parking for coaches, large vehicles, and disabled visitors enhances accessibility.

Specific Criteria for Certain Attractions:

Additional criteria apply to specific types of attractions:

Art Galleries and Craft Outlets: Must meet all essential criteria and fulfill at least two of the following: feature a resident artist/craftsperson, display production processes with explanatory information, provide exhibition space over 50 square meters, or have more than 30% of works from local/regional artists.

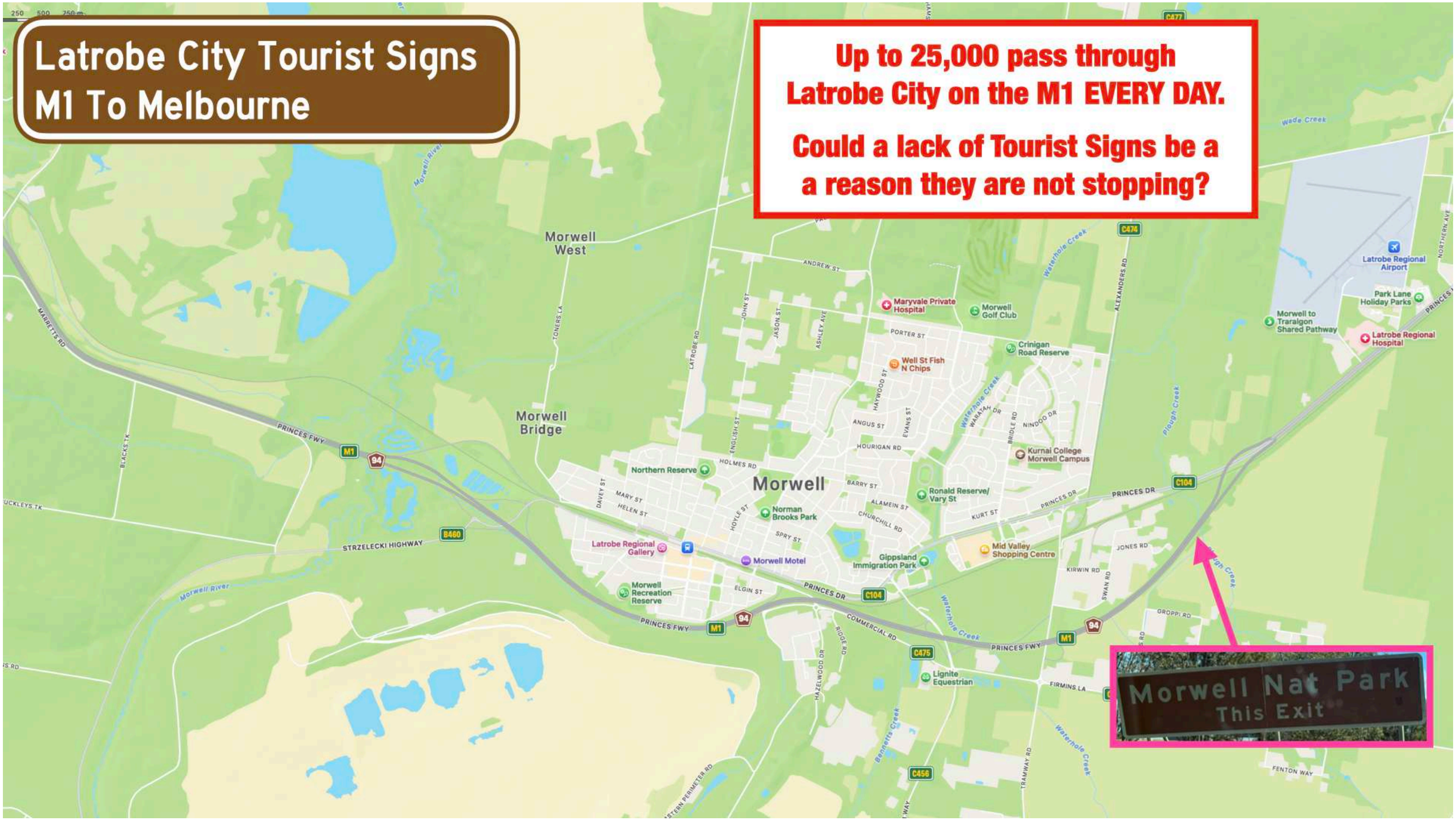
Wineries: Must hold a Vignerons License or equivalent, have a purpose-built facility for wine tasting (cellar door), and meet all essential criteria.

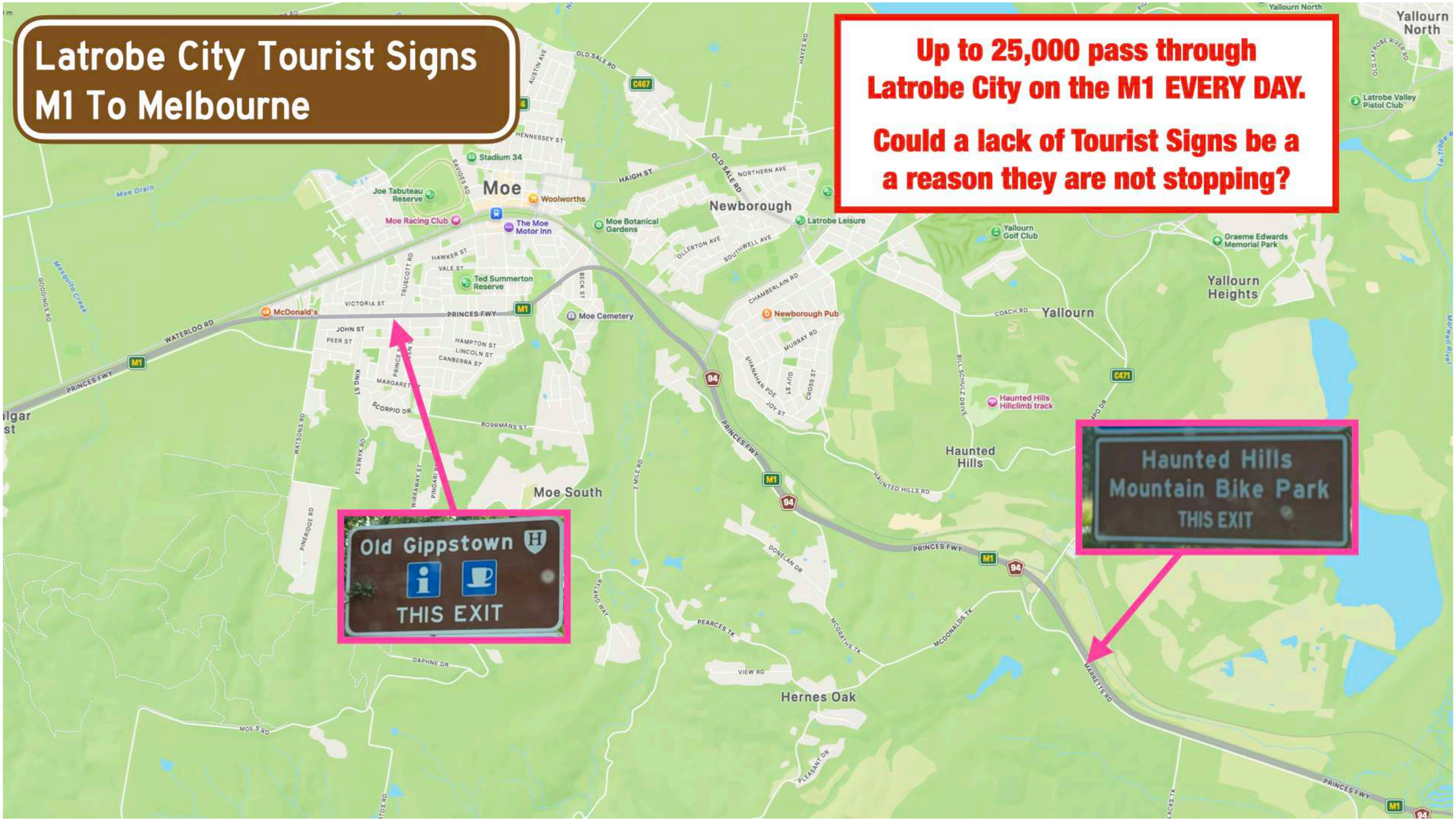
Seasonal Attractions: Must be open for a minimum of nine months per year for permanent signage; those operating between three to nine months may use temporary signage.

These criteria ensure that tourist signage is allocated to attractions that genuinely enhance the visitor experience and contribute to the region's tourism appeal.

Source: VicRoads Tourist Signing Guidelines Part 9

Latrobe City Tourist Signs
M1 To Melbourne
Up to 25,000 pass through Latrobe City on the M1 EVERY DAY.
Could a lack of Tourist Signs be a a reason they are not stopping?
PETERKIN ST
NEWMAN PARK
HISTORIC MARKER
300m ON LEFT
Good Land Brewing Co
Wineries
Morwell
Latrobe Regional Gallery
Centenary Rose Garden
Gippsland Immigration Park
Traralgon
Traralgon East
La Trobe River
PRINCES HWY
A1
M1
94
C476
C482


Latrobe City Tourist Signs
M1 To Melbourne
Up to 25,000 pass through
Latrobe City on the M1 EVERY DAY.
Could a lack of Tourist Signs be a
a reason they are not stopping?
Morwell West
Morwell Bridge
Morwell
Morwell River
Wade Creek
Waterhole Creek
Ploughs Creek
Bennetts Creek
Maryvale Private Hospital
Morwell Golf Club
Crinigan Road Reserve
Well St Fish N Chips
Latrobe Regional Airport
Park Lane Holiday Parks
Morwell to Traralgon Shared Pathway
Latrobe Regional Hospital
Northern Reserve
Norman Brooks Park
Latrobe Regional Gallery
Morwell Motel
Morwell Recreation Reserve
Gippsland Immigration Park
Mid Valley Shopping Centre
Kurnai College Morwell Campus
Ronald Reserve/ Vary St
Lignite Equestrian
PRINCES FWY
PRINCES DR
STRZELECKI HIGHWAY
COMMERCIAL RD
ANDREW ST
PORTER ST
ANGUS ST
HOURIGAN RD
HOLMES RD
ELGIN ST
SPRY ST
BARRY ST
ALAMEIN ST
CHURCHILL RD
KURT ST
JONES RD
KIRWIN RD
GROPPI RD
FIRMINS LA
FENTON WAY
TRAMWAY RD
MARBETTS RD
LATROBE RD
ALEXANDERS RD
NORTHERN AVE
Morwell Nat Park
This Exit


Latrobe City Tourist Signs
M1 To Melbourne
Up to 25,000 pass through
Latrobe City on the M1 EVERY DAY.
Could a lack of Tourist Signs be a
a reason they are not stopping?
Old Gippstown
THIS EXIT
Haunted Hills
Mountain Bike Park
THIS EXIT
Moe
Newborough
Yallourn North
Yallourn
Yallourn Heights
Haunted Hills
Moe South
Hernes Oak
PRINCES FWY
M1
94
C467
C471

Respondent No: 82

Traralgon Men's Shed & Wooding Inc

Background

The **Traralgon Recreational Reserve was flooded in June 2021** resulting in 1 metre of flood water entering the Traralgon Men's Shed. That is over 3-1/2 years ago. The flooding of the showgrounds only took 1 night of extreme rain, and we all know it will happen again. We just don't know when…

Our Shed/buildings sustained far more damage than any other organisation in the reserve, sustaining over $120,000 damage to machinery, tools, equipment and loss of materials. There were months of cleaning up and over 3 months of project work suspended which resulted in no income during this period. For a Not For Profit organisation, this was a difficult time.

Every time there is heavy rain, I watch the security cameras as the drain fills outside the Shed.

I watch the flood damage in Townsville area on TV and worry" when **will the next flood happen here again**". Townsville's/Ingham last flood was only 4 years ago. Our last flood was 3-1/2 years ago.

Most of the TMS buildings are owned by the Traralgon Agricultural Society. Part of the main Shed and modelmaking rooms are owned by Latrobe City.

The AG Society did not have any flood insurance in 2021, and there is no building insurance at all now for AG buildings and no maintenance being done except for what TMS have organized and paid for

.

Cost of Flood

TMS paid for the building rewiring, cleaning, and the removing and replacement of plaster, insulation and painting of the Ag Society building. For the last 3 years there has been no hot water on site. The damaged hot water system has only just been replaced.

There are no cupboard doors in the kitchen and toilets, all damaged in the flood. The flooring in one room has been replaced with secondhand carpet, and the other room currently has no floor covering. We are making do till a new location can be found, and we really hope it is before another flood occurs.

TMS is only in the current location because no other Council building could be found in Traralgon after the flood or since, and TMS could not afford to pay commercial rates to rent a building if one could be found.

The Model Making section has not started normal operation since the floods, only setting up the tables and shelving in the last few months. TMS has no indoor lunchroom/lounge area for the members to use, instead the members eat outside and use a potbelly to keep warm in cold months. TMS has just spent $4,000 to replace the leaking roof in one section of the Shed to enable the room to be used for a CNC machine, painting and storage.

Traralgon Men's Shed & Wooding Inc

Last year the modelmaking group taught at Lavalla College and will commence again this year teaching 14 disadvantaged students model making activities as we have no suitable facilities in our current Shed.

TMS no longer has flood insurance cover since the last flood event and if another flood occurs, the Men's Shed would fold or be in financial trouble.

Contribution to Local Community

Men's Sheds have no Government funding to operate and cover all their own operational costs. Traralgon Mens Shed make and repair items for the local Community and businesses and make a large contribution to Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley economies.

TMS has been successful in obtaining grant funds to cover the costs of materials to complete project work and then donate the completed items to other organisations free of charge.

Over the last 4 years, Grant funding enabled the following projects to be completed by TMS

- Four semi-trailer loads of Picnic Tables and Bench Seats for the fire affected areas of Mallacoota, Sarsfield and Clifton Creek
- Picnic tables and other items for the Gippsland CFA Brigades
- 8 jumps and three picnic tables for the Toongabbie Pony Club
- 33 Honour Boards for CFA Brigades
- Protective clothing racks for Morwell and Traralgon SES
- 120+ bird, possum and bat boxes for the Mirboo North community following the extreme weather event of 2024
- Currently TMS volunteers are working on 20+ Buddy Seats for Primary Schools from Morwell to Warragul. Funding for Baw Baw area.
- TMS is seeking grant funding though SIAG to make additional Buddy Seats for the Latrobe area.

A Grant of $80,000 is in danger of being lost

In 2022 TMS was successful with a grant of $80,000 to cover relocation to move into a new building. The funds are sitting in our Bank and now there is a very good chance will have to return the funds. Daniel Pennefather the Senior Project and Policy Officer – Disability, Fairness and Emergency Management (the funding body) will be contacting CEO LCC soon to confirm what is happening regarding the building of a new shed.

The funding was to cover relocation costs such as

Traralgon Men's Shed & Wooding Inc

- Dismantling and reinstallation of both dust extraction system and solar system. It is worth noting that both systems are now 4 years older and may no longer be economical to remove and reinstall on a new shed.
- Removing and relocating
  - Machinery
  - Timber
  - Equipment
  - Incidental items
  - Office
  - Setting up storage options

Moving Forward

Back in 2023 Latrobe City Council allocated funds for concept drawings and estimated costs to be prepared. The first concept plan was estimated to cost approx. $2.4m to build. The scope was over the top and a new concept plan was prepared by another business. The second set of drawings and cost estimates were more realistic with an estimated cost of $1.6m, with more cost savings possible if built in the area TMS considers to be the better option.

Traralgon Men's Shed considers that to build on the land next to the Croquet Club to be more cost effective than the current master plan location (in the middle of the racing tracks). The cost of construction would be lower near the Croquet Club buildings, as utilities (water, electricity and sewerage) are already connected there. In addition, there is an asphalt and car park already established, therefore another cost saving.

TMS seeks LCC support to move forward, with:

- Documented budget allocation of approximately $700,000
- Master plan to be changed and approval to be built near the Croquet Club
- Approved drawings of the shed and costs

This would enable LCC and/or TMS to apply for other grants to raise the balance of funds needed to cover the cost of building. This is something no other clubs appear to be doing and TMS is willing to contribute $100,000 towards the building but only if in the preferred location (near Croquet Club grounds – not in the middle of the racing tracks).

Hon Darren Chester MP Representatives for Gippsland, met with the CEO LCC to discuss a grant that he believed would be suitable for a Shed for TMS. I believe that because the funds had not been budgeted and approved, the grant conditions couldn't be met, so no application for grant funding was prepared. This resulted in an opportunity being missed for additional funding being allocated and a further delay in starting due to the funding not being locked in.

Traralgon Men's Shed has over 50 financial members. Up to 25 attending on one day per week. We are currently considering opening an extra day per week, as we are operating at full capacity of the

Traralgon Men's Shed & Wooding Inc

current building. Many enquiries for membership are being referred to Newborough Men's Shed, as they have disability toilets, larger buildings and a variety of programs for people of all abilities.

We have exhausted options to increase working spaces, to improve the storage area for materials, and have limited areas for completing projects and storage areas for items that are waiting for pick up or delivery.

Men's Sheds contribute to the mental and health of their members. The main purpose of the Sheds is to offer men and women a place to engage with hands on activities and to interact with others, and by doing so, to develop a sense of meaning and value around the process of completing projects in the Shed.

Through shared experiences members make friends, build a network of emotional support and develop a sense of belonging – all of which facilitate a willingness to communicate. The health and wellbeing aspect of the Shed, particularly in terms of preventative health, is perhaps their greatest benefit.

The shed also provides an environment where productivity and being of value to their community can contribute to a feeling of self-worth and help to develop a sense of meaning and productivity in the years following retirement, loss or other hardships.

In summary, TMS would appreciate Latrobe City Council's support in escalation/prioritizing building a new Traralgon Men's Shed, and one that is large enough for the future generations to use, AND before we are flooded again.

Respondent No: 83

Darren Chester

Federal Member for Gippsland

March 3, 2025

Steven Piasente
Chief Executive Officer
Latrobe City Council
PO Box 264
MORWELL VIC 3840
[redacted]

Dear Steve

I am writing to draw your attention to an issue faced by the Morwell Men's Shed in their relocation to a new fit-for-purpose shed at the PowerWorks site.

As you may be aware, the Morwell Men's Shed secured $77,589 in funding from the State Government Men's Shed Funding Program in 2024 to build a new shed. As part of the relocation, $18,000 was budgeted to secure power to the site based on several quotes from electricians.

Subsequently, it has been discovered that the current infrastructure cannot support the planned link leaving a $34,000 hole in the project's budget. My reason for writing is to seek your advice as to whether Latrobe City Council could assist the Morwell Men's Shed with this shortfall.

Any assistance Council may be able to offer in this matter would be greatly appreciated and I look forward to receiving your advice on the matter.

Yours sincerely

DARREN CHESTER

All correspondence to: PO Box 486 Sale Victoria 3853 **Telephone:** 1300 131 785
Email: darren.chester.mp@aph.gov.au **Website:** www.darrenchester.com.au

Respondent No: 8

Old Gippstown
HERITAGE PARK

211 Lloyd Street Moe, Victoria 3825
03 5127 3082
ABN 99 724 971 481
enquiries@gippslandheritagepark.com.au
www.gippslandheritagepark.com.au

2nd December 2024

Mr. Steven Piasente
Chief Executive Officer
Latrobe City Council
141 Commercial Road,
Morwell Victoria 3840

Dear Steven,

Re: Visitor Centre

The Gippstown Reserve Committee of Management has developed its Strategic Plan 2024-2029 incorporating seven Strategic priorities, namely:

- Governance
- People
- Community
- Heritage Buildings & Collections
- Grounds and Facilities
- Education and
- Tourism & Events

A key priority under our Tourism and Events Strategy is the establishment of Latrobe Tourist Information Centre presence at Old Gippstown, Moe showcasing the Gateway to Latrobe City and promotion of attractions, events, features, and services firstly throughout the Latrobe Valley and secondly within the Gippsland region.

We consider the location of a satellite site for the Latrobe Tourist Information Centre to Old Gippstown, Moe would be beneficial to the Council for the future, offering:

- Provision of one of our buildings
- Cost effective benefits to Latrobe City Council
- Prime position, with Old Gippstown being the key gateway to Latrobe City for visitors from Melbourne
- Easy freeway access
- Primary visitor attraction
- Strategic support by Old Gippstown for events, attractions, and venues throughout Latrobe City
- Partnership in the promotion of Latrobe City as a major tourist destination.

Our purpose is ***"to protect and preserve our irreplaceable heritage buildings and collections and provide opportunities for the local community, students and visitors to***

experience and appreciate and learn about Gippsland's history in a well-designed park and gardens".

Our success in achieving this purpose will in turn assist Latrobe City Council meet its purpose ***".... a long-term vision for a future rich in culture, community and economic opportunity."*** Our success is your success.

We would welcome the opportunity to provide any further information or engage in any further discussions with you. We look forward to collaborating with the Council towards making Latrobe City a major tourist and community attraction for the future.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

Secretary/Treasurer
Gippstown Reserve Committee of Management Inc.

Respondent No: 84

Our Ref: CH/gc

27 May 2025

Tim Ellis
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Latrobe City Council
PO Box 264
MORWELL VIC 3840

AUSTRALIAN SERVICES UNION
VICTORIAN & TASMANIAN AUTHORITIES & SERVICES
By your side

Via: [redacted]

Dear Tim,

RE: BUDGET ENQUIRIES

I write regarding Council proposed draft budget and Council plan as there have been some questions raised by members.

During the EBA negotiations 2021 and 2024, Council repeatedly raised funding concerns and displayed a reluctance to award a fair and reasonable pay rise in line with cost-of-living pressures. A pay rise that was sustainable but still fell well short of CPI was achieved last year and was reluctantly accepted by members.

In Council's draft Budget there has been a 1.5% rate increase proposed, this increase falls well short of the 3% rate cap currently in affect. If Council is not in a financial position to award a pay rise to staff that keeps up with cost-of-living pressures, why have they proposed a lower than rate cap increase? Will this proposed reduced rate cap increase, inevitably result in redundancies?

The current maximum rate cap increases Council can claim is 3%. This compared to the proposed 1.5% stated in the above-mentioned Council Budget, will see the average landowner save approximately $24 per year, or approx. 46 cents per week, on their rates. My information shows this $24 saving equates to ~1.2 million loss to council. This loss is substantial, and the ASU has concerns regarding:

- Staffing and job retention, will there be enough workforce to meet increased demands
- Service delivery: will vital services be cut back?
- Long term effect on the organisation's finances
- What are the long-term implications?

ASU sources have disclosed that to continue to be financially sustainable and deliver on the above key budget initiatives the Council will need to identify permanent savings of $1.5M from operating budgets in the next financial year. How is Council proposing to find this extra $1.5 million?

This drop in income will have a long-term impact on council as an organisation. What are the Council services worth?

The ASU has concerns about the above mentioned and seeks to understand the rationale behind Council's proposed reduction in rate increases.

Please respond to this email by COB Friday 6th June. For any questions or clarity around these concerns, please feel free to contact me on [redacted]

Yours sincerely,

COLIN HOUGHTON
ASU ORGANISER

VICTORIAN AND TASMANIAN AUTHORITIES & SERVICES

Melbourne Head Office
116 Queensberry St
Carlton South VIC 3053

Hobart Head Office
265 Macquarie St
Hobart TAS 7000

T 1300 85 55 70
E info@asuvictas.com.au
www.asuvictas.com.au
ABN 76 569 632 753

Respondent No: 85

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 12:57:26 PM
To: Cr Leanne Potter <Leanne.Potter@latrobe.vic.gov.au>
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Supporting the continuation of all forms of the FARM DIFFERENTIAL RATES within Latrobe City

Dear Leanne,

I am writing to you so that you can understand the importance and necessity for the Latrobe City to continue the Farm Differential Rates on all farming properties when setting the budget for the forthcoming year.

As you would well know from living on a farming property all your life, the struggle farmers have meeting all their expenses through out the year and the enormous importance that the Farm Differential Rate has played in assisting them over 40 years..

This year is causing great concern with the lack of substantial rainfall that has not produced the annual "Autumn Break" and the lack of rain has led to a shortage of water for stock in dams and for domestic use, and has created a lack of grass growth, so much so that it has necessitated us to eat into our winter hay and silage supplies significantly. We are now getting to the point, with winter only a fortnight away, that even if we get a deluge of rain the soil temperature will be too low for grass to grow. It is my belief that most farmer will have to buy additional expensive feed for their cattle to survive winter in the way in which they usually do.

I realise that your council is "cash strapped" for money but by increasing the cost to farmers through changes to the Farm Differential Rates scheme, I think some farmers will go under.

Please support a "No Change" stance when the issue is discussed.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

15th May 2025

Respondent No: 86

Football Victoria
State Football Centre, Sport Drive
Bundoora Vic 3083

Tuesday, 27 May 2025

Dear Councillors,

On behalf of Football Victoria, I write to advocate for increased investment in the maintenance and care of Harold Preston Reserve, the home ground of Traralgon City Soccer Club and Traralgon Olympians Soccer Club.

Football participation in the Latrobe Valley continues to grow, and Harold Preston Reserve is now one of the most heavily used football facilities in the region. In 2024, the two clubs based at the reserve recorded a combined 889 registered participants—up from just over 500 in 2015. This growth includes a significant rise in female participation, reflecting the broader statewide trend of increased engagement in football across all age groups and communities.

While this growth is a positive reflection of the clubs' efforts and the community's passion for the game, it has placed considerable pressure on the facility, particularly the playing surfaces. The current level of maintenance is no longer sufficient to support the volume and intensity of use. Both clubs now operate year round, with training, matches and development programs running year round. Without consistent and adequate pitch maintenance, the quality, safety and sustainability of football at Harold Preston Reserve are at risk.

We appreciate the planned investment from Latrobe City Council for the renewal of existing broken pipes. However, this is only a short term solution given the expected continued growth of our game. What is needed is a long term commitment to maintaining the playing surfaces to a standard that supports year round use and meets the needs of a growing football community.

We are asking Council to consider increased support for the ongoing maintenance of the playing surfaces at Harold Preston Reserve. This includes regular turf management, drainage improvements and seasonal care to ensure the pitches remain safe and playable throughout the year. These improvements are essential not only for the continued growth of football in the region but also for ensuring equitable access to quality sporting infrastructure for all participants.

Football Victoria is committed to working in partnership with Council and local clubs to ensure Harold Preston Reserve can continue to serve as a vibrant and inclusive hub for the community. We welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can support this work and help deliver the best possible outcomes for local football.

Please contact me should you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

[redacted]
Regional Development Coordinator
[redacted]

Respondent No: 87

From: Latrobe City Council [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 May 2025 4:20 PM
To: Latrobe Central Email <LatrobeCity@latrobe.vic.gov.au>; Matthew Rogers [redacted]
Subject: 89 Burton - Retirement Village Differential

Name

Alan Burton

Email

[redacted]

Confidentiality

You may include my name in public documents

Your submission

Very disappointing that Council did not see fit to approve a differential rate for retirement villages. The Ministerial Guidelines For Differential Rating clearly state " In seeking to achieve its primary objective, a Council must have regard to a number of facilitating objectives including the objective in section 3C(2)(f) of the Act to “ensure the equitable imposition of rates and charges”. Pursuant to section 161 of the Act a Council may raise any general rates by the application of a differential rate if it uses the Capital Improved Value system of valuing land. When declaring general rates, a Council must consider how the use of differential rating contributes to the equitable and efficient carrying out of its functions compared to the use of uniform rates. Differential rates are a useful tool to address equity issues that may arise from the setting of Council rates derived from property valuations. Circumstances whereby common types and classes of land use consistently demonstrate significant relative rate disparities, including access to services arising from the use of a uniform rate, may be addressed by use of the differential rate powers. Common types and classes of land use where such circumstance can arise and where a Council must give consideration to reducing the rate burden through use of a reduced differential rate include • Retirement village land (as defined by the Retirement Villages Act 1986). With all of this it is amazing that Council could not see fit to provide a differential rate to Retirement Villages even though it is very clear that the rating system in Latrobe City is causing an extreme inequity with the rates applied to Retirement Villages and to top it off Council do not provide any services other than rubbish collection to Retirement Villages.

Respondent No: 89

To Latrobe City Council

I am opposing the new Draft budget 25/26 Changes to FARM rate differential Criteria .

The farm differential has been applied to FARM Rates for over 40 years by the council and is crucial and deeply valued by farmers.

Issues have risen in the draught budget 25/26 the council has failed to identify.

It rules out a lot of viable agricultural businesses in this area .

1. LAND SIZE
The definition of "FARM" according to Land act 1960 is over 2 Hectares.
The budget has changes to land size being minimum **40 HECTARES.**
I don't believe the council can change the definition of a "farm", according to the ACT.
THIS INCREASE is not well thought out as it Excludes farmers with an unfair criteria.

We need the change to land size to 40 hectares be abolished.

Over **2 hectacres** makes sense as even small allotments can contribute to the agricultural sector
Take Bees, vineyards , free range chicken farms, flower growing, even Cattle ... the list is endless
Where smaller freeholds are still Viable businesses.
In some cases increasing costs & rates are seeing farmers downsize to ensure they can AFFORD to keep farming.

Rates are already rising 1.5% and due to increasing Capital Improved Value (CIV) by the valuer EVERY YEAR , Rates are starting to push fartmers off the land .
FARM LAND value does NOT equate to **Ability to pay** & the value of the land used for rating
is often over inflated .
With the over estimated Values placed upon land holders they become Asset rich-INCOME POOR. Farmers are Struggling.

On top of this, farmers are burdened by:

- A 1.5% general rate increase
- Municipal charges
- Waste management fees
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) costs
- Fire service levies

A lot of additional costs are out of the farmers control and are not accounted for in the sale price as market dictates the price . In times of drought flood or fire this places additional financial burden on farmers to try and stay afloat .
It is therefore vital that councils recognize the severe impact of rising costs on farmers' livelihoods.
Fair Rating policies are not just about financial relief—they are about protecting lives, supporting agriculture, and sustaining our communities

Not to mention the financial strain increased rates will have on all farmers without the differential.

In applying a FARM rate differential it is acknowledged that
The core principle should be that as farmland values rise, the differential rate is adjusted to lower the rate in the dollar, ensuring that the rate burden on the farming sector remains stable and equitable across all ratepayers.
This approach promotes a fairer distribution of the rate burden between different land classifications, preventing undue financial pressure on farmers.

Every FARM is different & Food producing farm business are all productive on different scales
and therefore Still entitled to differential as per the Land Act 1960 which states a farm is **Min 2 hectarces**

Farming often involves reinvestment back into pastures fencing and stock water improvements yards etc for better productivity but that in turn increases the CIV .

Additionally, we strongly encourage councils to prioritize greater efficiencies and cost savings rather than shifting costs onto specific land types.

Criteria 3:
Is too controlling around how farmers structure their Business.
Registered for GST – means they have income above $75,000
some " retired " famers comfortably live off $60,000
and that is not for Council to decide .
Talks about being financially sufficient -enough to not need a secondary income .
The very nature of farming in this climate : dealing with drought , fire, floods OFTEN sees farmers
seeking income from additional sources BY NECESSITY to get back on their feet.
farmers often see good seasons , bad season and everything in between : the bills still have to be paid .

You can still run a viable agricultural business on way less than 40 hectares & under $75000 per year .

As a farm ratepayer I oppose any rate adjustments that undermine Victoria's agricultural sector. Farmers must not be penalised based on arbitrary land size thresholds or zoning interpretations. Nor judged on how they run their business

Farm rate differentials remain critical to sustaining agriculture in Victoria for all FARMERS. Councils should abolish the new BUDGET CRITERIA applying differential rates to any property rated FARM to ensure fairness and support economic stability in farming communities.

Regards

Respondent No: 90

From: [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2025 3:29:55 PM
To: Cr Tracie Lund <Tracie.Lund@latrobe.vic.gov.au>; Cr David Barnes <David.Barnes@latrobe.vic.gov.au>; Cr Dale Harriman <Dale.Harriman@latrobe.vic.gov.au>; Cr Sharon Gibson <Sharon.Gibson@latrobe.vic.gov.au>; Cr Joanne Campbell <Joanne.Campbell@latrobe.vic.gov.au>; Cr Darren Howe <Darren.Howe@latrobe.vic.gov.au>; Cr Leanne Potter <Leanne.Potter@latrobe.vic.gov.au>; Cr Adele Pugsley <Adele.Pugsley@latrobe.vic.gov.au>; Cr Steph Morgan <Steph.Morgan@latrobe.vic.gov.au>
Cc: Steven Piasente [redacted]
Subject: 25% Differential Rate For Retirement And Lifestyle Villages

DALKEITH HEIGHTS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
Registered Number A0059586V
49-53 Hazelwood Road Traralgon Victoria 3844

Dear Mayor and Councillors

It is beyond the residents of Dalkeith Heights Village and me to comprehend on what reasonable grounds can you and your Councillor Colleagues honestly claim that the Latrobe City "municipal rate burden is shared fairly across all rate payers". Please read the attached brochure which clearly and factually calculates Dalkeith Heights Village residents are financially subsidising the Latrobe City budget. The facts are Latrobe City receives from Dalkeith Heights Village residents approximately $190k for municipal rates per annum net and has ZERO costs or expenditure within Dalkeith Heights Village Traralgon.

Your and Latrobe City Executive Staff's consistent rhetoric about providing a broad range of community structures and services for Dalkeith Heights Village residents use to justify why Latrobe City will not pass on some form of "Rebate" or a 25% "Differential Rate" is

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unacceptable. Latrobe City would still have to provide these community structures and services irrespective of whether Dalkeith Heights Village existed or not. This highlights there is no real depth or substance in the Latrobe City's Executive Staff's argument or reasons for resistance. There are several other municipalities within Victoria who are currently providing "Substantial Rebates" or "Differential Rates" ranging from 10 – 25% to Lifestyle and Retirement Villages to directly support their Village community elders.

The economics of a Latrobe City 25% "Differential Rate" reduction is it reduces Latrobe City revenue by approximately $47k per annum. However, this still leaves Latrobe City with a net surplus of approximately $143k per annum generated from Dalkeith Heights Village residents. Any financially savvy minded person would measure this $143k surplus as a fantastic business deal, no cost and $143k profit. All the Dalkeith Heights Village residents are asking for is a 25% "Differential Rate" reduction from what they currently pay Latrobe City i.e. $190k for which the Dalkeith Heights Village residents receive no Village services except rubbish collection which the Village residents pay for separately.

The financial detail in the attached fact sheet cannot be denied. Given this financial information Dalkeith Heights Village residents are deeply concerned that you and your Councillor Colleagues have been over-influenced by Latrobe City Executive Staff who consistently make the claim "municipal rate burden is shared fairly across all rate payers".

Our request for a 25% Differential Rate is a reasonable and justifiable measure to align our rates with the actual level of council services received and I encourage you and your Councillor Colleagues to revisit, reconsider and reject the Council Executives' decision to not provide a Differential Rate to Retirement and Lifestyle Villages at this time.

Any further proof or further comment on behalf of the Dalkeith Heights Village residents is reserved as it would give rise to speculation concerning the genuine level of yours and your Councillor Colleagues social and community commitment, financial management understanding, accounting skills and business acumen.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]
Secretary
Dalkeith Heights Residents Association Incorporated

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Latrobe City Differential Rate

for Retirement Villages

0.07%

reduction on LCC rate income if 25% Differential Rate is applied to Dalkeith Heights

From 23/24 - 24/25 LCC rateable properties increased by 408, producing an approximate $687k municipal rate revenue increase

Dalkeith Heights Annual Costs & Maintenance

- Dalkeith Heights Village annual service/maintenance cost: $200k
- Latrobe City estimated cost for same service/maintenance: $240k
- Latrobe City annual municipal rate revenue from Dalkeith Village (after levies): $190k
- Latrobe City surplus revenue: $142,500 per year (from Dalkeith, without providing maintenance)
- Cost to Latrobe City if introducing 25% municipal "Differential Rate" for Dalkeith Village: $47,500 (reduced revenue of $142,500)

Latrobe City's Cost Savings

- Latrobe City benefits by not incurring maintenance costs, saving around $142,500 annually.
- The 25% "Differential Rate" will cost Latrobe City $47,500, which could be amortized over 40,439 rateable properties for a small increase of $1.18 per property.

Retirement Villages reduce demand on other Council services

$47.5K

in savings for Dalkeith Heights residents with the Differential Rate

$1.18

extra per property over 40,439 rateable properties – a small cost for big savings

$142.5K

Latrobe City Councils Surplus Revenue Without Providing Maintenance to Dalkeith Heights

Adopting the Differential Rate for Retirement Villages will not only support seniors in choosing village living but also reduce Council's service burden while delivering significant cost savings.

prepared by Ben Guzzardi on behalf of the Dalkeith Heights Retirement Village with information availible at the time

[redacted] [redacted]

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REVENUE & RATING PLAN 2025-2029

PURPOSE

To present the Revenue & Rating Plan 2025-2029 to Council for adoption in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires each Council to prepare and adopt a Revenue and Rating Plan (the Plan), covering a minimum period of four years by the 30 June following each Council election.
- The Plan establishes the revenue raising framework within which the Council proposes to work.
- The Plan establishes the principles behind how Council intends to fund its activities and how the funding burden will be apportioned between ratepayers and other users of Council facilities and services
- The Plan sets out decisions that Council has made in relation to rating options available to it under the *Local Government Act 1989* to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of rates across property owners.
- It is not the purpose of the Plan to set revenue targets for Council. The Plan outlines the strategic framework and decisions that inform how Council will go about calculating and collecting its revenue.
- Having considered the submissions received, it has been decided not to proceed with the proposed definition changes for the farm rate differential. The definition will remain unchanged from the 2024/25 definition and will remain in accordance with the definition of farm land as per the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **adopts the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 at Attachment 1, effective from 1 July 2025; and**
2. **notes that after adoption, the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 will be published on Council's website.**

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires each council to prepare a Revenue and Rating Plan to cover a minimum period of four years following each Council election. The Revenue and Rating Plan establishes the revenue raising framework within which Council proposes to work.

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

This Plan is an important part of Council's integrated planning framework. Strategies outlined in this plan align with the objectives contained in the Council Plan and will feed into Council's budgeting and long-term financial planning documents, as well as other strategic planning documents under Council's strategic planning framework.

This Plan explains the principles behind how Council intends to fund its activities, and how the funding burden will be apportioned between ratepayers and other users of Council facilities and services.

In particular, this plan sets out decisions that Council has made in relation to rating options available to it under the *Local Government Act 1989* to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of rates across property owners. It also sets out principles that are used in decision making for other revenue sources such as fees and charges and how the funding burden will be apportioned between ratepayers and other users of Council facilities and services.

It is important to note that this plan does not set revenue targets for Council, it outlines the strategic framework and decisions that inform how Council will go about calculating and collecting its revenue.

ANALYSIS

Council received 103 submissions refer **Attachment 2** some including multiple subjects, primarily the submissions related to:

- Proposed changes to the definition of Farm Land for the farm rate differential
- Request to introduce a differential rate for retirement villages; and
- Proposal to remove the annual payment option for the payment of rates.

Council officers provide the following commentary in relation to the submissions:

Submitter	Summary of submission	Assessment of Submission
Submissions relation to the Farm Rate Differential		
93 submissions	Objecting to the proposed changes to the farm rate differential	Having considered the submissions, it has been decided not to proceed with the revised definition for the farm rate differential. The definition will be unchanged from 2024/25 and will remain in accordance with the definition of farm land as per the *Valuation of Land Act 1960.*
Submissions in relation to a Retirement Village Differential		
Four submissions	Request for the implementation of a differential rate for retirement villages	The introduction of a differential rate for retirement villages was considered as part of the budget process it was not supported at this time.
Submission in relation to the rates annual payment option		
Ten submissions	Of the submissions received in relation to the change in rates payment options, nine of these indicated that they prefer to retain an annual payment option in February each year, while the other supported the change.	While understanding that the current option available to pay annually is convenient for some, it provides significant challenges for a large number of our ratepayers, the removal of the annual payment option provides Council with a greater opportunity to engage with ratepayers who are having difficulty paying their accounts at an earlier stage thus providing significantly better outcomes for ratepayers.

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
COMPLIANCE Failure to adopt the plan in accordance with the legislation	**Low** *Unlikely x Minor*	A timetable to review the plan has been established to allow sufficient time to have the document adopted within the required timeframes
STRATEGIC The plan does not meet the expectations of sectors of the community	**Medium** *Minor x Possible*	Council has considered submissions received
There will be ratepayers who currently receive the farm rate that will no longer qualify.	**Medium** *Minor x Likely*	The Rates team will be in contact with these ratepayers to assist with the transition to the general rate.

CONSULTATION

The draft Plan was placed on public display for 29 days, with 103 submissions received.

In addition, notification was provided to all existing ratepayers currently receiving the farm differential via 386 emails and 276 letters.

COMMUNICATION

Further communication is to be undertaken around the changes to rates payment options with all ratepayers once the new plan is adopted.

Additionally there will be further communication with farm ratepayers where necessary.

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 plan has a significant and direct impact on the community. Options, recommendations and outcomes out of the GIA include:

- review of the differential rating position for retirement villages undertaken in 2024;
- review of Rate Payment Options undertaken; and
- GIAs to be undertaken at service level when user fees and charges reviewed.

Social

Not applicable.

Cultural

Not applicable.

Health

Not applicable.

Environmental

Not applicable.

Economic

Not applicable.

Financial

There are no financial implications to Council associated with this report.

Attachments

1. Attachment 1: Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029
2. Attachment 2: Submissions

8.3

Revenue & Rating Plan 2025-2029

1 Attachment 1: Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029..... 308

2 Attachment 2: Submissions..... 329

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

Revenue & Rating Plan

2025 – 2029

Adopted by Council: XX June 2025

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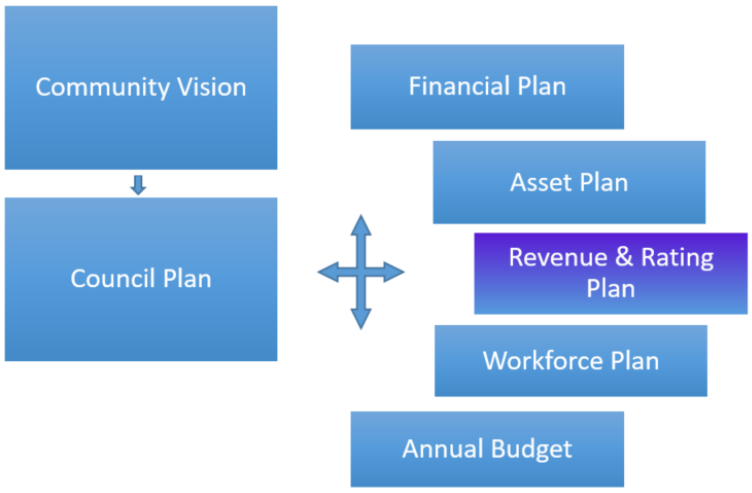
Purpose

The *Local Government Act 2020* (New Act) requires each council to prepare a Revenue and Rating Plan to cover a minimum period of four years following each Council election. The Revenue and Rating Plan establishes the revenue raising framework within which the Council proposes to work.

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

This plan is an important part of Council's integrated planning framework. Strategies outlined in this plan align with the objectives contained in the Council Plan and feeds into budgeting and long-term financial planning documents, as well as other strategic planning documents under Council's strategic planning framework.



This plan explains the principles behind how Council intends to fund its activities, and how the funding burden is apportioned between ratepayers and other users of Council facilities and services.

In particular, this plan will set out decisions that Council has made in relation to rating options available to it under the *Local Government Act 1989* (Act) to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of rates across property owners. It will also set out principles that are used in decision making for other revenue sources such as fees and charges.

It is also important to note that this plan does not set revenue targets for Council, it outlines the strategic framework and decisions that inform how Council calculates and collects revenue.

Introduction

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

Council's revenue sources include:

- Rates and Charges
- Grants from other levels of Government
- Statutory Fees and Fines
- User Fees
- Cash and non-cash contributions from other parties (i.e. developers)
- Interest from investments
- Sale of Assets

Rates are the most significant revenue source for Council and make up over 57% of annual income. The introduction of rate capping under the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) has required councils to increasingly focus on the long-term financial sustainability of council. The FGRS restricts Council from increasing rates revenue beyond the annual rate cap set by the Minister, unless a variation is sought through the Essential Services Commission.

A key purpose of this Plan is to consider Council's rating options under the Act, and how Council's choices in applying these options contribute towards meeting an equitable rating strategy.

It is important to note from the outset that the strategic focus of this Plan is very different to that which is discussed in the Annual Budget. In the Annual Budget the key concern is the quantum of rates required to be raised for Council to deliver services, repay borrowings and fund capital expenditure. In this Strategy, the focus instead is on how this quantum will be equitably distributed amongst Council's ratepayers.

The Plan considers the limited range of rating options available to Council under the Act, including the following:

a) The choice of which valuation base to be utilised (of the three available choices under the Act);
b) The consideration of uniform rating versus the application of differential rating for various classes of property;
c) The most equitable level of differential rating across the property classes;
d) The application of a municipal charge
e) Consideration of the application of fixed service charges for the areas of waste collection and municipal administration;
f) The application of special rates and charges;
g) The application of other levies under the Planning & Environment Act 1987; and
h) A review of the rate payment dates and options available to Council.

Council also provides a wide range of services to the community, often for a fee or charge. The nature of these fees and charges generally depends on whether they relate to statutory or discretionary services. Some of these, such as statutory planning fees are set by State Government and are commonly known as regulatory fees. In these cases, councils usually have no control over service pricing. However, in relation to other services, Council has the ability to set a fee or charge and will set that fee based on the principles outlined in this Revenue and Rating Plan.

Council revenue can also be adversely affected by changes to funding from other levels of government. Some grants are tied to the delivery of council services, whilst many are tied directly to the delivery of new community assets, such as roads or sports pavilions. It is important for Council to be clear about what grants it intends to apply for, and the obligations that grants create in the delivery of services or infrastructure.

Executive Summary

Four key platforms currently form the basis of the current approach to rating at Latrobe City Council that is recommended for continuation. They are that:

a) Rates will continue to be based principally on an ad-valorem basis (i.e. based on the valuation of the various properties);
b) Council will continue to apply a service charge to fully recover the cost of the collection and disposal of waste;
c) Council will continue to apply differential rating to ensure all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council; and
d) Council continues to levy a Municipal charge.

This represents Latrobe City Council's approach to rating.

Section	Strategy Recommendations
Valuation Base	Council uses the Capital Improved Value (CIV) method of valuation
Rating System (Uniform or Differential)	Council continues to apply differential rating as its rating system.
Differential rates	Council applies the following differential rates: General Rate, Farm Rate, Derelict Properties
Residential Land	The General Rate will be applied to all Residential properties
Commercial Land	The General Rate will be applied to all Commercial properties
Industrial Land	The General Rate will be applied to all Industrial properties
Farm Land	Farm land that meets the definition of Farm Land as defined in this document will be eligible for the Farm Rate Differential which is set at 75% of the General Rate
Vacant Land	The General Rate will apply to all Vacant Land
Derelict Properties	Derelict properties are defined under Section 6. The differential is set at the maximum level of 4 times the lowest differential rate.
Retirement Villages	The General Rate will apply to all Retirement Village properties
Cultural and Recreational Land	There are two types of rebate offered Non-Gaming Venues Gaming Venues Assessments must meet the definition of cultural and recreational land in accordance with the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963. Non-Gaming Venues will be eligible for a rate rebate of 50% of the general rate, and Gaming Venues will be eligible for a rate rebate of 40% of the general rate. Each application is assessed on a case by case basis in accordance with the requirements of the Act. Additional rebate amounts are provided to golf course assessments where land values have been impacted due to past changes in land zoning
Municipal Charge	Council applies a Municipal Charge in accordance with the Local Government Act.
Service Rates and Charges	A service charge is applied to Council's kerbside waste collection service. The service consists of collection areas and a mandatory three bin system within these collection areas. The charges include the collection and disposal of household waste, recyclables and green waste, along with the provision of transfer stations and whole of life costs associated with maintaining a landfill facility. The introduction of a

Section	Strategy Recommendations
	fourth bin for glass products is currently under investigation and may be introduced during the term of this plan.
EPA Levy	The State Government EPA Levy on waste delivered to landfill is charged in addition to the waste charge and applies to each garbage bin service and is currently separately disclosed on the rates notice
Special Rates	Special Rates and Charges will continue to apply where special benefit can be shown to exist to a group of individual land owners for defined capital projects (e.g. gravel road sealing, footpaths etc.).
Rate Rebate for Land with a Deed of Covenant for Conservation Purposes	A Rates Rebate equating to a fixed amount of $100 per property plus $5 per hectare, will be available for land with a Deed of Covenant for Conservation purposes.
Payment of Rates and Charges	For the 2026 financial year Council offers the option to pay rates by either the mandatory rate instalments option or the lump sum option in accordance with the Local Government Act. From the 2027 financial year Council will discontinue the lump sum payment option.
Eligible Pension Rebate	Council continues to manage the State Government Pension Rebate scheme. Council does not provide any additional council rebate for eligible pensioners.

1.

The importance of a rating strategy

Latrobe City Council currently receives the majority of its revenue by way of property-based rates and waste charges. The development of strategies in respect of the rating base is therefore of critical importance to both Council and the community.

Council's approach to the raising of rate revenue is in line with its goal of providing transparency and accountability in its decision-making.

2.

Rating – the Legislative Framework

The purpose of this section is to outline the legislative framework within which Council operates its rating system and the various matters that Council must consider when making decisions on rating objectives.

2.1 Legislative Framework

The role of Council is documented in the *Local Government Act 2020* which states:

- The role of a Council is to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community.

In addition there are overarching governance principles which includes that:

- priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;

Council endeavours to achieve the best outcomes for the municipal community having regard to the long term and cumulative effects of its decisions. In seeking to achieve this outcome, Council aims to ensure the equitable imposition of rates and charges.

2.2 Consideration of Equity

In reviewing its rating strategy in terms of the equitable imposition of rates and charges, the difficulty becomes how to define and determine what is in fact equitable in the view of Council.

In considering what rating approaches are equitable, concepts that Council consider are:

- Horizontal equity, which refers to justice or fairness in the treatment of like properties, in other words, that similar rates are paid by similar properties. On the proviso that Council valuations fairly reflect the true valuation of like properties, horizontal equity will be achieved.
- Vertical equity, which refers to justice or fairness in the treatment of properties in different circumstances. (e.g. different property types – Residential/ Commercial/ Industrial / Farming/ Vacant / Derelict).

In the case of property rates, it may be considered equitable for one type of property to have to bear more or less of the rates burden than another type of property. In achieving vertical equity in its rating strategy, Council must consider the valuation base it chooses to adopt to apply property rates and the application of the various rating tools available to it under the Act (e.g. differential rates).

The recommended approaches in this Plan in terms of equity are discussed further under each section.

What Rates and Charges may a Council declare?

Section 155 of the *Local Government Act 1989* provides that a Council may declare the following rates and charges on rateable land:

General Rates under section 158;

Municipal Charges under section 159;

Service Rates and Charges under section 162; and

Special Rates and Charges under section 163.

The recommended strategy in relation to municipal charges, service rates and charges and special rates and charges are discussed in sections 8, 9 and 10.

Valuation Methodology available to Council

In raising Council rates, Council is required to primarily use the valuation of the rateable property to levy rates.

Section 157(1) of the Act provides Council with three choices in terms of which valuation base to utilise. They are Site Valuation, Capital Improved Valuation and Net Annual Value. The advantages and disadvantages of the respective valuation basis are discussed in section 5.

Declaring Rates and Charges

Section 158 of the Act provides that Council must, at least once in respect of each financial year, declare by 30 June the following:

- the amount which Council intends to raise by way of general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges;
- whether the general rates will be raised by application of –
    - a uniform rate; or
    - differential rates (if Council is permitted to do so under section 161(1) of the Act; or
    - urban farm rates, farm rates or residential use rates (if Council is permitted to do so under Section 161A of the Act).

Council's approach to the application of differential rates is discussed in section 6.

3.

Understanding the rating framework at Latrobe City Council

Latrobe City Council utilises the Capital Improved Valuation method as the method to calculate each occupancies rates liability.

Council rates are calculated as follows:

> Property Value X Rate in the dollar = Council rates plus municipal charge, waste charges and State Government charges.

Council currently applies a general rate and two differential rating categories along with a service charge to fully recover the cost of fulfilling its waste collection and disposal function.

A full list of the current years differential rates, municipal charge and waste charges can be found in the adopted budget available on councils' website *at www.latrobe.vic.gov.au*

4.

Determining which valuation base to use

As outlined above, under the Act, Council has three options for the valuation base it elects to use.

They are:

a) Capital Improved Valuation (CIV) – Value of land and improvements upon the land
b) Site Valuation (SV) – Value of land only
c) Net Annual Value (NAV) – Rental valuation based on CIV. For residential and farm properties, NAV is calculated at 5 per cent of the Capital Improved Value. For commercial and industrial properties NAV is calculated as the greater of the estimated annual rental value or 5 per cent of the CIV.

4.1 Capital Improved Value

CIV is the most commonly used valuation base by Victorian Local Government. Based on the value of both land and all improvements on the land, it is relatively easy to understand for ratepayers as it equates the market value of the property.

Section 161 of the Act provides that a Council may raise any general rates by the application of a differential rate if it –

a) Uses the capital improved value system of valuing land; and
b) Considers that a differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of its functions.

Where a council does not utilise CIV as the valuation base, it may only apply limited differential rates in relation to farm land, urban farm land or residential use land.

Advantages of using CIV

- CIV includes all improvements, and hence is often supported on the basis that it more closely reflects “capacity to pay”. The CIV valuation method considers the full development value of the property and hence better meets the equity criteria than SV and NAV.
- Valuations are now annual, market values are more predictable, and this has reduced the level of objections resulting from valuations. The concept of the market value of property is far more easily understood by ratepayers.
- Most councils in Victoria have now adopted CIV, which makes it easier to compare relative movements in rates and valuations between municipal districts.
- The use of CIV allows councils to apply differential rates so as to equitably distribute the rating burden based on the methodology of capacity to pay.

Disadvantages of using CIV

- The main disadvantage with CIV is the fact that rates are based on the total property value, which may not necessarily reflect the income level of the property owner, and their capacity to pay.

4.2 Site Value

With valuations based simply on the valuation of land and with only very limited ability to apply differential rates, the implementation of SV would cause a shift in rate burden from the industrial/ commercial sectors onto the residential sector.

In many ways, it is difficult to see an equity argument being served by the implementation of SV.

Advantages of Site Value

- There is a perception that, under SV, a uniform rate would promote development of land, particularly commercial and industrial developments. There is however little evidence to prove that this is the case.

Disadvantages in using Site Value

- Under SV, there would be a significant shift of the rates burden from the Industrial/Commercial sector onto the residential and farming sector.
- SV is a major burden on property owners that have large areas of land. Some of these owners may have much smaller/older dwellings compared to those who have smaller land areas but well-developed dwellings - but will pay more in rates. A typical example is town-houses which will all pay lower rates compared to traditional housing styles.
- The use of SV can place pressure on Council to give concessions to categories of landowners on whom the rating burden is seen to fall disproportionately (e.g. farm land, urban farm land and residential use properties). Large landowners, such as farmers for example, are disadvantaged by the use of SV.
- SV will reduce Council's rating flexibility and options to deal with any rating inequities due to the removal of the ability to levy differential rates.

4.3 Net Annual Value

NAV, in concept, represents the annual rental value of a property. However, in practice, NAV is closely linked to CIV for Residential Land and Farm Land. Valuers derive the NAV directly as 5 per cent of CIV.

In contrast to the treatment of Residential Land and Farm Land, NAV for Commercial and Industrial Land is assessed with regard to actual market rental. This differing treatment has led to some suggestions that all properties should be valued on a rental basis.

Overall, the use of NAV is not supported. For ratepayers in respect of Residential Land and Farm Land, actual rental values pose some problems. The artificial rental estimate used may not represent actual rental market value, and means the valuation base is the same as CIV but is harder to understand.

4.4 Summary

It is recommended that Council continues to apply CIV as the valuation base as:

- CIV includes all improvements, and hence is often supported on the basis that it more closely reflects "capacity to pay". The CIV valuation method considers the full development value of the property and hence better meets the equity criteria than SV and NAV.
- Most councils in Victoria have now adopted CIV, which makes it easier to compare relative movements in rates and valuations between municipal districts.
- The use of CIV allows councils to apply differential rates so as to equitably distribute the rating burden based on the methodology of capacity to pay.

5.

Determining the Rating System - Uniform or Differential?

Council may apply a uniform rate or differential rates as a means of raising revenue. They are quite different in application and have different administrative and appeal mechanisms that need to be considered.

5.1 Uniform Rate

Section 160 of the Act states, if a council declares that general rates will be raised by the application of a uniform rate, the council must specify a percentage as the uniform rate. Rates will be determined by multiplying that percentage by the value of the relevant land.

Council has not adopted a uniform rate.

5.2 Differential Rates

Under the Act, Council is entitled to apply differential rates provided that it uses CIV as its basis for rating.

Council has since its inception adopted the differential rating system as it considers that this provides a greater ability to achieve equitable distribution of the rating burden, particularly considering the farming sector.

Differential rates in the dollar of CIV can be applied to different classes of property, which must be clearly differentiated, and the setting of differentials must be used to improve equity and efficiency. There is no legislative limit on the number of differential rates that can be levied, however, the highest differential rate can be no more than four times the lowest differential rate.

Council, in striking the rate through the annual budget process sets the differential rate for set classes of properties at higher or lower amounts than the general rate. Currently there are only three different levels of rates being General, Farm and Derelict Property rates.

Advantages of a differential rating system

The advantages of utilising a differential rating system include:

- Greater flexibility to distribute the rate burden between all classes of property.
- Allows Council to reflect the unique circumstances of some rating categories where the application of a uniform rate may create inequitable outcomes (eg Farming enterprises).
- Allows Council discretion in the imposition of rates to ‘facilitate and encourage appropriate development of its municipal district in the best interest of the community.

Disadvantages of Differential Rating

The disadvantages in applying differential rating include:

- Differential rating involves a degree of administrative complexity as properties continually shift from one type to another (e.g. residential to farm, vacant to improved) requiring Council to update its records. Maintaining the accuracy/integrity of Council’s database is critical in ensuring that properties are correctly classified into their differential categories.
- Council may not achieve the objectives it aims for through differential rating. For example, Council may set its differential rate objectives to levy a higher rate on vacant land, hoping to encourage development, however, it is uncertain whether a differential rate would achieve such objectives.

6.

What Differential Rates should be applied?

6.1 General Rate

The general rate is the particular rate in the dollar that applies to all land which is not defined within a differential rate and can include residential, commercial and industrial properties, both vacant and improved.

The actual rating burden applying to general properties is an outcome determined by decisions to apply either higher or lower rates in the dollar to other classes of property, such as farm, commercial/ industrial or recreational land.

In the setting of differential rates, Council considers their relativity to the general rate.

6.2 Farm Rate

Historically a lower rate has been applied to farms, the basis for this decision being that, in general, farmers require larger landholdings to run efficiently, and this would effectively result in disproportionately high rates in relation to the income or surplus able to be generated from these properties.

Council recognises their responsibility to ensure that the farm rate is enjoyed by deserving ratepayers. The problem arises in identifying “genuine” farms, as opposed to “hobby farms”.

The Valuation of Land Act 1960 sets out the definition of Farm Land for valuation purposes, and defines “farm land” as any rateable land:

a) That is not less than 2 hectares in area and;
b) That is used primarily for grazing (including agistment), dairying, pig farming, poultry farming, fish farming, tree farming, bee keeping, viticulture, horticulture, fruit growing or the growing of crops of any kind or for any combination of those activities; and
c) That is used by a business
    - That has a significant and substantial commercial purpose or character; and
    - That seeks to make a profit on a continuous or repetitive basis from its activities on the land; and
    - That is making a profit from its activities on the land, or that has a reasonable prospect of making a profit from its activities on the land if it continues to operate in the way that it is operating.

This definition of farm land is also used for rating purposes.

In summary, it is Council’s opinion that:

- Due to the large tracts of land required to meet the definition of Farm Land it is recognized that if a differential rate was not in place then farmers would be required to contribute a disproportional amount of Council’s rates revenue.
- Evidence shows that returns able to be realised by farming from the assets employed (including land) are lower than for other forms of land, so that its capacity to pay is lower;
- Rate relief should continue to be provided to farming/agriculture because of its importance to the local economy.

6.3 Derelict Properties

The differential rate relating to derelict properties is set at the maximum level, being 4 times the lowest differential rate, as allowed under Section 161 (5) of the Local Government Act 1989.

The objective of the differential rate is to promote the responsible management of land and buildings through incentivising the proper development and maintenance of such land and buildings so as not to pose a risk to public safety or adversely affect public amenity.

For the purposes of applying the differential rate, properties, which include both buildings and/or land, will be considered derelict where the following criteria applies:

Criteria 1. The property is in such a state of disrepair that it is considered unsuitable for human habitation or other occupation for living or working on a daily basis, and has been in such a condition for a period of more than 3 months. The property is likely to lack, or have restricted access to, essential services or facilities including but not limited to water, and/or operational effluent discharge facilities.

and

Criteria 2. The property meets one or more of the following:

a) The property has become unsafe and poses a risk to public safety, including but not limited to:
    - The existence on the property of vermin, rubbish/litter, fire hazards, excess materials/ goods, asbestos or other environmental hazards; or
    - The property includes a partially built structure where there has been no reasonable progress in completing the structure in accordance with the building permit;
b) The property adversely affects public amenity;
c) The property provides an opportunity to be used in a manner that may cause a nuisance or become detrimental to the amenity of the immediate area;
d) The condition of the property has a potential to adversely impact the value of other properties in the vicinity;
e) The property affects the general amenity of adjoining land or the neighbourhood by the appearance of graffiti, any stored unregistered motor vehicles, machinery or parts thereof, scrap metal, second hand building materials, building debris, soil or similar materials, or other items of general waste or rubbish.

The assessment of properties against the above criteria will be undertaken by Council's authorised officers.

6.4 Retirement Villages

Retirement village property is any property, which is defined as a Retirement Village under the Retirement Villages Act 1986. In accordance with the Ministerial Guidelines on Differential Rating, a Council must give consideration to reducing the rates burden through the use of a reduced differential rate for retirement village land.

There are 9 registered retirement villages within the municipality.

The determination of whether a differential rate should apply should reflect the level of service provided and ensures that reasonable rate relativity is maintained between retirement village property and other classes of property.

Council undertook a detailed review of the differential rating position for retirement villages in 2024. The review identified that residents of retirement villages continue to have the choice and ability to use and/or receive Council services, access facilities and benefit from the assets/open spaces provided and maintained by the Council for the entire community.

It was recognised that the villages located within the municipality remain largely reliant on Council for the provision of services and residents are not contributing a disproportionate amount of rates.

Council has decided to not introduce a differential rate for retirement villages at this time.

7.

Cultural and Recreational Land:

The *Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963* (CRL Act) provides for a council to grant a rating concession in respect of any "recreational lands" which are rateable land under the Act.

The definition of "recreational lands" under section 2 of the CRL Act is lands which are:

- Vested in or occupied by anybody corporate or unincorporated body which exists for the purpose of providing or promoting cultural or sporting recreational or similar facilities or objectives and which applies its profits in promoting its objects and prohibits the payment of any dividend or amount to its members; and
- Used for outdoor sporting recreational or cultural purposes or similar outdoor activities; or
- Used primarily as agricultural showgrounds.

Section 169 of the Act, provides an opportunity for Council to grant a concession for properties described by definition as a sporting club under the CRL Act.

The Act provides council shall determine the amount payable as it deems reasonable having regard to the services provided by the municipal council in relation to such lands and having regard to the benefit to the community derived from such recreational lands.

There are currently two levels of rebate provided based on the type of premises and include;

1. Non-Gaming Premises (Rebate of 50% of the General Rate)
   Eligible assessments that do not have gaming/gambling facilities at the premises.
2. Gaming Premises (Rebate of 40% of the General Rate)
   Eligible assessments that provide gaming/gambling facilities on the premises.

The division in rebates recognises that assessments with gaming facilities have a greater capacity to earn income, and therefore have a greater capacity to pay.

In addition Council provides a rebate in excess of the nominated amount for golf clubs where they have been impacted by a previous rezoning, this is in recognition of the limited change in services provided to the land.

8.

Special Rates and Charges

Special rates and charges are covered under Section 163 of the Act, which enables Council to declare a special rate or charge or combination of both for the purposes of:

- Defraying any expenses, or
- Repaying with interest any advance made or debt incurred or loan raised by Council

If the Council considers that the performance of the function or the exercise of the power is or will be of special benefit to the persons required to pay the special rate or special charge.

Section 185 of the Act provides appeal rights to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) in relation to the imposition of a special rate or charge. VCAT has wide powers, which could affect the viability of the special rate or special charge.

Council currently utilises Special Charges to recover the costs of sealing urban residential streets and installation of new footpaths, where the benefit can be attributed to the residents of those streets.

9.

Municipal Charge

Under Section 159 of the Act, Council may declare a municipal charge to cover some of its administrative costs. The legislation is not definitive on what comprises administrative costs and does not require Council to specify what is covered by the charge. A Council's total revenue from a municipal charge in a financial year must not exceed 20 per cent of the combined sum total of the Council's total revenue from the municipal charge and the revenue from general rates.

Municipal charges apply equally to all properties (similar to waste charges) and are based upon the recovery of a fixed cost of providing administrative services irrespective of valuation. The same contribution amount per assessment to cover a portion of Council's administrative costs can be seen as an equitable method of recovering these costs.

Council's position is that all assessments should equally contribute to the administrative costs of running council and therefore a Municipal Charge is applied.

10.

Service Rates and Charges

Section 162 of the Act provides Council with the opportunity to raise service rates and charges for the provision of waste, recycling or resource recovery services.

Council currently applies a Service Charge for the collection and disposal of refuse on properties that fall within the collection area. Council's waste collection service consists of a three-bin system which includes Garbage collected on a weekly basis and Recycle and Green Waste which is collected fortnightly on alternative weeks. Council sets the Waste Service Charge for waste at a level that fully recovers the whole of life cost of fulfilling the waste collection and disposal function along with providing transfer stations for the collection and processing of self-haul waste.

The advantage of the Waste Service Charge is that it is readily understood and accepted by residents as a fee for a direct service that they receive. It further provides equity in the rating system as those residents who do not live in a collection area are not required to contribute to the cost of the service through general rates.

11.

EPA Levy Charge

The Victorian Government through the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) levies all landfill sites with a landfill levy which is based on the amount of waste entering landfills on an annual basis.

This separate cost is shown on Rates Notices in the interests of greater transparency. The cost of the levy is influenced by two drivers – one is the volume of waste going into landfill, and the second is the price per tonne levied by the EPA.

Council estimates the average annual garbage waste to landfill per property at 0.40 tonnes.

12.

Rate Payment Options

There are only two options available under the Act for Council to set due dates for payment of rates. The first is an option of a lump sum payment on a fixed date (which is set as 15 February of each year) and the second is a mandatory instalment approach where quarterly payments are required at the end of September, November, February and May. Under this second approach, residents can elect to pay instalments or the lump sum in advance at any point.

Council has elected to maintain the options offered within the Act of both instalments and an annual payment option for the 2025/26 financial year, after which the option to pay by lump sum on the 15 February of each year will be discontinued, providing a reasonable lead time for annual (lump sum) ratepayers to adjust the timing of their annual payment to September instead of February.

Council has experienced a significant increase in the number of ratepayers seeking payment assistance through alternative payment arrangements and ratepayers defaulting on payments. The current annual payment option effectively restricts council from engaging with ratepayers until after the full payment due date.

There are a number of advantages in removing the option to pay by lump sum. These include;

- Council has the ability to identify struggling payers much earlier in the process, which provides the ratepayer with additional time to implement payment arrangements than would be the case if Council does not become aware of the issue until February.
- It provides improved cash flow. Council operates under a 1 July to 30 June financial year, and issues annual rates notices in August of each year. Under the lump sum payment arrangement Council needs to self-fund all expenditure through to February. During this time, Council is required to continue to provide operational services and capital works which may place additional strain on council's cash flow given the impact of rate capping.
- It brings Council into closer alignment with virtually every other utility service provider.
- Finally, it is the experience of Council that ratepayers are better able to manage and plan their household finances for four instalments, rather than the single payment required under the lump sum payment option.

13.

User Fees and Charges

Council provides a wide range of services, to the community, often for a fee or charge. The nature of these fees and charges generally depends on whether they relate to legislated or discretionary services. Fees for some services are set by state government statute and are commonly known as 'regulatory fees'.

The Act gives Council the power to set fees and charges at a level that recovers the full cost of providing the services, unless there is an overriding policy or imperative in favour of subsidisation.

A schedule of the current user fees and charges is presented in Council's annual budget.

Council periodically reviews all fees and charges and adjusts the levels consistent with application of the user pays principle – that is, so far as is possible, the cost of providing a direct service will be met by the fees charged.

All council services can be reviewed to assess whether they are appropriate to attract user fees and charges. Attributes of a service that can affect the ability for a council to place a fee or charge include whether the operation is public or private in nature and if there is any state or federal government legislation or funding conditions prohibiting or setting ceilings for pricing.

Cost Recovery

Full Cost Recovery
The full cost of delivering a service or providing a facility includes both:

- Direct Costs – those costs that can be readily and unequivocally attributed to a service or activity because they are incurred exclusively for that particular product/activity.
- Indirect Costs (often referred to as overheads) – those costs that are not directly attributable to an activity, but support a range of activities across Council.

Direct Costs
Council has systems for calculating the direct costs of providing services. These include:

- Labour – the wages and salaries of all staff directly working on that service. These costs include staff overheads, such as allowing for annual leave, sick leave, workers' compensation payments and long service leave.
- Materials– supplies and services used in providing the service, including fleet costs.
- Administrative expenses – the office support for a service. Typically, an operational unit provides a number of services, so the administrative costs of that unit will need to be allocated across the different services.
- Capital equipment and assets using in providing the service – this may include plant hire or, where a council owns the equipment and assets, allowance for asset replacement, insurance and depreciation.

Indirect Costs
Council has a range of "back office" operations that are not directly tied to any service delivery. Nonetheless, these involve real costs that are incurred in supporting the delivery of direct services.

Council uses the pro-rata approach when assigning indirect costs, indirect costs can include:

- Information Technology (network, hardware, software, licensing, support etc.)
- Finance
- Payroll
- Human Resources; and
- Others which may relate directly to a particular service

Pricing Constraints

After Council has calculated the full costs of a service, external constraints should be considered:

- State or Commonwealth Government sets a statutory price for that service,
- Service is in direct competition to private sector competitors and is it a "significant business activity:". If so, Council needs to check competitive neutrality conditions.
- Is a price based on the full cost of the service competitive with other supplies (nearby councils and/or private competitors)?

Does Council have a specific policy either:

- To subsidise this service (setting prices below full costs)?
- To use the service as a taxation mechanism (setting prices above the full cost level)?

Competitive Neutrality

If a competitive neutrality assessment is required, the following steps are recommended by the Victorian Government's National Competition Policy and Local Government Statement:

- Determine whether the operation is a "significant business activity" and therefore, subject to the policy.
- Assess the full costs of providing the services, including all overheads
- Identify any aspect whereby the operation gains a net commercial benefit from being government owned.

If this analysis shows that a significant business does enjoy a net competitive benefit, Council is expected to set prices that include competitive neutral adjustments.

However, under the policy, this is not required if Council:

- Decides that the costs of applying competitive neutrality outweigh the benefits.
- Conducts and documents a "public interest test", which involves public consultation on costed options, and identifies clear public policy objectives for providing the service at below competitive neutral prices.

As well as ensuring a level playing field for private sector competitors, this policy aims to identify subsidies, make them transparent to the community, and explain why Council is providing cross-subsidisation. Cross-subsidisation implies that one group may pay higher/lower prices than another group. Cross-subsidisation exists in a number of forms:

- Cross-subsidisation between the fees and charges paid by different users for a specific service – a cross subsidy between users.
- Cross-subsidisation between fees and charges and rates – a cross subsidy between users and ratepayers or from one service to another service.
- Cross-subsidisation between the amounts of rates paid by various classes of ratepayers.

The final step in a pricing policy is identifying what council services or service areas are "public goods" and therefore most appropriate for funding via general rate revenue.

Guiding Principles

Council has developed a range of principles to determine the level of fees and charges to be applied to each service. These principles are:

- Fees and charges are set in line with other like services through benchmarking.
- Fees and charges are set at a level that is deemed to be fair and equitable to enable the majority of residents to access the services.
- Fees and charges are set at a level to encourage participation and positive health and wellbeing outcomes.

- Fees are charged in line with State or Federal government legislation or Local Laws
- Fees are charged in line with State or Federal government funding requirements

14.

Government Grants

Grant revenue represents income received from other levels of government. Some grants are singular and attached to the delivery of specific projects (non-recurrent) such as capital works, whilst others relate to ongoing funding of programs or are untied to a specific requirement (recurrent) such as Financial Assistance Grants.

Council pro-actively advocates to other levels of government for grant funding support to deliver important infrastructure and service outcomes for the community. Council may use its own funds to leverage higher grant funding and maximise external funding opportunities.

When preparing its financial plan, council considers its project proposal pipeline, advocacy priorities, upcoming grant program opportunities, and co-funding options to determine what grants are to be pursued. Council will only apply for and accept external funding if it is consistent with the Council Plan priorities.

No project that is reliant on grant funding will proceed until a signed funding agreement is in place.

15.

Contributions

Contributions represent funds received by council, usually from non-government sources, and are usually linked to projects. Contributions can be made to council in the form of either cash payments or asset handovers.

Examples of contributions include:

- Monies collected from developers under planning and development agreements
- Contributions from user groups towards upgrade of facilities
- Assets handed over to council from developers at the completion of a subdivision, such as roads, drainage, and streetlights.

Contributions should always be linked to a planning or funding agreement. Council will not undertake any work on a contribution-funded project until a signed agreement outlining the contribution details is in place.

16.

Interest on Investments

Council receives interest on funds managed as part of its investment portfolio, where funds are held in advance of expenditure, or for special purposes. The investment portfolio is managed per council's investment policy, which seeks to earn the best return on funds, whilst minimising risk.

Returns received from investments are either

- utilised as part of the overall revenue of council to fund the general running of council; or
- managed in accordance with funding agreements where the funds relate specifically to prepaid grant funding.

17.

Sale of Assets

Council holds a significant portfolio of assets which are used to support council's services. There is a significant cost in holding assets that are obsolete or in excess of council's requirements, as such council will continue to review the portfolio of assets on a regular basis with the aim of identifying assets which are obsolete, or in excess of requirements.

Assets identified as being obsolete or in excess of requirements will be assessed for disposal in accordance with council's policies and delegations.

BACK PAGE

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Morwell Corporate Headquarters
141 Commercial Road

Moe Service Centre
1-29 George Street

Traralgon Service Centre
34/38 Kay Street

Churchill and District Community Hub
9/11 Philip Parade

Respondent No: 1
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 04, 2025 16:06:23 pm
Last Seen: May 04, 2025 16:06:23 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

We request ratepayers of Latrobe CityCouncil retain the current ability to pay rates 1) annually and 2) as usual, annually, in February. It is not convenient for our family to pay by installments. Do not change this function.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 2
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 05, 2025 10:27:52 am
Last Seen: May 05, 2025 10:27:52 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Bianca Wilkie

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I think it is disgusting to raise the farm withhold from 2 hectares to 40 hectares. People can have primary producer productive properties on smaller land sizes greater than 2 hectares and are being impacted already by the increasing costs associated with farming and this is another blow to small businesses. This is purely for revenue raising purposes and does not consider the impact on the small business/small farm land holders. The council will not provide the small business owner me with anything from this revenue raising ploy and it does nothing but drive further small businesses out of the region. The impacts of costs of living should be considered and the impact it will have on people living within the council region on these size properties should be taken into account before applying such an increase on smaller property owners who are already struggling to keep their small farming businesses afloat.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 3
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 05, 2025 10:30:20 am
Last Seen: May 05, 2025 10:30:20 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

That the calculation of rating farms and the annual adjustment per annum is much too high. It is an increasing cost impost to already annual increasing costs of on farm production to maintain industry accreditation for instance. Farm inputs are massively skyrocketing, cost of living is increasing making it inequitable for the viability to farm. Recommendation - Farm rates need to decrease in real terms.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 4
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 05, 2025 17:48:15 pm
Last Seen: May 05, 2025 17:48:15 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name**	Wendy Habraken-Flack
Q2. **Email**	[redacted]
Q3. **Confidentiality**	You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Objection to Differential Farm rate change

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

Wendy Habraken-Flack

[redacted]

Objection to differential rates clause - 6.2 Farm rate – Criteria 1 Land size.

Increasing the land size to 40 ha (98.842 acres) and declaring this is the minimum size to be viable as primary production is discriminatory and defamatory to landowners on smaller but also substantial holdings.

This change will increase rates from farm rates to general rates on properties under the proposed 40 ha, I am on 25.091 ha (62 acres), is a contradiction on your 'methodology of capacity to pay' clause 4 – criteria 4.1. With this proposed primary production land size change and taking current farm rates to general rates will create financial hardship for landholders on smaller than 40 ha but greater than 4.047 ha (10 acres).

Your definition in defining the difference between a hobby/lifestyle property and farm/primary production needs to be re-addressed, and the proposed land size change should be set at 16.1874 ha (40 acres) as this is financially viable and will encourage landowners to utilize their properties for farming activities as stated in Criteria 2 Primary use.

You are stating that the primary focus of Council is to provide relief for those that require large landholdings in order to farm, these large landholders are already receiving the differential farm rate so technically nothing is changing for them you are targeting those on lesser holdings to take up the burden and financially supporting them.

Changing Criteria 3 Commercial Viability to be primarily used by a registered business discriminates against those who use their land as primary production but don't have a registered business but hold an ABN. To make a property financially viable without the need for off farm income you will need to increase the size of your proposed land holding to 100 ha (247.105 acres) to be, as you state, of sufficient scale to have some element of independent viability. Any farm on less ha generally requires some off farm income.

These proposed changes are unjust and a prejudicial treatment of different farm size landholders and shows Councils understanding of farming practices to be biased and supportive of only larger entities and businesses. A farm does not have to be solely operated as a commercial enterprise to warrant differential farm rates, smaller holdings are just as important to the local economy.

Respondent No: 5
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 06, 2025 14:42:15 pm
Last Seen: May 06, 2025 14:42:15 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

To Latrobe City Council Regarding changes to eligibility criteria for the farm Differential Rate. My name is [redacted], I own a farm property of 30 hectares in size located in Tyers, a large part of this property is under flood overlay and can only be used for farming. The property is a small Angus breeding operation which produces about 35 Angus weaner calves for larger beef producers . The proposed changes to the Farm Differential Rate will result in large financial cost for my operation, as a small business with a small turnover and higher cost of production compared to large producers the affects of these changes could be horrific for my operation. My advise to Latrobe City is that if more revenue is required it should be spread over all farming operations not just on small farming operations that have small revenue that would suffer large finacial pressures from these additional costs. Regards [redacted]

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 6
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 07, 2025 07:22:37 am
Last Seen: May 07, 2025 07:22:37 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

The farm differential rate should be based solely on agricultural activity rather than land size or perceived commercial viability. This approach would more accurately reflect the realities of modern farming practices and better support local communities. To qualify for the farm rate, I agree that property owners must operate a registered business with an ABN and GST. This ensures that only active agricultural operations benefit from the reduced rate, promoting genuine farming activities. My Situation: I manage a cattle and sheep enterprise with over 300 head of cattle and 100 sheep across 600 acres spread across six different land holdings. Unfortunately, not all of these holdings meet the 40-hectare requirement, which raises questions about how the farm differential rate applies to my circumstances. Key Questions: • How is the farm differential rate determined if my primary property does not meet the land size rule? • How do leased properties contribute to my eligibility, especially when they allow me to achieve the necessary scale for a viable agricultural operation? By focusing on activity rather than land size, we can create a fairer system that acknowledges the complexities of farming today. This would ensure that all legitimate agricultural operations, regardless of their land holdings, receive the support they need to thrive.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 7
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 09, 2025 13:41:44 pm
Last Seen: May 09, 2025 13:41:44 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I oppose the proposal to reduce the eligibility threshold for the farm rate differential to landholdings of 40 hectares and above. This change is unreasonable and inconsistent with other measures used to define a primary production enterprise. Many regulatory and taxation frameworks—including land tax exemptions and planning definitions—recognize 50 acres (approximately 20 hectares) as a standard benchmark for farming viability. Introducing a higher threshold of 40 hectares risks excluding genuine and productive small to mid-sized farming operations that contribute to regional communities. There are also land holders with multiple holdings that when consolidated exceed a 40 hectar threshold but per single holding do not. Additionally, I express concern about the removal of the option to pay rates through an annualised payment method in favour of an upfront payment model. This change may increase financial hardship for many in an already disadvantaged and struggling community. The flexibility of a dealyed-annualised is built into farm and family budgets. We respectfully urge the relevant decision-makers to retain the existing threshold or limit any increase to 50 acres, and to preserve payment options that reduce financial pressure on ratepayers and support the sustainability of our farming communities.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 8
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 09, 2025 14:07:56 pm
Last Seen: May 09, 2025 14:07:56 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name**	Trevor mckenney
Q2. **Email**	[redacted]
Q3. **Confidentiality**	You may include my name in public documents
Q4. **Your submission**	Leave it how it is at present
Q5. **Upload your submission**	not answered

Respondent No: 9
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 09, 2025 20:43:21 pm
Last Seen: May 09, 2025 20:43:21 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Farms come in all shapes and sizes, you could have 3 hectares of garlic, would that not be a farm? I think council should stick with over 2 hectares for the farm differential rate if it's producing food! Surely this is not a difficult thing to do, it really just looks like a desperate grab for cash from rural people who can ill afford more rates. Where is the compassion of council, times are tough for everyone. Farmers have to balance the books too.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 10
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 10, 2025 09:32:11 am
Last Seen: May 10, 2025 09:32:11 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Object to both proposals. 1. I pay my rates annually, effectively saving the money up on my mortgage redraw until it's due in Feb. Your proposal will impact interest that I would have gained over the Oct - February period. This should be an optional payment method. If having people pay on time is an issue maybe you should consider financial illiteracy assistance for your people! 2. Any increase in rates particularly to farms is unfair. The vic government has already jacked up land tax and now people will be snatched by local gov. Not cool Latrobe city. We don't get nice roads, or other services that town people get yet your jacking up our rates!?!

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 11
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 10, 2025 09:33:54 am
Last Seen: May 10, 2025 09:33:54 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** David M

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I strongly oppose Council's proposed revision to the qualification criteria for the farm rate differential. The area I live in—as well as many others within Latrobe—consists largely of smaller farms, most of which fall below the 40-hectare threshold. I believe this proposed change will negatively impact land values in these areas and further strain the already narrow profit margins of small and struggling farming communities. Residents affected by this change also receive significantly fewer Council services compared to those in urban areas. Many live on unsealed roads, do not receive council run bin collection and go without access to mains water or sewerage, yet still contribute through rates. Penalizing them further with reduced rate relief is both unfair and short-sighted. Large portions of land in the Latrobe region are zoned as farming, meaning State Authorities recognize them as suitable for agricultural use. This zoning typically requires a planning permit to build a dwelling, which often leads to development barriers due to opposition from a small number of individuals. These limitations, combined with the proposed changes to the farm rate differential, will significantly reduce the value and appeal of farming-zoned blocks under 100 acres, discouraging potential buyers and in turn weakening the local economy. I urge Council to reconsider this proposal and, instead, expand the eligibility for the farm rate differential to include all land zoned as farming —regardless of size. This would be a fairer and more supportive approach to sustaining the viability of our rural communities.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 12
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 11, 2025 14:33:31 pm
Last Seen: May 11, 2025 14:33:31 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Alan Burton

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

In the Draft Revenue & Rating Plan 2025 – 2029 released for Public Exhibition Council state the determination of whether a differential rate should apply for Retirement Villages should reflect the level of service provided and ensures that reasonable rate relativity is maintained between retirement village property and other classes of property. Council also state they undertook a detailed review of the differential rating position for retirement villages in 2014 and that review identified that residents of retirement villages continue to have the choice and ability to use and/or receive Council services, access facilities and benefit from the assets/open spaces provided and maintained by the Council for the entire community. It was recognised that the villages located within the municipality remain largely reliant on Council for the provision of services and residents are not contributing a disproportionate amount of rates. As such Council decided to not introduce a differential rate for retirement villages at this time. Interestingly I am not aware of any retirement village residents being consulted during the review. Did council talk to residents of retirement villages and record details of those using Council facilities, assets and open spaces? During the same review period did Council observe and record the number of other residents using the facilities, assets and open spaces of retirement villages? Obviously we are aware that some residents of retirement villages use facilities, assets and open spaces outside of their village but the extent of use would be minimal compared to rate payers outside of retirement villages as we have our own facilities, assets and open spaces which include restaurants, dining rooms, cafés, meeting rooms, lounges, media rooms, workshops, dart boards and card tables, gyms, pools, libraries, hairdressers, pool and table tennis tables, putting and bowling greens, vegetable gardens, barbecues and outside exercise equipment. Further the average age of residents in Dalkeith Heights is 81 and 93 of the 158 units are occupied by residents living alone who are predominantly females who do not often leave the Village. In so far as disproportionate rates we are paying the same rates as those outside retirement villages and the only service we receive from Council is rubbish picked up weekly which all rate payers pay as a separate figure on rates notices. And we pay to maintain facilities, assets and open spaces in our village without any contribution from Council or residents outside retirement villages. Given all this I find it surprising that Council has recognised that villages remain largely reliant on Council. It actually seems to be the other way around as Council in the current financial year will receive around $190000 in rates from Dalkeith Heights alone without providing any other service than rubbish removal which is paid for separately to rates. We need you to understand that there is an extreme inequity in the way Retirement and Lifestyle Villages are treated in the current rating system applied in Latrobe City. As such you need to reconsider your decision to not provide a differential rate at this time and approve the introduction of a 25% differential rate for Retirement and Lifestyle Villages from the 2025/2026 year onwards. Increasing the municipal rates for the 2025/2026 year by 3% in lieu of 1.5% percent (as was being voiced by the councillors at the last public meeting on 28 April 2025) will certainly cover the cost of the 25% differential rate for the Villages comfortably.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 13
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 12, 2025 10:41:59 am
Last Seen: May 12, 2025 10:41:59 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

We write to express our opposition to the proposal to reduce the eligibility threshold for the farm rate differential to landholdings of 40 hectares and above. This change is unreasonable and inconsistent with other widely accepted measures used to define a primary production enterprise. Frameworks such as land tax exemptions, zoning provisions, and planning schemes frequently apply a 50-acre (approximately 20-hectare) benchmark or similar when assessing the viability and legitimacy of farming operations. Reducing the threshold to 40 hectares risks excluding genuine primary producers from appropriate rate relief. In our specific circumstances, the portion of land we hold in [redacted] located within the Latrobe Local Government Area (LGA), is additional to farming land we also own in Glengarry. however within the Wellington LGA. These properties together form an integrated and operational commercial beef cattle enterprise. The Latrobe LGA property has no residence or capital improvements and is not used for lifestyle or hobby farming purposes. It is an essential part of our broader farming operation and should be assessed accordingly. Further, we are concerned by the proposed removal of the option for annualised rate payments in favour of an upfront payment system. This change places additional financial pressure on farming families in what is already a disadvantaged and economically struggling community. The flexibility of annual or instalment-based payments is critical for managing cash flow, particularly in an industry subject to seasonal variability and external economic pressures. We respectfully urge Council to retain the existing threshold or, if any adjustment is made, consider the total land holdings used in a primary production enterprise. We also ask that flexible payment options be maintained to support the financial sustainability of legitimate primary producers like ourselves. If you require specifics of our land holdings to support our submission, please notify us. Sincerely, [redacted]

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 14
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 12, 2025 20:59:14 pm
Last Seen: May 12, 2025 20:59:14 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name**	Dario Cusinato
Q2. **Email**	[redacted]
Q3. **Confidentiality**	You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Your proposal to increase the farm rate differential from 2 to 40 hectares would be detrimental to farming operations like our one. We lease several properties that are under 40 hectares which would result in higher rates and hence greater costs for our primary producers operation.

Q5. **Upload your submission**	not answered

Respondent No: 15
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 13, 2025 01:54:38 am
Last Seen: May 13, 2025 01:54:38 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Jon Williamson

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I find it very frustrating that the Council feels it needs to put an even greater cost on the farming community by increasing rates due to the size of the land being farmed . Not every farm needs 40 hectares to be viable , I myself have 32 hectares and have been farming this land since 2004 in line with the ATO's rules on farming . I'm a registered Business, registered for GST use a licensed accountant for my business as I've mentioned all in line with the ATO . I have a letter stating all of this and suppose will be required to present the letter against the Council possibly in VCAT if the Council was to change me off Farm Rates as this would be an attack on my Business and livelihood.

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

Respondent No: 16
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 13, 2025 06:50:56 am
Last Seen: May 13, 2025 06:50:56 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Our farm is in old nomenclature 80 acres as are many of the farms in our area of Toongabbie as a result of solider settlement subdivisions. Our farm will just fall under your 40 hectare proposal. We raise cattle on our farm. We have cattle yards with cattle crush and ramps, we cut hay each year and have farm machinery , tractor etc to enable a productive farm. Our operation could not be described as anything other than a farming enterprise. 40 hectares is far too high. I feel a limit of 10 to 20 hectares would capture those that are not genuine farms. We have no problem with the quarterly rate payment proposal.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 17
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 14, 2025 17:32:04 pm
Last Seen: May 14, 2025 17:32:04 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name**	Robert Edis
Q2. **Email**	[redacted]
Q3. **Confidentiality**	You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please see attached, thanks

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

Comments on Latrobe City Council Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029.

Robert Edis, [redacted]

Congratulations on considering an overhaul of the revenue and rating strategies used by the Council. I have some comments and suggestions (summarized in Table 1, with more detail following.

Table 1. Summary of suggestions and comments

SECTION	STRATEGY RECOMMENDATION	GRAND RIDGE FARM SUGGESTION
Rating System (Uniform or Differential)	Council continues to apply differential rating as its rating system.	Agreed. A differential rate for land under conservation covenant should also be considered (or an increase in the incentive to protect important ecosystems)
Farm Land	Farm land that meets the definition of Farm Land as defined in this document will be eligible for the Farm Rate Differential which is set at 75% of the General Rate	The definition needs simplification. More detail below. In short, use the ATO Taxation Ruling TR 97/11 (Income tax: am I carrying on a business of primary production?) to define eligibility supported by a farm business's tax return.
Derelict Properties	Derelict properties are defined under Section 6. The differential is set at the maximum level of 4 times the lowest differential rate.	Excessively punitive. Places are derelict for reasons, often associated with hardship. Is this designed to quickly rack up the bill? Suggest if interventions are needed, such as weeding, cleaning up, that those costs are added to the bill.
Rate Rebate for Land with a Deed of Covenant for Conservation Purposes	A Rates Rebate equating to a fixed amount of $100 per property plus $5 per hectare, will be available for land with a Deed of Covenant for Conservation purposes.	A bit miserly, given the incentives elsewhere in Victoria (though not everywhere). Suggest working with State and other Local Governments to have a statewide approach. In the meantime, be more generous, such as the Bendigo model, or make clear that more generous grants will be available for works on covenanted land.

Payment of Rates and Charges	For the 2026 financial year Council offers the option to pay rates by either the mandatory rate instalments option or the lump sum option in accordance with the Local Government Act. From the 2027 financial year Council will discontinue the lump sum payment option.	We prefer to pay as a lump sum. It is simpler to deal with things once.

Detailed comments

Farmland differential rates (Section 6.2). As articulated in the draft plan, there is a compelling argument for a differential rate for farm land. Defining farmland needs to be sensible, unambiguous, in almost no way adding to administrative burden of land holders, and with minimal extra work and cost for Council in defending allocation. Having to meet *all* the criteria to be considered farmland, however, is not sensible:

Criteria 1 (Land Size) is not useful, as it makes no sense in regards to agriculture. What soil type? What rainfall? Irrigated? Intensive? Flat or hilly? And so much more goes into the productivity of land. 40 Hectares of high value horticulture or viticulture is a real farm. So either drop this criteria or make it subjective to another criteria (that is an *or* rather than an *and*). Why not just leave it as the land lying in a Farming Zone (which will contain lots of mostly greater than 40 Ha anyway;

Criteria 2 (Primary Use) looks like a good criteria, until arguments emerge around scale and intensity of operations. Criteria 3 covers this, though criteria 3 needs some changes. Zoning already delineates where agricultural activities occur (eg FZ1), and so farmland differential rates could be available only on land in FZ1;

Criteria 3 (Commercial Viability). A criteria around commercial us of the land is sensible, but Council ruling on viability is fraught with difficulties to assess and an unwelcome intrusion into a business's operations. The Australian Tax Office already has assessments around whether a business engaged in primary production is the genuine article, such as turnover of $20,000. I suggest using the ATO ruling for a business for eligibility for the differential rate. I suggest requiring an ABN is a good idea, but being registered for GST should not be required. The requirement for "primary production registration" might make sense if clarified (with ATO? With MLA for example? Has a PIC?, that sort of thing). The requirement for sufficient scale etc would require too much intrusion – leave it to the ATO assessment. The use of off-farm income is often a good thing, investing in the property (increasing property value) and stimulating the local economy, and so should be encouraged not penalised. The requirement to maintain accounting records is necessary for doing business, and doing tax returns. Doing more for Council or even sharing with Council would meet with pushback.

Overall, much of what is proposed for eligibility for the farmland differential rate is consistent with Taxation Ruling TR 97/11 (Income tax: am I carrying on a business of primary production?), so I suggest Council avoid the grief of doing the same (or a bit different) and simply require

evidence that the ATO accepts that a primary production business is being conducted at the property. Requiring the property to be within a Farming Zone would also be sensible.

Rate Rebate for Land with a Deed of Covenant for Conservation Purposes

Council	What's offered	Impact after 5 years on 40 Ha covenanted land with site value of $200,000 (example only)
Bendigo	A one-off upfront payment of $25 per hectare of land protected. A 100% rate rebate on the protected land annually thereafter. The annual rate rebate is calculated on the site value of the area of protected land and is provided as a credit on the annual rate notice.	40*25+(200*.00215359)*5 $3153
Latrobe proposed	A Rates Rebate equating to a fixed amount of $100 per property plus $5 per hectare	(100+5*40)*5 $1500

From the Trust for Nature website accessed 6/5/25
'For example, the City of Greater Bendigo, Macedon Ranges Shire, Mount Alexander Shire and Buloke Shire all offer a full rate rebate to acknowledge and reward conservation efforts of private landholders. Shires like Hepburn, Geelong, and Mornington offer a partial percentage rebate, while others such as Cardinia, Mansfield and Greater Shepparton offer a per hectare rebate (between $20-$50 up to a specified capped amount). Last but not least, we are always pleased when local councils increase the support they offer councils – for example recently the South Gippsland Shire Council increased its annual incentive payments to $500 for properties over 10ha.'

Respondent No:	18	**Responded At:**	May 15, 2025 10:12:53 am
Login:	Anonymous	**Last Seen:**	May 15, 2025 10:12:53 am
Email:	n/a	**IP Address:**	n/a

Q1. **Name**	David Proctor
Q2. **Email**	[redacted]
Q3. **Confidentiality**	You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

With regard the changes proposed in the 2025-2029 Rating plan - specifically the proposal to rate all rural properties of less than 40ha as not eligible for the farm concession rate. This proposal has the twin merits of raising revenue for the council and being easy to administer. That said there are serious flaws with solely using land area as a method of determining the "farm" status of a property discriminating against smaller, younger, and intensive enterprises. Both Federal and State have simple guidelines regarding the definition of a farm as a business. (e.g. https://www.ato.gov.au/businesses-and-organisations/income-deductions-and-concessions/primary-producers/primary-production-activities) none of which make any reference to the physical size of the land holding, but rely on the commercial nature of the farm business. By using land size as a criteria several very viable farm business models are excluded from the definition, while including a "model' that is not commercial; - Intensive horticulture - it is perfectly possible to farm commercially viably on 5ha, especially in the southern areas of the shire - Developing farm businesses with limited capital (often younger families) may own a smaller block of land and lease from neighbours or those nearby to have access to larger parcels of land - any rate increases will, inevitably, be passed on to the lessee reducing their profitability and potential to grow. -Farms composed of multiple small (sub 40ha) blocks, often not contiguous, are quite common in the Southern area due to the fragmented nature of the original settlement. -Farms with holdings in multiple shires are quite common in the Southern area, again, due to the fragmented nature of original settlement. -Many sub 40ha blocks are only usable for commercial farming as it is no longer possible to get building permits (State requirement) -There are many "weekenders" that are not run on a commercial basis (e.g. 100+ ha with 40 head and an owner who is present for 1 night every eight weeks or so). Quite clearly these are not "farms" and should not qualify. These properties also add an extra burden to "real" farmers by their poor management leading increased weeds, fire risk etc. and unavailability of owners or managers for disaster assistance (road clearing, fire suppression etc.) and should definitely be rated at an increased rate to encourage their commercialisation and use. I would therefore request the council to alter its decision to remove the rate concession for farmland based on land size and alter the requirements for exemption to requiring a statuary declaration that states something along the lines of; " I __NAME_____ of ____ Address_____ farm commercially for profit and I (or my partner or employee(s) contribute a minimum combined total of 30 hours a week to this business. The operation is registered for GST (_____Business name_____) and has the object of returning an ongoing profit ." This would be easy to administer and places the onus on the landholder to comply or apply. Secondly - many livestock farm business sell in one or two drafts a year, often in February. By changing to quarterly rate payments this will significantly impact farm budgets and cash flow unless there is a year of grace to allow adjustment. Regards, David Proctor

Q5. **Upload your submission**	not answered

Respondent No: 19
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 15, 2025 10:46:22 am
Last Seen: May 15, 2025 10:46:22 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name**	David Proctor
Q2. **Email**	[redacted]
Q3. **Confidentiality**	You may include my name in public documents
Q4. **Your submission**	Please see attached
Q5. **Upload your submission**	[redacted]

With regard the changes proposed in the 2025-2029 Rating plan - specifically the proposal to rate all rural properties of less than 40ha as not eligible for the farm concession rate.

This proposal has the twin merits of raising revenue for the council and being easy to administer

. That said there are serious flaws with solely using land area as a method of determining the "farm" status of a property discriminating against smaller, younger, and intensive enterprises.

Both Federal and State have simple guidelines regarding the definition of a farm as a business. (e.g. https://www.ato.gov.au/businesses-and-organisations/income-deductions-and-concessions/primary-producers/primary-production-activities) none of which make any reference to the physical size of the land holding, but rely on the commercial nature of the farm business.

By using land size as a criteria several very viable farm business models are excluded from the definition, while including a "model' that is not commercial;

- Intensive horticulture - it is perfectly possible to farm commercially viably on 5ha, especially in the southern areas of the shire

- Developing farm businesses with limited capital (often younger families) may own a smaller block of land and lease from neighbours or those nearby to have access to larger parcels of land - any rate increases will, inevitably, be passed on to the lessee reducing their profitability and potential to grow.

-Farms composed of multiple small (sub 40ha) blocks, often not contiguous, are quite common in the Southern area due to the fragmented nature of the original settlement.

-Farms with holdings in multiple shires are quite common in the Southern area, again, due to the fragmented nature of original settlement.

-Many sub 40ha blocks are only usable for commercial farming as it is no longer possible to get building permits (State requirement)

-There are many "weekenders" that are not run on a commercial basis (e.g. 100+ ha with 40 head and an owner who is present for 1 night every eight weeks or so). Quite clearly these are not "farms" and should not qualify. These properties also add an extra burden to "real" farmers by their poor management leading increased weeds, fire risk etc. and unavailability of owners or managers for disaster assistance (road clearing, fire suppression etc.) and should definitely be rated at an increased rate to encourage their commercialisation and use.

I would therefore request the council to alter its decision to remove the rate concession for farmland based on land size and alter the requirements for exemption to requiring a statuary declaration that states something along the lines of;

"I __NAME_____ of ____ Address_____ farm commercially for profit and I (or my partner or employee(s) contribute a minimum combined total of 30 hours a week to this business. The operation is registered for GST (_____Business name_____) and has the object of returning an ongoing profit ."

This would be easy to administer and places the onus on the landholder to comply or apply.

Secondly - many livestock farm business sell in one or two drafts a year, often in February. By changing to quarterly rate payments this will significantly impact farm budgets and cash flow unless there is a year of grace to allow adjustment. Regards, David Proctor

Respondent No: 20
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 15, 2025 10:58:10 am
Last Seen: May 15, 2025 10:58:10 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

We have 16.1 hectares of land We are on farm rates without being supplied any services like rubbish pick up ,postal services ,water services ,dirt road .You are going to change this to residential .Rate increase of 25 % without any improvement of services which residential rates get .Can i subdivide 16.1 hectares on residential rates now with the changeover?

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 21
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 16, 2025 13:12:13 pm
Last Seen: May 16, 2025 13:12:13 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I disagree with several changes proposed in this Draft Plan namely the Farm Rate Differential my not be applied to Properties of less than 40 Hectares...my reason are: 1. It is possible to successfully carry out Farm activities on less than 40 Hectares...for example Vineyards are often less than 25 Hectares,Bee (Apiarists) along with Egg and Poultry Farms which are Farming activities often carried out on smaller holdings as they are more intensive endevours. 2. Farmer are facing ever increasing costs associated with their efforts - a good example is the nearly tripling of the Fire and Emergency Levy -but this is not an isolated case...cost of Inputs such as Fuel,Fertilizer,Machinery and Staff Labour have spiralled far in excess of Income returns 3. The activities of many Farmers in the Latrobe City contribute substantially to the preservation of our Native Species -they do this by having pockets of Habitat and Safe Refuge which are maintained and protected in conjunction with normal Farm activities such as Drainage,Fencing,Planting of Windbreaks and Maintaining those already existing.The benefit of this is not defined by the size of the Holding and it could be argued that a greater number of smaller Holdings provides better outcomes in the presevation of our Native Flora and Fauna 4. An individual Farmer may have a total Holding exceeding 40 Hectares but it's possible the Latrobe City section may be less than the proposed 40 but there may be say a further 50 Hectares in the Baw Baw Shire..? In this case the arbitrary 40 Hectare Criteria disadvantages the Latrobe Holding and therefore the viability of the Holding overall. I am hopeful that this Submission is just the initial consultation that the Council Proposes and that going forward I will have the opportunity to speak directly to the Rates people who are proposing this change to the Differential Rate...it is such a complex situation for many reasons and to be honest better explained and understood in face to face discussion...I look forward to this... Kind regards, [redacted]

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 22
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 17, 2025 09:13:16 am
Last Seen: May 17, 2025 09:13:16 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I object to the proposed increase in farming rates for property owners in the Farming Zone.. I own a farming enterprise consisting of two parcels of land in different municipalities. Being a 19ha parcel of land in Latrobe City and another parcel of 80ha in Wellington Shire. Under the proposed increase, I would be charged a higher rate in Latrobe City than in Wellington shire for running the same farming enterprise, I see this as an anti farming action by the Latrobe City Council. The requirement to prove that the farming enterprise is viable and to provide financial details is a massive breach of privacy for the people involved. I can see a Class action lawsuit by those affected by this proposal should it proceed as there is no legal basis for this increase in State legislation.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 23
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 19, 2025 08:40:41 am
Last Seen: May 19, 2025 08:40:41 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name**	Paul Dibb
Q2. **Email**	[redacted]
Q3. **Confidentiality**	You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

To Whom It May Concern, I am writing as a long-term ratepayer and property owner in the Latrobe City Council area to formally object to the proposed increase in the minimum land size required to qualify for the farm rate — from 2 hectares to 40 hectares — as outlined in the draft Revenue & Rating Plan 2025–2029. This represents a 1000% increase in a single decision, with no staged approach, no clear rationale, and no apparent consideration of its immediate and long-term impact on ratepayers. I ask: Why now? And why such an extreme adjustment, especially during a cost-of-living crisis that is already pushing many households to the brink? This change will: Strip many smaller, legitimately farmed properties of their farm classification. Result in significantly higher rates, despite these properties receiving no council services (e.g., no water, gas, sewerage, rubbish collection, or road maintenance). Expose affected owners to Victoria's excessive land tax, adding further financial pressure. Devalue properties by making them less attractive to potential buyers, who will see only escalating costs. Force some owners to consider selling under duress — in a weakened market. Council justifies this change in the name of "equity," but in reality, it amounts to a revenue-raising tax grab disguised in policy language. True equity would consider what services a property receives and the actual income-generating capacity of the land — not just its size. I also wish to challenge the underlying culture of local government finance reflected in this Plan. Rather than continually increasing the financial burden on residents, why not show fiscal discipline and innovation in managing council resources? The private sector must do so — and is held to account when it fails. Yet councils seem able to demand more, with the threat of fines or legal action, without delivering corresponding value. Imagine if Latrobe City Council became the first in Australia to lower rates or deliver genuine cost savings to residents. That would drive economic growth, increase population inflow, and set a national benchmark in governance. I urge Council to: Reconsider the proposed 40-hectare threshold for the farm rate and retain the previous (or a more reasonable, staged) standard; Acknowledge the disproportionate impact on small landholders and hobby farmers who contribute to the community and manage their land productively; Undertake broader community consultation before proceeding with such drastic changes; Focus on efficiency and cost-saving initiatives within Council operations instead of pushing the burden onto already strained households. This proposal will only damage trust in Council's ability to manage its responsibilities fairly and transparently. Yours sincerely, Paul Dibb [redacted]

Q5. **Upload your submission**	not answered

Respondent No: 24
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 19, 2025 09:24:01 am
Last Seen: May 19, 2025 09:24:01 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Draft Latrobe City Council Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029. Our interest relates to the criteria to qualify for the Farm Rate Differential which moves to 'at least 40 hectares of clear productive farmland'. We have farmed and resided on our property at [redacted] Yinnar South since 1966 and added to the acreage when an adjoining neighbour subdivided in the 1970's. We believe our area is above the threshold criteria of at least 40 hectares but suggest the definition 'of clear productive farmland' could usefully be defined. Putting aside the area of our home the farm related assets include; 3 dams used for stock watering where in addition to the actual water storage is an enclosed land area to assist with catchment 2 large haysheds, a large storage/workshop shed and smaller sheds A large well equipped set of stockyards. A number of enclosed wind/shelter belts - generally located on broken ground that is unsuitable for tractor work A bush area of some 4 hectares adjoining the State Forest whose ground structure is unsuitable for tractor work but does provide stock shelter in adverse area. It would be our hope that the term 'clear productive farmland' not only includes the pasture paddocks which in a good year can run up to 60 cows with calves (not this year however) but the water supply, shelter areas, sheds and stockyard. Kind regards [redacted]

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 25
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 19, 2025 10:20:33 am
Last Seen: May 19, 2025 10:20:33 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** graham Evans

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

To Latrobe Shire Rates Team. Re revenue and ratings plan. As a rate contributor or over fifty years ,first to the then Rosedale Shire now Latrobe Shire < I along with many others that this revision affects of qualifying criteria on land holdings from two hectares to forty hectares, Strongly protest of any higher cost directed to land owners and under the Governments (FGRS) Fair Go Rates System this Must be adhered to .With high cost of living to add to the daily stress of our lives ,also the now added Huge rise in the Government Fire Levi Tax, Council must demonstrate to rate payers justification of this extra charge and not just a rubber stamp to put through this inappropriate tax. Rates are as you indicate very significant for Council operations, Council should look to other avenues for revenue rather than putting extra stress on people with hectares to fund the rate pool. So please cease this proposal that we can all go to bed with a clear conscience. Graham.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 26
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 20, 2025 09:54:30 am
Last Seen: May 20, 2025 09:54:30 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I object to the proposed changes to the farm rating system in limiting it to arbitrarily limit it to properties in excess of 40ha as it does not take into account that smaller properties are operated as a legitimate business which is recognized by the ATO by the issue of an ABN, tax file number and income tax assessment for that enterprise. Whilst the income threshold may be below that required for registration for GST this does not preclude the ATO from treating the activity as a legitimate business. Accordingly, I believe the criteria for determining if a farming property should be excluded from the farm rating system is where the property does not have an ABN registered for that farm and it cannot be proven that it is operating in such a manner that the ATO does not recognize it as a legitimate business activity.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 27
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 20, 2025 10:09:16 am
Last Seen: May 20, 2025 10:09:16 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Good Morning team at Latrobe Council, We are the owners of a 46.5-hectare property in Callignee, and our property is zoned FZ1 We run a Beef stud with Belted Galloway cattle and contribute to the meat industry in this country. Not all of our land is clear, as we have native trees which are home to some native animals. Farms are currently struggling, and the cost of operating a farm has increased dramatically. We have had to purchase water twice over the last three months, as the dams are nearly dry. We have been feeding hay since December 2024 and have so far used 150 large round bales to keep the animals fed. There is no more hay available in VIC, and we are forced to downsize our herd. Cattle prices are very low, and it is hard to make a living off a farm in this current climate. It is not fair to punish Primary Producers the way you propose. We now have to tackle the newly introduced ESVF levy as well. Do you want farmers or rely on food imports? Kind regards, [redacted]

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

[redacted]

Latrobe City Council
Rates Team

20/05/2025

Latrobe City Council

Re: Revenue and Rating Plan

Good Morning team at Latrobe Council,

We are the owners of a 46.5-hectare property in Callignee, and our property is zoned FZ1

We run a Beef stud with Belted Galloway cattle and contribute to the meat industry in this country.

Not all of our land is clear, as we have native trees which are home to some native animals.

Farms are currently struggling, and the cost of operating a farm has increased dramatically.

We have had to purchase water twice over the last three months, as the dams are nearly dry.
We have been feeding hay since December 2024 and have so far used 150 large round bales to keep the animals fed.
There is no more hay available in VIC, and we are forced to downsize our herd.
Cattle prices are very low, and it is hard to make a living off a farm in this current climate.

It is not fair to punish Primary Producers the way you propose.

We now have to tackle the newly introduced ESVF levy as well.

Do you want farmers or rely on food imports?

Kind regards,
[redacted]

[redacted]

Respondent No: 28
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 20, 2025 14:51:59 pm
Last Seen: May 20, 2025 14:51:59 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Darryl Sim and Birgit Sim

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I, Darryl Sim, own two farm properties within the Latrobe City. One property is 32 Ha and the other is 34 Ha. This gives a total area of 66 Ha. Neither property has a house on it. Both properties contribute to the operation of one farm entity. Neither property is appropriate for any activity other than farming. Your proposal to increase the recognised farm use to 40 Ha does not recognize the true status of the land use. Increasing the land size requirement from greater than 2 Ha to 40 Ha is a gross overreach of your intended interpretation of the measure of land required for farm use. I would appeal to you to reconsider your intended expansion of land area interpretation for farm purpose. If that reconsideration is not within you, please make allowance for multiple properties that contribute to one farm business enterprise. Further to this issue is the matter of compulsory quarterly payments, or full payment by 30/9 each year. My wife and i pay rates on 7 properties within Latrobe city and we budget every year to finalise payment of our obligation re rates payable by the end of each calendar year. Your new proposal ta be frank will be a complete inconvenience to our payment options. As ratepayers who have always paid on time, we are now being penalised with a payment regime that will require a restructure of payment scheme. Once again your proposal is a complete overreach to addressing your collection of payment issues. Yours Sincerely Darryl and Birgit Sim.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 29
Login: Dean Sutton
Email: [redacted]

Responded At: May 20, 2025 20:45:01 pm
Last Seen: May 20, 2025 09:39:17 am
IP Address: [redacted]

Q1. **Name** Dean Sutton

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

The Farm Rate changes from 2ha to a minimum of 40ha is unreasonable and fails to accomodate for all types of farming. Gone are the days when farms are large enterprises which is why most Councils in Victoria base their farm rate around genuine primary production. Latrobe City Council has previously determined farm rate based on an enterprise that is substantially commercial, it does not have a specific definition of what is substantially commercial though but instead that is up to the determination and interpretation of individual officers, when questioned on this by the ratepayer Council Officers have provided different and conflicting responses while citing factually incorrect information. Putting a minimum of 40ha fails to acknowledge that different parts of farmland in Latrobe have different carrying capacities, some small lots of fertile land can yield a lot, some large parcels of poor quality have low yield and profitability. Small lots with irrigation produce more than large dry land lots. Small feedlots feeding grain and roughage can turn over large quantities of livestock, the proposed changes exclude many substantially commercial farming models. Commercially substantial farming could produce any type of produce, berries, fruit, nuts, micro herbs, wine, mushrooms, truffles, all of which don't require much space but are able to be commercially viable on a small holding. Has an equity assessment been done on this plan? Has deliberative engagement occurred with those impacted most by the changes in this plan? The Farm Rate discount is minimal but the hoops required to jump through are extreme to receive it, if the land is zoned as farm land, the rate payer is running a primary production business declared through the ATO then LCC should support the application for farm rate. Why would LCC even consider these changes which would exclude even more farmers accessing the small discounts when we are in drought, cost of production and cost of living has skyrocketed, and the state government is introducing the new Emergency Services Levy Bill which will affect farmers the most? A clear eligibility criteria is required for Farm Rate discount and terms like Commercially Viable need to be defined. Think about how you include people rather than building a framework to exclude as much as possible. Scrap the increased minimum parcel size.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 30
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 21, 2025 09:29:35 am
Last Seen: May 21, 2025 09:29:35 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Hi I am writing to express my anger in relation to your proposed changes re eligibility for the farm rate. I run and own a farm on 23 hectares which you are seeking to describe as a hobby farm. Firstly if I could have afforded to buy 40 plus hectares I would have done so and as a result you are seeking to discriminate against me due to my lack of wealth?? Small farms like mine produce some of the best beef on the market compared with intensive farming property's that work on turnover as apposed to quality of finished product and quality of life. I could very easily double my stock holding and justify an ABN but have learned over the years that over stocking a hill farm simply trashes the land and fills creeks and dams with silt and valuable top soil. I could increase my grazing footprint by almost 20% by removing the substantial nature corridor encompassing the three creeks running through the property which would provide a worthwhile income processing the hundreds of 30 year old trees, but I would still rather maintain a healthy balance with nature and the land than flog the place to death in pursuit of an ABN and profit alone. Your reference to " hobby farm " is somewhat insulting as a hobby is generally something you do in your spare time, like many other small farmers I am head down bum up 7 days a week. We have little or no use for your town expenditure where the bulk of your ratepayers reside, we don't enjoy refuse collection and receive no dispensation at the transfer station to dispose of household waste. Even maintaining the dirt road out here is occasionally done when you receive enough complaints, your recent effort to grade it simply pushed some gravel and leaf litter over the bank onto our fences and failed to even cut the corrugations and after a week it is as bad as before you started. Last year you spent thousands of dollars to remove every dead tree from ours and surrounding roads even trees that are by law protected and sold the woodchip and the crew were openly selling firewood, then turn around and ask us to pay more rates for your shortfall as a result of unnecessary spending and half fixing roads. On top of the new fire services levy you are asking too much of folks already stretched to the limit

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 31
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 21, 2025 15:03:36 pm
Last Seen: May 21, 2025 15:03:36 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

My Submission is to seek clarification on the Rates Dept. Plan to include 3 Criteria when applying the Farm Differential - I object to this Criteria being applied on the following basis ;- 1.0 There are many Viable Farms operating on holdings less than 40 Hectares...eg Viticulture 2.0 Criteria noted in the Plan would appear to be that used by the ATO to define a Business Operating as a "Farm" for Taxation Purposes and NOT for Local Planning Rate calculations...in this case I do not believe that the Rates Dept of Latrobe Council have Authority under the Local Gov't. Act 1989-2020 to so include this Criteria in assessing eligibility for Farm Differential. 3.0 In recent discussions it has been stated that the Revenue from Rates within the Latrobe City would be only minimally impacted by this proposed change if at all in terms of Revenue Collected...This begs the question of why is this change even proposed..? 4.0 If a property is in a Farm Zone by the Latrobe Councils own Planning criteria then what is it if not a FARM..??

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 32
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 21, 2025 16:20:40 pm
Last Seen: May 21, 2025 16:20:40 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

As residents of a retirement village we write to express our disappointment in councils decision to not recognise the lack of services provided by council to our village by not voting in favour of differential rating. We are elderly and have worked hard all our lives in Traralgon. Surely we deserve some discount if we do not receive council services. We would appreciate council to change this decision.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 33
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 21, 2025 17:56:29 pm
Last Seen: May 21, 2025 17:56:29 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I am a resident in a retirement village and I was very disappointed to see that council could not see fit to approve a differential rate for the retirement villages. Council do not provide any services to retirement villages but rate the units under the same system as all other residents in the Latrobe City area which creates an extreme inequity. I encourage councillors to have the strength to override the council's decision and to approve a differential rate ongoing from 2025/26 onwards.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 34
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 22, 2025 10:34:00 am
Last Seen: May 22, 2025 10:34:00 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Dear Sir/Madam, I am writing to you to express my opinion on the proposed changes to the Latrobe City Council Revenue & Rating Plan. Whilst I understand the Council needs to apply some changes to their main revenue source, I believe it should not be at the primary expense of a select few members in the shire. Targeting only those with land between the sizes of 2 hectares and 40 hectares appears biased. Personally, I am a landowner of approximately 28 hectares, which operates as a beef cattle farm. Under the proposed changes, I would now be 12 hectares short of being considered a farm property to Latrobe City Council, which seems laughable, as does that mean I am now considered a residential owner, and if so, am I supposed to mow my land with a hand lawn mower? I run beef on my land, as per residential rules, am I now expected to dispose of the cattle, or do I register them as pets? I am in need of further clarification as to how not being deemed a "Farm", how it would affect the actual zoning of the land. If I am to be classed residential and not a farm, does that mean I am now able to subdivide? There has not been enough information released to satisfy my questions. Also, I received my letter, dated the 7th May, on the 15th May, leaving only 14 days notice to raise my objections. With so many unanswered questions, how is 14 days enough time? further research is required. As for the change to the rate payment options, for the past 35 years, I have paid in a lump sum in February. I would need to make considerate changes to my budget in order to bring that lump sum payment forward by 5 months to September. Why am I to be punished for making sure my rates are paid in full, on time, yet others who pay quarterly and drag out the income coming into LCC are not affected. I am hopeful you will extend the date of objection submissions until you can at least provide further information to the select few that are affected by your proposed changes. If not classed as Farm, well then what are those landowners of between 2 Hectares and 40 Hectares classed as? How will these changes affect how much we will pay in rates per year? is it double? triple? How are we to honestly seriously consider these changes without a full picture of how we are affected by said changes. I believe we are entitled to further information before a decision is made on these changes. I do hope before accepting these changes, that further information is provided by council to those affected. Thank you.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 35
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 22, 2025 11:30:26 am
Last Seen: May 22, 2025 11:30:26 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

No change to the farm differential rate.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 36
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 22, 2025 11:35:12 am
Last Seen: May 22, 2025 11:35:12 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I am against the change to the farm differential rate. Leave it at 25%.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 37
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 22, 2025 11:37:20 am
Last Seen: May 22, 2025 11:37:20 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please do nor change the fatm differential rate system. We are a small farm of 65 acres which we run as a beef farming venture. We make in excess of $30.000 each year because we are pro active farmers

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 38
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 22, 2025 11:37:59 am
Last Seen: May 22, 2025 11:37:59 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I object to the farming differential rates being increase, leave them as they are at 25%. We are already struggling to make ends meet and the current drought is just making things even harder. Small farmers can't afford any more increases.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 39
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 22, 2025 12:36:59 pm
Last Seen: May 22, 2025 12:36:59 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Leave the farm differential rate at 25%. My husband has been a farmer all his life dedicating his time, effort, and livelihood to working the land. It is deeply unsettling that, after decades in this profession, our status as a farmer is now being questioned simply because of a change in the rates.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 40
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 22, 2025 13:39:04 pm
Last Seen: May 22, 2025 13:39:04 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I only have 2 hectares but from a farming background and also submitting on behalf of a friend/neighbour who received a letter regarding this survey whom has 60 hectares. 40 hectares is a huge amount of land in this area! have any of you managed this size land before?! it's hard work / no hobby..... and expensive to keep on top of weeds, pasture management, livestock welfare, water, fencing, making sure there's enough feed for stock - government should be doing more to support any kind of farming - but unfortunately it seem to want to drive farmers into financial ruin, especially small production farming that all started with the deregulation of the farming industry.... it's get big or get out... and who can afford to buy the land.... the Chinese .... who have ruined they own land and buy ours to send food to their country! our stupid government lets them send food here without tariffs put on it / again not supporting our farmers. examples of profitable farming on small acreage: mushrooms, micro greens, beekeeping, herbs, hydroponics, garlic, pure bred rare breeds/studs... so no I don't think there should be an increase to minimum 40 hectare farm size

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 41
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 22, 2025 13:52:30 pm
Last Seen: May 22, 2025 13:52:30 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Scott Price

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Unless council provides a discount to pay rates 30th September then annual payment should stay as it is as council is receiving money 6 months earlier than now. Also council rates based per $ value is 3 times more expensive than Melbourne and Sydney. This may have been adequate when LV housing was 3 times less than Melb or Sydney but that's no longer the case and LV residents are paying significantly more per $ value and against higher values than they should. This is why rates have increased 50% on the last 5 years, its time council changed this and have more appropriate rate/CIV calculation. Councils costs wouldn't have increased 50% in last 5 years

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 42
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 22, 2025 17:34:44 pm
Last Seen: May 22, 2025 17:34:44 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

We strongly disagree with the increases

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 43
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 22, 2025 19:10:29 pm
Last Seen: May 22, 2025 19:10:29 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

The Farm Rate changes from 2ha to a minimum of 40ha is unreasonable and fails to accomodate for all types of farming. Gone are the days when farms are large enterprises which is why most Councils in Victoria base their farm rate around genuine primary production. Latrobe City Council has previously determined farm rate based on an enterprise that is substantially commercial, it does not have a specific definition of what is substantially commercial though but instead that is up to the determination and interpretation of individual officers, when questioned on this by the ratepayer Council Officers have provided different and conflicting responses while citing factually incorrect information. Putting a minimum of 40ha fails to acknowledge that different parts of farmland in Latrobe have different carrying capacities, some small lots of fertile land can yield a lot, some large parcels of poor quality have low yield and profitability. Small lots with irrigation produce more than large dry land lots. Small feedlots feeding grain and roughage can turn over large quantities of livestock, the proposed changes exclude many substantially commercial farming models. Commercially substantial farming could produce any type of produce, berries, fruit, nuts, micro herbs, wine, mushrooms, truffles, all of which don't require much space but are able to be commercially viable on a small holding. Has an equity assessment been done on this plan? Has deliberative engagement occurred with those impacted most by the changes in this plan? The Farm Rate discount is minimal but the hoops required to jump through are extreme to receive it, if the land is zoned as farm land, the rate payer is running a primary production business declared through the ATO then LCC should support the application for farm rate. Why would LCC even consider these changes which would exclude even more farmers accessing the small discounts when we are in drought, cost of production and cost of living has skyrocketed, and the state government is introducing the new Emergency Services Levy Bill which will affect farmers the most? A clear eligibility criteria is required for Farm Rate discount and terms like Commercially Viable need to be defined. Think about how you include people rather than building a framework to exclude as much as possible. Scrap the increased minimum parcel size.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 44
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 22, 2025 19:12:01 pm
Last Seen: May 22, 2025 19:12:01 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

The Farm Rate changes from 2ha to a minimum of 40ha is unreasonable and fails to accomodate for all types of farming. Gone are the days when farms are large enterprises which is why most Councils in Victoria base their farm rate around genuine primary production. Latrobe City Council has previously determined farm rate based on an enterprise that is substantially commercial, it does not have a specific definition of what is substantially commercial though but instead that is up to the determination and interpretation of individual officers, when questioned on this by the ratepayer Council Officers have provided different and conflicting responses while citing factually incorrect information. Putting a minimum of 40ha fails to acknowledge that different parts of farmland in Latrobe have different carrying capacities, some small lots of fertile land can yield a lot, some large parcels of poor quality have low yield and profitability. Small lots with irrigation produce more than large dry land lots. Small feedlots feeding grain and roughage can turn over large quantities of livestock, the proposed changes exclude many substantially commercial farming models. Commercially substantial farming could produce any type of produce, berries, fruit, nuts, micro herbs, wine, mushrooms, truffles, all of which don't require much space but are able to be commercially viable on a small holding. Has an equity assessment been done on this plan? Has deliberative engagement occurred with those impacted most by the changes in this plan? The Farm Rate discount is minimal but the hoops required to jump through are extreme to receive it, if the land is zoned as farm land, the rate payer is running a primary production business declared through the ATO then LCC should support the application for farm rate. Why would LCC even consider these changes which would exclude even more farmers accessing the small discounts when we are in drought, cost of production and cost of living has skyrocketed, and the state government is introducing the new Emergency Services Levy Bill which will affect farmers the most? A clear eligibility criteria is required for Farm Rate discount and terms like Commercially Viable need to be defined. Think about how you include people rather than building a framework to exclude as much as possible. Scrap the increased minimum parcel size.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 45
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 22, 2025 19:47:45 pm
Last Seen: May 22, 2025 19:47:45 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

The Farm Rate changes from 2ha to a minimum of 40ha is unreasonable and fails to accomodate for all types of farming. Gone are the days when farms are large enterprises which is why most Councils in Victoria base their farm rate around genuine primary production. Latrobe City Council has previously determined farm rate based on an enterprise that is substantially commercial, it does not have a specific definition of what is substantially commercial though but instead that is up to the determination and interpretation of individual officers, when questioned on this by the ratepayer Council Officers have provided different and conflicting responses while citing factually incorrect information. Putting a minimum of 40ha fails to acknowledge that different parts of farmland in Latrobe have different carrying capacities, some small lots of fertile land can yield a lot, some large parcels of poor quality have low yield and profitability. Small lots with irrigation produce more than large dry land lots. Small feedlots feeding grain and roughage can turn over large quantities of livestock, the proposed changes exclude many substantially commercial farming models. Commercially substantial farming could produce any type of produce, berries, fruit, nuts, micro herbs, wine, mushrooms, truffles, all of which don't require much space but are able to be commercially viable on a small holding. Has an equity assessment been done on this plan? Has deliberative engagement occurred with those impacted most by the changes in this plan? The Farm Rate discount is minimal but the hoops required to jump through are extreme to receive it, if the land is zoned as farm land, the rate payer is running a primary production business declared through the ATO then LCC should support the application for farm rate. Why would LCC even consider these changes which would exclude even more farmers accessing the small discounts when we are in drought, cost of production and cost of living has skyrocketed, and the state government is introducing the new Emergency Services Levy Bill which will affect farmers the most? A clear eligibility criteria is required for Farm Rate discount and terms like Commercially Viable need to be defined. Think about how you include people rather than building a framework to exclude as much as possible. Scrap the increased minimum parcel size.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 46
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 22, 2025 19:53:55 pm
Last Seen: May 22, 2025 19:53:55 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Object

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 47
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 23, 2025 07:17:37 am
Last Seen: May 23, 2025 07:17:37 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Darren Fletcher

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Absolutely disagree with the change to the farming land size. Property zoned farming has all restrictions associated with being farm land but you're going to charge rates that are higher. We are going to get slugged the higher fire services levy and council is going to increase our rates on a property that has no services. Just not fair.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 48
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 23, 2025 08:33:34 am
Last Seen: May 23, 2025 08:33:34 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Our 28ha farm has been a beef operation for at least 40years. The farm has been in the [redacted] family for over 100 years . Was initially had 64 hectares but due to Monash way cutting the farm in half severely affected it as a dairy operation ran by my parents..This occurred in the mid sixties. We are currently running 50 head which is our normal stocking rate. It is ran as a business and all government requirements met. We view this a a pure cash grab and an insult to our ..farming operation. We strongly oppose the change in the farm rate criteria.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 49
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 23, 2025 13:48:45 pm
Last Seen: May 23, 2025 13:48:45 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Kaitlyn McKenzie

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Re: Objection to proposed farm rate differential rate changes (Revenue & Rating Plan 2025–2029) We are writing today to express our objection and concerns associated with the proposed changes to the Farm Rates. We have a 240-acre dairy farm located at [redacted] Victoria which comprises of the below titles: • [redacted] (115 acres) • [redacted] (89 acres) • [redacted]; [redacted] (35 acres) This property is utilised as a dairy farm milk on which we milk an average of 600 dairy cows. We have a second property at [redacted] (just down the road) which is currently utilised as support country for our dairy farm (fodder, grazing dairy cattle). This land is on a separate title [redacted] (99.36 acres). This land is crucial to our dairy farm as without it, we do not have the grazing land to support our dairy farm business. All our above titles / properties are currently approved for the farm rate differential and are solely utilised for primary production (dairy farming / support country for the main dairy farm). This business is also our primary source of income. If the proposed changes were to occur, and we were to lose the farm rate differential we would be unfairly required to pay an absorbent amount on rates for our land which is solely used for primary production (dairy farming). The proposed changes are unfair and have not been given enough thought. Applying a one size fits all approach (i.e. property must be a minimum of 100 acres) does not work, it is not logical, and honesty comes across as greed on the council's behalf. The current process for approval process for the farm rate differential should remain in place, and each property should be assessed on a case-by-case basis, with evidence of primary production income generated. The proposed changes do not consider: • Many farms are comprised of various titles ranging in size that have been purchased over time as a business expand. • Some properties of a smaller size (less than 40 hectares) are solely utilised to support a larger primary production operation • That a primary production operation can be profitable off less than 40 hectares. For example, a dairy farm which is 39 hectares could be profitable and a sole source of income. • Younger farmers starting out are not in the position to purchase larger blocks of land (i.e. over 40 hectares), a lot of young farmers may purchase smaller blocks of land to combine as their business expand, and they can afford to do so. • We aren't talking about residential or rural residential land; we are talking about land that is zoned farming / mixed farming. If land that is zoned farming / mixed farming it should be entitled to farm differential rates. We support a no change stance to the proposed changes to the farm differential rates. We hope that you will reconsider as the proposal will place an even heavier financial burden on farmers who are already struggling due to: • The currently 'undeclared drought' • Limited feed availability for purchase and increased prices of feed if you can purchase it • Elevated cost of living • Recent Fire Levy changes If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us. Regards, Jason Lee & Kaitlyn McKenzie [redacted]

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

23rd May 2025

To whom it may concern,

Re: Objection to proposed farm rate differential rate changes (Revenue & Rating Plan 2025–2029)

We are writing today to express our objection and concerns associated with the proposed changes to the Farm Rates.

We have a 240-acre dairy farm located at [redacted], Victoria which comprises of the below titles:

- [redacted] (115 acres)
- [redacted] (89 acres)
- [redacted] (35 acres)

This property is utilised as a dairy farm milk on which we milk an average of 600 dairy cows.

We have a second property at [redacted] (just down the road) which is currently utilised as support country for our dairy farm (fodder, grazing dairy cattle). This land is on a separate title [redacted] (99.36 acres). This land is crucial to our dairy farm as without it, we do not have the grazing land to support our dairy farm business.

All our above titles / properties are currently approved for the farm rate differential and are solely utilised for primary production (dairy farming / support country for the main dairy farm). This business is also our primary source of income.

If the proposed changes were to occur, and we were to lose the farm rate differential we would be unfairly required to pay an absorbent amount on rates for our land which is solely used for primary production (dairy farming).

The proposed changes are unfair and have not been given enough thought. Applying a one size fits all approach (i.e. property must be a minimum of 100 acres) does not work, it is not logical, and honesty comes across as greed on the council's behalf.

The current process for approval process for the farm rate differential should remain in place, and each property should be assessed on a case-by-case basis, with evidence of primary production income generated.

The proposed changes do not consider:

- Many farms are comprised of various titles ranging in size that have been purchased over time as a business expand.
- Some properties of a smaller size (less than 40 hectares) are solely utilised to support a larger primary production operation
- That a primary production operation can be profitable off less than 40 hectares. For example, a dairy farm which is 39 hectares could be profitable and a sole source of income.
- Younger farmers starting out are not in the position to purchase larger blocks of land (i.e. over 40 hectares), a lot of young farmers may purchase smaller blocks of land to combine as their business expand, and they can afford to do so.
- We aren't talking about residential or rural residential land; we are talking about land that is zoned farming / mixed farming. If land that is zoned farming / mixed farming it should be entitled to farm differential rates.

We support a no change stance to the proposed changes to the farm differential rates.

We hope that you will reconsider as the proposal will place an even heavier financial burden on farmers who are already struggling due to:

- The currently 'undeclared drought'
- Limited feed availability for purchase and increased prices of feed if you can purchase it
- Elevated cost of living
- Recent Fire Levy changes

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

Jason Lee & Kaitlyn McKenzie
[redacted]

Respondent No: 50
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 23, 2025 14:37:04 pm
Last Seen: May 23, 2025 14:37:04 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Leanne Christensen

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

23rd May 2025 Submission: Objection to Proposed Farm Rate Changes We wish to formally object to the proposed change in farm rate eligibility from 2 hectares to a minimum of 40 hectares. This change is unreasonable and does not reflect the realities of small-scale commercial farming. According to the Land Act 1960, a farm is defined as land primarily used for commercial agricultural purposes. For over 20 years, we have operated a viable farming enterprise on our property, consistently managing over 40 head of cattle and producing various crops. By any practical and legislative measure, our land use aligns with the Act's definition of a farm. Although we meet two of the key criteria for farm classification, we fall short of the newly proposed minimum land size. This would unfairly reclassify our long-standing farm as residential, resulting in significantly higher rates and threatening the sustainability of our operation. In addition, we are now facing the burden of the Emergency Services Levy (ESL). The combination of these financial pressures is unsustainable for smaller farming families and enterprises. These changes risk driving genuine producers out of agriculture, weakening the rural economy and community. We respectfully urge the council to reconsider the proposed changes, and to take into account the cumulative impact of multiple policy shifts on small and mid-sized landholders. Farmers like us contribute meaningfully to food production and local resilience and should not be penalized for operating at a smaller but still commercial scale. Sincerely, Leanne & Daniel Christensen [redacted]

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

23rd May 2025

Submission: Objection to Proposed Farm Rate Changes

We wish to formally object to the proposed change in farm rate eligibility from 2 hectares to a minimum of 40 hectares. This change is unreasonable and does not reflect the realities of small-scale commercial farming.

According to the Land Act 1960, a farm is defined as land primarily used for commercial agricultural purposes. For over 20 years, we have operated a viable farming enterprise on our property, consistently managing over 40 head of cattle and producing various crops. By any practical and legislative measure, our land use aligns with the Act's definition of a farm.

Although we meet two of the key criteria for farm classification, we fall short of the newly proposed minimum land size. This would unfairly reclassify our long-standing farm as residential, resulting in significantly higher rates and threatening the sustainability of our operation.

In addition, we are now facing the burden of the Emergency Services Levy (ESL). The combination of these financial pressures is unsustainable for smaller farming families and enterprises. These changes risk driving genuine producers out of agriculture, weakening the rural economy and community.

We respectfully urge the council to reconsider the proposed changes, and to take into account the cumulative impact of multiple policy shifts on small and mid-sized landholders. Farmers like us contribute meaningfully to food production and local resilience and should not be penalized for operating at a smaller but still commercial scale.

Sincerely,

Leanne & Daniel Christensen

[redacted]

Respondent No: 51
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 23, 2025 16:27:39 pm
Last Seen: May 23, 2025 16:27:39 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

This is absolutely ridiculous! Stop taking more of our money when you do nothing ! Changing the farming zone from 2 hectares to 40 is a joke and a massive jump! Scrap the tax !!!

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 52
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 23, 2025 19:40:23 pm
Last Seen: May 23, 2025 19:40:23 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality**

Please withhold my name from public documents

You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Under the proposal Revenue & Rating Plan 2025–2029, Council is proposing updates to the eligibility criteria for the Farm Differential Rate as set out in item 6.2 Farm Rate. We have many concerns over the eligibility criteria that may be followed by Council - Criteria 1 Land Size Land held in multiple titles due to family estate distributions and/or acquisitions prior to and after marriages must be combined to reflect the total area under production. Separate rate notices must be combined to assess total land size being used for the farming enterprise. Criteria 2 Primary Use If the agricultural business changes the farmland use category this should not change the status of the farm rate payable. Criteria 3 Commercial Viability If there is an assessment of viability, allowances must be given to the variation of commodity prices and adverse weather conditions that affect farming profitability. The substantiation to Council to justify viability is a further impost and demand on the time for busy farmers. There are serious and genuine concerns in giving so much personal financial data to the Council which will presumably be held on a database. Security, privacy and identification issues are a major concern to farmers. Who will be able to access this data, how will it be stored and how long will it be stored for? The list stated in this Criteria is information we provide to accountants, financial institutions and the ATO, not a local council. General ratepayers are never asked for their sensitive private financial information, so why should farmers? Any potential rate increase under the proposal together with the imposition of the prohibitive Emergency Services Levy will create further hardship on people who already work hard and long hours in their farming businesses. To summarise, if you are already in a Farm Zone you should always be charged Farm rates.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 53
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 23, 2025 19:48:41 pm
Last Seen: May 23, 2025 19:48:41 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Dear Team, What is the reasoning behind changing the criteria for the differential Farm Rate? Thanks [redacted]

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No:	54	**Responded At:**	May 23, 2025 22:43:41 pm
Login:	Anonymous	**Last Seen:**	May 23, 2025 22:43:41 pm
Email:	n/a	**IP Address:**	n/a

Q1. **Name** Geoffrey and Sandra Potter

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

To Latrobe Council, We Geoff & Sandra Potter , wish to make a submission regarding the proposed changes to the differential rating system we feel we are being assaulted on all fronts when it comes to government and local government charges and are in effect being taxed into poverty, the state cap on rates is a firfy as the annual valuations increase our tax by more than 2.5%, we submit however that if the proposal is adopted then it should only apply to ones total holdings and not to each separate title or holding ,in our case we have two holdings which total approximately 60+hectares and hold LPA accreditation as a single cattle breeding enterprise. thank you.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 55
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 23, 2025 23:04:46 pm
Last Seen: May 23, 2025 23:04:46 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Peter and Pauline Hoeben

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

My husband and I are writing this together so as to avoid you getting 2 submissions .. We both want to let council know that this moving of the goal post from 2 hectares to 40 hectares as 1 of the 3 criteria's to be able to keep your farm rates is so unfair. We have a clear 32 hectare farm that is leased to a cattle farmer who keeps the land maintained for feed and raising his cattle on. When reading this review to be able to keep your farm rate we are according to the council's page you have to have a minimum of 40 hectares. We have no hope of keeping our farm rate and we will be forced to pay a much higher rate. This is so unfair . From the Land Tax we have to pay to the CFA Volunteers fire fighting fund levy and now this on top. When will it stop. I am begging council to re think this once again. Our 32Heactares (80 Acres) is not a residential backyard house block like in town. This land is cleared and used as grazing land only. With the 40 Hectares minimum council is punishing people like my husband and myself who will be forced to pay much higher rates.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 56
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 24, 2025 10:18:26 am
Last Seen: May 24, 2025 10:18:26 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

This proposal is just another kick in the guts for farmers. I am not happy with this proposal and it will destroy a number of farmers. We already have the State Govt coming after us. What we get for our rates...1 or 2 grades of our road per year. That's it. Small acreage farming is a choice and a lifestyle. Council is a showing what little knowledge they have regarding the family farming sector. Council is trying to destroy this lifestyle. We are on 123 acres and run Angus breeders. There is no way we could make a living of this farm without supplementary income. Wake up before you destroy the p er pole who feed you.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 57
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 24, 2025 10:45:25 am
Last Seen: May 24, 2025 10:45:25 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I do not approve this submission

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 58
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 24, 2025 11:33:07 am
Last Seen: May 24, 2025 11:33:07 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality**

Please withhold my name from public documents

You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please note that my earlier submission was difficult to read. Therefore I am attaching a more readable pdf.

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

Under the proposal Revenue & Rating Plan 2025–2029, Council is proposing updates to the eligibility criteria for the Farm Differential Rate as set out in item 6.2 Farm Rate. We have many concerns over the eligibility criteria that may be followed by Council -

Criteria 1 Land Size Land held in multiple titles due to family estate distributions and/or acquisitions prior to and after marriages must be combined to reflect the total area under production. Separate rate notices must be combined to assess total land size being used for the farming enterprise.

Criteria 2 Primary Use If the agricultural business changes the farmland use category, this should not change the status of the farm rate payable.

Criteria 3 Commercial Viability If there is an assessment of viability, allowances must be given to the variation of commodity prices and adverse weather conditions that affect farming profitability. The substantiation to Council to justify viability is a further impost and demand on the time for busy farmers.

There are serious and genuine concerns in giving so much personal financial data to the Council which will presumably be held on a database. Security, privacy and identification issues are a major concern to farmers. Who will be able to access this data, how will it be stored and how long will it be stored for? The list stated in this Criteria is information we provide to accountants, financial institutions and the ATO, not a local council. General ratepayers are never asked for their sensitive private financial information, so why should farmers? Any potential rate increase under the proposal together with the imposition of the prohibitive Emergency Services Levy will create further hardship on people who already work hard and long hours in their farming businesses.

To summarise, if you are already in a Farm Zone you should always be charged Farm rates.

Respondent No: 59
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 24, 2025 16:26:38 pm
Last Seen: May 24, 2025 16:26:38 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I object to the proposed changes to the farm rating system, my property is 25.9ha but this does not take into account properties that are used in conjunction with this that are operated as a legitimate business - this is recognized by the ATO by issue of an ABN, TFN and primary producer registered for GST. My property income surpasses the $20,000 requirement well and truly each year which is required by the ATO. I also have an irrigation license on this property and am growing crops as well as beef cattle. I do my BAS every 3 months. Accordingly I believe the criteria for determining if a property is run as a legitimate farming business should be based on meeting the ATO criteria.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 60
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 24, 2025 18:34:08 pm
Last Seen: May 24, 2025 18:34:08 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I reject all changes to the farm differential rate.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 61
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 24, 2025 18:35:56 pm
Last Seen: May 24, 2025 18:35:56 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I reject all changes to the farm differential rate.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 62
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 24, 2025 20:15:50 pm
Last Seen: May 24, 2025 20:15:50 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

This decision will make it unsustainable to own rural properties. Its a disgrace . It's hard enough already !!!

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 63
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 24, 2025 20:17:39 pm
Last Seen: May 24, 2025 20:17:39 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Farm Differential Rate Objection

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

24th May, 2025

To The Rates Team
Latrobe City
Morwell

We refer to recent email correspondence regarding 'proposed updates to the eligibility criteria for the Farm Differential Rate'.

We find it an absolute insult that again, we have to prove ourselves as farmers to the *"Powers that Be"*.

We are writing to that Public Servant/s, who came up with the proposed idea and probably don't even live in Latrobe City and will get a *'pat on the back'* for such a profitable idea.

Stop screwing Farmers over! We deal with more obstacles in our workplace, year in year out, then you throw us another hurdle and no doubt, large expense, into the mix.

That, on top of our clueless Victorian Premier, Jacinta Allen, with her new Fire Levy – she can go jump too! It's so comforting to know you all have our backs (against the wall)!

What is going on? Doesn't our Government and Shires know that Farming keeps our country running, so where's the support? Instead, you want to take more money from us.

WHY do we have to prove ourselves to YOU. You only want more money for the Government, for their debt, which in itself is a joke, as we get further into debt, day by day. Less and less work is done by the Shire, or contracted out. Where does all the money go?

We have been Farming and Contracting in Latrobe City for 20 years, and now you decide to move the goal posts. If your proposal goes through, are you going to re-zone everything too, that 'doesn't comply'?

And obviously changing the payment method, is only to benefit Council, of course. Why should we be allowed to keep our money to use, until 15 February, when Council could already be frivolously wasting our money?

There will be nothing extra done in Latrobe City, and if it is, it won't be anything farmers or outlying towns will benefit from, only Traralgon.

We obviously do not agree to the proposed changes and we will not be proving ourselves to any mere mortal, who thinks they can push a new cost through Council. How is that legal, because a piece of paper, you wrote on, says it is?

Leave farmers alone to do their work.

Latrobe City and our Government both Victoria and Federal, has too much power, and it's time the citizens of this Council stood up to the **money wasting, greedy bullies**.

Yours, very sincerely,

[redacted]

Respondent No: 64
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 24, 2025 20:22:45 pm
Last Seen: May 24, 2025 20:22:45 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Mark Rooney

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please find my submission document uploaded

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

Mark Rooney
[redacted]
24/05/2025

Chief Executive Officer
Latrobe City Council
141 Commercial Road
Morwell VIC 3840

Subject: Formal Objection to Proposed Revision of Farm Rate Differential for Properties Under 40 Hectares

Dear Chief Executive Officer,

I write to express my unequivocal objection to the Latrobe City Council's proposed revision of the farm rate differential, which seeks to restrict eligibility to properties of at least 40 hectares in size. This proposal represents a fundamental shift away from the principles enshrined in the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*, and, if enacted, would be both unjust and discriminatory to a significant number of genuine farming enterprises across the municipality.

As defined in Section 2(1) of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*, "Farm Land" includes **any rateable land not less than 2 hectares in area**, which is used **primarily for legitimate agricultural purposes** and operated by a business **with a substantial commercial character and intent to make a profit**. There is no basis in law or policy for arbitrarily raising the minimum area threshold to 40 hectares. Doing so would disenfranchise countless small-scale but legitimate farming businesses that play a critical role in our region's agricultural diversity, sustainability, and economic resilience.

Furthermore, it is essential to highlight that farm-zoned areas already receive **substandard levels of service from the Council**. These include limited infrastructure maintenance, inadequate road access, poor drainage management, and minimal investment in rural community development. To further penalise rural landowners—who receive fewer council services than their urban counterparts—by withdrawing the fair and long-standing farm rate differential is not only inequitable, it is also deeply prejudicial.

The farming enterprises on smaller parcels of land, including those engaged in horticulture, bee keeping, poultry farming, and specialty crop production, are no less legitimate or valuable to the local economy than larger-scale operations. Many of these businesses are family-owned, environmentally sustainable, and heavily reliant on the viability provided by the current rating system. A blanket policy change of this nature would severely undermine their ability to remain operational.

This proposed change appears to ignore the legislative definition of "farm land" and fails to consider the operational realities of modern agriculture, where innovation and efficiency allow productive farming on smaller holdings. It would amount to an unjust reclassification and financial burden for ratepayers who are legitimately conducting farming businesses under the framework prescribed by law.

I urge the Council to abandon this regressive proposal and instead focus on a more equitable, evidence-based approach that respects legal definitions, recognises agricultural diversity, and acknowledges the substantial contributions of all farming businesses—regardless of their land size—to our community and economy.

Yours sincerely,
Mark Rooney
[redacted]

Respondent No: 65
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 25, 2025 08:31:44 am
Last Seen: May 25, 2025 08:31:44 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

This is ridiculous. To up the rates on properties that are under 40ha is ridiculous. Every house hold is already finding it hard with all the price rises in everyday living, now to put the rates up as well, it's just un affordable. People like myself, are trying to make a living off their small parcel of land and doing the best they can then you want to throw a spanner in the works and make it harder. People like myself would love more land to farm but the prices for farmland at the moment is so expensive that you either need to have the property inherited to you or win tattslotto. The same amount of work goes into small scale farming as larger properties. Small scale farming is still a commercial based business. We run a breeding herd on my property, which we sell all the calves to feedlots who then grow out and sell to all the supermarkets. Us smaller farmers contribute to the meat market the same as larger farmers do but you want to just put the smaller farmers rates up.... Not happy. With the prices of cattle and feed, a lot of smaller scale farmers are already doing it tough, having to go and get a second income source just to keep their business running and to help pay for the cost of living price rise. Leave us smaller based farmers alone and find somewhere else to make some money from.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 66
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 25, 2025 10:15:01 am
Last Seen: May 25, 2025 10:15:01 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Ian Oldman

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Small farm holdings are vital to larger farms, generating replacement stock, providing for younger herds etc. Small farms exist in the same regions as larger enterprises and will not receive the benefits of town rate living; they will still be deprived of the same services. Small farms don't have the same buying power as large enterprises so are already under financial duress.Stocking rates tend to be higher to manage income from lesser acreage and costs are higher. Any loss of small farm enterprises will be a direct threat to food stability if large farms, often multinational-owned are our only source of agricultural products. We are already under financial stress. Please don't take away from our meager income by taxing us more heavily.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 67
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 25, 2025 11:17:55 am
Last Seen: May 25, 2025 11:17:55 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I believe the consideration for Uniform or Differential rating should be based on the ATO classification of what is primary production not the Latrobe City striking its own definition. It is inconsistent and inappropriate to have two sets of rules within government departments. The consideration should also take into account if the combined area of the usable properties in the venture are in excess of 40 hectares including leased properties not on a property by property basis. A legitimate farming venture may be operating over multiple properties and yet no one rateable property may be over the 40 hectare area. This should not deem a property to be not farmland. The Latrobe City in fact allows an exemption for multiple properties in the fire levy so this approach conceivably should be applied. Farm properties do not receive the same service as residential. Eg Street lighting, kerb and channel, street maintenance etc. We in fact live on a gravel road that never gets gravelled or graded, drains never get cleaned. It becomes a major task to get Latrobe City to do any maintenance unless it is a Health and Safety issue. The option of taking up municipal garbage collection including recycling is not available. The cost to provide private garbage collection plus the charges at the transfer stations is materially in excess of the set charge for municipal collection to say nothing of the inconvenience. Given the lesser service it is inappropriate to accept that the non residential properties should be charged uniform rates. I have no issue with a hobby farm being rated as such since it is not a business venture. The matter at hand is that if it is deemed acceptable for the ATO to classify as a Primary Producer and hence a viable business then it is not for Latrobe City to say otherwise. I have no confidence in the Cyber Security measures and as such would be against having to provide my business financial records to Latrobe City. Confidentiality from the members of Latrobe City especially councillors has a real question mark in my mind and hence should not be a matter for rating purposes.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 68
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 25, 2025 14:19:13 pm
Last Seen: May 25, 2025 14:19:13 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I disagree with the changes to the Farm Rate qualifying criteria. A "hobby farm" assumes that the person running the farm has another income stream. Many smaller farms do not and the farm is the family's sole source of income. A farm whether large or just 2 hectares often runs at a loss especially in times of drought and increase in the cost of living, high prices for feed and incredibly low prices for meat and wool like we are facing right now. I grew up on a farm of 25 acres and it was not a "hobby farm" but a farm that our family relied upon to survive. Someone with a small farm is not rich. Please don't hurt our farmers more and push them off their land with higher rates. I would like to continue the legacy of farming my parents 25 acre farm one day and I'm saving with all of my might but this change could mean I would never be able to afford to do that and need to give up a dream I have spent 20 years of my life working towards. Please don't hurt farmers more, they are already doing it so tough.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 69
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 25, 2025 17:34:32 pm
Last Seen: May 25, 2025 17:34:32 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Kate inglis

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

We hold 32.78hectacres in boolarra. We run a combination of primary production (holding and breeding of 30 Angus cattle) and our horse breeding and training business on this land as our sole income including production of hay and silage on property. There is no waste service, sewage service, gas service or water service to our property. We feel that the new rate charges are unfair and would like to object.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 70
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 25, 2025 17:52:07 pm
Last Seen: May 25, 2025 17:52:07 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

We have farmed the same piece of land at Jeeralang Junction ([redacted]) since 1991 most of that time with a farm rate. Some of that time we had other land either owned or rented but until our land was rezoned rural residential we 'enjoyed' the farm rate. This was withdrawn (under protest) a few years ago though we have continued to carry on a farming business (stud sheep) on the property supplying clients all over Australia (and internationally). Council has provided us with a letter saying that we may continue to carry on sheep farming on the land but that we will not be eligible for the farm rate. This is an onerous decision particularly in the light of the parlous state of the grazing industry which sees several farmers committing suicide weekly due to being unable to feed their stock. Due to seasonal conditions we were forced to massively destock before last Christmas at an enormous loss as it would have been impossible to 'finish' a bumper crop of lambs which we would normally have sold for $600 each. We even reduced the ewe flock so that we can expect fewer lambs this year but hope (after the recent rain) that we will be able to finish their lambs in the season ahead. We at least have orders for all the lambs likely to be born - a situation which has applied for forty years. Our stud sheep enterprise (though small) has gradually been raising the lambing percentage nationally (as well as the wool clip). Our rams are currently excelling all other rams on Lambplan (by 166%) in the key metric of lambs raised per ewe joined. We urge Council to abandon this monstrously destructive plan to tax farmers just when they can least afford it just to pay for huge administrative overspends and other junkets.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 71
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 25, 2025 17:57:35 pm
Last Seen: May 25, 2025 17:57:35 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I am writing to protest the change from 2ha to 40ha for council farm differential rates. This is dramatic and in a cost of living crisis will have huge financial implications on landowners in the Latrobe Valley, especially with the introduction of the emergency services levy by the Victorian government. Please reconsider this change.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 72
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 25, 2025 18:19:11 pm
Last Seen: May 25, 2025 18:19:11 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I strongly disagree with the proposed draft changes to the eligibility criteria for the Farm Differential Rate

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 73
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 25, 2025 18:30:29 pm
Last Seen: May 25, 2025 18:30:29 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Heather Lang

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

My submission has been uploaded in part 5.

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

The Farm Rate changes from 2 hectares to a minimum of 40 hectares is unreasonable and fails to accommodate for all the different types of agricultural.

In my experience farms increase in size as available farming land comes on the market which is generally years and even decades in time. Therefore, it is possible for a property to start at less than 40 hectares and be more than that in size after 10 or more years. For younger farmers to start they may only be able to afford smaller acreage and then purchase more land as it comes available and as finances enable them to purchase.

The property I own, which fits in the above category, is being leased to neighbours which is giving their 3 adult descendants and families the opportunity to commence their agricultural careers. As the average age of farmers is in the 50-to-60-year bracket, people who are younger than that need to be given the opportunity to start their farming life.

Farming includes beef, dairying, pigs, sheep, poultry/eggs, vegetables, grapes/wine, fruit, berries. Some of these would need larger parcels of land (more than 40 ha) while others could be financially viable with less than 40 ha. One size does not fit all situations.

The Victorian Farmers Federation has a list of their commodity groups at the following link: www.vff.org.au/about/commodities

Years ago, I remember hearing a banker say, 'It is easier for a farmer to understand banking than a banker to understand farming'. Is it possible to rephrase this to the following 'It is easier for a farmer to understand local council than a local council to understand farming'?

Heather Lang

May 2025.

Respondent No: 74
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 25, 2025 18:33:02 pm
Last Seen: May 25, 2025 18:33:02 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Daniel Edwards

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I disagree with he farm differential payment change to only be for +40ha properties. We have a small 1ha hobby farm where we grow vegetables, fruit and hay. We are also expanding to include bee hives. This is a hobby farm and the fact it isn't 40ha should make no difference.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 75
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 25, 2025 20:00:55 pm
Last Seen: May 25, 2025 20:00:55 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

As a land holder and primary producer with 2 properties and lease another with a total area of about 240 acres and all titles being less than 40 hectares each it is unfair to threaten to take the farm differential rate of us farmers , just because our titles are under the 40 hectare size . I run 180 head of cattle have an ABN and are viewed by the Taxation Department as a primary producer and are able to make claims ,so please rethink these proposed changes. Its hard enough to make a dollar farming without , costs increasing FIRE LEVY

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 76
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 25, 2025 21:36:45 pm
Last Seen: May 25, 2025 21:36:45 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

We the undersigned, question the proposed criteria changes to the Farm Differential Rate. We acknowledge that perhaps there may be some ratepayers who receive the Farm Differential Rate who will not meet the proposed criteria changes. However we feel any financial gain for the Latrobe City Council would be offset by the cost of administration to determine who would or would not meet the criteria, not only as to the amount of land they own, but to request financial details of the earnings from their land is an invasion of their privacy. Therefore we lodge our objection to the proposed changes to the criteria for the Farm Differential Rate. [redacted]

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 77
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 26, 2025 06:39:42 am
Last Seen: May 26, 2025 06:39:42 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

we have a property at [redacted] yinnar on 60acres and would like to know if our rates will be going to residental rates as we have registered business as primary producer in cattle etc

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 78
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 26, 2025 07:33:50 am
Last Seen: May 26, 2025 07:33:50 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

If your in a farming zone, you should be entitled to farm rates. We don't get bin collection, our roads are maintained, half the time it's the farmers doing the road maintenance, not to mention we live on a dirt road. Most farms are on multiple titles, so though a farm might be 100acres could be on 2 or 3 titles which means it will not qualify for farm rates going by this. Also there are multiple types of farming and some don't require such a large area and some land is more productive than others. We already pay a ridiculous price for rates, and over 2 properties, when we get nothing in return from the council.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 79
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 26, 2025 10:33:17 am
Last Seen: May 26, 2025 10:33:17 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I believe that the criteria for farm rate is fair and equitable at this time, to change this farm rate to 40 hectare properties only, is quite unfair in my opinion. Hundreds of operating farming properties in this Shire are below this figure, why are they being punished, they should be awarded the same recognition....

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 80
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 26, 2025 13:58:07 pm
Last Seen: May 26, 2025 13:58:07 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Norman Albutt

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Latrobe City Council Revenue and Rating Plan 2026-2029 I strongly support the principle of differential property rates for farming enterprises, given the high land capital cost required to generate an income compared to other businesses. This principle is now even more important with the increased cost of farm land, and the often low and fluctuating returns from farming. The value of farm land in Latrobe City is very high, resulting from many factors other than return on capital from farming. The high land value has resulted in smaller farm sizes in Latrobe City compared to many other local government regions. The smaller land size in Latrobe City also reflects the reliable rainfall and favourable growing conditions in the region. It would therefore seem unfair that this Draft Report recommends that to be eligible for the differential farm rate the enterprise must meet ALL 3 criteria, including a minimum land size of 40 hectares. This would exclude enterprises which own less than 40 hectares, but lease additional land to operate a viable farming business, which could be more likely in Latrobe City, with smaller farm sizes and high land values. In addition, many of the farming categories listed under Criteria 2 should qualify as viable commercial farming enterprises on a land size of less than 40 hectares due to their intensive nature. Viable and sustainable piggery, poultry, fish farming, horticulture or viticulture operations could all be undertaken on a land size of less than 40 hectares. I also believe that it is essential for Councillors to be informed of the number of properties that would be impacted by this proposed change to Differential Rates, and the amount of additional revenue for Latrobe City, before voting on this change. I don't understand why this information is not included in the draft report. I trust that my comments will be considered by Council, and that "have your say" is not just an exercise to show that Council has completed their public consultation obligations. Thank you, Norman Albutt

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 82
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 26, 2025 14:27:37 pm
Last Seen: May 26, 2025 14:27:37 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Please see attached correspondence

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

26 May 2025

Latrobe City Council
Via Email

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: REVENUE & RATING PLAN 2025 – 2029
PROPERTY: [redacted] VIC 3825
2025 ASSESSMENT NUMBER [redacted]

I refer to your letter dated 7 May 2025 in regard to the Draft City Council Revenue & Rating Plan 2025 – 2029.

I would like to make a submission specifically in regard to the above-mentioned property at Savige Road, Moe.

1. The property is one title of some 130 acres.
2. The above-mentioned property is some 50 acres in the Latrobe City.
3. The remaining 80 acres is liable for rates in the Baw Baw Shire.
4. The 130 acres is leased out & is part of an adjoining dairy farm operation.
5. The Latrobe City proposal regarding Farm Rates suggests that the property must comprise at least 40 hectares.
6. The 50 acres on its own would not qualify for the Farm Rates.
7. The 130 acres does qualify for the Farm Rates, even though it is in two councils.

In Summary

The above-named property should be assessed under the Farm Rates.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] VIC 3825
Ph: [redacted]

Respondent No: 83
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 26, 2025 14:46:04 pm
Last Seen: May 26, 2025 14:46:04 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

SUBMISSION TO LATROBE CITY COUNCIL RE: FARM DIFFERENTIAL RATE CHANGE [redacted] VIC 3840 Our 36 acre property has been a productive farm for 61 years. The land is used primarily for the production of beef with an ABN and GST registration. The farm produces high quality beef vealers each year and so is a viable property and the major part of our annual income. A tax return is completed every year with official accounting records etc. We are also required to complete audits with the MLA and are now being asked to complete an Animal Welfare Plan for the property. Using your words, "this is a commercially substantive farm" and "genuine commercial " farm. This revenue raising stunt was tried before and our farm rates were deemed appropriate. Any incentive to continue farming in this area is being stripped away. We believe our rates are already high for any services we DON'T receive ie a dirt road (only graded when we complain), no garbage, no water, no gas. So we will be paying more rates to subsidise future building fantasies for Latrobe City Council. This comes on top of a totally unfair Fire Services Levy and more Bureaucratic red tape from Govnerments, Local, State and Federal. The whole thing sickens us with this proposal just topping it off. If Council kept to roads, rates and rubbish you would have ample funds at your disposal without targeting hard working farmers. I daresay this submission won't even be considered, as no doubt your minds are already made up. We could not just let this injustice unfold without saying something. If this proposal is passed, as Rate Payers, we will not forget your greed. Latrobe City Council Rate Payers [redacted] Vic 3840

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

SUBMISSION TO

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

RE: FARM DIFFERENTIAL RATE CHANGE

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] VIC 3840

Our 36 acre property has been a productive farm for 61 years. The land is used primarily for the production of beef with an ABN and GST registration. The farm produces high quality beef vealers each year and so is a viable property and the major part of our annual income. A tax return is completed every year with official accounting records etc. We are also required to complete audits with the MLA and are now being asked to complete an Animal Welfare Plan for the property. Using your words, “this is a commercially substantive farm” and “genuine commercial “ farm.

This revenue raising stunt was tried before and our farm rates were deemed appropriate.

Any incentive to continue farming in this area is being stripped away. We believe our rates are already high for any services we DON’T receive ie a dirt road (only graded when we complain), no garbage, no water, no gas. So we will be paying more rates to subsidise future building fantasies for Latrobe City Council. This comes on top of a totally unfair Fire Services Levy and more Bureaucratic red tape from Govnerments, Local, State and Federal. The whole thing sickens us with this proposal just topping it off.

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I daresay this submission won’t even be considered, as no doubt your minds are already made up. We could not just let this injustice unfold without saying something. If this proposal is passed, as Rate Payers, we will not forget your greed.

Latrobe City Council Rate Payers

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] Vic 3840

Respondent No: 84
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 26, 2025 15:24:07 pm
Last Seen: May 26, 2025 15:24:07 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I strongly disagree with the differential rating plan my beef cattle grazing land of 38.75 hectares [redacted] Yinnar has been in my family ([redacted] for 126 years, it has always been used for beef cattle grazing I also lease Land with [redacted] which adjoins my land. My rates description Mixed farming and grazing with structural improvement should remain the same.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 85
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 26, 2025 16:19:53 pm
Last Seen: May 26, 2025 16:19:53 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Daniel Gleeson and Danyall Van Ekeren

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

We OPPOSE the change to the Farming Rates changes to land holders under 40 Hectares. We have two properties which adjoin and they are both run as a primary production Beef Farm One of these titles falls under the 40 hectare ruling which you propose to change and we can state that this property is NOT a Hobby Farm. As stated before it is used wholly and solely for Beef Cattle Farming. Please do not make this amendment.

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

Respondent No: 86
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 26, 2025 17:14:23 pm
Last Seen: May 26, 2025 17:14:23 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

We have many concerns over the Farm Differential Rating Plan Proposal of the Council & their requirements to be eligible. Criteria 1 Land Size - Family farming land held for many generations and inherited are in smaller & larger titles for many reasons, but if it is used all together for a farming enterprise then the rates notices should be combined for the Land Size that is under production and farm rating should apply. Criteria 2 Primary use-If the agricultural business changes farmland use category this should not change the status of the farm rate payable. Criteria 3 Commercial Viability-If there is an assessment of viability there would have to be allowances given to the variation of commodity prices & weather conditions that effect the profit margin of the farmer. Council imposing this on the busy farmer only adds more demands & stress. This personal financial information is given to our accountant, financial institution & ATO not the local council. Security privacy & identification issues are a real concern, who will have access to this data. General rate payers never provide any private information & neither should farmers if an ABN & Property Identification number is supplied that should be sufficient. If you already have Farm Rating then you should stay in Farm Rating. I Highly object to the Farm Differential Plan proposal By Council.

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 87
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 26, 2025 19:39:44 pm
Last Seen: May 26, 2025 19:39:44 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

|I wish to register my opposition to your proposed changes to the farm rate differential. From 2 ha to 40 ha is huge change. If there were to be any change it should be it should be staged over a number of years. No consideration is given (or going to be given) as to whether a farm property is operated as a business or not. Legally it is an individual's right to run a small farm business as well as work a second job for off farm income. You are suggesting that primary source of income be from that minimum 40 ha. I would suggest that it requires a damsight more than 40 ha to provide a decent income. Further you should be considering the following points before imposing a 40 ha requirement. Is the business registered for gst. Is the business operated as a company, parternership, sole trader etc, Does the property have a Property Identification Code. Is the property and operator accredited with, for example, Meat and Livestock Australia. Furthermore what if the property is part of a larger aggregation of properties. Why would it not be rated at the farm rate. It seems to me that this proposal has not been thought through well enough and has been proposed by persons who have little knowledge of farming as a business. It appears to be proposed as a means to get around rate capping. thank you [redacted]

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 88
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 26, 2025 19:59:45 pm
Last Seen: May 26, 2025 19:59:45 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

in regards to the property size , i think this is wrong , i know of a person that farms on 30 acres and make a very good living from this , if the tax office deems them a primary producer that should be enough . in regards to the payment , i have always paid on the due day and i don`t seen any reason to change , i get very little from my rates , i get shire trees fallen on fences and have to repair and remove myself , i don`t live in towns where services are

Q5. **Upload your submission** not answered

Respondent No: 89
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 26, 2025 20:22:27 pm
Last Seen: May 26, 2025 20:22:27 pm
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** [redacted]

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** Please withhold my name from public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

Regarding the Draft Latrobe City Council Rating and Revenue Budget, I would like to object to the new definition and criteria applied to Farm Ratepayers and have submitted an attached letter regarding this. I would like the application of the farm differential be retained and be applied in the same way as it has been previously.

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

Response to council.

The newly proposed changes to the definition of a ‘farm’, and the subsequently proposed farm differential criteria are inherently destructive to majority of farmers.

The farm differential has been in place for over 40 years to bring some form of equality and fairness to the difference between what the average general rate payer pays and what the average farm ratepayer pays. Currently the farm ratepayers pay more than double what the general ratepayers pay, and the farm ratepayers that will lose the differential will be paying almost three times the general rate.

Just because the farm may not make a huge profit, or is less than the 40 Hectares proposed, does not mean it is not a legitimate farm and produce food for the community.

As per the Valuation and Land Act of 1960, a farm is defined as a property over 2 Hectares. This considers smaller farms that may produce chickens, fruit, vegetables, etc. I’m wondering why the council has decided to go against what an Act defines and come up with their own definition. To me it seems like that is almost illegal. The Local Government Act of 1989 allows Councils to apply criteria to a rate, but not to change the definition of the land type or use. Thus a ‘farm’, as depicted in the Valuation and Land Act of 1960, is over 2 Hectares in size, and be used primarily for primary production.

While other councils in Gippsland are being reasonable in trying to assist the farmers in these difficult times and considering the other heavy increases the farmers are having put on them, Latrobe City are doing the opposite and making it more difficult for farmers.

The council needs to reconsider their approach. Farmers don’t get the services that town rate payers receive and hence should receive some form of differential to bring about some equality.

Gippsland is known as Victorias food bowl. Making it financially harder for farmers is not helping develop Gippsland as a Food bowl, but making it more costly, and most likely reduce the amount of food produced.

The council is using financial and business criteria to remove more farm differentials. It is up to the farmer how he runs his life and business; the council should not impose this on a farmer.

Please leave the farm differential and definition as you already have it.

Regards [redacted]

Respondent No: 90
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 27, 2025 10:26:52 am
Last Seen: May 27, 2025 10:26:52 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Donna Lawless

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I strongly oppose the changes to the Farm Differential that are currently being proposed by Latrobe City Council. Please see attached submission.

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

A J & D L Lawless
[redacted]

Tuesday 27th May 2025

We wish to advise that we are strongly opposed to any proposed amendments by Latrobe City Council to the current differential Farm Rate.

Farms have different land uses according to topography, soil type and vegetation. A 40-hectare farm can be as profitable as a larger enterprise simply because of the type of land and type of agricultural use the property undertakes.

Some farming families choose to have an off-farm income to improve their lifestyle and to assist with cash flow to meet the demands of raising a family. To remove this option from the current differential farm rate will put increased pressure on farming families especially during difficult times of drought and flood which can add extra expense and hardship to farming families. Latrobe City Council does not have the right to impose this upon farming families.

The recent increase to the State Government Fire Services Levy Tax is already causing farmers anxiety and placing further financial hardship on farms. To add an increase to the current Farm Rate would exacerbate the stress and anxiety already being felt by farmers.

Agriculture is also reliant on current market trends and values in a global market. If prices drop then this causes further hardship, pressure and stress on farm income and profitability. If a government impose a new tax or tariff, this is felt at the farm gate.

Farmers are already doing it very tough to add further expense at a time when farmer mental health and suicide rates are at an all-time high is unnecessary.

Thank you for your consideration of the above.

Kind Regards

Anthony & Donna Lawless

[redacted]

Respondent No: 91
Login: Anonymous
Email: n/a

Responded At: May 27, 2025 10:27:40 am
Last Seen: May 27, 2025 10:27:40 am
IP Address: n/a

Q1. **Name** Anthony Lawless

Q2. **Email** [redacted]

Q3. **Confidentiality** You may include my name in public documents

Q4. **Your submission**

I strongly oppose the changes to the Farm Differential that are currently being proposed by Latrobe City Council. Please see attached submission.

Q5. **Upload your submission** [redacted]

A J & D L Lawless
[redacted]

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Farmers are already doing it very tough to add further expense at a time when farmer mental health and suicide rates are at an all-time high is unnecessary.

Thank you for your consideration of the above.

Kind Regards

Anthony & Donna Lawless

[redacted]

Respondent No: 92

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 19 May 2025 9:29 AM
To: leanne.potter@latrobe.vic.gov.au
Cc: [redacted] danny.obrien@parliament.vic.gov.au
Subject: Latrobe City Draft Revenue Rating Plan 2025-2029

Dear Leanne, I am writing to you in regard to the recently released Draft of the Latrobe City Revenue and Rating Plan.

The Council are proposing to limit the current Farm Differential Rate (25%) to holdings of 40 Hectares or more...for all the Farmers in Latrobe City working on less than 40 Hectares this is another significant financial blow..and comes on top of a tripling of the Fire and Emergency Service Tax (sorry Levy)

I have cc'd Mr. Danny O'Brien into this email as our State MP for Gippsland.

Leanne..the proposal in it's Draft form raises important questions that the Rates Dept. must address prior to implementation of this Plan...it seems to me that the Rates Dept. are adopting the ATO Criteria in relation to determining Farm as in Zoning...? My understanding is that Council applies Zoning to facilitate activities appropriate to said Zoning...ie Farming activities are not allowed in Residential Zones.

I do not believe that Council has a role in determining the viability of an Enterprise or otherwise..a simple example:

A Hairdresser opens a Business in a vacant Shop Front in Morwell..it is Zoned Commercial and all is good...however he/she is not a very good Hairdresser and business is poor...the Business Trades on though as this persons passion is Hairdressing..!! Various Bank Loans are taken,Accountants consulted etc. and Tax returns are lodged in accordance with the Law.The Business preservers albeit at a Loss.(Apologies to all the Hairdressers) The Business pays their Rates and Utilities and I believe that at this point the Council has no further input.

My question is – Is it any business of the Council Rates Dept. whether a Business is Viable..? Will they knock on our fictional Hairdresser's door and advise that he is going to be penalised with a higher Rate Category because of poor performance..? Just him amongst a whole Street of business's..?

I would really appreciate you help in this matter...The Rates Dept. of the Latrobe City Council are I believe engaging in Over-Reach...Zoning is delegated to Victoria's Councils with some exceptions,Tax on Earnings is a Federal responsibility and for the Council to try and insert a profitability clause into their Rates Criteria is absurd and most likely illegal and if this were to proceed certainly Challenged.The ATO will not in any circumstances release personal details on Taxpayer/Business Tax Returns

If a property is Zoned Farm then what else can it be..?

I very much look forward to hearing from you Leanne and would appreciate you using my personal email [redacted] if writing

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Respondent No: 93

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2025 8:26 pm
To: Cr Dale Harriman <Dale.Harriman@latrobe.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Farm Ratepayers

To Councillor Dale Harriman,

We wish to oppose the proposed Criteria changes to the Farm Differential Rates. Sad to say if the Criteria changes go ahead we will not qualify. Our Farming Enterprise consists of 4 farms (one, of which we Lease) totalling to 300 Acres of Land being farmed and yet none meet the proposed 40 Hectares requirement.

Over recent years we have had to source Part Time employment to Supplement income to help pay the ever increasing costs of Farming.

After a full day at Employment Work we need to go to all Farms to feed out Hay to our Cattle Herds which adds hours to an already full day.

To increase our Rates by taking away our Eligibility of the Farm Differential Rates will greatly impact our viability to the successful running of our Farming Enterprise. We strongly urge you to reconsider your proposed changes and ask that you would kindly abolish them for us and the local farmers.

This proposal is heavy handed as majority of Farmers endure hard times, as well as good times, for the satisfaction of farming. Enduring unprofitable times such as Drought, needing to buy in Feed etc put extra pressure on the finances.

At the moment the Farming Enterprise subsidy is only on one Rates Notice where as it should be on the combined rates of all farms.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

Respondent No: 94

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2025 9:09 pm
To: Cr Sharon Gibson <Sharon.Gibson@latrobe.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Opposing Farm Differential Rates Proposal

Good Evening Councillor Sharon,

I'm writing to you today to add my two cents worth on this rate changes matter that is being discussed among council members tonight(26/5/25).

We as farmers are doing it tough out there, not just this season which has been exceptionally dry, but have been battling hard at interest repayments since the release of the covid virus amongst Australians (and the rest of the world).

I really don't see the need for local government to take it out on the very portion of people who has a passion for the land, a passion to feed the nation and a passion to leave something behind for generations to come.

With just one "clean up" act as mentioned by a certain councillor on last Monday(19/5/25) you can and potentially break many a farmer that is trying to make a living and create something to leave behind for their offspring who also loves the land. This also makes it hard and unattractive for young farmers to want to enter into farming, there is no incentive to get into farming at all with everything you are proposing.

You are going to add to the already exploding mental health issues we are facing in the Latrobe valley, you are going to add a number of tomb stones to cemeteries across the Valley with suicides of farmers not being able to pay rates, interest and service their loans on farmland on which they slowly but surely want to expand their enterprises. You as council are always wanting investment of business in the Latrobe valley, which includes farmers, because they do run a business.

These businesses are facing more challenges than your average business in town, we are dealing with nature here and even though the valley is a very blessed part of Australia regarding rainfall, there is times of severe drought, fires and flooding occurring in the region. There is never one day that is the same on a farm, there is lambing , calving , outbreak of animal diseases. Improving pastures is always high on the list for farmers, seed is expensive as well as fertiliser and crops are not always a guaranteed success as there is that many insects/ parasites that can be fought with very expensive insecticides, which is not always the best solution for the environment.

Labour is hard enough to find as well to afford and the work force around the Valley is not willing to do the hard yards. This results in most farmers that has to have daytime job ,to come out to their farm block which might not even be their primary residence , to feed out fodder, to maintain fences; fix water leaks, pull calves/lambs from animals struggling to give birth or whatever the case might be on the farm that specific day.

Yes, it's easy for you to say, sell your farm , take a holiday, you don't need to work so hard. The fact stands , it's our passion to look after the land and preserve it for the future generations, we feed a nation and even the international community, as Australian produce , is produced with the highest level of care and standards. It's something to be proud of as the local council and not something that we should be punished for because of local, state and federal government budget blowouts that is now sought from the everyday Australian and the farmers which is the heart of this nation.

With all this said, I am certain that you can see that I am passionately opposing this proposal of yours, as we will no longer be eligible for the farm differential rates. This will greatly impact our operation and most likely result in the sale of our land as a young couple that has hopes and dreams to build on the land and see our children grow and love the land to the best of their abilities.

Kind Regards;

[redacted]

Respondent No: 95

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 12:40:28 PM
To: Cr Dale Harriman <Dale.Harriman@latrobe.vic.gov.au>; Cr Darren Howe <Darren.Howe@latrobe.vic.gov.au>; Cr Sharon Gibson <Sharon.Gibson@latrobe.vic.gov.au>; Cr Tracie Lund <Tracie.Lund@latrobe.vic.gov.au>; Cr Adele Pugsley <Adele.Pugsley@latrobe.vic.gov.au>; Cr Steph Morgan <Steph.Morgan@latrobe.vic.gov.au>; Cr David Barnes <David.Barnes@latrobe.vic.gov.au>; Cr Joanne Campbell <Joanne.Campbell@latrobe.vic.gov.au>; Cr Leanne Potter <Leanne.Potter@latrobe.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Farm Differential Rate Change

Good Afternoon Councillors,

There are real concerns within your community regarding the farm differential rate change. These broad and sweeping changes are going to have a serious and devastating impact on our community.

Landowners are facing land tax increases and fire tax increases thanks to our state government and now to discover that there are substantive and frankly unfair changes to the farm differential criteria from our council has many of your constituents at breaking point.

To impose these changes have come at a terrible time and would send landowners bankrupt and off generational farms. These changes are huge, for example, to arbitrarily change the land size from 2 hectares to 40 hectares minimum instantly strips so many of your landholders from this differential. No reason is given for this, it is a malicious and easy cash grab.
Not only this, to impose that if landowners make a secondary income to support themselves they will be excluded is appalling. We are in a cost of living crisis, we are in a green drought, we are facing a battle of taxes from the state government, in what world are the suit and ties who proposed these changes living in!?
We don't need this fight from a council who are supposed to represent the grassroots people.

I urge you to fight against these changes. This is seen as nothing more than a quick and easy cash grab and a kick in the guts to those who elected you.

Please reply to this email if you intend to fight against these changes. I will share your response to my page because people want to see and hear that you are fighting for them! We have been ignored by too many politicians and we're desperate for your support.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]

6.

What Differential Rates should be applied?

6.1 General Rate

The general rate is the particular rate in the dollar that applies to all land which is not defined within a differential rate and can include residential, commercial and industrial properties, both vacant and improved.

The actual rating burden applying to general properties is an outcome determined by decisions to apply either higher or lower rates in the dollar to other classes of property, such as farm, commercial/ industrial or recreational land.

In the setting of differential rates, Council considers their relativity to the general rate.

6.2 Farm Rate

Historically a lower rate has been applied to commercially substantive farms, the basis for this decision being that, in general, farmers require larger landholdings in order to run efficiently, and this would effectively result in disproportionately high rates in relation to the income or surplus able to be generated from these properties, along with the importance of commercial farming/agriculture to the local economy.

The problem arises in identifying "genuine commercial" farms, as opposed to what is commonly classified as a "hobby farm" which is not operated on a commercially substantive basis.

Therefore, in accordance with the primary focus of providing relief for those that requirement large land holdings in order to farm in a commercially substantive way, Council considers that to be eligible for the farm rate the ratepayer will be required to meet all of the following criteria:

Criteria 1 – Land Size

The property must comprise at least 40 hectares of clear and productive farmland and include the necessary infrastructure to sustain a commercially substantive operation.

Criteria 2 – Primary Use

The property must be being actively used for one or more of the following categories of farming activities:

Primary Production - including livestock farming, dairying, pig farming, poultry farming, fish farming or agistment for one of these purposes, all expressly linked to commercial food production or wool production.

Tree Farming – includes plantation timber production to produce timber, pulp or other wood products

Horticulture – including viticulture, fruit growing, turf farming and food-based horticulture activities

Criteria 3 – Commercial Viability

The land is to be primarily used by a registered business:

- That has a significant and substantial commercial purpose or character, that has an ABN, is registered for GST, and has primary production registration, and
- That is of sufficient scale to have some element of independent viability without the need to be supported by off farm income, and
- That is making, or seek to make, a profit on a continuous or repetitive basis from the primary use, and
- That maintains official accounting records, and a documented systematic approach to the activity with regard to the development and maintenance of the farming activities and business.

In recognition that some existing ratepayers may be receiving the farm rate and now do not meet the revised definition, Council will work with these ratepayers to transition them back to the general

rate by July 2027. All new or revised applications for the farm rate differential will be assessed against the above criteria with commencement from 1 July 2025.

Respondent No: 96

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2025 9:48 pm
To: Cr Dale Harriman <Dale.Harriman@latrobe.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Farm Rate

Hello Dale,

I am writing to expressing my opposition to any changes to the Farm Rate.

I believe the new proposed conditions on Farm Rate with Differential is un-Australian and to impose the rigid 3 criteria for which we must meet all 3 is unfair.

Farms come in all shapes, sizes and complexities.

We all run our businesses on different scales and production. Productivity and revenue are also very different for every one of us.

The criteria are overly complex as many farmers diversify to make ends meet.

Add to the already heavy financial burden placed on farmers with other taxes and levies.

As stated above I therefore lodge an objection to any changes in the criteria for Farm Rate.

Thank you for listening.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Respondent No: 97

From: Latrobe City Council <support@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 27 May 2025 3:43 PM
To: Latrobe Central Email <LatrobeCity@latrobe.vic.gov.au>; Matthew Rogers
[redacted]
Subject: 94 Cook - Objection to raising farm differential area to 40ha

Name

[redacted]

Email

[redacted]

Confidentiality

Please withhold my name from public documents

Your submission

I object to the farm rates will be applied from 2 hectares to 40 hectares . All the properties around me are 40 hectares and more This means that now my rates will be residential including Fire levy We dont get rubish pick up nor mail deliveries nor does our dirt road get serviced properly in other words the rates will be increased without any further services so an other tax without any benefits,

Respondent No: 98

From: Latrobe City Council <support@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 27 May 2025 4:21 PM
To: Latrobe Central Email <LatrobeCity@latrobe.vic.gov.au>; Matthew Rogers
[redacted]
Subject: 95 Burton - Retirement Village Differential

Name

[redacted]

Email

[redacted]

Confidentiality

Please withhold my name from public documents

Your submission

Very disappointing that Council did not see fit to approve a differential rate for retirement villages. The Ministerial Guidelines For Differential Rating clearly state " In seeking to achieve its primary objective, a Council must have regard to a number of facilitating objectives including the objective in section 3C(2)(f) of the Act to “ensure the equitable imposition of rates and charges”. Pursuant to section 161 of the Act a Council may raise any general rates by the application of a differential rate if it uses the Capital Improved Value system of valuing land. When declaring general rates, a Council must consider how the use of differential rating contributes to the equitable and efficient carrying out of its functions compared to the use of uniform rates. Differential rates are a useful tool to address equity issues that may arise from the setting of Council rates derived from property valuations. Circumstances whereby common types and classes of land use consistently demonstrate significant relative rate disparities, including access to services arising from the use of a uniform rate, may be addressed by use of the differential rate powers. Common types and classes of land use where such circumstance can arise and where a Council must give consideration to reducing the rate burden through use of a reduced differential rate include • Retirement village land (as defined by the Retirement Villages Act 1986). With all of this it is amazing that Council could not see fit to provide a differential rate to Retirement Villages even though it is very clear that the rating system in Latrobe City is causing an extreme inequity with the rates applied to Retirement Villages and to top it off Council do not provide any services other than rubbish collection to Retirement Villages.

Respondent No: 99

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 8:29 AM
To: Cr Dale Harriman <Dale.Harriman@latrobe.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Farm differential rate change

Opposition to council farm rate change

Whilst I recognise the current land size required at 2 hectares minimum is rather inadequate for legitimate farming enterprise, the move to change to 40 hectares is a significant over reaction.

Most large farming enterprises, in order to expand and operate, have 'turn out blocks' which because of the small nature of the farm land in this area are quite often less than the new 40 hectares minimum.

I for one have two blocks that are under this requirement however my whole property runs 160 commercial breeders and 30 stud breeders.

We keep all our replacement females on one of those blocks.

The other we fatten our steers. On the balance we run the breeders.

It's ludicrous to suggest the land size change simply because the council cannot drive its own improvement in productivity.

Secondly Young farmers starting out in the industry cannot afford large parcels of land in this area for the purpose of farming pursuits. I personally started with a small block 35 years ago and slowly built up over time.

Again this change forces another impediment to industry growth.

It's hard enough for youngsters to enter the industry.

And the industry desperately needs youngsters.

The Australian taxation organisation has a mandated 30 acre (12.5h) requirement for claiming agricultural enterprise.

I suggest council adopt a similar format.

Thank you

[redacted]

[redacted]

Respondent No: 100

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 May 2025 9:52 PM
To: Latrobe Central Email <LatrobeCity@latrobe.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Draft Latrobe City Council Revenue & Rating Plan 2025–2029 - Have your say

To whom it may concern,

I appear to have missed the deadline for the farm rate survey today. However, I would still like to lodge an objection to this change on the following basis;

- Our property is approximately 28 hectares, obviously less than the minimum under your scheme. We run beef cattle on this property and are obliged to report income from this property to the Australian Tax Office and have done so for the last 16 years or so.The ATO has accepted our tax returns/business statements for this period.

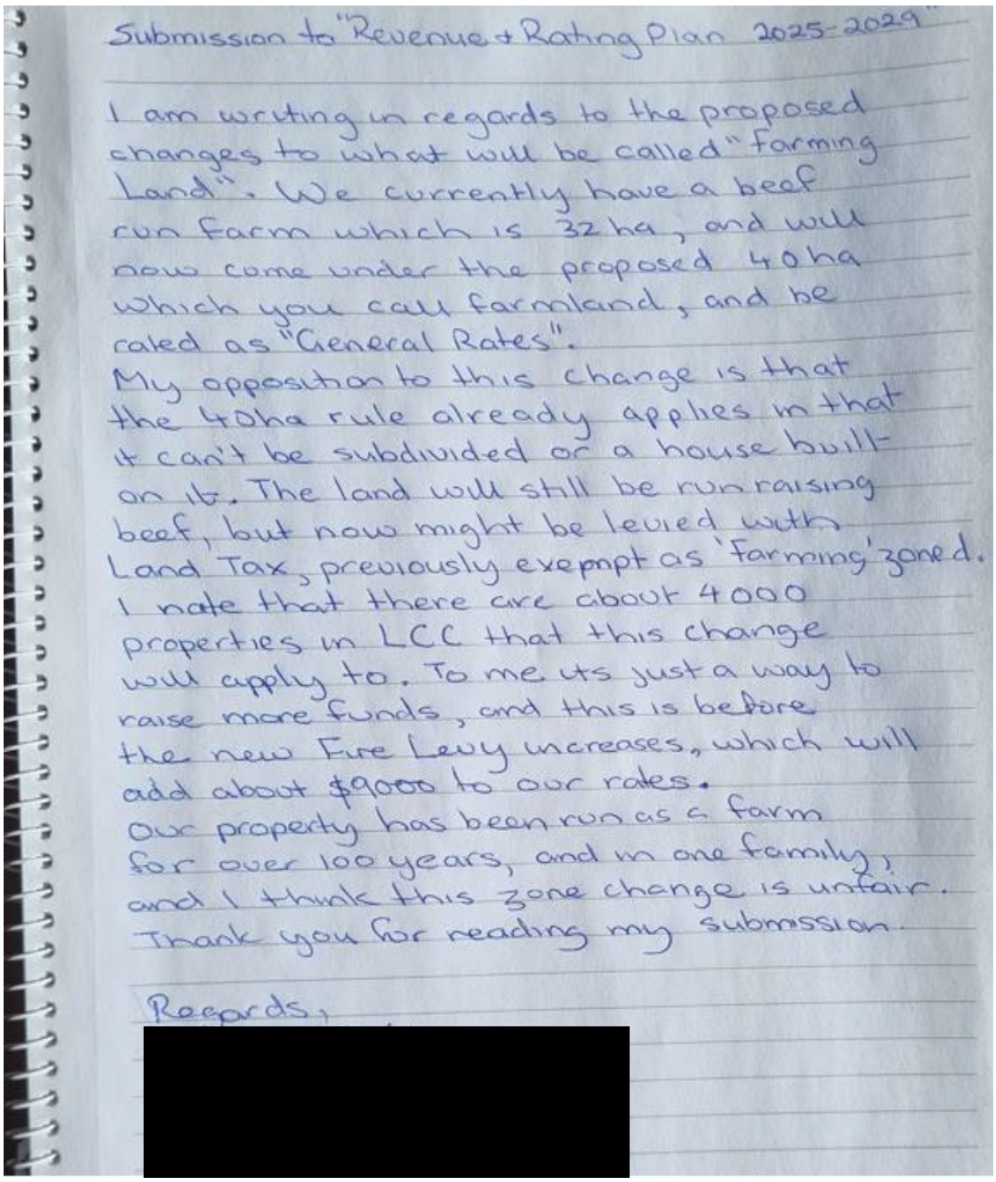
- In addition, it is run in conjunction with another property in another shire, giving us total land holdings of around 300 acres with a six figure turnover in the current financial year,.

I do not believe it is appropriate or reasonable for Latrobe City to assume they have greater powers than the tax office. Another case of local councils swimming outside of their lane.

Regards [redacted]

Respondent No: 101

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 May 2025 2:57 PM
To: Latrobe Central Email <latrobecity@latrobe.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Fw: Draft Latrobe City Council Revenue & Rating Plan 2025–2029 - Have your say



Submission to "Revenue + Rating Plan 2025-2029"

I am writing in regards to the proposed changes to what will be called "farming Land". We currently have a beef run farm which is 32 ha, and will now come under the proposed 40 ha which you call farmland, and be rated as "General Rates".
My opposition to this change is that the 40ha rule already applies in that it can't be subdivided or a house built on it. The land will still be run raising beef, but now might be levied with Land Tax, previously exempt as 'farming' zoned.
I note that there are about 4000 properties in LCC that this change will apply to. To me its just a way to raise more funds, and this is before the new Fire Levy increases, which will add about $9000 to our rates.
Our property has been run as a farm for over 100 years, and in one family, and I think this zone change is unfair.
Thank you for reading my submission.

Regards,

[redacted]

Respondent No: 102

Dear Latrobe City Council Rates Team

In response to your letter "To the Ratepayer" dated 7 May 2025, I wish to "have my say" in writing regarding the draft Revenue & Rating Plan 2025-2029.

I adamantly oppose Councils proposal to "update" the eligibility criteria for the Farm Differential Rate, and it should NOT be adopted by Council.

The proposed draft plan is certainly not reasonable in todays economic environment, it is not necessary, justified or proportionate. It will not benefit me in any way. In fact, it will likely result in detrimental financial hardship as I am a pensioner and widow.

The cost of living is already high enough, and in addition to the CFA Fire levy fee, this draft plan has failed to consider the impacts this will have on our farming communities.

It is not fair or equitable to make these changes across property owners in our communities and strongly object to Council "adopting" the draft plan.

I adamantly oppose the Revenue & Rating draft plan from going ahead, as I feel it is nothing more than a ploy to be a "money grab" for your coffers and we won't see any benefits as usual. The only clarity and equity in how the farm rate applied only benefits yourself. I object and oppose your draft plan and do NOT want it adopted.

Regards from concerned Ratepayer

[redacted]

RECEIVED
26 MAY 2025
BY: TRIM Q03

Respondent No: 103

From: [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, 31 May 2025 6:17 PM
To: Cr Darren Howe <Darren.Howe@latrobe.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Farm Rate Differential

⚠ **EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.** ⚠

Dear Councillor Howe,

As a councillor who has always supported the Latrobe City Farm Ratepayers Association, and who turns up regularly to our annual general meetings. I'm writing to you to ask you to vote NO to the newly proposed farm rate differential criteria and retain the farm rate differential and definition that already exist.

Farmers are already disadvantaged by the bias toward city or the general rate payer, on average paying more than double the rates as their city counterpart and not receiving all the same services.

The farm rate differential is designed to bring more fairness and equality between the different property types and disproportional rates that are incurred by the farmer. Farm rate payers only form 1 in 40 rate payers for Latrobe City, and therefore surely will not disadvantage the council if the farm rate differential is retained.

Farmers are not just big commercial operations, as the council write up may project. Most are small or family operations trying to make an honest living off their land. Farmers are being hit by increases in their rates (1.5%), increase Fire Service Property levy, and now a proposed removal of the farm rate differential, which is effectively increasing their rates by 25% if the farm rate differential is not applied.

The new government fire services property levy is applied to all rate payers, but hitting farmers significantly higher, has had some disastrous effects already. The levy is made up of a fixed and variable rate. The fixed proportion is $132 for residential, and $267 for non-residential (farmers). The farmers will pay more than double the city rate payers. The variable part is a multiple multiplied by the CIV in $000. Obviously disadvantaging the farmer again. The residential rate is 8.7 cents per $000 of CIV, and the primary production (farm) rate is 28.7 cents per $000 of CIV. Not only are farmers paying 4

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Version: 1, Version Date: 02/06/2025

times the rate of the residential rate, but because the CIV of a farm is always more than a residential property, the levy calculation is higher again. For example, a $700,000 residential property would pay $193 for the new levy, whereas a $3,000,000 farm (roughly about 300 acres – so not a huge farm) would pay $1,123. Almost 6 times the amount. Disappointingly, since the passing of this levy in parliament, we have seen 17 farmers take their lives. Which is displaying the pressures and financial constraints that are being put on farmers, little own the pressures occurring from drought, flooding, etc.

Whether you have a small or large farm, you need a second or third income to support the farm, or you are livestock or plant-based farming, all farms are impacted by these issues, along with weather or natural disasters, such as drought, flooding, destructive winds, etc.

To restrict the farm rate differential by applying criteria is almost making it impossible for any of the farms to meet ALL the criteria that the council suggest the farmer must meet to get the differential. The council is therefore defining the ‘farm’ by using their own criteria, e.g., more than 40 hectares, etc. Interestingly though, the Valuation and Land Act of 1960, which is what rates are based upon, defines a ‘farm’ as 2 Hectares or more, and must be primarily used for food production, and it gives examples of those. The council, it would seem, is not following the legal definition of a farm for rates application and defining their own version of a ‘farm’. By applying restrictive criteria. I’m sure this will be challenged legally.

Farming has changed significantly over the last few decades, and the norm for farming is now a smaller property, supported by second or third incomes. This is because of the imposing cost of capital required to make to purchase a significant farm of size to support itself. But these smaller farms are still producing produce (livestock and plant based) for community use. Farms which produce the following will NOT meet the criteria of more than 40 Hectares (99 acres) in most cases; chicken farms, fish farms, wineries, piggeries, orchids, vegetable producers, flower producers, etc.

Here are a few REAL examples of farms which are currently producing produce for community consumption but will not meet the newly restrictive Latrobe City criteria.

- 650-acre beef farm, running 300 cows and then calves on top of this. Runs a second business from the farm to be the main financial income, to support the farm costs. Supported income does not meet the criteria.
- 54-acre tree farm, that grows and sells Christmas trees. Property size too small.
- 40-acre property producing turf. Property size too small.
- 2500-acre property that produces hundreds of beef cattle. But due to the investment required to maintain machinery, land, etc, this property always runs at a loss. Due to the fact any profit is put back into cattle, equipment, or the land itself. Due to not continually making a profit, this does not meet the criteria.
- A chicken farm (free range) running off 25 acres. Property size too small.
- 199-acre farm running cattle but does not have significant infrastructure. Due to the infrastructure requirements.

Additionally the following farms will not meet the criteria for the farm rate differential:

- Any property currently rated farm with less than 99 acres.
- 120-acre property of cattle production but with only 90 acres of clear land. You must have 99 acres of cleared land.
- Any chicken farm under 99 acres (which would be all)
- Fish farm under 99 acres (which would be all)
- Tree farm under 99 acres.
- Any property that does not have an ABN.
- Any primary producer that does not have primary producer registration.
- Any farm which has an off-farm income to support the farm.
- Any farm that does not make profit on a continuous and repetitive basis. So, a farm running at a loss (no matter the size) will not meet the criteria.
- A farm with multiple titles, with more than one type of business, e.g., a farmer who has 75 acres of cattle production, and 55 acres of trees would not meet the requirement.

As you can see there are too many farms that will meet ONE of the multiple criteria, they must meet ALL of them. Thus, making them not eligible for the farm rate differential.

Most other councils in the Gippsland area are retaining their farm rate differential, and in some cases reducing the burden on farmers further. Latrobe City will soon be the area of Gippsland that nobody will want to buy or run a farm. Not a good way to go.

Please be fair and give the farmers a reprieve from what is another cost they will incur, on top of everything else that has been burdened upon them.

Regards [redacted]

[redacted]

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL ADVOCACY STRATEGY FOR THE VICTORIAN STATE GOVERNMENT

PURPOSE

To present the Advocacy Strategy for the Victorian State Government to Council for endorsement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Officers have drafted an Advocacy Strategy (the Strategy) to guide engagement with the Victorian State Government.
- The Strategy is for the time period of June to November 2025 and includes a planned delegation to State Parliament in July 2025.
- Central to the Strategy is the 2025/26 Advocacy Agenda, endorsed by Council on 1 July 2024, which identifies the following key priorities:
    - Latrobe New Energy Future;
    - Victorian Aerospace Technology Precinct;
    - Flood Recovery and Resilience;
    - Inter-Township Trail Network;
    - Residential Development Precincts;
    - Latrobe's Future of Education;
    - Traralgon Bypass; and
    - Moe Revitalisation Stage 3.
- The Strategy also incorporated other resolution of Council such as water levels at Lake Narracan the Centre of Advanced Automotive Futures (CAAF), community safety concerns and the Emergency Service Volunteers Fund (ESVF) levy.
- As part of the engagement plan officers completed a stakeholder mapping exercise, aligning each project with relevant Ministerial and Shadow Ministerial portfolios.
- Additionally, officers are proposing four roundtables/events focused on the following areas:
    - Economic Diversification including the endorsement of the new Economic Diversification Plan;

- Community Safety; and
- Endorsement of the new advocacy top-tier advocacy priorities

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the Advocacy Strategy for the Victorian State Government for the period of June to November 2025.

BACKGROUND

To ensure Council's advocacy efforts are coordinated, strategic, and impactful, officers prepare targeted Advocacy Strategies. These strategies are developed to centralise Council's top-tier advocacy priorities and outline a clear and structured approach for engagement with both State and Federal Governments.

Each strategy is informed by key political milestones, including state and federal budget cycles and election timelines. This ensures that Council's advocacy efforts are timely and aligned with opportunities to secure funding and policy support.

Officers have prepared a draft Advocacy Strategy **– Attachment 1** focused on engagement with the Victorian State Government for the period from June to November 2025. A key component of this Strategy is a planned Council delegation to State Parliament in July 2025.

The Strategy includes coordinated engagement with local Members of Parliament, Shadow Ministers, and will include Parliamentary Secretaries when required. A key feature of the Strategy is the use of roundtable discussions and advocacy events, designed to bring multiple stakeholders together in one setting to address key issues collectively. The roundtable and events proposed as part of this strategy include economic diversification, community safety and the endorsement of the new advocacy platform. Officers will closely monitor participation and outcomes to ensure the approach delivers a strong return of investment.

This Strategy is guided by the priority projects endorsed by Council at the 1 July 2024 Council Meeting as part of the 2025/26 Advocacy Agenda **– Attachment 2** These priority projects include:

- Latrobe New Energy Future;
- Victorian Aerospace Technology Precinct;
- Flood Recovery and Resilience;
- Inter-Township Trail Network;
- Residential Development Precincts;
- Latrobe's Future of Education;
- Traralgon Bypass;
- Traralgon East-West Link; and
- Moe Revitalisation Stage 3 – Infrastructure Transformation.

In addition to these projects, the Strategy incorporates Council resolutions relating to:

- Water levels at Lake Narracan;
- Centre of Advanced Automotive Futures;
- Community Safety Concerns; and
- Emergency Service Volunteers Fund (ESVF) levy.

In developing this Strategy, officers carefully considered the broader political cycle, including the timing of state and federal budgets, upcoming elections, and opportunities for delegations to state and federal governments. These key moments provide strategic windows to present Council's priorities directly to elected officials and senior departmental staff. By aligning advocacy efforts with these cycles, Council can better position its initiatives on the government's agenda ahead of the budgets and elections increasing the likelihood of influencing policy decisions and securing funding allocations.

ANALYSIS

A comprehensive stakeholder mapping exercise was undertaken to align each priority project with the relevant Ministers and Shadow Ministers based on their portfolio responsibilities. This targeted approach ensures that advocacy efforts are directed to the appropriate decision-makers, maximising the chances of positive outcomes.

Officers acknowledge that securing meetings with all stakeholders identified in the stakeholder map may not be feasible. However, Council can pursue alternative avenues for engagement, such as circulating government submissions, corresponding with government advisors, and writing letters to relevant Ministers and departments.

The stakeholder map is outlined below.

Members Name	Portfolio
Martin Cameron	State Member for Morwell
Danny O'Brien	State Member for South Gippsland Shadow Minister for Roads and Road Safety Shadow Minister for Regional Development
Melina Bath	State Member for Eastern Victoria
Harriet Shing	State Member for Eastern Victoria Minister for Housing & Building Minister for Development Victoria and Precincts
Jacinta Allan	Premier
Colin Brooks	Minister for Industry and Advanced Manufacturing
Ben Carroll	Deputy Premier

Members Name	Portfolio
Lily D ’Ambrosio	Minister for Climate Action Minister for Energy and Resources Minister for the State Electricity Commission
Anthony Carbine	Minister for Police Minister for Community Safety
Sonya Kilkenny	Attorney General Minister for Planning
Steve Dimopoulos	Minister for Environment Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Minister for Outdoor Recreation
Melissa Horne	Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Danny Pearson	Minister for Economic Growth and Jobs
Ros Spence	Minister for Community Sport
Nick Staikos	Minister for Local Government
Natalie Suleyman	Minister for small business and employment
Jaclyn Symes	Minister for Regional Development
Gayle Tierney	Minister for Skills and TAFE Minister for Water
Brad Battin	Leader of the Opposition
Sam Growth	Shadow Minister for Tourism, Sport, Events and Hospitality Deputy Leader of the Opposition
David Davis	Shadow Minister for Energy and Resources
Matthew Guy	Shadow Minister for Transition to Government
David Hodgett	Shadow Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation
Bev McArthur	Shadow Minister for Local Government
Tim McCurdy	Shadow Minister for Water
Cindy McLeish	Shadow Minister for Crime Prevention
David Southwick	Shadow Minister for Police and Corrections
Jess Wilson	Shadow Minister for Industry and Economic Growth

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
FINANCIAL Failure to advocate for projects could result in the community missing out on projects and or the Council may need to fund the projects.	**Medium** *Unlikely x moderate*	Council will continue to advocate in a financial responsible and sustainable way.
STRATEGIC Failure to support an Advocacy Strategy, will result in Council advocating in a reactive and disjoint way that will minimise impact.	**Low** *Unlikely x Minor*	Council to endorse the Advocacy Strategy for the Victorian State Government.
STRATEGIC Community sentiment not supportive of the advocacy priorities.	**Low** *Unlikely x Minor*	The advocacy priorities identified in this strategy are consistent with the platform for the Federal election and the 2025/2026 State and Federal Budgets.

CONSULTATION

As part of the Strategy, the Mayor with support from Council's CEO will communicate with the relevant members of parliament Council is successful in securing a meeting with.

COMMUNICATION

On completion of the State Delegation a media release and LinkedIn post will be coordinated.

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

Not applicable.

Cultural

Not applicable.

Health

Not applicable.

Environmental

Not applicable.

Economic

Securing commitments for the priority projects through the state government will further support Latrobe City's ongoing economic diversification through investment in jobs, the economy, and the liveability of the region.

Financial

Securing funding from Government will enable the identified priority projects to proceed and reduce the financial burden on Council.

All delegation expenses will be funded from the 2025/26 advocacy budget.

Attachments

1. Advocacy Strategy
2. Advocacy Agenda 2025/26

8.4

Latrobe City Council Advocacy Strategy for the Victorian State Government

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2 Advocacy Agenda 2025/26..... 469

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State Government Advocacy Strategy

Objective

This is a short-term advocacy strategy that has been developed to support Council to advocate to the Victorian State Government for the period of June 2025 – November 2025.

Approach

The strategy covers the period from June to November 2025 and is based on best-practice advocacy principles. It includes coordinated engagement with local Members of Parliament, Shadow Ministers. In the event where Officers fail to secure meeting with the relevant Ministers Parliamentary Secretaries will be contacted, the portfolios will reflect those highlighted in the Ministerial list.

Roundtables & Advocacy Events

A key feature of the strategy is the use of roundtable discussions, designed to bring multiple stakeholders together in one setting to address key issues collectively. While this approach has potential for greater impact, Officers note that roundtables can be resource intensive to organise with no guarantee of multiple stakeholder participation. As such, Officers will closely monitor participation and outcomes to ensure the approach delivers a strong return of investment.

Roundtables Community Safety and Economic Diversification

A round table on Community Safety and Econom8ic Diversification has been proposed with members of the opposition as part of the delegation to State Parliament.

Advocacy Priorities (Q4)

Following the endorsement of the new Top-Tier Advocacy Priorities, Offers recommend a breakfast or a morning tea to launch the new platform. The invite list will include all Councillors, Local MPs, Upper House Members, Ministers and Shadow Ministers and relevant departments.

Economic Diversification Plan (Q4)

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Following the endorsement of the new Economic diversification plan, officers recommend hosting a launch event. This will include all Councillors, Local MPs, Upper House Members Ministers and Shadow Ministers and relevant departments

Projects

Except for community safety CAAF and the Emergency Service Volunteer Fund (ESVF) levy all the below listed projects were endorsed as part of the 2025/26 Advocacy Agenda. Council will pivot away from this document once the new priorities are endorsed.

Economic Diversification jobs and skills

Latrobe City's New Energy Future

- ✓ Localised job quotas within the Renewable energy sector, including at the SEC.
- ✓ Wind and Hydrogen Worker Training Centres
- ✓ SEC Centre of Excellence
- ✓ Government Support for Net Zero Uses of Lignite
- ✓ Removal of the Coal overlays
- ✓ Localised Jobs and Skills Plan
- ✓ Ongoing support for CarbonNet
- ✓ Develop community benefit sharing

Latrobe Aerospace Technology Precinct at Latrobe Regional Airport

- ✓ AAM Facility $10 million
- ✓ Taxiway Extension $5 million

Latrobe's Future of Education

- ✓ Health and Education Hub

Liveability & Connectivity

Inter – township Trail Network

- ✓ Planning and Design funding $3 million

Flood Recovery and Resilience

- ✓ $4.75 million for Glenview Park and the Men's Shed.

Traralgon Bypass & East West Link

- ✓ State and federal government support to commit to the delivery timeline for the bypass

Moe Revitalisation Project Stage 3

- ✓ **$7.5 million**

Infrastructure Transformation

- ✓ Work with DTP to refine Ask

Residential Development Precincts

- ✓ Trunk infrastructure for residential and housing

CAAF

Our Community

Community Safety
Lake Narracan Water Levels
Emergency Service Volunteer Fund (ESVF) levy

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Stakeholder Map

This stakeholder map is accurate at the time of drafting and is subject to change based on government reshuffles and shifts in the political landscape.

Although Parliamentary Secretaries are not listed, there may be specific times when it is recommended to engage with them.

	Name	Portfolio	Project alignment	Comments
Local members	Martin Cameron	State Member for Morwell	All	Roundtable Invitation sent 8/05 Confirmed
	Danny O'Brien	State Member for South Gippsland Shadow Minister for Roads and Road Safety Shadow Minister for Regional Development	Economic Diversification Jobs and skills Inter – township Trail Network	Roundtable Invitation sent 8/05
Upper House Members	Renee Heath	State Member for Eastern Victoria	All	Roundtable Invitation sent 8/05
	Melina Bath	State Member for Eastern Victoria	All	Roundtable Invitation sent 8/05
	Harriet Shing	State Member for Eastern Victoria Minister for Housing & Building Minister for Development Victoria and Precincts	All	Invitation sent 8/05
Government Ministers	Jacinta Allan	Premier	All	Invitation sent 8/05

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	Ben Carroll	Deputy Premier	All	Invitation sent 8/05
	Colin Brooks	Minister for Industry and Advanced Manufacturing	Latrobe Aerospace Technology Precinct at Latrobe Regional Airport Latrobe City's New Energy Future CAAF	Invitation sent 8/05 Meeting confirmed 19/05
	Anthony Carbine	Minister for Police Minister for Community Safety	Community Safety	Invitation sent 05/05
	Lily D'Ambrosio	Minister for Climate Action Minister for Energy and Resources Minister for the State Electricity Commission	Latrobe City's New Energy Future *Net Zero uses of coal for Jobs* *CAAF*	Invitation sent 8/05
	Sonya Kilkenny	Attorney General Minister for Planning	Community Safety	Invitation sent 05/05 Meeting redirected to Minister for Police
	Steve Dimopoulos	Minister for Environment Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Minister for Outdoor Recreation	Inter – township Trail Network	Invitation sent 8/05
	Danny Pearson	Minister for Economic Growth and Jobs	Latrobe Aerospace Technology Precinct at Latrobe Regional Airport Latrobe City's New Energy Future *Net Zero uses of coal for Jobs*	Invitation sent 8/05

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	Ros Spence	Minister for Community Sport	Flood Recovery Project	Invitation sent 8/05 Confirmed
	Nick Staikos	Minister for Local Government		Invitation sent 8/05
	Natalie Suleyman	Minister for small business and employment	Economic diversification	Invitation sent 8/05
	Jaclyn Symes	Minister for Regional Development	All	Invitation sent 8/05
	Gayle Tierney	Minister for Skills and TAFE Minister for Water	Lake Narracan Water Levels Wind and Hydrogen Worker Training Centres SEC Centre of Excellence	Invitation sent 8/05
Shadow Minister	Brad Battin	Leader of the Opposition	All	Roundtable Invitation sent 8/05
	Sam Groth	Shadow Minister for Tourism, Sport, Events and Hospitality Deputy Leader of the Opposition	Inter – township Trail Network CAAF	Roundtable Invitation sent 8/05

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	David Davis	Shadow Minister for Energy and Resources	Latrobe City's New Energy Future	Roundtable Invitation sent 8/05
	Matthew Guy	Shadow Minister for Transition to Government		Roundtable Invitation sent 8/05
	David Hodgett	Shadow Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation	Latrobe City's New Energy Future Latrobe Aerospace Technology Precinct at Latrobe Regional Airport	Roundtable Invitation sent 8/05
	Bev McArthur	Shadow Minister for Local Government		Roundtable Invitation sent 8/05 Individual meeting request received
	Tim McCurdy	Shadow Minister for Water	Lake Narracan Water Levels	Request will be sent following meetings with the Minister for Water
	Cindy McLeish	Shadow Minister for Crime Prevention	Community Safety	Roundtable Invitation sent 8/05

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	David Southwick	Shadow Minister for Police and Corrections	Community Safety	Roundtable Invitation sent 8/05 Confirmed
	Jess Wilson	Shadow Minister for Industry and Economic Growth	Latrobe Aerospace Technology Precinct at Latrobe Regional Airport Latrobe City's New Energy Future	Roundtable Invitation sent 8/05
Departments	State Electricity Commission		Localised job quotas within the Renewable energy sector, including at the SEC. Wind and Hydrogen Worker Training Centres SEC Centre of Excellence	
	VicGrid		REZ, Local content	
	CarbonNet		HESC/ Net Zero uses for Coal	
	DTP		Traralgon Bypass Traralgon East West Link Traralgon Masterplan Infrastructure Transformation	

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	Invest Victoria		Latrobe Aerospace Technology Precinct at Latrobe Regional Airport Net Zero uses for Coal	
	Regional Development Victoria		All Net Zero uses for Coal	

LatrobeCity Council
Advocacy Agenda
2025/26

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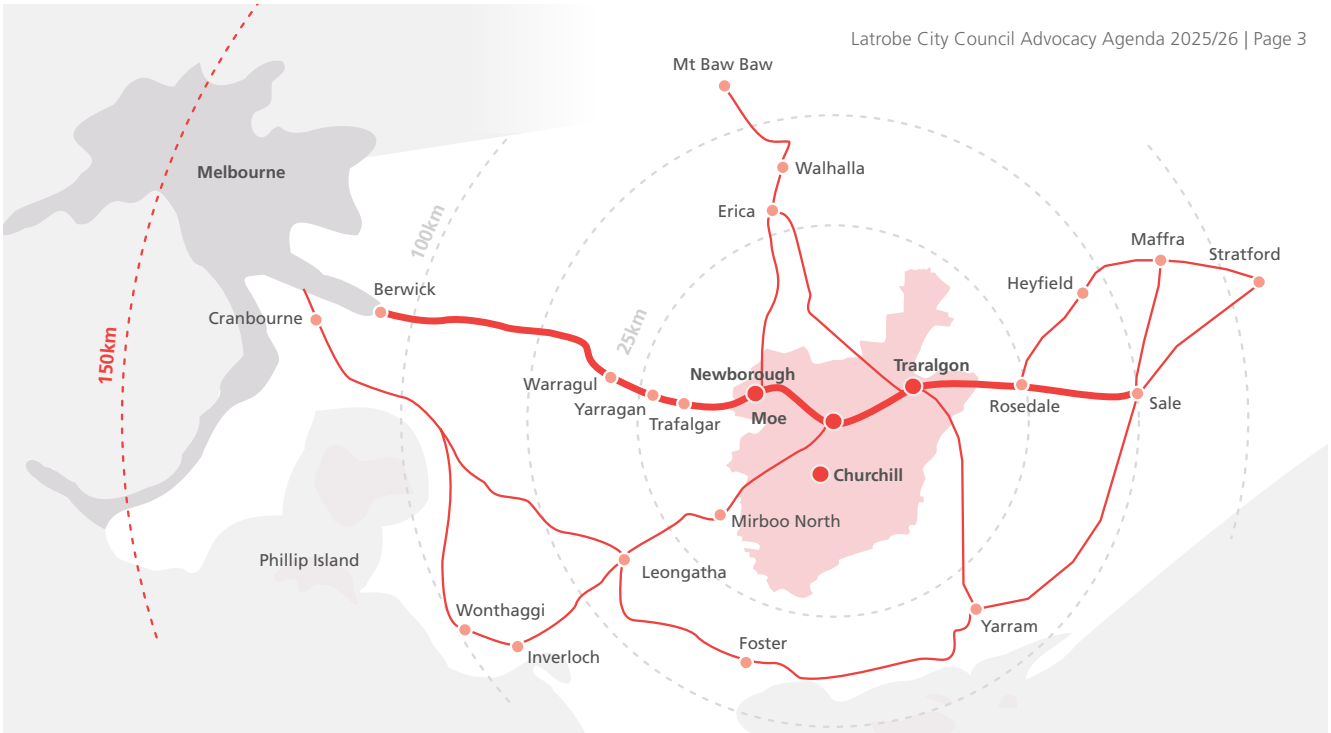


Latrobe City is one of Victoria's major Regional Cities. It is located 135 km east of Melbourne and has a population of approximately 75,500. The municipality comprises of several major urban centres, is the primary service and cultural centre for the Gippsland region, and hosts regional headquarters for government, private, and education entities.

Latrobe City is undergoing a significant economic transition as it shifts towards a more sustainable and diverse economy. The region has long been known for its traditional industries, having served as Victoria's power generation centre for over 100 years. The global transition to cleaner energy sources to address climate change has seen the owner/operators of the region's power stations and mines announce their closure dates. The confirmation of these timelines has led to Latrobe City developing 'Our Transition' plan, which seeks to build on our strengths and support the region's economic transition and transformation. The plan supports the equitable diversification of Latrobe City's economic base and transition towards a low emission future through attracting investment, upskilling to meet needs, skilled workforce promotion, understanding future job opportunities, providing business support, and promoting Latrobe City.

Latrobe City businesses employ approximately 35,322 people. With a Gross Regional Product (GRP) valued at $6.2 billion, Latrobe City makes a significant contribution to the Victorian economy.

Overall, electricity, gas, water, and waste services are the most valuable industries in Latrobe City, yielding over $3.5 billion in regional output. Other important industries include healthcare, manufacturing, construction, rental, hiring and real estate services and social assistance.

With the upcoming closure of Yallourn Power station in 2028 and Loy Yang A Power Station in 2035, we have reached a critical point in our transition. While we appreciate the significant investments made by both state and federal governments, there is still more work to be done. This is why Council is seeking investments in key projects to support our community's prosperity.

We are committed to advocating for investments in crucial industries that will create new jobs and career pathways, support local businesses, and diversify our economy. Strategic investments from all levels of government will be essential to unlocking our potential as a strong, progressive, and fast-growing regional city.

To view our Transition Plan, scan the QR code.

LatrobeCity

LATROBE CITY'S NEW ENERGY FUTURE

Invest in our new energy future to:

- Create new jobs and career pathways
- Support local investment and procurement.

ADVOCACY AGENDA 25/26 PROPOSAL #1:

LATROBE CITY'S NEW ENERGY FUTURE

Latrobe City Council is calling on state and federal governments to guarantee the liveability of the city via an equitable transition to our new energy future.

Latrobe City Council is calling on both state and federal governments to guarantee our community is a beneficiary of the clean energy economy through investment that will drive opportunities in hydrogen and renewable energy, create jobs, and attract new industries to the region.

Academic experts recognise that economic diversification is one of the three best ways to grow a transitioning economy. With the Latrobe City at the forefront of the renewable energy transition and standing as the most heavily impacted municipality in Victoria, the time to act is now.

With the closure dates for the regions power stations and mines announced for 2028 and 2035, greater certainty regarding the future of the local workforce is critical. With access to transmission lines, freight networks, a skilled workforce and ample industrial land, Latrobe City is primed to lead this transformative shift.

With the shift to Net Zero a key priority for state and federal governments, Latrobe City Council stands ready to continue to be the epicentre for the energy economy.

This is why we are calling on both the state and federal governments to introduce targeted measures to drive clean energy investment, support economic recovery, and facilitate jobs. We want to work with all levels of government, prioritising investment in areas such as renewable energy generation and hydrogen. This will support our economy to diversify and ensure sustained economic prosperity for our community now and into the future.

We are calling for:

- A localised job quota within the renewable energy sector, including at the State Electricity Commission (SEC) in Morwell.
- Development of new renewable energy generation and transmission infrastructure in Latrobe City.
- Latrobe City to be classified as a Renewable Energy Hub.
- Latrobe City to be the home of the Wind and Hydrogen Worker Training Centres.
- Latrobe City to be the home of the SEC Centre of Excellence.
- Blue and green hydrogen pathways and supply chains in the region.
- Government support for net zero uses of lignite
- Ensure policy frameworks exist to maximise local procurement and job opportunities.
- Removal of the Coal Overlays.
- A comprehensive audit of existing energy workforce and development of a localised jobs and skills plan for Latrobe City.
- Ongoing government funding for CarbonNet.
- Government support for the Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain (HESC) and its commercialisation in Latrobe City.
- Fast track approvals to realise the $41bn investment in Offshore Wind.
- Develop community benefit sharing schemes in partnership with local government and stakeholders.

Latrobe*City*

LATROBE AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY PRECINCT AT LATROBE REGIONAL AIRPORT

Invest in the Victorian Centre for Advanced Air Mobility (AMM) at Latrobe Regional Airport to:

- Diversify our economy
- Create new industries

ADVOCACY AGENDA 25/26 PROPOSAL #2:

LATROBE AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY PRECINCT AT LATROBE REGIONAL AIRPORT

Latrobe City Council is calling on state and federal governments to invest in Australia's only Integrated Advanced Air Mobility Ecosystem to diversify our economy and create new industries.

Latrobe City Council is calling on both state and federal governments to partner with us and invest in the development of the Latrobe Aerospace Technology Precinct (Precinct).

Established in 2024 at the Latrobe Regional Airport, this state-of-the-art hub is the first of its kind in Australia. Launched in partnership with Invest Victoria, this strategically positioned Precinct was designed with a vision to generate investment and technological advancements in emerging zero-emissions industries, particularly Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) and other eco-friendly aviation initiatives that offer significant economic, environmental, and industrial benefits.

With sustainable aviation and technologies being a key priority of the federal government's policy agenda, Council stands ready to house investment in emerging industries.

This is why we are calling on both state and federal governments to partner with us and build a dedicated AAM facility that will support small-scale manufacturing, research, and development, and be a 'launchpad' for startups.

This purpose-built facility will underpin Australia's first fully integrated AAM ecosystem, facilitating economic diversification while generating employment opportunities and paving the way for a new industry workforce. It will enhance access to local Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) jobs, foster innovation among startups and enable new zero-emissions capabilities across various sectors such as logistics, emergency services, and passenger transport.

Our proposal for the Precinct also aims to activate council-owned commercially zoned land by extending a taxiway, facilitating development, providing access to land for the niche aviation market, and importantly generate hundreds of jobs.

We are calling for:

- State and federal governments to partner with us to drive investment at the Latrobe Regional Airport.

Latrobe*City*

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PRECINCTS

Invest in trunk infrastructure to:

- Unlock Latrobe City's growth
- Support more people into housing.

ADVOCACY AGENDA 25/26 PROPOSAL #3:

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PRECINCTS

Latrobe City Council is calling on state and federal governments to invest in the establishment of a trunk infrastructure fund to boost housing supply and create more jobs closer to home.

Latrobe City Council is calling on both state and federal governments to establish an infrastructure fund to tackle the current challenges in delivering trunk infrastructure in regional developments to drive residential growth.

As one of Victoria's four Regional Cities, Latrobe City provides an exceptional quality of life. It offers access to top-tier sporting facilities, a world-class performing arts centre, diverse retail opportunities, educational institutions like TAFE Gippsland and Federation University, and established public transportation via the Gippsland train line.

Housing affordability in Latrobe City also stands out compared to neighbouring municipalities, with median house prices ranging from $338K to $480K, significantly lower than the $665K median price in adjacent areas. This makes Latrobe City a logical choice for supporting population growth.

With housing availability a key priority for both state and federal governments, Council stands ready to play a vital role by providing access to land and new affordable homes.

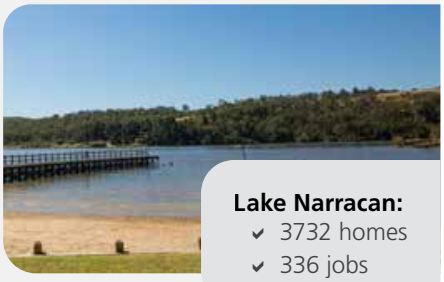
Our proposal for a trunk infrastructure fund would aim to support the initial upfront delivery of crucial infrastructure, including sewerage, gas, electricity, and arterial road connections, to fast-track development. Developers would replenish the fund as lots become available, ensuring its continuous use for future developments.

The introduction of the fund would empower communities in Latrobe City to activate housing developments faster, tackling the root problem of housing supply.

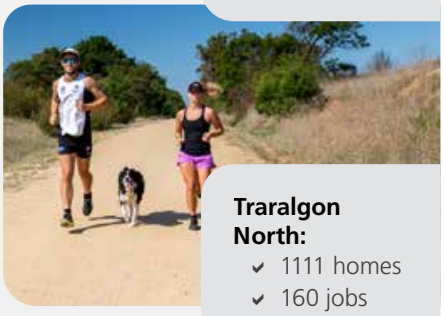
Council has been proactive in completing the required planning scheme amendments to ensure land is suitably zoned and have three shovel ready developments ready for trunk infrastructure.

We are calling for:

- An initial investment of $35 million to kick start a rolling trunk infrastructure fund that will deliver housing in three key locations.

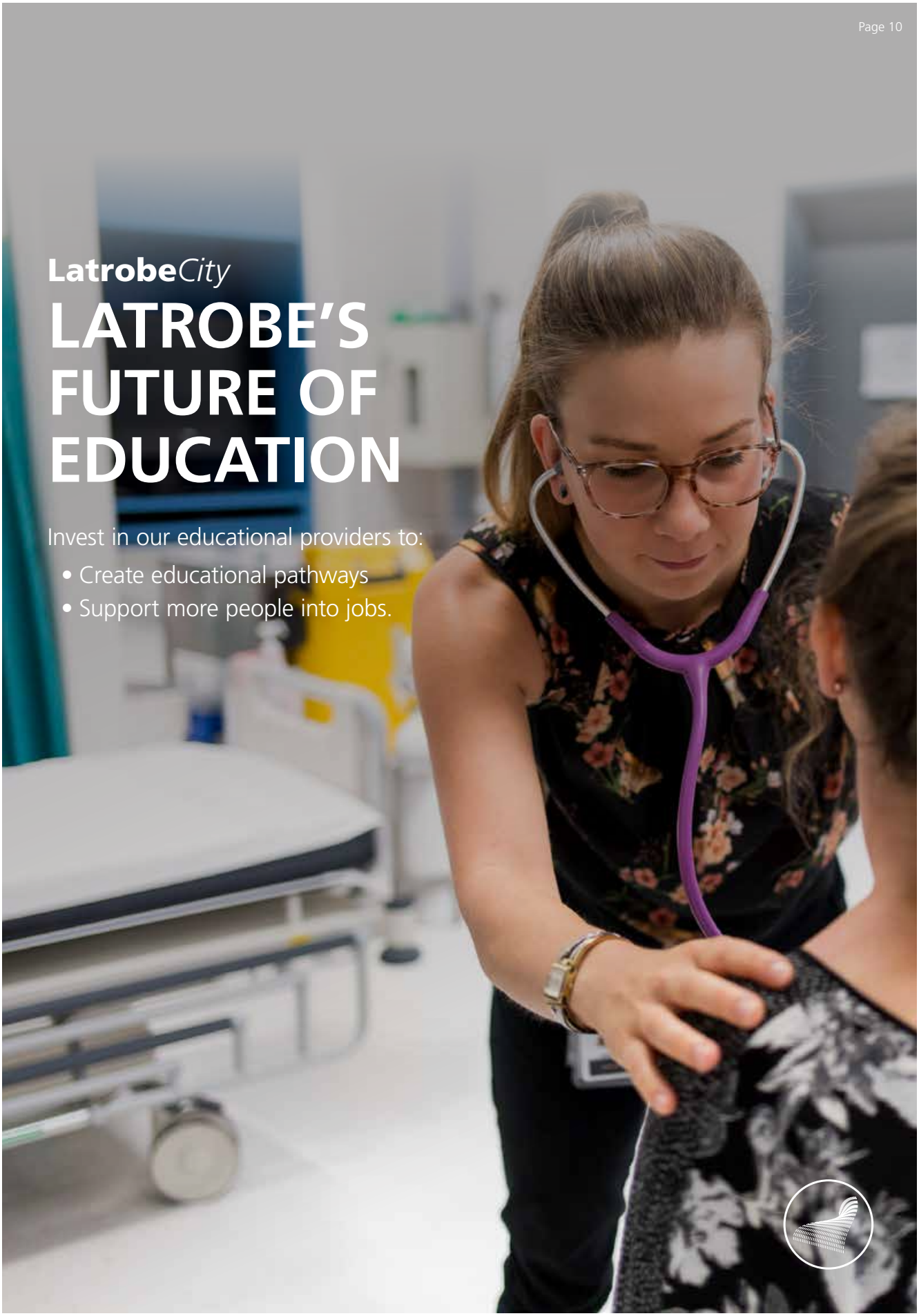


Lake Narracan:
- 3732 homes
- 336 jobs



Traralgon North:
- 1111 homes
- 160 jobs

Morwell North-West:
- 1280 homes
- 100 jobs


LatrobeCity
LATROBE'S FUTURE OF EDUCATION
Invest in our educational providers to:
• Create educational pathways
• Support more people into jobs.

ADVOCACY AGENDA 25/26 PROPOSAL #4:

LATROBE'S FUTURE OF EDUCATION

Latrobe City Council is calling on state and federal governments to increase funding for our educational providers to create education pathways that will boost jobs and skills.

Latrobe City Council is calling on both state and federal governments to invest in our educational providers to help more people get into jobs.

With the closure dates for the regions power stations and mines announced for 2028 and 2035, we need investment in jobs and education that will support our community to transition.

With the state government investing heavily into Latrobe Regional Health and supporting the recruitment and training of over 17,000 nurses statewide Latrobe City stands ready to be part of the training program.

This is why Council is now partnering with Latrobe Regional Health and Federation University to call on both levels of government to invest in a Health and Education Hub at Latrobe Regional Health.

This exciting initiative will not only provide invaluable training and employment opportunities for nursing and allied health students it will also inject new vitality into our local economy. By diversifying our economic landscape and enhancing educational prospects, we can attract and retain talented individuals within our vibrant community.

We are also calling on the state government to establish the SEC Centre of Excellence and the Wind and Hydrogen Worker Training Centres in Latrobe City. These centres represent a significant leap towards sustainable energy practices and economic prosperity and will further support our transition by helping to reposition the Latrobe City as a Renewable Hub Energy Hub.

We are calling for:

- A comprehensive audit of existing energy workforce and development of a localised jobs and skills plan for Latrobe City.
- Latrobe City to be the home of the Wind and Hydrogen Worker Training Centres.
- Latrobe City to be the home of the SEC Centre of Excellence.
- Funding boost for health sector training.
- Health Education Hub.

Latrobe*City*

INTER-TOWNSHIP TRAIL NETWORK

Invest in our tourism economy to:

- Attract new tourism industries
- Increase visitation.

ADVOCACY AGENDA 25/26 PROPOSAL #5:

INTER-TOWNSHIP TRAIL NETWORK

Latrobe City Council is calling on both state and federal governments to invest in our tourism economy to attract new industries, increase visitation and provide more attractions locally.

Latrobe City Council is calling on both state and federal governments to invest in an inter-township walking and cycling trail to bolster our visitor economy.

Nestled in the heartland of Gippsland, Latrobe City boasts a vibrant community surrounded by breathtaking bushland, serene waterfalls, picturesque lakes, and sprawling national parks, making it an exceptional destination for visitors.

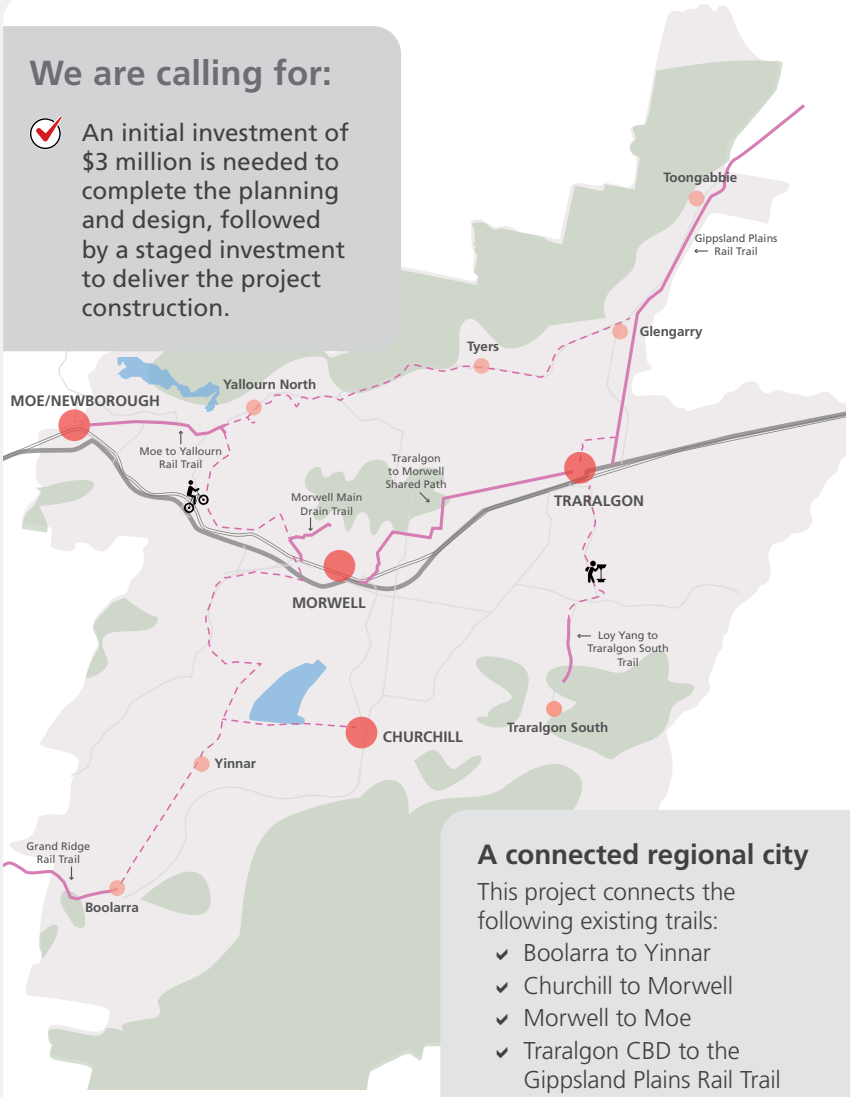
We need large-scale investment in new industries, including tourism offerings, to diversify our economy and ensure the prosperity of our community now and into the future.

This is why we have devised an ambitious plan to establish a network of trails between townships, spanning across Latrobe City and beyond. These trails will be accessible via the Gippsland train line, enabling visitors of all abilities to explore our stunning municipality.

By incorporating the significant Haunted Hills Mountain Bike Path and elements of rail heritage, these trails will offer a diverse range of experiences. From leisurely rides suitable for young families and beginners, to challenging off-road mountain bike trails and long-distance routes catering to seasoned rides, our trail network will appeal to all cyclists.

We are calling for:

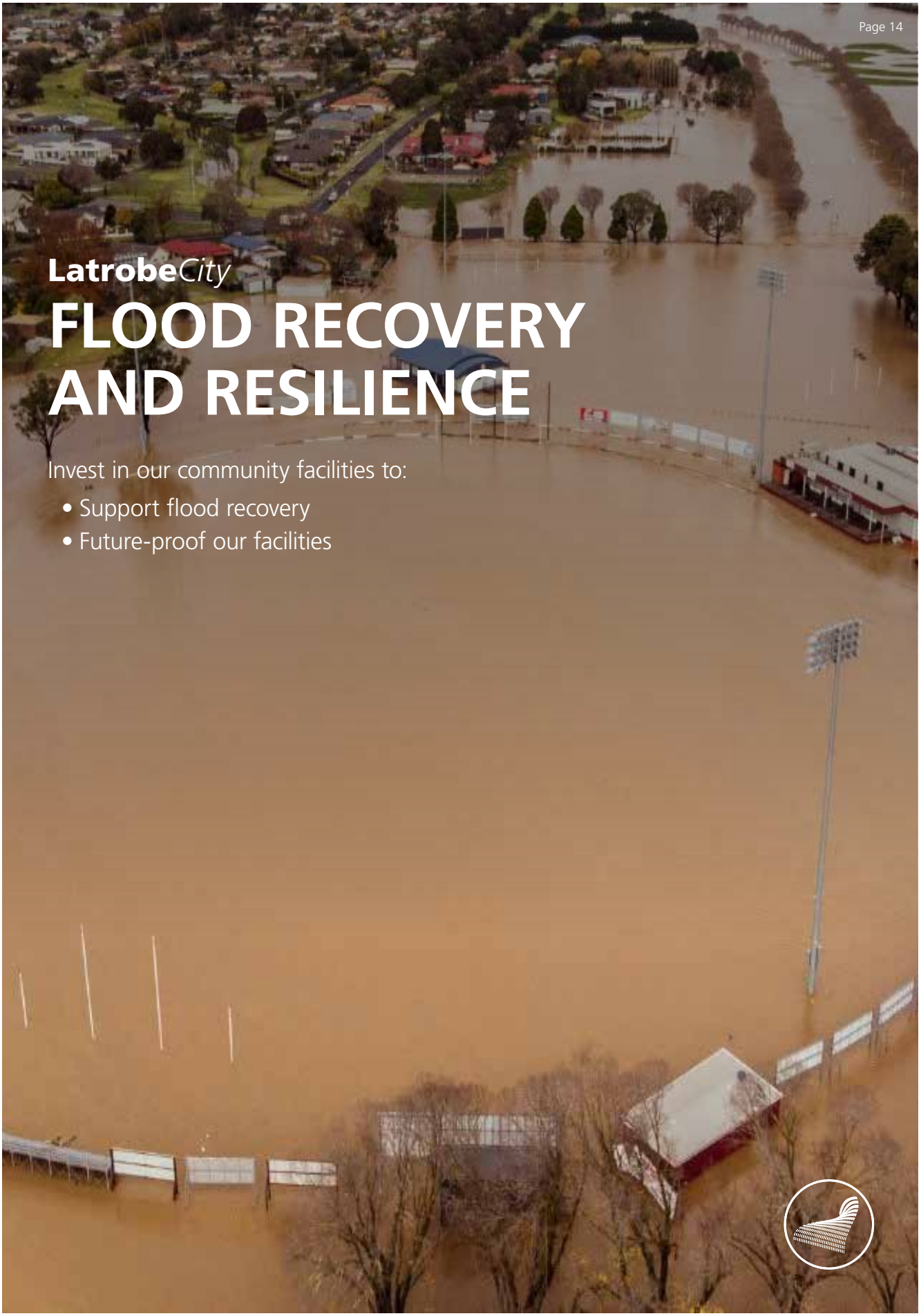
- An initial investment of $3 million is needed to complete the planning and design, followed by a staged investment to deliver the project construction.



A connected regional city

This project connects the following existing trails:

- Boolarra to Yinnar
- Churchill to Morwell
- Morwell to Moe
- Traralgon CBD to the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail
- Traralgon to Tyers
- Traralgon to Traralgon South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LatrobeCity
FLOOD RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE
Invest in our community facilities to:
• Support flood recovery
• Future-proof our facilities

ADVOCACY AGENDA 25/25 PROPOSAL #6:

FLOOD RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

Latrobe City Council is calling on the federal government to invest in the Traralgon Recreation Reserve and Glenview Park to support flood recovery, future-proof our facilities, and mitigate future flood events.

Council is calling on the federal government to partner with the Victorian State Government and Council to construct a new multi-use pavilion at Traralgon Recreation Reserve and a new multi-use sports hall at Glenview Park.

In June 2021, Victoria faced a severe weather event that resulted in widespread flooding across Latrobe City. Traralgon Creek experienced a peak of almost six metres of flood waters, exceeding major flood levels by nearly 1.5 metres, affecting over 100 buildings. This was the largest flooding of Traralgon Creek in living memory, leaving devastating impacts on the community.

The destruction resulted in many buildings home to user groups at the Traralgon Recreation Reserve being completely destroyed.

We know how important it is to provide safe, inclusive, and welcoming sports, recreation, and leisure facilities and how they play an important part in a well-balanced lifestyle.

The benefits associated with participating in sports and physical activity are clear, including physical and mental health, social interaction, personal enjoyment and achievement, community involvement, community resilience, and opportunities to express community pride.

This is why we are committed to advocating to rebuild two facilities to house the impacted user groups, including a brand-new multi-use pavilion at Traralgon Recreation Reserve and a multi-use sports hall at Glenview Park.

We understand what success can look like when all levels of government work together. We are grateful for the state governments commitment of $4.75 million to these important works and are now calling on the federal government to match it.

We are calling for:

- An investment of $4.75 million for the federal government to build a multi-use pavilion at Traralgon Recreation Reserve and a multi-use sports hall at Glenview Park.

Preparations complete

Traralgon Recreation Reserve Multi-use Pavilion

- Concept design
- 3D renders
- Cost plan
- Tender drawing
- Shovel ready

Glenview Park Multi-use Sports Hall

- Concept design
- 3D renders
- Cost plan
- Tender drawing
- Shovel ready

Images are 3D renders of concept plans only. Costs are Council's working estimates.

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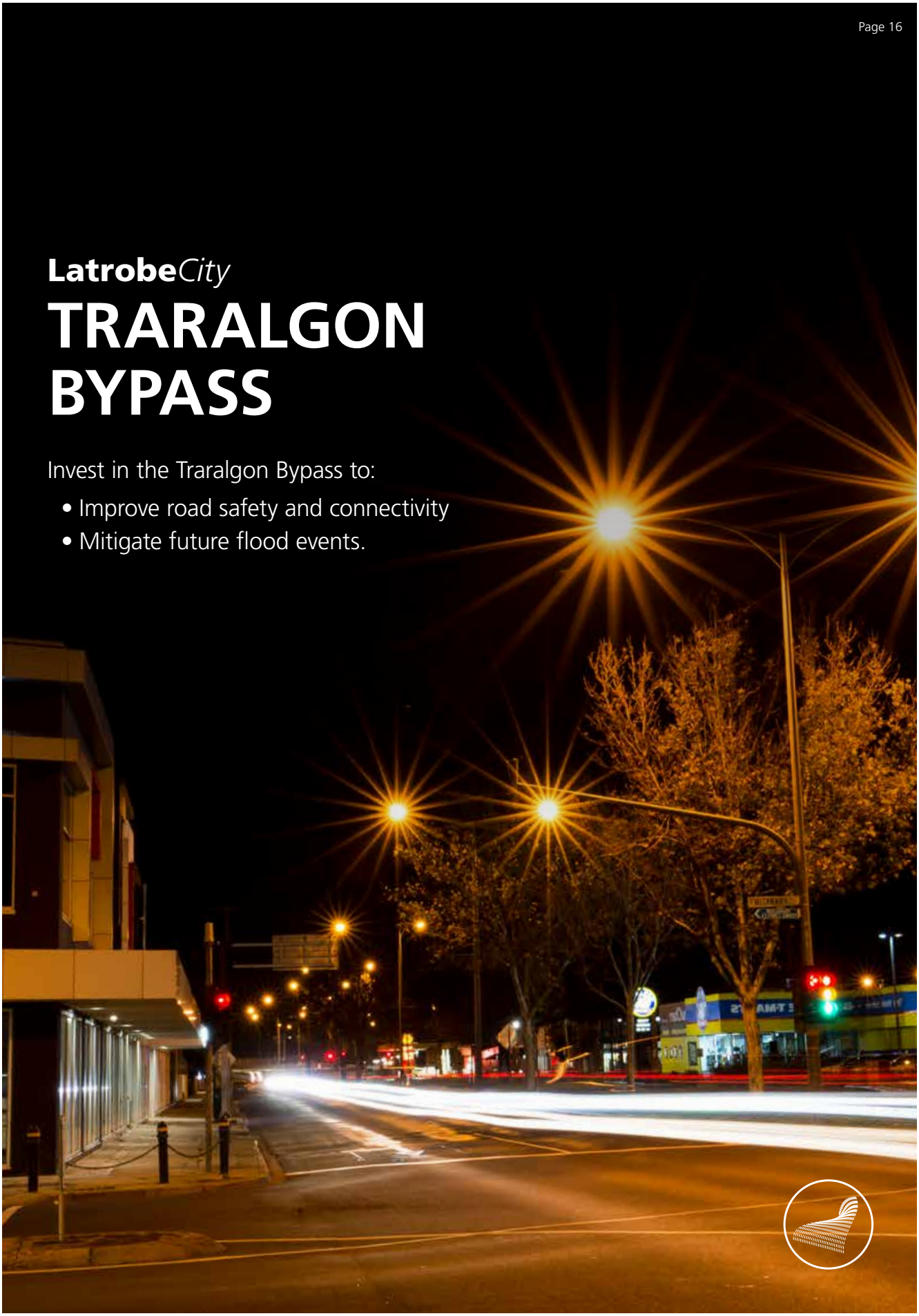
TRARALGON BYPASS

Invest in the Traralgon Bypass to:

- Improve road safety and connectivity
- Mitigate future flood events.



ADVOCACY AGENDA 25/25 PROPOSAL #7:

TRARALGON BYPASS

Latrobe City Council is calling on state and federal governments to invest in road infrastructure to get our community home safely and reduce congestion on our road network.

Latrobe City Council is calling on both the state and federal governments to invest in the Traralgon Bypass as a crucial step in addressing local traffic congestion and safety issues.

The Traralgon Bypass was recognised as a priority many years ago. It aims to divert heavy vehicles and through traffic away from the increasingly busy town centre.

As the largest town in a road freight-dependent region, we need a safe and efficient link to accommodate Gippsland's growing communities.

Extensive groundwork conducted by VicRoads in the 2000s included preliminary road designs and assessments covering various aspects such as flora, fauna, economics, land use, and cultural heritage. These efforts led to the formal inclusion of the bypass route in the Latrobe Planning Scheme in 2009, along with a subsequent commitment of $1.4 million by the state government in 2017 for bypass planning.

Further planning endeavours facilitated by Regional Roads Victoria involved community feedback on route preferences and interchange locations. The resulting study comprehensively analysed the economic, environmental, social, and traffic impacts of the proposed bypass. However, progress has been hindered by concerns regarding the proximity of the bypass to the Loy Yang mine and potential implications for rehabilitation efforts. With the scheduled closure of the Loy Yang mine now confirmed for 2035, we are calling on the federal government to prioritise this project.

The Traralgon Bypass is integral to the industry's needs and is highlighted as the highest priority in the Gippsland Freight Infrastructure Master Plan commissioned by Regional Development Australia.

We are confident that this project aligns with the priorities of the federal government to deliver infrastructure that improves productivity and resilience.

We are calling for:

- The state and federal governments to partner with us to commit to a delivery timeline for the Traralgon Bypass.

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TRARALGON EAST-WEST LINK

Invest in the Traralgon East-West Link to:

- Enhance the connectivity of the Traralgon community
- Improve road safety and reduce traffic congestion.

ADVOCACY AGENDA 25/26 PROPOSAL #8:

TRARALGON EAST-WEST LINK

Latrobe City Council is calling on state and federal governments to invest in road infrastructure that will support our growing population and growing towns.

Latrobe City Council is calling on both state and federal governments to invest in a Traralgon East-West Link to improve liveability and connectivity for our community.

As Traralgon continues to grow, we need investment in road infrastructure that will future-proof the road network, alleviating congestion and improving safety around the city centre.

The Traralgon East-West Link will divert traffic away from the Princes Highway and provide the community with an efficient and logical route to commute across town without the need to go via the city centre.

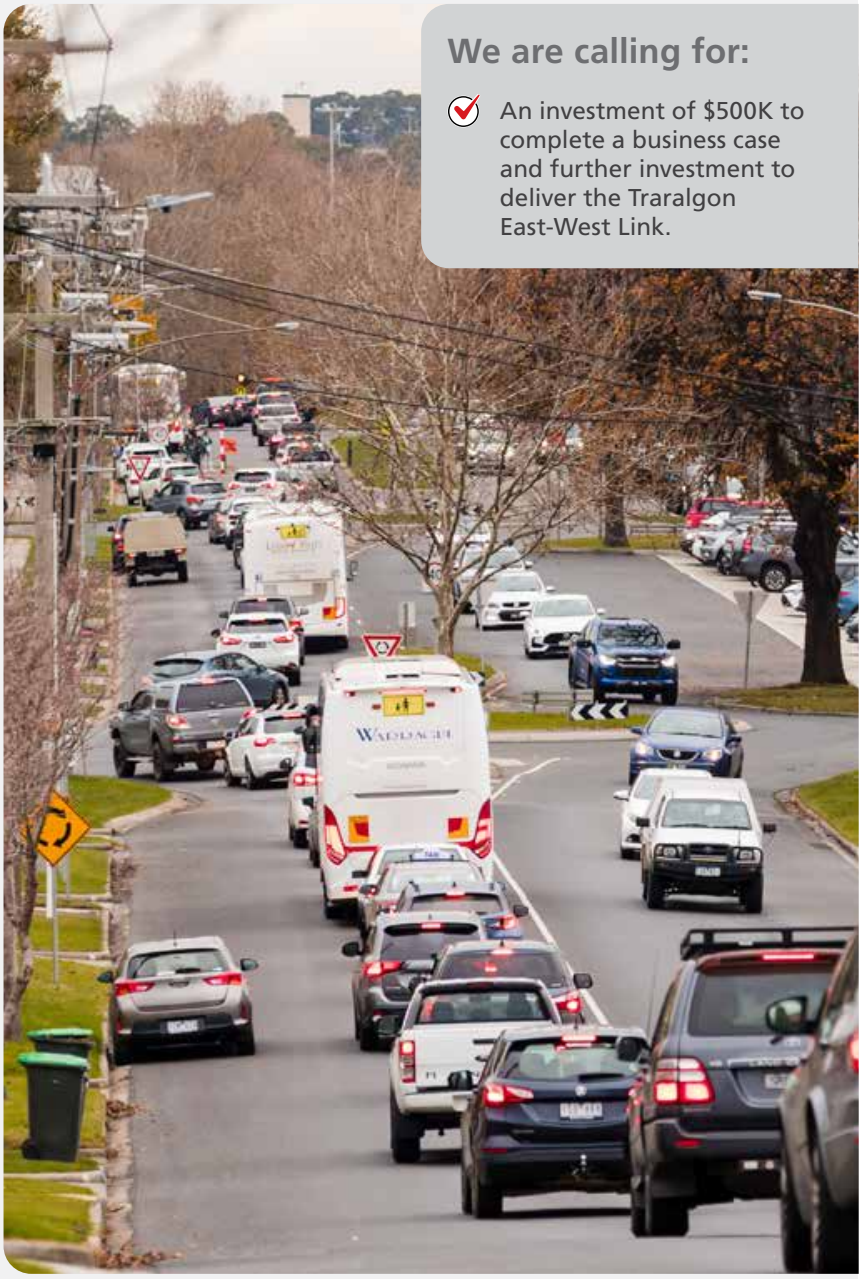
Presently, there are no viable east-west connections to the north of Traralgon, meaning commuters are required to travel via the city centre. This creates safety issues in and around the town centre and pushes traffic onto the already busy and congested Princes Highway.

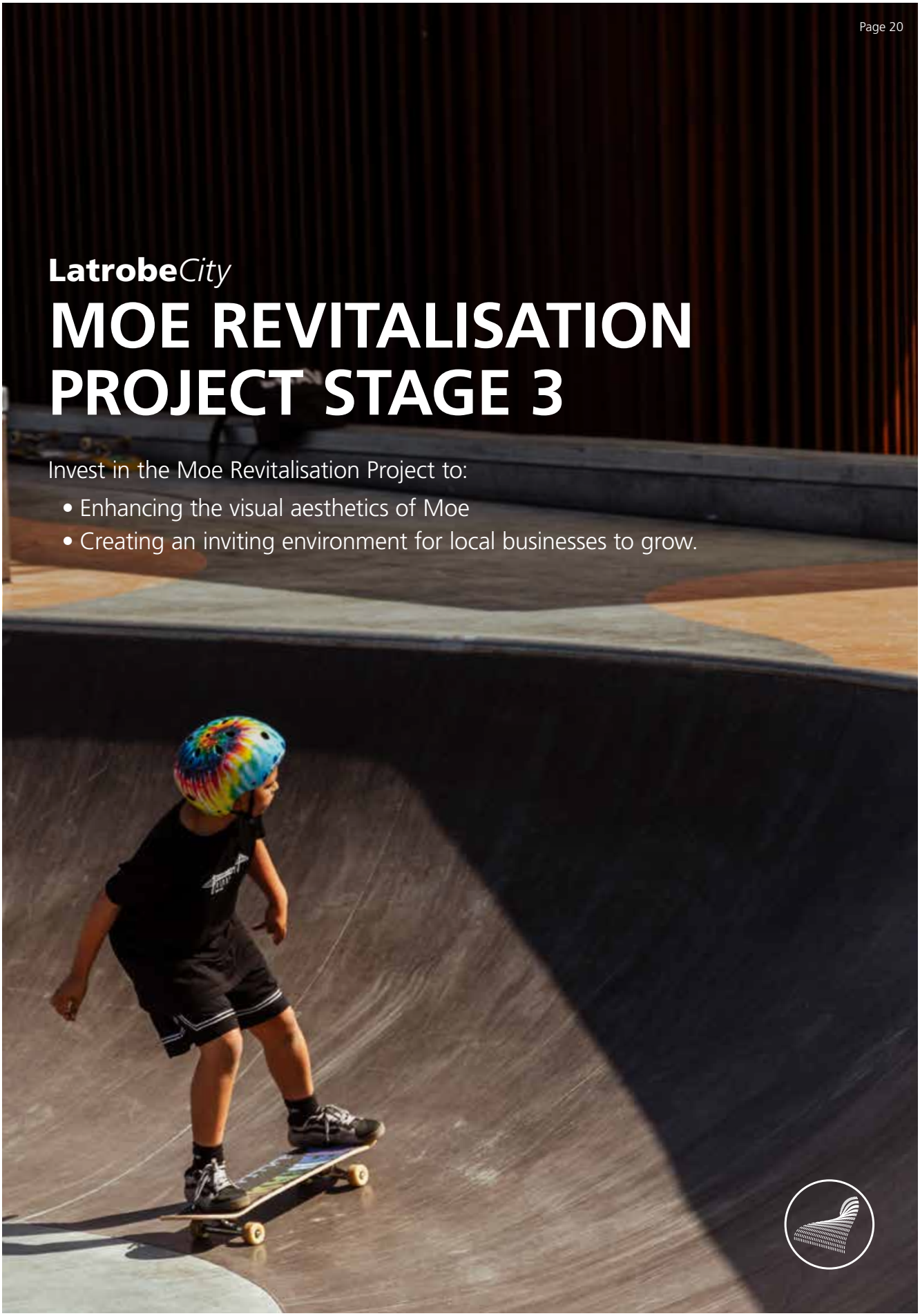
This is why we have created a plan to support traffic from the east to the west of Traralgon.

This project paves the way for the continued growth of Traralgon as a vital regional centre with a focus on enhancing the connectivity of our community.

We are calling for:

- An investment of $500K to complete a business case and further investment to deliver the Traralgon East-West Link.





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MOE REVITALISATION PROJECT STAGE 3

Invest in the Moe Revitalisation Project to:

- Enhancing the visual aesthetics of Moe
- Creating an inviting environment for local businesses to grow.

ADVOCACY AGENDA 25/26 PROPOSAL #9:

MOE REVITALISATION PROJECT STAGE 3

Latrobe City Council is calling on state and federal governments to invest in our precincts to continue creating safe and vibrant towns where our businesses and community can thrive.

Latrobe City Council is calling on both state and federal governments to invest in Stage 3 works for the Moe Revitalisation Project to enhance the vitality of the town and boost community pride.

Moe is a vibrant mix of residential, commercial, and industrial, with shops, cafés, restaurants, and a range of parks and recreational areas.

With numerous schools, employment opportunities, active community organisations, and inclusive events for people of all ages, Moe is a great place to live, work, and play. This is why Council has created a comprehensive plan to make the Moe township even better.

Our commitment is to enhance the vitality of the town centre. The plan seeks to build on the success of Stages 1 and 2 of the Revitalisation Project by creating a shared-use zone,commuter car park, beautification works, and street lighting.

This project will enhance the streetscape to better accommodate businesses, commuters, and pedestrians, while providing the community with a safe shared-use space to host events.

We are confident this project aligns with state and federal governments priorities to deliver transformative precincts that support the development of thriving and liveable towns.

We are calling for:

- ☑ $7.5 million to complete the detailed design and delivery of Stage 3 for the Moe Revitalisation Project.

Stage 3 will deliver

- **Redevelopment of Moore Street**
  Create a shared use zone.
- **Construction of a commuter car park**
  We aim to add easier parking for commuters, thereby improving accessibility and safety to the town centre.
- **Beautification works**
  Enhancements such as tree planting, installation of quality street furniture, brick paving, and the addition of arched canopies elevate the space's aesthetics and appeal.
- **Creation of a u-turn**
  A designated u-turn will allow for road closure in the shared use space to facilitate a safe and inclusive event space.
- **Safety measures**
  Increased public lighting and signage in the commuter car park to enhance safety and boost visitation at adjacent amenities such as shops and the skate park

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INFRASTRUCTURE TRANSFORMATION

Invest in our rail infrastructure to:

- Boost efficiencies of our Freight Network
- Transport workers to and from jobs.

ADVOCACY AGENDA 25/26 PROPOSAL #10:

INFRASTRUCTURE TRANSFORMATION

Latrobe City Council is calling on both state and federal governments to invest in integrated, well-planned public transport infrastructure to boost efficiencies of our freight network, transport workers to and from jobs, and bring visitors to our region.

Latrobe City Council is calling on both state and federal governments to invest in our rail infrastructure and services to improve the accessibility and reliability of the Gippsland train line and expand our rail freight opportunities.

Providing safe, fast, and reliable public transport is vital to local communities. It supports access to essential health, education, and professional services, transports workers to and from jobs, and attracts visitors to our region.

However, public transport does not always provide the support our community needs.

Current services fail to provide good connectivity between Latrobe City and Melbourne, impacting our municipality's ability to access larger centres, attract and retain a new population and workforce, and boost our visitor economy.

A standard train trip from Traralgon to Flinders Street, Melbourne is approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes, double the commute of other regional cities.

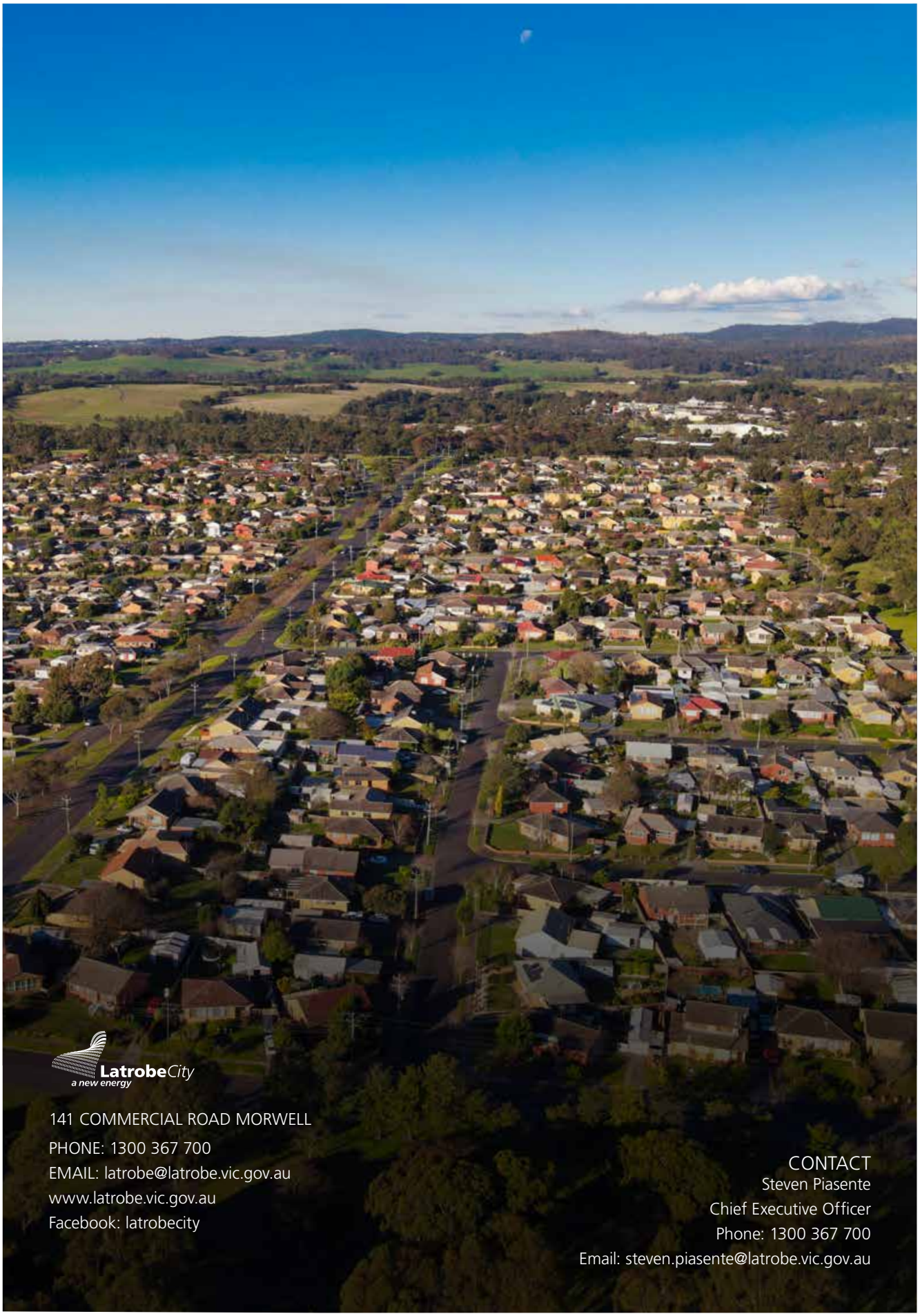
Providing express services and duplicating the train line is part of the solution.

This investment will not only diversify our economy but also expand our freight offerings, enhance the functionality of our existing freight infrastructure, and improve the safety of our road network. It is a step towards creating more jobs and fostering economic growth in our region.

Further government investment in several important projects is needed to reduce the community's resilience on vehicle use.

We are calling for:

- **Improved passenger services** To deliver fast efficient and reliable services.
- **Infrastructure upgrades** Duplicate tracks and bridges between Bunyip and Longwarry to enable more reliable service provision.
- **Track upgrades** Progressively upgrade the track between Traralgon, Sale and Bairnsdale to enhance connectivity.
- **Freight passing loop** Develop a freight passing loop at Sale or Wurruk to promote efficiency.
- **Northern track upgrades** Upgrade the northern tracks to improve travel times and extend track duplication to Morwell.
- **Protect freight routes** Upgrade and maintain routes from Gippsland to Melbourne Ports and Intermodal Hubs, ensuring future demand is met. This includes preserving freight service 'slots' on the Gippsland train line.
- **Intermodal freight hub** Establish a dedicated intermodal freight hub to serve Gippsland businesses utilising the Gippsland train line.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CREATIVE VENUES FEES AND CHARGES

PURPOSE

To seek Council endorsement on the proposed changes to the Conditions of Hire for Creative Venues and the introduction of two new fees; rehearsal fee and education rate.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Officers acknowledge that Council has indicated retaining FY24/25 fees and charges without a CPI increase. Therefore, this report focuses on changes to the Conditions of Hire, which are operational in nature and do not require formal amendment to the fees schedule – apart from a new fee for Rehearsal hire and the introduction of an Education Rate at 10% below Community Rate.
- Officers propose to insert new items of Rehearsal Rate and Education Rate into the fees and charges within the 25/26 Council budget when considered for adoption at the June meeting.
- The proposed changes aim to address cost pressures on key user groups such as schools, community arts organisations, and local performance groups through clearer, more equitable, and more flexible hiring conditions.
- The report responds to Council's September 2024 resolution to review affordability and venue access and includes proposed reforms that support community use without compromising venue sustainability.
- Officers invited input from 46 local community organisations who have historically accessed Latrobe City Creative Venues and received responses back from 10.

Key proposed changes include:

- Redefinition of hirer categories to reflect event purpose, not organisation type.
- A 10% discounted Education Rate for schools and training or assessment - based bookings, including Eisteddfod.
- Removal of automatic Dark Day charges, replaced by a demand-based approach.
- Introduction of a flat $75/hour rehearsal rate for non-technical bookings.
- Removal of the community ticket price cap to support fundraising flexibility.
- Adjustment of the ticket fee to be a flat 5% of total ticket income for Community hirers. This will cover relevant Box Office costs to administer tickets while enabling community hirers to maximise revenue.

- A proposed hybrid classification model for dance schools, recognising their dual educational and commercial purposes.
- These reforms are designed to enhance access and user experience while maintaining financial viability and operational efficiency for Council's Creative Venues.
- Officers have made several immediate operational improvements responding to feedback from hirers. Specifically, providing upfront and thorough quoting with a requirement of the hirer to accept costs prior to booking being confirmed; improved timeliness on financial settlements and invoicing; in person meetings to discuss booking requirements to develop a quotation that meets budgetary constraints as well as technical and compliance requirements.
- A comprehensive communication plan will be undertaken as part of the implementation to refine the approach and ensure a smooth transition for all user groups.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses:

1. the introduction of two new Creative Venues Fees:

a. a Rehearsal Rate of $75 per hour;

b. an Education Rate set at 10% less than the Community Rate;

2. changes to the conditions of hire to:

a. automatic dark days;

b. redefine of hirer categories to more closely align with the purpose of the booking;

c. removal of the ticket price cap for community hirers;

d. adjustment to ticket fee applicable for community hirers to 5%; and

3. the establishment of a hybrid model for dance schools.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 2 September 2024, Council resolved in part, to:

4. *Receive a report at a future Council meeting in relation to Creative Venues Fees and Charges that details the following:*

    a. *Benchmarking of fees and charges against a selection of other similar sized venues including Regional Cities and neighbouring Councils.*

    b. *Include an assessment of the introduction of a rate that would apply to education providers.*

    c. *An analysis of the commercial and community usage of the Creative Venues in Latrobe City over the past two financial years.*

    d. *An analysis of the expenditure and revenue costs associated with the Venues over the past two financial years.*

    e. *Any other matter considered appropriate to assist Council in determining the appropriate levels of fees and charges for the Creative Venues for the 2025/26 financial year.*

This report provides a final response to items resolved at the September 2024 Council Meeting, providing an operational analysis and series of proposed improvements to the Creative Venues Conditions of Hire.

These proposed changes include the introduction of a new fee for Rehearsal hires, that do not require technical support, set at a flat fee of $75/hour and the introduction of an Education Rate at 10% below the Community Rate. Officers will include these new items within the 25/26 Budget when it is considered by Council for adoption at the June meeting.

The remainder of the proposed changes do not affect the fees and charges themselves but are aimed at enhancing user access and reducing unintended financial burdens, particularly for community groups, schools, and smaller-scale events.

ANALYSIS

Creative Venues continue to make improvements in service delivery for all hirers, with a focus on enhancing the user experience, streamlining operations, and supporting a more sustainable creative ecosystem. Over the past 12–18 months, consistent feedback has been received from user groups, particularly in relation to:

- the quality and responsiveness of customer service;
- the transparency of how venue usage costs are calculated, particularly perceived ‘hidden costs’ such as credit card fees and ticketing fees; and
- the application of hire conditions without adequate consideration of individual booking requirements.

This feedback highlights that the current approach may too often have defaulted to a ‘one-size-fits-all’ model. While administratively straightforward, this model does not meet the varied and often complex requirements of creative performance and production. It also falls short of industry best practice, which supports a more tailored and collaborative approach.

Officers acknowledge the need for consistency in pricing and operational requirements. However, there is opportunity to strengthen how quotations are developed, ensuring they are responsive to each hirer’s specific needs while maintaining compliance with staffing ratios, occupancy limits, and liquor licensing regulations.

While the specific adjustments outlined below respond to some of the cost-related concerns raised by regular hirers, the broader opportunity lies in a more strategic and transparent approach. This includes providing thorough, itemised quotations so that all costs are known and understood before bookings are confirmed, and working more closely with user groups to ensure that venue selection aligns with their technical, audience, and budgetary requirements.

The following information summarises specific proposed changes to hire conditions:

Redefinition of Hirer Categories

Reclassify hirers based on event purpose, not organisational structure. The current model creates confusion and can lead to misclassification, especially for groups like for-profits who may wish to run an event free for community access. The new model provides clearer guidance and alignment with the nature of each booking.

Revised Dark Day Policy

Remove automatic Dark Day charges and implement a needs-based model. Charges only apply if exclusivity is requested during a time of competing demand. Many hirers are currently charged for Dark Days they do not actively use. This creates confusion and deters smaller productions. Under the revised approach, Dark Days are negotiated and applied only when essential for production or exclusivity.

Introduction of an Education Rate

To support increased participation from public schools and education-focused groups, it is proposed that a dedicated Education Rate be introduced at 10% below the Community Rate. This rate would apply to bookings where the primary purpose is structured learning, skill development, or assessment - such as school concerts, VCE theatre exams, dance/music eisteddfods, and vocational training workshops. These events are not profit-driven but educational in nature, offering essential development opportunities for students and aligning with the learning outcomes of school and training curricula.

This proposal directly responds to feedback from local schools and training providers, many of whom have raised cost as a barrier to accessing venues. By reducing financial pressure, the Education Rate is expected to:

- Re-engage schools that have stopped hiring due to affordability;
- Increase bookings and venue use during typically quiet periods;
- Improve access to professional spaces for students' assessment and performance needs;
- Build goodwill with educators and families, many of whom are deeply connected to the community;
- Reflect industry standards and align with Council's broader goals in youth engagement and arts education; and
- Maintain cost neutrality by covering operational expenses without requiring subsidy.

Importantly, the Education Rate also plays a key role in long-term audience development. Students who perform or attend events at our venues are more likely to return later in life as patrons, artists, volunteers, or cultural leaders. School events draw in families, many of whom may be visiting the venue for the first time, delivering broader community connection and engagement.

Ultimately, this is a strategic initiative that supports equitable access while strengthening the cultural relevance and sustainability of our venues. It enhances educational opportunity, builds future audiences, and reinforces the role of Council's creative venues as inclusive, vibrant community assets.

Introduction of a Flat Rehearsal Rate

Introduce a rehearsal rate of $75/hr across venues for basic access without technical support.

Hirers currently pay full hire rates for rehearsals regardless of scale. This discourages adequate preparation and limits venue use. A flat rate enables more efficient booking and supports artist development and ongoing regular community use and off-peak venue utilisation.

Removal of Ticket Price Cap for Community Hirers

Remove the existing $50 cap on ticket prices for community events. The cap currently penalises fundraisers or events with bundled offers (e.g. dinner and show), which are otherwise run by not-for-profit groups. The intent of the hire should define the classification, not the ticket price.

Apply 5% ticket fee for Community Hirers

Adjustment of the ticket fee to be a flat 5% of total ticket income for Community hirers. Currently Community Hirers are charged $2.50 per ticket. This can cost as much as 35% of the groups ticketing revenue. 5% will cover the administrative costs of the ticketing service offered to hirers.

Clarifying Dance School Classification

Introduce a hybrid model to allow commercial dance schools access to reduced rates for educational or community activities.

Dance schools blur commercial and educational boundaries. Officers propose a two-tiered approach:

- Education rate for student assessments or progress showcases.
- Commercial rate for public or ticketed performances, with the provision of one ticketed public access showcase performance per calendar year at the community rate.

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
COMPLIANCE Inconsistent application of fee structures across Council venues.	**Low** *Possible x Minor*	Develop and implement a clear and consistent fee-setting framework across venues, with the removal of unnecessary conditions and complicated add-ons.
SERVICE DELIVERY Community disengagement from Council creative venues due to perceived affordability issues.	**High** *Likely x Major*	Implement robust quotation process ensuring all potential hirers are clear about the cost of their hire, all inclusions and exclusions and that the package meets their expectations while maintaining compliance requirements of the venue.
SERVICE DELIVERY Pressure to introduce subsidies or discounts that are not financially sustainable.	**Medium** *Possible x Moderate*	Assess long term financial impacts of subsidies and introduce them with clear guidelines.
SERVICE DELIVERY Mismatch between fee changes and community expectations.	**Medium** *Possible x Moderate*	Manage expectations through transparent communication and community engagement.

CONSULTATION

Officers have conducted a targeted consultation process with key stakeholders including:

- Community arts and performance groups;
- Commercial hirers and promoters;
- Schools and education providers; and
- Dance schools and cultural organisations.

The following information summarises the feedback received:

General Support:

- Strong support for the introduction of an Education Rate, particularly its inclusion of Eisteddfods and educational performances.
- Support for maintaining current community hire rates, with a suggestion that they be further reduced for local community groups.
- Agreement with the removal of the ticket price cap, enabling community events to pursue fundraising or bundled ticket offers without being reclassified.
- Support for the principle of venue-matching guidance, with the condition that advice is non-binding and community groups still retain choice.

Dark Day Charge:

- Request that fees not be charged if no other hirer expresses interest.
- Emphasis on the practical need for equipment to remain in the venue across multiple days.
- Support for complimentary Dark Days for extended or multi-day events.
- Advance consultation required if a venue is to be reallocated during a booked period.
- Request that venues not be hired to multiple unrelated hirers concurrently (especially in split-venue buildings like Town Hall/Little Theatre), due to safety, sound spill, and supervision concerns.

Hirer Categories:

- Support for clearer definitions but concern about placing limits on how many days community or education rates can be applied before defaulting to commercial rates.

Ticketing Charges:

- Concern over Council’s fixed ticketing fee (e.g. $2.50 per ticket) disproportionately affecting low-cost ticket events. For example, the Eisteddfod charge $8 per ticket which costs them 31% of their ticket revenue. Suggestion to move to a percentage-based fee model (e.g. 5%) and allow community hirers to manage their own ticketing, subject to liquor licensing and occupancy requirements.

Operational and Process-Related Feedback

Additionally, a range of feedback was received relating more to operational matters. These are summarised below and have been/continue to be rectified/addressed by the Creative Venues team.

Quotes and Transparency:

- Difficulty in obtaining upfront quotes for full hire costs. Request for clearer, more timely quoting processes.
- Desire for dedicated staff contact to support community hirers throughout booking and settlement.

Staffing Inclusions:

- Concern that base staffing inclusions in current hire packages are unrealistic for larger events. Clarification requested on how additional staff costs are calculated.

Settlement Invoicing:

- Request that final invoices include itemised staffing costs for transparency and budget planning.

Session Duration Billing:

- Objection to being charged for hours when venues were not in use (e.g. breaks between sessions). Recommendation that billing should reflect actual occupancy times, not default blocks.

Venue Access and Safety:

- Emphasis that hiring a venue should include basic venue functionality such as operational toilets (including accessible toilets), air conditioning, lighting, sound systems, kitchen access, and safe backstage access.
- Past issues with these amenities at the older Town Hall/Little Theatre facilities were flagged as unacceptable.

COMMUNICATION

A proactive communications plan will be developed to:

- advise existing users of the changes and rationale; and
- publish updated Conditions of Hire and supporting materials

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

There is no requirement for a Gender Impact Assessment under the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

Social

Improves access to venues and supports a broader cross-section of users. Proposed amendments are anticipated to create a greater sense of connection between the community and venues, particularly GPAC.

Cultural

Enables First Nations and multicultural organisations to better access professional spaces.

Health

Promotes social connection and creative expression.

Environmental

Encourages efficient venue scheduling.

Economic

Stimulates local creative economy and user affordability.

Financial

The proposed introduction of two new pricing categories - a flat $75 per hour Rehearsal Rate (for non-technical hires) and a new Education Rate set at 10% below the Community Rate, is anticipated to generate long-term financial and operational benefits.

While these changes may initially result in a modest reduction in income from a small number of existing bookings, this is expected to be outweighed by increased venue utilisation. Specifically, the more accessible pricing structure is designed to attract new user groups, including schools, training organisations, and community arts groups who have previously been priced out of the facilities.

Operational cost savings will also contribute to offsetting any short-term revenue reduction. For instance, rehearsal bookings at the flat rate generally require minimal staffing and technical resources, reducing overheads.

Similarly, education-focused bookings typically take place during off-peak periods when venues might otherwise remain underutilised, making them a cost-effective way to activate space and build future audiences.

Overall, the strategic rebalancing of the pricing model prioritises access and long-term sustainability, while maintaining a stable revenue base through increased volume and more efficient venue use.

Attachments

Nil

RED & GREEN TAPE REVIEW FOR BUSINESS APPROVALS

PURPOSE

To update the Council on the outcomes of the review of red and green tape in the business approval process, which was undertaken in response to a Notice of Motion passed at the 16 December 2024 Council meeting and to provide guidance to the Council on the proposed next steps.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- At the 16 December 2024 Council meeting, Council resolved to receive a report on a review of fees, charges, and associated legislative requirements involved in establishing and operating a business in Latrobe City.
- In response, officers conducted the Red and Green Tape Review for Business Approvals (the review), focusing on the processes that may delay or complicate business permit approvals.
- The review examined both state legislation and local council requirements with the aim of identifying opportunities to reduce barriers, streamline processes, and improve efficiency and responsiveness.
- Four business units within the council were included in the review due to their roles in the permit process. These units are:
    - Statutory Planning;
    - Health Services;
    - Local Laws; and
    - Building Services.
- The review mapped out the steps businesses must take to become and continue to be operational including:
    - Required permits and approvals;
    - Relevant legislation behind each permit;
    - Associated fees and whether they are State-mandated or set by Council;
    - Council’s ability to waive certain fees; and
    - Average processing timeframe.
- The review found that all business units involved operate under State legislation however Council do set some of the associated permit fees, however in all cases, Council could opt to waive legislated fees.

- Officers note that the Victorian State Government are currently undertaking a comprehensive review of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* which may lead to legislated changes.
- The review found that several continuous improvement initiatives are already underway or proposed to start, including:
    - Business Friendly Councils (State Government lead process improvement process);
    - Increased promotion and accessibility of Councils Business Concierge;
    - Developer engagement forums;
    - Business roundtables engagements;
    - Business Support – Business visit program; and
    - Continued audit and service review.
- Additionally, the review identified several options for future consideration by Council which are highlighted below:
    - Fast Track Business Planner ;
    - Footpath trading Permits; and
    - Waivers of Fees.
- Although the above options are feasible for Council consideration, officers note they require additional review and supporting evidence, particularly on their impacts to budget, and propose they be sent to Council individually for consideration on their own merit.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **notes this report; and**
2. **receives a report at a future Council meeting to update Councillors on the progress of the work undertaken to reduce the regulatory permit processes, and streamlining business permit approvals.**

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting held on 16 December 2024, Council resolved:

That Council receive a report at a future Council Meeting in relation to a review of the fees, charges and associated regulatory costs to establish and undertake business in Latrobe City including an assessment of the options to:

a) reduce red tape (the rules and processes that are considered unnecessary, rigid, or excessive),

b) reduce green tape (the environmental regulations) and

c) fast track regulatory approvals.

Officers undertook the Red and Green Tape Review for Business Approvals (the Review) in response. The Review examined both State legislation and local Council requirements that impact businesses' ability to establish and operate within the municipality.

The Review assessed the typical steps a business must follow to become operational, which included the necessary permits, the legislative sources that underpin those permits, and the associated fees. It also identified whether these fees are set by legislation or determined by Council, as well as Council's ability to waive those fees. Additionally, the review considered the average timeframe for processing approvals.

The goal of the Review was to develop a clearer understanding of possible barriers related to business permits in Latrobe City. It aimed to identity to identify areas where complexity, delays, or inconsistencies might arise in the permit process and to pinpoint opportunities for further investigation to improve efficiency and responsiveness.

The findings of the Review are intended to inform practical actions and options for further investigation that enhance efficiency, transparency, and the overall business experience, thereby supporting economic diversification of Latrobe City.

Key areas of focus included:

1. legislated requirements and their sources;
2. Council's approach to implementing and operationalising these requirements;
3. the costs associated with each process and their origins; and
4. Customer service and delivery of permit processes.

In this report, "red tape" refers to the legislated requirements imposed at either the state or local level, including Acts of Parliament and local laws, along with the related processes and timeframes.

"Green tape" pertains to environmental legislative considerations that can pose challenges or delays in the business approval process, specifically through the statutory planning process.

Within councils, environmental requirements are typically managed through planning referral processes. The Sustainability and Environment team offers advice and supports the Planning Division in fulfilling these requirements, but it does not directly handle environmental approvals.

Many business permit processes managed by the council are established under state legislation. These requirements are intended to ensure safety, consistency, and compliance while providing clarity for applicants. They play a crucial role in managing community expectations, reducing risk, and linking businesses with available council programs and support.

The Victorian State Government is currently conducting a comprehensive review of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. This review is expected to lead to changes in some of the legislative requirements that currently govern the planning and business approval process.

ANALYSIS

The review focused on four key Council business units that play a direct role in assessing and issuing business permits:

1. Statutory Planning;
2. Health Services;
3. Local Laws; and
4. Building Services.

Officers collected information from each of these business units to better understand their roles within the broader business approval process. This included identifying the relevant legislation governing their functions, the specific permits they administer, the associated legislated timeframes, and the number of permits processed during the 2024/25 financial year.

Based on the review findings, approximately 768 business-related permits were processed during the 2024/25 financial year. It is important to note that not all permits are one-time requirements. For instance, while Statutory Planning permits and Building Services Permits are typically issued once per project, permits related to health services and local laws often require annual or biannual renewal, depending on the nature of the service or activity.

The table below summarises these findings, providing an overview of the team’s functions, the applicable legislations, permit type, statutory timeframe and the volume of permits processed.

Business Unit	Function	Legislation	Permit	Legislated Timeframe	Total average permits processed annually
Statutory Planning	Provides guidance early in the planning phase to help businesses navigate approvals and align with strategic growth areas.	Planning and Environment Act 1987	Planning Permit	60 days 10 days for VicSmart permits	300 permits processed.
Health Services	Helps ensure public safety and business accountability, supporting a fair and healthy operating environment.	Victorian Food Act 1984	Registration of food premises	N/A	1058 renewals per year.
		Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008	Registration of a hair/skin/beauty business.	N/A	272 renewals per year.
		Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008	Registration of an accommodation business.	N/A	64 renewals per year.
Local Laws	Maintains a variety of community standards.	Community Amenity Local Law No 2	Footpath Trading Permit	N/A	88 permits processed.
Building Services	Involves permit requirements, inspections, and strict adherence to building codes.	Section 16, Building Act 1993	Building Permit	NA	
		Section 29A, Building Act 1993	Report and Consent	10 days	

Fees and Charges Review

The review also examined the fees associated with each permit, exploring the individual structure of the permit fees, assessing whether they are legislated or Council-determined and whether Council has the authority to waive them.

The review found that major Class 1 Statutory Planning Permit fees are set by State legislation. However, in contrast, fees for additional planning services provided by the Planning Department, such as written planning advice, are set by Council. Officers note, that without these Council provided services, businesses would need to engage independent consultants to access similar advice, at a projected higher cost.

Other fees, such as those for registration of food premises, hair and beauty businesses, accommodation businesses, and footpath trading permits, are not mandated by State legislation but are set by Council. While these fees are not legislated, they align with industry standards applied across local governments. The relevant teams undertake regular benchmarking activities to ensure the fees remain consistent and competitive, while the Council endorse the changers as part of the Council fees and charges.

The table below provides a detailed summary of the permit fees across each business unit, clearly identifying which fees are legislated and which are determined by Council.

Business Unit	Permit	Fees	Legislated/Council Determined
Statutory Planning	Planning Permit Application	Majority of Business-related applications fall under Class 1 and are legislated by the Victorian State Government at a fee of $1,453.40. Applicants may also request additional planning services. These fees are set by Council are detailed below: 1. Minor written planning advice: $150 2. Major written planning advice: $228 3. Copy of permit (search and provide): $171 4. Pre-application meeting (simple, with written advice): $130 5. Pre-application meeting (complex, with written advice): $228 6. Extension of time (expiry): $364	**Class 1 Planning Permit** Legislated **Additional Services** Set by Council

Business Unit	Permit	Fees	Legislated/Council Determined
Health Services	Registration of food premises	Food premises fees are based on the size, operations, and classification of the business. There are five classification levels, guided by the *Food Act 1984*, with most businesses falling under Class 4. New registration fees range from $210 to $1,581, while renewal fees range from $180 to $1,467. The fee is set by Council and adopted as part of the fees and charges annually. The implementation of these fees is an industry standard across Local Government.	Set by Council

Business Unit	Permit	Fees	Legislated/Council Determined
Health Services	Registration of a hair/skin/beauty business.	Registering a hair, skin, or beauty business depends on the nature and frequency of its operations. These fees are set by Council and adopted as part of the fees and charges. There are 11 business categories established by the Victorian State Government. Permit fees for new businesses range from $281 to $610. Renewal fees range from $230 to $620. Officers note that low risk hairdressing and beauty services do not have an annual renewal. The fee is set by Council and adopted as part of the fees and charges annually. The implementation of these fees is an industry standard across Local Government.	Set by Council
Health Services	Registration of an accommodation business.	The registration of an accommodation premises without provision for food for a new permit is $710. Renewals are $620. The fee is set by Council and adopted as part of the fees and charges annually. The implementation of these fees is an industry standard across Local Government.	Set by Council

Business Unit	Permit	Fees	Legislated/Council Determined
Local Laws	Footpath Trading Permit	The registration of footpath trading permits vary based on the specific requirement. Advertising (A-frame) signs: $67 Display of Goods for Sale: $67 Small Outdoor Dining $169 Large Outdoor Dining $344 The fee is set by Council and adopted as part of the fees and charges annually. The implementation of these fees is an industry standard across Local Government.	Set by Council
Building Services	Building Permit	Independent Building Surveyors collect fees directly from businesses. However, Council charges the surveyor a lodgement fee of $134.40 for submitting the permit.	**Permit Fee**, set collected by the surveyor. **Lodgement Fee** Set by Council

In all cases excluding the permit fee for Building Services, Council could waive legislated fees for business permit approvals including annual renewal fees. However, officers are not clear at this point that these fees are a barrier to business development and engagement and note that additional work would need to be completed to understand the financial impact and if, this option would increase business engagement within Latrobe City.

Continuous Improvement Opportunities

As part of the review, officers identified several opportunities for continuous improvement.

These opportunities were identified due to their ability to foster positive relationships with new and existing businesses. Support the business community to grow and provide opportunities for the new and existing businesses to fully engage in the resources available to them at Council.

The associated cost to Council is incorporated into the existing operating budget of the relevant business units. These opportunities have been outlined below.

Project	Definition	Timeframe
Business Friendly Councils	The Small Business Friendly Charter outlines shared goals for the Victorian Small Business Commission (VSBC) and participating local councils in working together to create a fair and competitive trading environment for small businesses. Officers will be submitting an Expression of Interest into this process, to participate in the review and improvement process.	Complete
Business Concierge Service	The Business Concierge role was made permanent in 2023. It continues to provide valuable support to the local community. Over the past year, the Business Concierge Program has assisted more than 500 businesses and contacts, averaging 42 interactions per month. Building on this success, the role will be expanded to support end-to-end delivery of the business permit process would benefit the business community. This would position the Concierge service as a one-stop shop for all business needs.	Underway
Developer Forums	Developer forums are being investigated as an opportunity for Council to foster relationships with the developer community. The objective of developer forums would be to reduce barriers to investment and promote regional opportunities. By aligning ideas and programs with strategic objectives, they serve as a catalyst for future growth.	Underway

Project	Definition	Timeframe
Business Roundtables	Three annual business roundtables will be held, focusing on identifying barriers to expansion, including permit processes, and exploring opportunities for growth. These roundtables will facilitate open discussions between business leaders and decision-makers, fostering collaboration and providing direct access to Councillors. By addressing challenges and uncovering expansion opportunities, these events will act as a catalyst for business development and regional grow	Underway
Business visit program	Businesses will receive regular visits from the Business Development team through a structured program designed to ensure ongoing engagement. These visits will help strengthen relationships and provide guidance on the support and resources available from Council. The business visit program also provides opportunity to promote the business Concierge Service raising awareness of the support available to the business community.	Underway
Further Service Review and Process Mapping	As part of the review process officers identified the need to conduct a further service review, this review would explore processing mapping, of the individual teams and make further recommendations to Council. Additionally, further service reviews will incorporate a feedback loop of the business community who recently went through the permit process to understand their view of the barriers and room for improvement.	December 2025

Officers will continue to drive the above work within the organisation, to ensure the continued improvement philosophy is utilised to keep improving permit processes and making it a more streamlined and accessible program.

Potential Opportunities

Officers have additionally identified a range of potential opportunities for further investigation. These opportunities were identified due to their potential to either reduce red and green tape and provide additional support to the new and existing business community.

Project	Definition	Indicative costs	Timeframe
Fast Track Business Planner	Officers understand there is an opportunity to further explore the potential benefits of a fast-track business planner that will be dedicated for end-to-end delivery. While officers have an indicative cost to engage this process, further work needs to be completed to ensure the proposal is the most sustainable and appropriate.	Estimated cost $150,000 per year	December 2025
Footpath Trading Permit	Internal review and streamline of Deemed Standards for outdoor dining permits, to reduce the requirement for outdoor dining permits and their referral to a traffic engineer. Proposing to reduce permit requirements and expedite approvals in this space.	As part of Council operating budget	October 2025
Reduction of Council fees	As part of the Review, officers found that Council can waive certain fees related to Council-issued permits in specific circumstances. To better understand the potential financial impact of fee reductions, officers recommend a further review of Council's fees and charges. This review should assess their effect on business investment in Latrobe City, include consultation with the business community and, and evaluate the financial implications for Council if any Council-set fees are reduced.	The detailed review will be conducted as part of Council's operating budget.	October 2025

Although these options have been investigated as feasible, they each require additional investigation and supporting evidence. Therefore, officers propose that should Council wish to explore the above options in additional detail, that each option be considered by Council on their merit, particularly regarding their impacts to budget. It is possible that this work could be completed and presented to Council by December 2025.

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
COMPLIANCE Continuing to meet all regulatory and statutory requirements within a streamlined process	**Low** *Unlikely X Minor*	Officers will continue to meet regulatory requirements of their role.
SERVICE DELIVERY Adequate staffing levels for streamlined processes	**High** *Possible X Major*	Investigate temporary officers until any new processes are implemented
SERVICE DELIVERY Disruption to current service delivery while new processes are developed and implemented	**Medium** *Unlikely X Major*	Pre-planning of the implementation of new processes to reduce customer impact
SERVICE DELIVERY Service continuity while the changes are being implemented and communicating the changes with the businesses and community.	**Medium** *Possible X Moderate*	Implement officer training on any new processes; include contact centre officers, business concierge, and all affected teams. Provision of clear communications in a variety of formats/media.

CONSULTATION

The four relevant internal business unites who directly link to red/green tape for businesses were each tasked to complete an internal review and audit of their processes, including the required statutory and regulatory processes and additional, non-regulatory, processes and procedures.

The relevant teams include Statutory Planning, Health Services, Local Laws, and Building Services. Environmental Services were also asked to contribute and advised that their role in relation to businesses is strictly within the confines of Statutory Planning permit applications.

External stakeholders have not been consulted for this report but will be provided with feedback options prior to implementation of any changes.

COMMUNICATION

No communication is planned as a part of this report.

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

Any reduction in red/green tape for business approvals will provide significant benefits to the community.

Cultural

Any reduction in red/green tape for business approvals will provide significant benefits to the community.

Health

There are no health outcomes identified as part of this briefing report.

Environmental

There are no environmental impacts identified as part of this briefing report.

Economic

Any reduction in regulatory and statutory requirements, fees and timeframes would have significant benefit on the local economy and allow more businesses to operate or thrive within the municipality.

Financial

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report, however it is noted that there are additional reports to be developed for Council, which would generate financial implications as a result of those reports.

Attachments

Nil

REVIEW OF COUNCIL SUPPORT AND EXPENSES POLICY

PURPOSE

To present the draft Council Support and Expenses Policy for adoption.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Council maintains a Council Support and Expenses Policy (the Policy) in accordance with section 41 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). The Policy contains guidance for the appropriate support, resourcing and reimbursement of expenses for Councillors and members of Delegated Committee members in the carrying out of their duties and functions.
- At the Council Meeting on 16 December 2024, a resolution was made for officers to undertake benchmarking of particular councils on the Council Support and Expenses Policy. Reimbursement of hospitality expenses for meetings between Councillors and constituents was to be specifically included in the benchmarking.
- While the benchmarking showed that the policies across the eight councils reviewed were quite diverse in content, officers noted a common focus on the duties and role sitting behind the potential entitlements, in comparison to the more prescriptive content of this Council's existing Policy.
- Although both the duties based and prescriptive approaches have their benefits, it is the opinion of officers that a duties-based policy would:
    - facilitate a more workable framework;
    - provide increased connection between entitlements and the purpose of supporting Councillors and Delegated Committee Members to perform their duties; and
    - align with the approach being taken by the other councils examined.
- In relation to hospitality expenses for constituent meetings as a broader matter, there are a range of approaches across the reviewed policies, with no general consensus.
- While noting that none of the policies made particular mention of third-party hospitality expenses at constituent meetings, based on the available guidance within each policy, officers did not interpret any to extend to those expenses. Prior to finalisation of this report, officers were able to receive confirmation that their interpretation was correct from several of the relevant councils.

- As part of examining the relevant hospitality expenses, officers have produced an estimate for the annual cost of reimbursement. Based on each Councillor attending two meetings per week with one to two other attendees, absent any limit on the amount able to be claimed per year, the total approximate cost has been calculated at $37,440 to $56,160 per year. Further details are provided in the Financial section of Appendix 1 below.
- A revised draft Policy taking the benchmarking results into account was presented to a Councillor Briefing on 7 April 2025. Following feedback at that Briefing and additional review of the document, a revised draft Policy was presented to a Councillor Briefing on 2 June 2025. The draft Policy is provided at **Attachment 1**.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **adopts the Council Support and Expenses Policy as set out at Attachment 1;**
2. **notes with the adoption of this Council Support and Expenses Policy, that any previous versions are now superseded; and**
3. **notes that once adopted the Council Support and Expenses Policy will be published on Council's website.**

BACKGROUND

Policy Review

At the Council Meeting on 16 December 2024, the following resolution was passed:

That Council receive a report at a future Council Meeting in relation to a review of the Council Support and Expenses Policy to

a) allow Councillors to be reimbursed for hospitality expenses, excluding alcohol, for Councillors and attendees, when undertaking meetings with community members, community groups and businesses operators related to Council business.

b) provide benchmark data in relation to support and expenses policies in place at Regional Cities in Victoria and a sample of other similar sized Victorian Councils.

As per the resolution, officers undertook benchmarking more generally, as well as specifically on the matter of hospitality expenses for constituent meetings, using the equivalent policies for the other three regional cities, namely Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo, and five other council areas that were reasonably close in population to the Latrobe City municipality, being Greater Shepparton, Maribyrnong, Hobsons Bay, Yarra (City of) and Baw Baw.

The benchmarking and draft Policy were presented to a Councillor Briefing on 7 April 2025 for Councillor review and comment, followed by presentation of an updated version of the Policy to a further Councillor Briefing on 2 June 2025.

Hospitality Expenses for Constituent Meetings

The current Policy does not provide for reimbursement of hospitality expenses incurred in meetings of the type described in the resolution noted above.

Existing meal and refreshment reimbursement entitlements for Councillors in the Policy extend to:

- Clause 4.6.5: a Councillor's duties requiring them to be away from home during mealtimes or for an extended period;
- Clause 4.17.1: where these expenses are reasonably incurred as part of attendance at external meetings, conferences and functions; and
- Clause 4.19.3: as part of the expenses of individual professional and personal development.

These entitlements do not extend to meals or refreshments for third parties, other than attendance of partners at formal functions or events.

Under the proposed draft Policy, meals and refreshments are not dealt with on a standalone basis. Rather, the expense would be reimbursable if it was considered to be within the requirements of section 40 of the Act, taking into account the types of duties and activities outlined in the Policy as being necessary or appropriate for the purposes of achieving the objectives of Council.

ANALYSIS

General Policy Benchmarking

Council's existing Policy has a prescriptive approach to the entitlements of Councillors and Delegated Committee Members, with what may be claimed, paid for or provided specified in detail. That approach has been in place since prior to the commencement of the Act.

Although it aims to provide a high level of certainty, the prescriptive approach has led to some parts of the Policy being difficult to reconcile with others. It can also be problematic in terms of the ability of the Policy to appropriately cover all potential circumstances that might arise for various entitlement categories.

When conducting the benchmarking, officers noted the policies reviewed were less detailed than Council's Policy in many respects, and instead placed greater reliance on the requirements of section 40(1) of the Act, which is as follows:

A Council must reimburse a Councillor or a member of a delegated committee for out-of-pocket expenses which the Council is satisfied:

(a) are bona fide expenses; and

(b) have been reasonably incurred in the performance of the role of Councillor or member of a delegated committee; and

(c) are reasonably necessary for the Councillor or member of a delegated committee to perform that role.

These requirements form the basic Councillor entitlement, with policies then expanding to provide guidance around what should be considered a reasonable expense, available support/resources and procedures for expense payment and reimbursements.

While there were still various more specific entitlements set out across the policies, overall there was a broader and more generalised approach relating back to the connection between relevant expenses and facilities/equipment and the performance of duties within the Councillor and Delegated Committee Member roles.

Other than the broader move away from a prescriptive approach, other notable differences in the draft Policy include:

- Clearer information technology and communications equipment entitlements.
- Increase of annual professional development budget to $5,000 per Councillor (beyond mandatory training under the Act) and consolidation of approval requirements.

- Consolidation of event attendance entitlements, with an annual expense cap of $3,000 per Councillor. Charity and community functions would be considered external events rather than a separate reimbursement category with different requirements, to provide greater certainty.
- Removal of purchasing cards for Councillors other than the Mayor. This reflects cards not having been requested for some time, and is also in line with benchmarking results.
- Private vehicle use reimbursement aligned with 6 of the 8 councils benchmarked, by changing to ATO rates – currently $0.88 per kilometre.
- Approval of most claims through the Manager Governance and General Manager Regional City Strategy and Transition rather than the CEO, to streamline the process.
- Legal expenses brought into alignment with changes to the Act that do not allow reimbursement for legal costs associated with arbitration or a Conduct Panel matter, unless representation has been approved by the arbiter or Panel. In alignment with the majority of benchmarked policies, reimbursement also requires Council resolution.

Hospitality Expenses for Constituent Meetings

To align with the intention of section 40 of the Act, any inclusion of hospitality expenses for constituent meetings should be based around what is reasonable to support effective participation in the meeting and facilitate the meeting purpose and objectives.

None of the policies examined specifically mentioned hospitality expenses for meetings with constituents. Where there is no clear acceptance or prohibition of reimbursement of those expenses, any reimbursement claim would be assessed against the general requirements of section 40 of the Act. However, there is general guidance on approaches that can be taken from the policies examined.

Although the policies varied substantially in phrasing, officers' conclusion from the review is that the policies can be put into two overall categories. Half were interpreted by officers as allowing reimbursement for councillor meals or refreshments at constituent meetings on some occasions. Reimbursement for the remaining half looked to be aimed at meetings where a councillor was in attendance in a formal capacity on behalf of Council, meaning unless there were quite specific supporting circumstances in a particular situation, hospitality at constituent meetings would not generally be eligible for reimbursement under those policies.

None of the policies had any clear entitlement to reimbursement for meeting expenses incurred in relation to hospitality for third parties. Prior to finalisation of this report, officers were able to receive confirmation from several of the relevant councils that their policies did not allow reimbursement of that nature.

There would also be financial implications of extending the scope of Council's Policy to include the expenses as described in the resolution, because those costs are not part of the existing Policy and therefore have not been factored into Council's budget process.

An estimate of the cost to reimburse the relevant expenses at the rate of two meetings for each Councillor per week with 1 to 2 other attendees, was calculated by officers at $37,440 to $56,160 per year. That figure included the expenses for both the Councillor and other attendees. Further details of the calculations are provided in the Financial section of Appendix 1 below.

Based on the above, it is the view of officers that reimbursement for third party hospitality at constituent meetings should not be included in the updated Policy. The proposed draft annexed to this report reflects that recommendation.

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
COMPLIANCE The Policy does not comply with requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* in relation to Councillor expenses and resourcing.	**Low** *Unlikely x Minor*	Ensure Council has a clear, consistent policy in place to appropriately manage reimbursement procedures provision of appropriate resources.
FINANCIAL Unbudgeted increase to Councillor expenses.	**Medium** *Possible x Moderate*	Ensure appropriate allocation is included in the 25/26 budget.
STRATEGIC The Policy does not align with community expectations.	**Medium** *Possible x Moderate*	Ensure reimbursement eligibility aligns with the intentions of section 40 of the Act.

CONSULTATION

Internal consultation has taken place between officers from the Governance, Mayoral and Council Support and Finance teams.

The Policy was benchmarked against equivalent policies of a number of other councils as outlined above.

COMMUNICATION

If the Policy is adopted, it will be published on Council's website.

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

A transparent expenses policy assists to provide guidance and accountability on that expenditure to the municipal community, which in turn promotes trust with that community.

Cultural

Not applicable.

Health

Not applicable.

Environmental

Not applicable.

Economic

A consistent and comprehensive expenses policy aligns with sustainable economic policy.

Financial

The aim of the draft Policy is to improve the support and expenses framework, rather than increase or decrease entitlements. With entitlements based on section 41 of the Act under both the current Policy and the new draft, there should not be a significant difference in expenditure.

However, the third-party hospitality expenses outlined in the Resolution would be an exception if included in the draft Policy. As the current Policy does not cover those expenses, they have not been considered in existing budget allocations. Any change to encompass those expenses would need to be taken into account in the 2025/26 Council budget.

While it is difficult to obtain a clear figure given the potential for variation, officers have calculated a conservative estimate for annual cost based on each Councillor attending two relevant meetings per week (18 meetings total) with one to two other attendees. The cost of hospitality used for the estimate was set at $20.00 per person, so encompassing refreshments rather than meals which would be a greater expense.

For reimbursement of Councillor refreshment expenses only, this would amount to $18,720 per year. If reimbursement was provided for expenses of third-party hospitality as well, this would increase to between $37,440 to $56,160 ($4,160 to $6,240 per Councillor) annually depending on number of meeting attendees.

Attachments

1. Draft Council Support and Expenses Policy

8.7

Review of Council Support and Expenses Policy

1 Draft Council Support and Expenses Policy 527

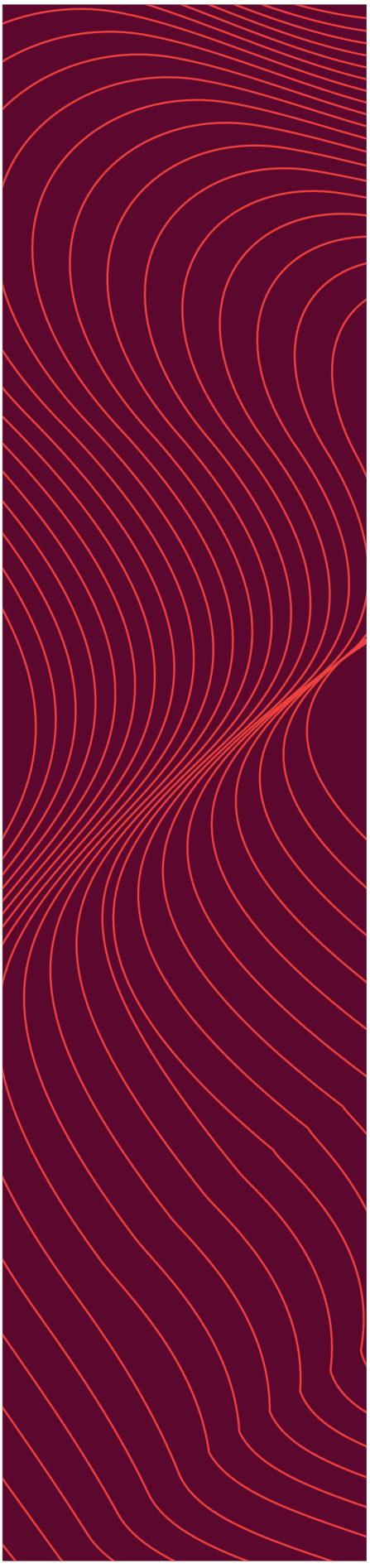
LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

Council Support and Expenses Policy

Version no. 4

Approval date: 00/00/0000

Review date: 00/00/0000



Document control

Responsible GM	General Manager Regional City Strategy & Transition	
Division	Governance	
Last updated (who and when)	Manager Governance	2025

Document history		
Authority	**Date**	**Description of change**
Council	3 August 2020	Adopted
Council	1 March 2021	Clarification in relation to personal coaching and mentoring
Council	3 July 2023	Policy name change and updated contents following benchmarking
Council		Updated contents following Council resolution and benchmarking
References	*Carers Recognition Act 2012* *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* *Gender Equality Act 2020* *Local Government Act 2020* *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic)* *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* Councillor Code of Conduct Election Period Policy Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy Motor Vehicle (Operational) Policy Procurement Policy Purchasing Card Policy Public Transparency Policy	
Next review date	TBA	
Published on website	Yes	
Document reference no.	TBA	

1. Background

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) includes a requirement for Council to adopt and maintain an expenses policy in relation to the reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses for Councillors and members of Delegated Committees. This Policy meets that requirement and supports Councillors and members of Delegated Committees to perform their roles, as defined under the Act.

2. Objectives

This Policy:

2.1. provides guidance and establish clear expectations on:

- reimbursement of expenses for Councillors and members of Delegated Committees;
- processes for reimbursement and reporting requirements;
- resources and support that are necessary for Councillors, to enable the effective performance of their official Council duties and functions;

2.2. ensures that the reimbursement of expenses is in accordance with the Act and meets the Act's principles of:

- public transparency;
- achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community;
- ensuring the ongoing financial viability of Council; and

2.3. provides a framework for Councillors and members of Delegated Committees to be supported to perform their duties without disadvantage.

3. Scope

This Policy applies to:

- Councillors; and
- Members of Delegated Committees where specified.

4. Principles of management

4.1 Reimbursement of Expenses

4.1.1 Pursuant to section 40 of the Act, Councillors and Members of Delegated Committees will be reimbursed by Council for out-of-pocket expenses that:

(a) are bona fide expenses;

(b) have been reasonably incurred in the performance of the role of Councillor or member of a Delegated Committee; and

(c) are reasonably necessary for the Councillor or member of a Delegated Committee to perform that role.

Where appropriate, Council may meet expenses instead of reimbursement.

4.1.2 Councillor duties are those performed as a necessary part of the Councillor role, in achieving the objectives of Council. For the purposes of this Policy, activities attended by a Councillor

or member of a Delegated Committee should demonstrate a benefit to the Latrobe City community.

4.1.3 The duties and activities considered to be reasonably necessary or appropriate for the purposes of achieving the objectives of Council include, but are not limited to:

(a) meetings of Council or its Committees;

(b) meetings, briefing sessions, civic or ceremonial functions or other functions convened by Council;

(c) meetings of community groups, organisations and statutory authorities to which a Councillor has been appointed as a Council representative;

(d) a meeting, function or other official role as a representative of the Mayor or Council;

(e) other meetings, inspections or events attended by a Councillor in an official capacity;

(f) attending site inspections or meetings relevant to a matter which is, or is anticipated to be the subject of a decision of Council; and

(g) discussions with officers on any matter relating to Council.

4.2 Process for Expense Payment or Reimbursement

4.2.1 To lodge a claim for reimbursement under this Policy, a Councillor must complete and provide the following to the Governance team:

(a) for any expense other than private vehicle use: the claim form at **Appendix 1**; or

(b) for private vehicle use: the travel claim form at **Appendix 2**;

along with any supporting documentation outlined at 4.2.3 and 4.2.4 where relevant.

4.2.2 Delegated Committee Members will contact the Governance team for the appropriate form to lodge a claim for reimbursement.

4.2.3 For any claims relating to carer or childcare expenses, a receipt from the carer must be provided showing the date and time care was provided and detail the reason that care was needed on each occasion.

4.2.4 For all other claim types, the claimants must provide appropriate supporting documentation to substantiate the claim as appropriate to the type of claim. This may include (but is not limited to):

- Original invoices and receipts
- Copies of meeting minutes
- Diary entries

If sufficient supporting documentation is not provided, claims will not be processed.

4.2.5 In any case where a claimant is unable to provide a receipt of costs incurred, a statutory declaration may be accepted by the CEO. Appropriate and sufficient reasoning for being unable to produce a receipt must be provided by the claimant and it will be at the CEO's discretion whether a statutory declaration will be accepted.

4.2.6 Claims must include sufficient detail to demonstrate, in accordance with the Act, that the expense for which reimbursement is claimed is a reasonable bona fide out-of-pocket expense incurred while performing the duties of a Councillor or member of a Delegated Committee.

4.2.7 Claims for reimbursement must be submitted within 60 days of the expense being incurred. Reimbursement for expenses incurred more than three months prior to the submission of a claim will require a resolution of Council for payment.

4.2.8 The assessment process for claims is as follows:

(a) the Manager Governance will process all claims, with approval to be given by the General Manager Regional City Strategy and Transition or equivalent role as may exist from time to time.

(b) if the General Manager has a question about a claim, they will, in the first instance, discuss the matter with the relevant Councillor.

(c) if required, the General Manager will seek a decision on the claim from the CEO.

(d) if required, the CEO will refer a claim to a Council meeting for determination.

4.3 Travel

General Provisions

4.3.1 For the purposes of this Policy, travel expenses include transport, accommodation, meals/refreshments and any other direct expense of the travel. Requests for reimbursement will only be paid based on the actual form of transport used and the necessary out-of-pocket expenses incurred.

4.3.2 The cost of travel undertaken by Councillors while performing their duties as a Councillor will be paid or reimbursed as relevant, based on how travel arrangements have been made under clause 4.3.5. Travel of a private nature, not related to the Councillor's duties, key goals and objectives, will not be reimbursed.

4.3.3 Travel must be undertaken by the most appropriate method taking into account cost-effectiveness, timing, convenience, availability and individual commitments. All travel plans must consider appropriate occupational health and safety.

4.3.4 Council will reimburse the costs of car parking, public transport, taxi charges and toll fees incurred while undertaking duties associated with Council business, subject to the provision of original receipts and relevant details being provided, in accordance with the claims process outlined in section 4.2 of this Policy.

4.3.5 Councillors are responsible for making all travel arrangements where the destination is within Victoria. Interstate or international travel arrangements can be managed by the Mayoral and Council Support team where requested by the Councillor, excluding any travel where the Councillor is accompanied by a guest as outlined in clause 4.3.15.

Vehicle Use

4.3.6 Costs relating to private vehicle use will be reimbursed where the expense has been incurred while performing duties as a Councillor.

4.3.7 Where a Councillor elects to use their own private vehicle to carry out Council business, a written record of kilometres travelled must be made, with that total to be included in any travel claim form submitted in accordance with clause 4.2.1(b).

4.3.8 Reimbursement of motor vehicle expenses will be paid based on the rate set out by the Australian Tax Office for vehicles used for business purposes.

4.3.9 A Councillor may have access to a carpool vehicle to undertake Council business, subject to availability and on the same conditions as pool vehicles are available for use to staff under Council's current Motor Vehicle Operational Policy.

4.3.10 Where more than one Councillor or Delegated Committee member attends the same event outside the municipal boundaries, a vehicle should be shared. This applies whether the vehicle used is a private vehicle or carpool vehicle.

Interstate and International Travel

4.3.11 The mode of transport is to be determined on the advice of the CEO, based on the most cost and time effective form of transport:

- Where interstate travel is by flight, the standard form of travel will be economy class. Where premium economy class is not available, travel will be by standard economy class.
- Where international travel is by flight, the standard form of travel will be premium economy class.

4.3.12 All international travel proposed to be undertaken by a Councillor during their duties requires prior approval through a Council resolution. The proposed travel must be directly related to the Council Plan objectives.

4.3.13 A post travel report to Council is required for all approved international travel undertaken.

Guests

4.3.14 Guests accompanying Councillors to conferences or other events, travel and attend at their own expense, unless otherwise specified in this Policy.

4.3.15 Where a Councillor elects to have a guest accompany them, the Councillor will be required to make all travel arrangements and seek reimbursement from Council for the proportion of the incurred expenses that are for the Councillor's travel, where eligible under this Policy.

4.4 External Meetings, Conferences or Functions

4.4.1 Out-of-pocket expenses for Councillors' attendance at meetings, events or functions where they are representing their community or the Council will be paid or reimbursed by Council:

(a) subject to paragraph 4.4.3, the aggregate expenditure to attend such meetings, events or functions does not exceed $3,000 per annum.

(b) provided that the primary purpose of attendance by a Councillor at the meeting, event or function must be:

- to officially represent the Council or to perform their role as Councillor; and
- in compliance with sections 40(1)(b) and (c) of the Act; and
- where hospitality is incidental to the attendance, event or function and not the primary purpose for the attendance.

4.4.2 Council recognises that the role of Mayor carries the expectation that the incumbent will represent Council at events. Therefore, the $3,000 limit set out above does not apply to attendances at any activities specific to the role of the Mayor, or any Councillor attending on behalf of the Mayor, where there are formal representative duties such as a speech required.

4.4.3 The aggregate expenditure limit in paragraph 4.4.1 does not apply:

(a) to any activities that are specific to the role of Mayor, including to Councillors attending on behalf of the Mayor (the annual expenditure limit for the activities of the Mayor will be determined in accordance with annual budgets for activities related to the office of the Mayor); or

(b) when attendance is required by a Councillor at meetings, events or functions within the municipality that are convened by Council or by the federal government, state government, a local government authority or local government peak body.

4.4.4 Where prior approval is obtained from the CEO, Council may cover the cost of a guest expressly invited to attend a function to accompany a Councillor, within Victoria. Eligible costs will be limited specifically to the entry fee and meal.

4.5 Professional Development

4.5.1 Councillor professional development is strongly encouraged. It should be relevant to the individual Councillor and their duties and be of demonstrable benefit to the enhancement and development of the Councillor's skills and abilities regarding effective community representation. Programs which may be relevant for Councillor development include:

(a) Meeting procedures;

(b) Chairing of meetings;

(c) Media training;

(d) Financial training;

(e) Team building and interpersonal skills;

(f) Professional coaching and/or mentoring;

(g) Councillor and Board Development and Governance Programs, such as the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) course; and

(h) Municipal association of Victoria (MAV)/Victorian Local Government Association (VLGA(/Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Councillor Development programs.

4.5.2 For the purposes of this Policy, professional development expenses include the cost of registration or enrolment fees, travel expenses to attend and any other expenses reasonably associated with that attendance, subject to:

(a) approval by the CEO upon application by the Councillor through the Governance team, or, where the limit in paragraph 4.5.2(b) has been exceeded, by the Council at a Council Meeting; and

(b) the aggregate expenditure to attend such conferences, workshops and training programs does not exceed an allocation of $5,000 per annum, unless in accordance with clause 4.5.3.

4.5.3 With the approval of the CEO, a Councillor may use more than one year's allocation of $5,000. However, this applies only to allocations for future years of the Council term. The allowance cannot be carried forward to a later year of the Council term.

4.5.4 In the case where a Councillor wishes to attend a professional development conference, workshop or training program held overseas, the following additional requirements must be met:

(a) the Councillor has submitted to the Council, for determination at a meeting of the Council, an application for approval accompanied by a suitable business case which sets out:

- the estimated cost, including all expenses reasonably related to the attendance; and
- the benefits to Council and the community of the attendance; and

(b) the Councillor provides the following details to officers as soon as practicable after returning, for a report to be presented at a Council meeting within two months of the attendance:

- details of the learnings from the conference, workshop or training program and the benefits that the attendance will bring to the municipality; and

- a summary of the costs of the attendance (including all related expenses).

4.5.5 An approved professional or personal development activity may be:

(a) paid for by the Councillor and reimbursed following the process at paragraph 4.2; or

(b) paid in advance by Council on the approval of the CEO, with production of a valid tax invoice.

4.5.6 In addition to the professional development allowance set out at paragraph 4.5.2:

(a) Council will provide all necessary training for completion of mandatory Councillor induction and professional development under the Act, including additional training applicable to the Mayor. From time to time, the CEO may also extend opportunities to Councillors to attend other professional development activities.

(b) the Mayor will be entitled to attend either the MAV Mayoral Program or the VLGA Mayoral Weekend, while in the role as Mayor.

(c) the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be entitled to attend media training (organised through Council with an appropriate training provider) and MAV Mastering Public Speaking and Presentation training, while in the role as Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

(d) Any Councillor who has not previously undertaken AICD training may do so through a provider approved by the CEO. The training may be undertaken at any point during the Council term provided it is fully completed by the end of that term.

4.6 Carer Expenses

4.6.1 Council will provide reimbursement of costs where the provision of childcare is reasonably required for a Councillor to perform their role, pursuant to section 41(2)(c) of the Act.

4.6.2 This applies to the care of a dependent, while the Councillor is undertaking Councillor duties and may include expenses such as hourly fees and booking fees, if applicable.

4.6.3 Council will provide reimbursement of costs where the provision of carer services is reasonably required when a Councillor who is a carer incurs reasonable expenses in the performance of their duties, in accordance with section 41(2)(d) of the Act.

4.6.4 Reasonable childcare fees will be determined as not exceeding reasonable prevailing childcare market rates within the municipality. Childcare services must be provided by a person holding a Working with Children Check or in the case of centre-based care, a registered childcare service. Any person or service providing childcare must have an Australian Business Number.

4.6.5 Payments for carer and childcare services will not be made to a person who resides with the Councillor, has any financial or pecuniary interest with the Councillor, or has a relationship with the Councillor or their partner.

4.7 Legal Expenses

4.7.1 The CEO may obtain legal advice on behalf of the Council at any time the CEO deems appropriate, or where authorised to do so by a resolution of Council.

4.7.2 Although a Councillor can seek legal advice, they must not direct officers to do so on their behalf.

4.7.3 Costs for legal work or representation, where this is initiated, organised or commissioned by a Councillor should be personally met by the Councillor and will not be reimbursed by the Council unless authorised by Council resolution.

4.7.4 A Councillor may submit a Notice of Motion to a Council Meeting requesting that Council facilitate and fund legal advice expenses incurred as a result of a Councillor executing their duties. Council will evaluate any Notice of Motion requesting legal advice against the following criteria:

(a) the extent to which the subject matter of the advice required relates to the Councillor's functions as a Councillor;

(b) the extent to which the subject matter of the advice required relates to a matter before Council or the Councillor's representative role as a Councillor;

(c) the extent to which the subject matter of the advice required will or is likely to be of interest to all Councillors;

(d) the public interest; and

(e) any other relevant considerations.

Legal Expenses for Arbitration and Councillor Conduct Panels

4.7.5 Under section 43A of the Act, Council must not indemnify a Councillor for legal costs incurred by the Councillor as a result of:

(a) an application made under section 143 for an internal arbitration process or under section 154 for a Councillor Conduct Panel;

(b) a process or proceeding related to an application referred to above; or

(c) a decision or determination made in an internal arbitration process or by a Councillor Conduct Panel.

4.7.6 Notwithstanding paragraph 4.7.5, Council may indemnify a Councillor for costs incurred by the Councillor to obtain representation where it has been considered necessary under section 141(2)(c) or 163(2)(b) by the arbiter or Panel as relevant.

4.7.7 Any requests for legal representation resulting from a Councillor Conduct matter must be referred to the Arbiter or Councillor Conduct Registrar, as applicable.

4.8 Information and Communication Technology

4.8.1 As a minimum and subject to change due to technology enhancements, Councillors shall be provided with appropriate communications equipment to ensure that they can adequately and efficiently perform their role as a Councillor, which includes:

(a) mobile phone;

(b) laptop computer and tablet;

(c) access to a copier/printer/scanner;

(d) computer peripherals such as docking station, keyboard, mouse and stylus;

(e) internet access; and

(f) Councillor email account (managed through Council's administration).

4.8.2 The make, model and specifications of any communications equipment, the associated contracts or plans including for internet access, and the upgrade, repair or replacement of any communications equipment shall be at the discretion of the CEO.

4.8.3 Any additions to the standard equipment suite provided is subject to CEO approval, based on individual needs and circumstances in order to carry out Councillor duties and functions.

4.8.4 Council will meet the reasonable purchase, installation, maintenance and service, connection, subscription, rental and usage costs for all Council provided communications equipment.

4.8.5 Councillors must return all items to Council on the next business day at the conclusion of a Councillor's term, unless otherwise agreed by the CEO.

4.8.6 Councillors are responsible for:

(a) the safety and security of the equipment provided to them and ensuring that there is no unauthorised access to any personal or confidential information that may be stored on that equipment.

(b) adhering to the Council policies and procedures for security, maintenance and use of equipment, which may be amended or changed from time to time.

(c) ensuring that full and accurate records of Council business activities undertaken by them are created, managed and disposed of in a way that is consistent with organisational practice so that Council can meet its legislative obligations. However, Councillors will be provided with organisational support to assist with compliance.

4.8.7 The Information and Technology team will:

(a) provide familiarisation training for Councillors on the communication equipment provided to them and in the management of information stored on that equipment, either as part of induction for new Councillors or on a case-by-case basis (adhoc requests) as required; and

(b) undertake all software updates on any laptops, tablets and mobile devices when required. Councillors will be required to bring the equipment into Headquarters for scheduled maintenance and password updates.

4.8.8 The use of Council supplied equipment to maintain or support a personal private business or for electioneering purposes is strictly prohibited.

Personal Use

4.8.9 It is recognised that for practical reasons, Councillors may make a reasonable number of non-Council business related calls and data usage access on the Council supplied equipment.

4.8.10 To assist Councillors to determine what is a reasonable level of usage for personal usage, the following factors may be considered:

(a) the nature of personal calls considered acceptable are those standard calls which Councillors could not for practical reasons due to location, movement or convenience make from a personal service;

(b) mobile calls to information and service providers which incur a high per minute charge are not normally considered acceptable unless the nature of service is one which assists the Councillor in carrying out their role; and

(c) the data usage which would normally be regarded as reasonable and acceptable would be that which is included in the total data usage allowance each month.

4.8.11 Council reserves the right to monitor usage, and to review or audit anything created or stored on the equipment.

Loss or Damage

4.8.12 Care must be taken in the custody and use of all Council equipment. Any loss or damage of equipment must be reported immediately to the CEO, and depending on the circumstances as to the loss or damage, the Councillor may be asked to contribute to the replacement or repair of the equipment.

4.9 Insurance

4.9.1 The CEO will ensure that policies of insurance are maintained to provide the relevant protections to Councillors and members of Delegated Committees while performing their duties and functions as a Councillor or Delegated Committee member.

4.10 Access to Buildings

4.10.1 Each Councillor will receive a swipe card allowing access to Council's Corporate Headquarters, Traralgon Service Centre, Moe Service Centre and Churchill Hub.

4.10.2 Councillors will have access to a shared office space and meeting room (known as the Councillor Lounge) at Corporate Headquarters for the purpose of Council business. The

4.10.3 office will be for the exclusive use of Councillors and be suitably equipped for office work, reading, research, and meetings.

4.10.4 Other meeting rooms within Council offices and other venues owned and controlled by Council can be used (subject to availability) by Councillors for activities, meetings, interviews and other functions associated with the performance of their role as Councillors:

(a) during business hours; or

(b) after business hours where permission has been obtained from the Mayor and CEO.

4.10.5 Bookings of meeting rooms must only be made:

(a) through the Mayoral and Council Support team; and

(b) for an activity, meeting, interview or other function that is being convened and managed directly by the Councillor. Where a Councillor wishes to attend an event of any nature that is convened, planned and/or controlled by a third party, that party must make the relevant facility booking.

4.11 General Support and Equipment

4.11.1 Reasonable administrative support will be made available to the Mayor and Councillors by the Mayoral and Council Support team primarily in the form of assistance with diary management, responding to correspondence, enquiries and Councillor requests for service as part of their Councillor duties.

4.11.2 At the commencement of the Council term, Council will provide name badges for Councillors, together with corporate uniforms as determined reasonable by the CEO to carry out Councillor duties. Business cards will be provided as needed.

4.11.3 General stationery may be provided on request.

4.11.4 Council will provide high visibility vests for Councillors to use for onsite inspections and will consider requests for provision of personal protective equipment that may be required.

4.12 Additional Entitlements for the Mayor

4.12.1 A fully equipped office and administrative support will be provided to assist the Mayor to effectively undertake mayoral duties. The level of support is determined by the CEO in consultation with the Mayor.

4.12.2 A mayoral vehicle will be provided that is the equivalent to and on the same terms as the vehicle provided to the CEO, including a fuel card and cleaning card. Use is subject to the Motor Vehicle (Operational) Policy or other equivalent policy as may exist from time to time.

4.12.3 The Mayor may be provided with a purchasing card with a transaction and monthly limit set at no more than $10,000 for use while discharging the functions of the office:

(a) the purchasing card may only be used for expenses that are reimbursable under this Policy;

(b) use of a purchasing card will be in accordance with the terms of the Purchasing Card Agreement, Council's Purchasing Card and Procurement Policies; and

(c) where a purchasing card is provided, all purchase receipts must be provided to the Mayoral and Council Support team together with and supporting documents sufficient to enable monthly reconciliation.

4.13 Councillors with Disabilities or Illness and Councillors who are a Carer in a Care Relationship

4.13.1 Council will provide reasonable additional facilities and support to enable a Councillor:

(a) with a disability (as defined in the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*) or illness; or

(b) who is a carer in a care relationship within the meaning of section 4 of the Carers Recognition Act 2012;

to perform their Councillor duties.

4.14 Entitlements - Members of Delegated Committees

4.14.1 All expenses must be preapproved by the Chair of the Delegated Committee.

4.14.2 Subject to paragraph 4.14.1, Members of Delegated Committees are entitled to:

(a) reimbursement of travel expenses under paragraph 4.3;

(b) reimbursement of carer and dependent-related expenses under paragraph 4.6;

(c) reasonable additional facilities and support under paragraph 4.13.

as if reference to a Councillor and performing the duties of a Councillor was a reference to a Member of a Delegated Committee and performing the duties of a Member of a Delegated Committee.

4.15 Exclusions

4.15.1 The following expenses cannot be funded or reimbursed by Council:

(a) any expense arising from a breach of road, traffic, parking, or other regulations or laws;

(b) private travel, regardless of whether it is conjoined with approved interstate or overseas travel in the course of performing the Councillor or Delegated Committee Member role;

(c) resources or facilities already available under this Policy;

(d) private use of communications equipment where deemed unreasonable;

(e) damage to or loss of personal possessions (claims for loss of property may be available under Council's travel insurance);

(f) intentional, wilful or negligent damage to Council communications equipment;

(g) expenses for a Councillor's or Delegated Committee's guest which are not expressly provided for within this Policy;

(h) donations, tips or gratuities, gifts, the purchase of raffle tickets, unless endorsed by Council resolution;

(i) expenses incurred by third parties;

(j) expenses incurred that benefit a third party where that benefit is the primary purpose of the expenditure rather than incidental to it;

(k) where hospitality is incidental to the attendance, event or function and not the primary purpose for the attendance;

(l) expenses claimed by a Councillor or Delegated Committee member as a tax deduction;

(m) expenses where the Councillor or Delegated Committee member is entitled to a payment from another organisation for their attendance;

(n) expenses which are otherwise fully or partly recoverable from a third party;

(o) expenses or other support for an attendance at political party events;

(p) expenses associated with the election campaign of any Councillor; and

(q) Other general expenses including but not limited to:

- alcohol;
- passport application expenses;
- hotel mini bar, room movies, room service and similar;
- toiletries;
- briefcases;
- newspaper and magazine purchases;
- personal travel insurance;
- kennel fees or animal expenses; and
- hairdressing, barber and beautician services.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of expenses that will not be funded or reimbursed. Any claim for funding or reimbursement of an expense must satisfy section 40 of the Act and the requirements of this Policy.

4.16 Reporting and Audit

4.16.1 Information about Councillor and Delegated Committee Member expenses consisting of name and annual totals for allowance (Councillors only), travel, professional development, expenses to support role and overall total of those categories are included in Council's Annual Report.

4.16.2 Councillors may on request be provided with monthly reports on their expenses and reimbursements.

4.16.3 Expenses paid or reimbursed under this Policy will be subject to:

(a) regular review by Council's internal auditors; and

(b) at minimum, an annual review by Council's Audit and Risk Committee in accordance with section 40(2) of the Act. More frequent reviews by the Committee may take place at the discretion of the CEO.

5. Accountability and responsibility

Accountability and responsibility for this policy is outlined below.

5.1 Council

- Responsibility to ensure this Policy is consistent with Council's Strategic Direction and other Council policies

Regional City Strategy and Transition
Approved: 00/00/0000 | Review: 00/00/0000

- Responsibility for the decision to approve this Policy by Council Resolution

5.2 Councillors and Delegated Committee Members

- Responsibility to comply with this Policy

5.3 Chief Executive Officer

- Overall responsibility for compliance with this Policy
- Overall responsibility for enforcing accountability
- Overall responsibility for providing resources
- Overall responsibility for performance monitoring

5.4 General Manager

- Responsibility for compliance with this Policy
- Responsibility for enforcing accountability
- Responsibility for providing resources
- Responsibility for performance monitoring

5.5 Manager

- Develop frameworks and procedures in compliance with this Policy
- Enforce responsibilities to achieve compliance with frameworks and procedures
- Provide appropriate resources for the execution of the frameworks and procedures

5.6 Employees, Contractors and Volunteers

- Participate where required in the development of frameworks and procedures in compliance with this Policy.
- Comply with frameworks and procedures developed to achieve compliance with this Policy.

6. Evaluation and Review

This Policy will be reviewed on request of Council, in the event of significant change in the Executive team, significant changes to legislation applicable to the subject matter of the Policy or, in any other case, during each Council term (generally four years).

7. Definitions

Reference term	Definition
Act	Local Government Act (Vic) 2020
Carer	A Councillor who is a carer in a care relationship within the meaning of Section 4 of the *Carers Recognition Act 2012*
CEO	The person appointed by Council to be its Chief Executive Officer, or any person acting in that position
Council	Latrobe City Council

Regional City Strategy and Transition
Approved: 00/00/0000 | Review: 00/00/0000

Councillor	A person holding the office of member of Latrobe City Council (including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor)
Delegated Committee	Delegated committees defined under section 63 of the Act
Delegated Committee Member	A person appointed to a Delegated Committee
Mayor	The Councillor elected to the Office of Mayor of the City or any person appointed by Council to be acting as Mayor
Professional Development	Includes formal study and training workshops, attendance at a conference, seminar, forum, delegation or similar event that will assist a Councillor in their broad civic leadership role and as approved by the CEO.

8. Related Documents

Councillor Code of Conduct

Election Period Policy

Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy

Motor Vehicle (Operational) Policy

Procurement Policy

Purchasing Card Policy

Public Transparency Policy

9. Reference Documents

Carers Recognition Act 2012

Equal Opportunity Act 2010

Gender Equality Act 2020

Local Government Act 2020

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic)

Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020

10. Appendices

1. Expense Claim Form
2. Travel (Private Vehicle Use) Claim Form

Councillor Expense Claim Form

(Please email completed form to Mayoral and Council Support councilsupport@latrobe.vic.gov.au)

Name: Cr

Supplier	Invoice Date	Description	Duty or Delegated Committee	Ledger Account	Total Amount (GST inclusive)
					$
					$
					$
				TOTAL (GST inclusive)	**$**

GUIDANCE

1. *Only reasonable and bona fide out of pocket expenses may be reimbursed.*
2. *Expenses must be incurred in carrying out duties and functions as the Mayor or Councillor.*
3. *Original receipts and tax invoices must accompany this form.*
4. *The Council Support and Expenses Policy 2025 outlines requirements in full including expenses that will not be reimbursed.*
5. *Details of expenses will be published and reviewed in accordance with relevant legislation and the Council Support and Expenses Policy 2025 requirements.*

DECLARATION

☐ *I declare that the details I have provided on this form are true and correct and the expenses were incurred in carrying out duties and functions as the Mayor or Councillor*

☐ *I have attached original receipts and tax invoices to substantiate each claim.*

Cr

Print name *Signature* *Date*

REVIEW *(For compliance with the Council Support and Expenses Policy 2025)*

Print name *Signature* *Date*

Position:

AUTHORISATION

Print name *Signature* *Date*

Position:

NOTE: This voucher cannot be prepared and approved by the same person *- Please email approved form to Accounts Payable accenquiry@latrobe.vic.gov.au*

Voucher modified: 02/04/2025

Councillor Travel Claim Form

(Please email completed form to Mayoral & Council Support councilsupport@latrobe.vic.gov.au)

Name: Cr		**Vehicle (1) Registration Number:**	
		Vehicle (2) Registration Number:	
Date of Travel	**Origin and Destination of Travel**	**Purpose of Travel** **E.g., Council Meeting, Councillor Briefing, Committee Meeting (Delegate/Sub Delegate) or list the Official Duty**	**Kilometres Travelled**
Example: 07/06/2024	*Home to 21 Station Street, Morwell (Return)*	*Meeting with resident Mr John Smith at 21 Station Street, Morwell, to discuss ongoing car parking issues.*	*14*

Officer Use: Allowance per kilometre $_____ as specified (as applicable to employees) in Council's Enterprise Agreement that is in operation at the time the travel occurred.	**Total Kilometres Travelled**	
	(Officer to complete) Ledger Code R2505.3850._____	**$**
	(Officer to complete) Ledger Code R2505.3218._____	**$**
	(Officer to complete) Total $	

Council Support and Expenses Policy 2025 Requirements

1. Travel expenses associated with the use of a private vehicle within Victoria for the performance of a Councillor's duties and functions will be reimbursed in accordance with the rates specified in the Council Support and Expenses Policy as in operation at the time the travel occurred, upon submission of a completed Claim Form.
2. Councillor duties and functions means activities consistent with the role of a Councillor, with guidance provided in the Council Support and Expenses Policy.
3. Expenses must be claimed within 60 days of being incurred, or within 60 days from the date of return from a relevant event (whichever date is later).
4. Details of travel expenses will be published in accordance with relevant legislation and the Council Support and Expenses Policy 2025 requirements.
5. Depending on the reason for travel and travel destination, prior approval might be required from the CEO or a decision of Council.
6. The Council Support and Expenses Policy 2025 outlines requirements in full including travel expenses that will not be reimbursed and can be found at the link below.

INSERT NEW LINK

DECLARATION

I declare that the details I have provided on this form are true and correct and that the travel claimed was undertaken in the performance of my Councillor official duties and functions and in compliance with the Council Support and Expenses Policy 2025.

Cr		
Print Name	**Signature**	**Date**

REVIEW (For compliance with the Council Support and Expenses Policy 2025)

Print Name	**Signature**	**Date**

	Optional Note:
Position	

AUTHORISATION

Print Name	**Signature**	**Date**

	Optional Note:
Position	

Officer use:
Please email authorised form to Accounts Payable accenquiry@latrobe.vic.gov.au
Please note this form cannot be prepared and approved by the same person.

Form modified: 19/05/2025

STATUTORY PLANNING

9. STATUTORY PLANNING

Nil reports

CORPORATE ITEMS FOR DECISION

10. CORPORATE ITEMS FOR DECISION

Item Number 10.1 30 June 2025 Community Health and Wellbeing

DRAFT 2026-2029 DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN - RELEASE FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

PURPOSE

To present Council with the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026 - 2029 (DAMP) and seek endorsement to release the draft for community consultation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Under the provisions of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the Act*)* Section 68(a), all Victorian Councils are responsible for developing a DAMP every four years.
- The DAMP outlines Councils' services, programs and policies relating to the management of dogs and cats in the community and addresses key criteria as prescribed in the Act pertaining to Councils management of dogs and cats.
- This report seeks to have the draft DAMP released to the community for engagement for four weeks, to commence on 1 July 2025 and concluding on the 25 July 2025.
- A report will be presented to a future council meeting to consider community feedback and to resolve adopt the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026 – 2029.
- Following adoption of the DAMP, it will be submitted to the Department of Agriculture for review and sign off as required by the Act.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **approves the release of the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 for community engagement for four weeks from 1 July 2025 to 25 July 2025;**
2. **requests a report to be presented at a future council meeting for Council to consider submissions and seek adoption of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026 – 2029.**

BACKGROUND

The DAMP addresses key criteria as prescribed in Section 68(a) of the Act. pertaining to Council's management of dogs and cats.

The DAMP *must* provide precise detail in relation to the following key areas:

- Strategies to promote responsible pet ownership:
    - Use a variety of platforms to promote pet registration.
    - Promote Animal Welfare Victoria's responsible pet ownership programs.
- Strategies that address overpopulation and high rates of euthanasia in dogs and cats
    - 2023/2024 statistics:
        - 674 cats impounded 395 returned/rehomed - 52% euthanised.
        - 729 dogs impounded 550 returned/rehomed - 24% euthanised.
        - 73% increase in dog surrenders since 2020/2021.
- A strategy to deal with dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs and dog attacks
    - 2023/2024 statistics:
        - 56 declared (dangerous or menacing) dogs registered.
        - All properties of declared dangerous / menacing dogs annually inspected for compliance to regulations.
        - 53 charges heard in the Magistrates Court – 100% proven.
- Policies that encourage community members to register and identify their cats and dogs
    - 2023/2024 statistics:
        - 12,502 registered pets – 2,713 cats and 9,789 dogs.
        - 5% reduction in registered animals since 2020/2021.
- A review of all existing Council Standing Orders pertaining to dogs and cats
    - Mandatory desexing of all cats by 3 months of age (2008).
    - Cat Curfew 9PM to 6AM 7 days per week (2017).
    - Designated Off-leash Areas (2017).

The amendment of Standing Orders requires a separate report to be presented to Council for consideration:

- A review of all existing Council policies and procedures that are currently in place relating to cats and dogs.
- A defined training plan for Authorised Officers.

ANALYSIS

Under the provisions of the Act all Victorian Councils are responsible for developing a DAMP. The DAMP outlines Councils' services, programs and policies relating to the management of dogs and cats in their community.

An internal review has been completed for the previous plan and officers have worked with the leadership team to create the next four-year action plan to build on the success of the previous plan, as highlighted below.

2021-2025 Domestic Animal Management Plan Highlights:

- Review of dog attack investigation procedure to provide stronger guidance to officers.
- Court brief training for all Local Laws Officers that has resulted in 100% of matters successfully prosecuted in the Magistrates court for dog attacks.
- Local Laws Officers completed legal based training with Council's contracted legal firm.
- Audited 56 properties where declared dogs are registered annually.
- Declared Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed dogs registered accurately with the Victorian Declared Dog Registry – procedural review.
- Renegotiation of the twelve Section 84Y (Foster Care) Domestic Animal Act agreements with local organisations and vets to re-house impounded dogs and cats.
- Streamlining of Section 84Y-agreement process to alleviate the annual renewal function.
- Cat cage waiting list reduced from up to four months to generally 3-4 weeks following process review with approx. 20 cages on loan per month.
- 13 registered Domestic Animal Businesses (DAB) have been inspected annually for compliance in the four-year period.
- Reports of DAB noncompliance have been investigated and actioned accordingly with four complaints investigated during the 2023/2024 year.

2026-2029 Domestic Animal Management Plan Actions Highlights:

see **Attachment 1** for full action plan. NOTE: figures correct at time of printing

- Offer animal registration renewal notices by email:
    - Process changes to reduce manual handling costs for Council.
- Undertake targeted annual door knocks of the municipality to check for unregistered dogs and cats:
    - Use of data to identify unpaid renewals in targeted areas.

- Maintain an adequate supply of cat cages for the community to utilise to control problem or feral cats balancing Council's capacity to manage incoming impounds:
    - Closer monitoring of program to ensure cages are returned quickly.
- Maintain accurate and relevant information on Councils website advising how community members can make a complaint about nuisance animals:
    - Annual review of website and available material.
- Review the barking dog complaint procedure and include more detail on Council's website about the process and officer's considerations.
- Increased public awareness of what constitutes a dog attack and how to report them:
    - Through social media posts and regular review of the information on the webpage.
- Promote Animal Welfare Victoria's responsible pet ownership programs:
    - Utilise Latrobe City's media platforms with approved material provided and
    - Distribute factsheets provided by Agriculture Vic regarding cat containment.
- Utilise social media to promote available and suitable animals unclaimed in the Pound for adoption:
    - Pet of the Week posts to encourage engagement with the Pound website page.
- Maintain accurate and relevant information on Councils website advising how to register a Domestic Animal Business.

Standing Order 'Cat Curfew'

In 2017, Council introduced a Cat Curfew which required cats to be contained indoors between the hours of 9PM and 6AM seven days per week. The purpose of this is to reduced threat to wildlife, improve community safety and amenity, and work towards ensuring that cats don't have to endure difficult lives on our streets.

The curfew aims to support other work undertaken by the Animal Management team to improve cat welfare and reduce cat overpopulation by improving responsible cat ownership, including increasing desexing and cat containment rates, with a focus on education and awareness campaigns to help shift community attitudes toward cats and responsible cat ownership.

Working with community to reduce the impact of wandering cats, the *Act* provides that it is an offence to allow a cat to wander into a neighbouring property, regardless of the time of day. Authorised Officers have the power to impound wandering cats as well as issue trespass notices in some situations.

Council is working towards a future where cats are highly valued as pets, and every cat belongs to a caring owner who knows how to keep their cat happy, healthy, and safe at home in the municipality.

As at the end of 2024, 52 Victorian Councils had introduced a cat curfew, with 10 of these being 24-hour curfews.

Council will continue to work with the State Government and local stakeholders to reduce the impact of wandering cats on the environment, improve the life of cats and improve neighbourhood amenity in balance with supporting communities struggling with the cost-of-living crisis by not requiring outdoor experience enclosures to be constructed for all properties where cats are registered at this point in time.

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
COMPLIANCE Failure to adhere to this requirement would place Council at risk of operating outside of prescribed legal guidelines.	**Low** *Low/Unlikely*	The provision of a DAMP is a statutory requirement, and the plan will meet timelines determined by DEECA.
SERVICE DELIVERY Enhanced and improved services may not be delivered if a DAMP is not implemented.	**Low** *Low/Unlikely*	Implement the DAMP.

CONSULTATION

It is proposed to put the draft DAMP on public exhibition for a period of four weeks commencing on 1 July 2025.

Whilst there is no statutory obligation to undertake consultation or community engagement in the development of the DAMP, due to the considerable interest community members often take in animal related matters, it is deemed appropriate to enter a period of engagement.

The following engagement activities will be undertaken:

- Notices in the Latrobe Valley Express, on Council's social media pages and a Have Your Say campaign will commence 1 July 2025.
- The draft document will be on display at Council Service Centres for community members.

- If requested, one on one community engagement meetings can be conducted with of the community to examine the draft document with the purpose of sourcing more information and allowing discussion and feedback with Council staff in relation to domestic animal issues.
- Stakeholders, such as local veterinary services, animal management services and those who have current 84Y animal re-homing agreements with Council will be invited to respond to the document.
- The Latrobe City Council Animal Welfare Advisory Committee will be provided with the draft document directly for perusal and feedback.

A further report will be presented to a future Council meeting to consider community feedback and seek to resolve to adopt the DAMP.

COMMUNICATION

As per the proposed consultation, a variety of media platforms will be used to communicate the release of the draft plan to the community.

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

As the revised DAMP is an internally facing document and will not involve any new programs, services, and policies, where there is a significant and direct impact on the community. A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) is not required under *the Gender Equality Act 2020*.

Social

Pet ownership is positively associated with social interactions, community involvement and increased feelings of neighbourhood friendliness and sense of community.

Cultural

Not applicable.

Health

The DAMP is used as a tool to support the effective and responsible management of domestic animals within the community which can have a positive influence on the community's health and wellbeing.

Environmental

Not applicable.

Economic

Not applicable.

Financial

All initiatives contained within the DAMP are funded as a component of the approved operating budget.

Attachments

1. Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026

10.1

Draft 2026-2029 Domestic Animal Management Plan - Release For Public Consultation

1 Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026 557

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029

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DRAFT

Introduction

The primary focus of this Domestic Animal Management Plan is the management of domestic companion animals, namely dogs and cats. Latrobe City Council acknowledges the role it plays in promoting responsible pet ownership and enforcing legislation.

We are committed to balancing the needs of pet owners with those in our community who do not own pets. Consideration has been given to both parties in the development of our Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029.

This Plan has been developed in accordance with Section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* and sets out a formalised approach to increase the awareness of domestic animal management practices within Latrobe City.

Latrobe City Council recognises the value domestic pets contribute to making Latrobe City a vibrant and livable City. Domestic pets are not only considered part of a family but are an integral part of a wider community. Research demonstrates that pets contribute to building a strong sense of community and developing active social capital; vital to any vibrant, healthy community.

Pet ownership is positively associated with social interactions, community involvement and increased feelings of neighbourhood friendliness and sense of community.

With around 69 percent of Australians owning a dog or cat, these benefits, when aggregated across the whole community, are of significant interest to Council and others concerned with building healthier, happier neighbourhoods.

In addition, these benefits create a ripple effect that extends beyond pet owners into the broader community, with pets helping to smooth the way for social interaction and general recreation.

Pets provide increased opportunities for families to be more active; companionship to those who may be feeling isolated or lonely and assist people with a disability or illness to maintain independence and participate more fully in community life.

Background

Local Government has long been the level of government primarily responsible for domestic animal management.

Section 68A of the *Domestic Animal Act 1994* (the Act) requires all Victorian councils to prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan (the Plan) at four yearly intervals. A copy of the plan and any subsequent amendments must be provided to the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. Council is required to then report on the plan's implementation in its annual report.

DRAFT

1. Primary objective

The primary objective of the Plan is to provide a strategic map to support the community towards the goal of responsible pet ownership and to assist Council in achieving a professional, consistent and proactive approach to domestic animal management practices.

The Plan identifies current activities and future actions to address the following areas, as required by Section 68A of the *Act*: -

- Identify methods for evaluating animal control services
- Promote responsible pet ownership
- Ensure compliance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* and Domestic Animal Regulations 2015
- Minimise the risk of dog attacks
- Address over population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats
- Encourage registration and identification of dogs and cats
- Minimise the potential for nuisance
- Identify dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs
- Review all existing Council orders and local laws that relate to dogs and cats
- Identify programs for training of authorised animal management officers
- Provide for the periodic evaluation of programs and service strategies

1.1 Guiding Principles

The following principles underpin the actions of this Plan regarding domestic animals:

- The belief that pets contribute to quality of life
- A requirement to balance the needs of those who own pets and those who do not
- Valuing responsible pet ownership
- Proactive animal management and education within the community
- Protection of the environment from any negative impacts of dogs and cats
- Working in partnership with others to achieve positive outcomes for the community
- Local Government plays a leadership role in animal management

2. Latrobe City Snapshot

Latrobe City, Victoria's only regional city situated in the eastern part of the state, encompasses an area of 1,422 square kms with a population of approximately 78,154 (ABS 2021).

Situated approximately 150 kms east of Melbourne, in the centre of Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley, Latrobe City is one of four Victorian regional cities.

Latrobe City includes the four major towns of Churchill, Moe/Newborough, Morwell and Traralgon as well as the seven outer lying townships of Boolarra, Glengarry, Toongabbie, Traralgon South, Tyers, Yallourn North and Yinnar.

During the 2023-2024 registration period there were 9789 dogs and 2713 cats registered within the municipality. There were 13 registered domestic animal businesses, including 1 training establishment, 4 boarding establishments, 6 breeding and rearing establishments and 2 pet shops.

DRAFT

3. Current Programs and Service Levels

Latrobe City's Local Laws Team administers and provides a broad range of services to ensure that Council meets its legislative responsibilities relating to the management of domestic animals. They include but are not limited to:

- Educating residents and promoting responsible pet ownership
- Management of Council's domestic animal pound facility
- Maintaining a domestic animal register
- Providing advice on domestic animal matters
- Dealing with and investigating animal complaints for the community
- Impounding of wandering, unwanted/surrendered and/or feral dogs and cats
- Undertaking random annual registration door knocks
- Administration and control of Dangerous and Restricted Breed dogs for compliance
- Investigating dog attacks
- Providing a 24-hour 7 day a week emergency service
- Inspection and registration of domestic animal businesses
- Developing and maintaining partnerships with organisations for the care of impounded animals

3.1 Local Laws Team

The Local Laws team consists of 1 full-time Coordinator, 2 full-time team leaders, six full-time Local Laws Officers, a Senior Regulations Officer and a full time Animal Attendant, 2 part-time administration support staff. These staff delivering general local laws, animal and parking management services.

- Coordinator Local Laws (1 EFT)
- Team Leader Local Laws - Animal Management and Traffic & Compliance (2 EFT)
- Local Laws Operations Administrator (1.8 EFT)
- Local Laws Officers (6 EFT)
- Animal Attendant (1 EFT)

DRAFT

3.2 Statistical Information

Animal Registrations	Cats	Dogs
2020/2021	3066	10082
2021/2022	2947	9938
2022/2023	2820	9735
2023/2024	2713	9789

Impounded	Total number of dogs impounded	Total number of dogs returned to owner	Total number of dogs rehoused
2020/2021	528	406	77
2021/2022	597	393	131
2022/2023	706	428	135
2023/2024	729	419	131

Impounded	Total number of cats impounded	Total number of cats returned to owner	Total number of cats rehoused
2020/2021	681	136	277
2021/2022	573	82	242
2022/2023	664	91	255
2023/2024	674	124	271

Dog attack pathways	Total dog attack pathways	Total number of dog attacks	Dog Attack – Immediate auto dispatch	Dog Declared Dangerous / Menacing
2020/2021	171	130	13	28
2021/2022	142	94	11	37
2022/2023	124	82	5	37
2023/2024	166	107	3	56

Declarations made	Dangerous	Menacing
2020/2021	15	16
2021/2022	2	12
2022/2023	13	14
2023/2024	3	19

3.3 Council Standing Orders

Latrobe City Council has Standing Orders, Local Laws and procedures in place to assist in the effective management of dogs and cats. The current Standing Orders are:

- Compulsory de-sexing of all cats registered for the first time (unless member of applicable organisations or registered as Domestic Animal Business or upon veterinary advice) effective 10 April 2008
- Cat curfew between 9PM to 6AM, seven days a week effective 18 September 2017
- Dogs must be kept on leash except when in a designated off leash area effective 18 September 2017

3.3.1 Compulsory de-sexing of all cats for first time registrations

Cat overpopulation presents a significant challenge for council, shelters, community foster care networks, and rescue groups, who are often managing more cats than can be sustainably housed or rehomed. Councils' order for the de-sexing of all cats prior to their first time registration promotes responsible cat ownership and a reduction in registration costs for cat owners.

3.3.2 Cat Curfew

Promoting Responsible Cat Ownership in Our Community

Council is working toward a future where cats are highly valued as companion animals, and every cat belongs to a caring owner who understands how to keep their pet happy, healthy, and safe at home within our municipality.

As of the end of 2024, 52 Victorian councils have introduced a cat curfew, including 10 with 24-hour curfews. In 2017, our Council implemented a cat curfew requiring cats to be confined indoors between 9:00 PM and 6:00 AM, seven days a week. This initiative aims to reduce threats to native wildlife, enhance community amenity, and prevent cats from enduring difficult lives on the streets.

The curfew complements broader work led by Council's Animal Management team to promote cat welfare and address overpopulation. This includes efforts to increase desexing and containment rates through education and awareness campaigns that encourage a shift in community attitudes toward responsible pet ownership.

The *Act* supports these efforts by making it an offence to allow a cat to wander onto a neighbouring property at any time. Council's Authorised Officers have the authority to impound roaming cats and, in some circumstances, issue trespass notices on behalf of affected property owners.

Council will continue to work collaboratively with the State Government and local stakeholders to:

- Minimise the environmental impact of free-roaming cats
- Improve the welfare and quality of life for cats in our municipality
- Enhance neighbourhood amenity and safety

Together, we can foster a more harmonious coexistence between people, pets, and wildlife in our community.

DRAFT

3.3.3 Dogs on leash

Dogs must be on leash except at the following designated Off-leash areas:

- College Park Newborough
- Burrage Reserve Newborough
- Waterhole Creek Reserve West Bank Morwell
- Ashman Park Churchill
- Burnett Park Traralgon
- Bert Thompson Reserve Traralgon

3.4 Community Amenity Local Law No. 2 2016

Division 21 Keeping of Animals

110. Keeping of Animals

1. An owner or occupier of land must not, without a permit, keep or allow to be kept any more in number for each type of animal than as set out in the following table except for farming areas:

Type of Animal	Definition	Multi-unit Development	All other areas (except farming area)
Dogs		2	2
Cats		2	2
Poultry	Fowls, Bantams, Pheasants, Ducks and Geese	Not permitted	5
Free flying pigeons		0	0
Rooster		0	0
Domestic Mice		10	10
Guinea Pigs		2	4
Ferrets, Hamsters		2	4
Domestic Rabbits		2	4
Reptiles		2	2
Other Animals	Cattle, Horse, Goat, Pig, Sheep, Alpaca, Lama, Ostrich and any other agricultural animal	Not permitted	Residential: 0 Rural Living Zone: 10

2. A permit issued for the keeping of dogs and /or cats under this division will be granted for the life of the animal although if an offence or nuisance be proven the permit can be revoked.
3. Sub clause 110.1 does not apply where animals are kept in accordance with a planning permit or where a Wildlife Licence has been obtained in accordance with the Wildlife Regulations 2013.
4. A person keeping animals in accordance with clause 110.1 must ensure that the animals do not create a nuisance or danger to neighbours or other persons.

***NOTE**: "Multi-Unit Development" describes several units on a residential lot*

"All other areas" describes single residential dwellings etc

111. Dogs and Cats on Farming Properties

Except where a planning permit is issued an owner or occupier of a working farm within a farming area must not, without a permit, keep or allow to be kept more than four adult dogs and/or four adult cats on that land except where allowed by the planning scheme.

112. Maximum number of Dogs and Cats on any land

Except where a planning permit is issued a person must not keep more than five dogs or five cats on any land except where allowed by the planning scheme.

113. Litters of Animals

For the purpose of calculating the maximum limit of the numbers of animals kept, the progeny of any animal lawfully kept will be exempt for a period of 3 months after their birth.

114. Animal Excrement

A person in charge of an animal on a road or other Municipal Place must:

a. Carry a device suitable for the removal of any excrement that may be deposited by the animal; and

b. Not allow any part of the animal's excrement to remain on a road or other Municipal Place; and

c. Produce the device on demand by an authorised officer.

3.5 Council Procedures

- Animal Registration Renewal forms are reviewed annually and amended as required
- Animal Registration Fees are considered and determined by Council during the annual budget process
- Animal Deterrent Spray Procedure 2022
- Barking Dog Procedure 2022
- Cat Trap Loan Procedure 2024
- Dealing with Sick or Injured Animals Procedure 2022.
- De-sexing of Dogs and Cats released from the Pound Procedure 2022
- Dog and Cat Impounding Procedure 2022
- Keeping of Animals Permit Approvals Guidelines 2025
- Notice of Seizure (Dogs and Cats) Procedure 2022
- Scanning of Impounded Dogs and Cats Procedure 2022
- Removal and Identification of Dead Dogs and Cats Procedure 2024
- Voluntary Surrender of Dogs and Cats Procedure 2023
- Dog Handling and Seizure Procedure 2023
- Working on Roads Procedure 2023
- Dog Attack Procedure 2024

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3.6 Training of Authorised Officers

Latrobe City Council is committed to the training of our Local Laws Officers. An annual training program is developed for each officer to ensure they receive appropriate training. The objective of any training and development is to support all Local Laws staff in having the knowledge and skills necessary to carry out their work.

A training register detailing all qualifications and training courses completed by each Local Laws Officer is maintained and updated annually to reflect any training undertaken or required.

In addition to specialised training, all staff have access to a suite of personal and professional training opportunities delivered through Council's Learning and Development programs.

2021-2025 Domestic Animal Management Plan Highlights:

- Review of dog attack investigations procedure resulting in increased community compliance and safety outcomes
- All Local Laws Officers completed legal based training with Council's contracted legal firm
- Review of the process for managing Section 84Y agreements resulting in a process less onerous for groups wishing to maintain an agreement with Council

3.7 Registration and Identification

Latrobe City Council issues registration renewal notices prior to 10 April each year.

Any renewal payments not received by the due date of 10 April are followed up with a reminder notice advising of penalties for failing to register a dog or cat.

Registration forms are also used as an opportunity to advertise legislative changes i.e. requirement to register dog/cat by age three months and compulsory microchipping and desexing of all new cats being registered and cat curfew details.

When issuing these notices, we can include inserts to further inform and educate our community on domestic animal matters.

New registration applications are available at all Council service centres and libraries in Churchill, Moe, Morwell and Traralgon; via Council's website; and at Council's pound facility.

From April 2025, Council will offer animal owners the ability to receive their registration renewal notice via email.

2020-2024 Animal Registration Comparisons

Financial Year	Cats	Dogs
2020/2021	3066	10082
2021/2022	2947	9938
2022/2023	2820	9735
2023/2024	2713	9789

Educational and/or Promotional Activities

- Animal Registration forms available at Council service centres and libraries; on Council's website and can be requested by contacting Council
- Door knock "hot spot" areas or areas where complaints have been received in relation to registration requirements
- Maintenance of computerised registration database

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- Use of Council's social media platforms to promote benefits of animal registration and to answer frequently asked questions

Compliance Activities

- Investigate all complaints received
- Encourage complainants to speak directly to dog owners to alert them to their dog barking
- Record all nuisance complaints in Council's record management systems
- Provide cat cages to residents for containing trespassing cats as requested
- Impound unregistered dogs found at large
- Issue infringement notices for dogs found at large
- Impound or return wandering registered pets to owners
- Attending properties unannounced to conduct on the spot inspections where there have been ongoing or serious complaints against a property or person
- Seizure of unregistered and/or non-compliant declared dangerous dogs
- Seizure of dogs reasonably suspected of attack causing serious injury

3.8 Animal Nuisance Complaints

All animal nuisance complaints received are investigated in a timely manner to minimise the potential for complaints escalating. Officers will make every effort to resolve complaints to the satisfaction of both parties.

For the most part, nuisance complaints received by Latrobe City Council relate to either barking dogs or stray cats. It is recognised that barking dog complaints can at times cause great frustration for both parties. Local Laws Officers work to balance the interests and rights of both the dog owner and the complainant.

Dog owners can become desensitised to the sound of their own dog barking and may be unaware it is a nuisance to neighbours. An effective resolution is often achieved by alerting the dog owner to the fact their dog's barking is becoming a nuisance.

Neighbours who are unable, or find it difficult, to speak to their neighbours regarding this matter can contact Latrobe City Council for assistance.

Council Officers will first work with the dog owner to support them in identifying the cause of the barking and discuss possible solutions. Most cases involve dogs that are bored or responding to visual stimulation. Both causes are often easily resolved with training, toys, blocking a view or exercising the dog more frequently.

Complainants may be asked to keep noise logs (records of dates, times and duration of barking) should the matter continue, and further intervention be required. Noise logs form part of the Barking Dog Complaint Form and are available from the Latrobe City web page or from Service Centres and Libraries, and Local Laws Officers can assist with explaining how these are to be completed.

Barking dog complaints are investigated under Section 32 of the *Act*.

Council use the following factors when determining if noise is causing a nuisance:

- its volume, intensity and duration
- the time, place and other circumstances in which it is emitted

For Council to determine whether a noise constitutes a nuisance, Council must conduct a thorough investigation.

This investigation process requires the complainant to complete a Barking Dog Noise Log for a period of 14 days. This noise log assists Council in determining the duration and frequency of the noise and will become evidence if the matter is heard in a Magistrate's Court.

In reference to a noise log, officers are required to consider the following:

- The duration of the noise is unreasonable
- Time that the noise is omitted during the day is unreasonable
- The frequency of the noise is unreasonable
- The volume of noise is above what would be expected

Where a log is submitted with entries that are inconsistent and infrequent over the period of 14 days, for example a period of 12-24 hrs between instances of noise that last less than 2 hrs each time, and no corroborating evidence is available from a third party, officers would consider that the noise does not reach the threshold of nuisance and could not progress the matter to the Magistrates Court.

In response to nuisance complaints received about stray cats Latrobe City offers residents' cat cages to assist in safely containing offending animals trespassing on their property or wandering during the curfew period. Local Laws Officers will then attend during business hours and impound any contained cats. These cages are available to members of our community free of charge.

To proactively combat cat nuisance issues, Council adopted a cat curfew on 18 September 2017 under the *Act* Section 25. Cat owners are required to keep cats contained to their premises between the hours of 9pm and 6am, seven days a week.

Educational and/or Promotional Activities

- Make information available at Council service centres and libraries and on Council's website
- Promote the various resources available to encourage the correct selection of a new pet such as Animal Welfare Victoria and RSPCA website
- Provide a wide range of pamphlets
- Distribute brochures to residents when requested and when investigating complaints
- Signage to identify the areas designated for exercising dogs off lead

Compliance Activities

- Investigate all complaints received
- Encourage complainants to speak directly to dog owners to alert them to their dog barking
- Record all nuisance complaints in Council's record management systems
- Provide cat cages to residents for containing trespassing cats as requested
- Issue trespass notices on behalf of property owners where applicable
- Impound all unregistered dogs found at large
- Issue infringements for dogs found at large
- Impound or return wandering registered pets to owners
- Attend properties unannounced to conduct on the spot inspections where there have been ongoing or serious complaints against a property or person

3.9 Dog Attacks

Latrobe City Council considers any reported dog attack as the highest priority and dispatches a Local Laws Officer immediately to investigate and action as appropriate.

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Educational and/or Promotional Activities

- Promote responsible pet ownership to new and existing dog owners
- Promote the benefits of dog training, socialisation and frequent exercise
- Provide a range of pamphlets that raise awareness of the risk of dog attacks in the home, on the street and in parks which include information on how to reduce risks
- Distribute brochures to residents when requested and when investigating complaints
- Promotion of the need for dogs to be under effective control, always, including the need to ensure dogs can be effectively contained and/or fenced on their own property to ensure they cannot escape
- Promote de-sexing of dogs to reduce aggressive tendencies and wandering at large
- Promote the need for supervision of children when dogs are present
- Promote Council's emergency 24-hour 7 day a week service for reporting a dog attack

Compliance Activities

- Declaration of all identified dangerous/menacing dogs in line with the *Act*
- Respond to all reported dog attacks immediately as the top priority for Local Laws Officers
- Record all reported dog attacks in Council's record management systems
- Ensure all reported dog attacks are thoroughly investigated with findings and evidence accurately recorded and maintained
- Ensure owners of declared dogs are fully informed of their requirements under the *Act*
- Declaring dogs dangerous or menacing where evidence leads to that outcome
- Ensure unclaimed dogs at the pound are temperament tested to determine whether they are suitable for re-housing
- Seize dogs involved in serious attacks during investigation and prosecution action
- Provision of a 24 hour 7 days a week emergency service to report a dog attack
- Conduct regular patrols at locations where there is a high incidence of wandering dogs

2021-2025 Domestic Animal Management Plan Highlights:

- All investigations of dog attacks finalised within required timeframes
- Court brief training for all Local Laws Officers that will result in an increased number of prosecutions for dog attacks
- Review of dog attack procedure implementing further guidance for on road officers investigating and responding to dog attacks

3.10 Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs

Latrobe City Council Local Laws Officers investigate all reports or complaints regarding dangerous, menacing or restricted breed dogs, immediately.

Local Laws Officers currently use the Department of Primary Industry 'Standard for Restricted Breed Dogs in Victoria' to identify restricted breeds.

Latrobe City Council currently utilises the Domestic Animals Act 1994 in relation to dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs.

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Reports of suspected undeclared restricted breed dogs are rare in Latrobe City. Officers believe there is a high level of compliance regarding the ownership and management of declared dogs within the municipality.

Educational and/or Promotional Activities

- Information pamphlets at all Council service centres and libraries
- Information available on council's website
- Ensuring all owners of declared dogs are aware of their obligations under the Act regarding identification and the keeping of these dogs
- Promotion of regulations for restricted breed dogs

Compliance Activities

- Ensure that all Declared Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed dogs are registered accurately with the Victorian Declared Dog Registry
- Attending properties unannounced to conduct on the spot inspections and annual audits where there are registered declared dogs
- Investigating and making a declaration following legislated timeframes where the evidence supports a declaration
- Follow-up non-compliance issues found during inspections and audits
- Review all dog attack cases to determine if it is appropriate to declare the dog dangerous or menacing
- Maintain a register of all declared dogs registered and housed in Latrobe City Council

2021-2025 Domestic Animal Management Plan Highlights:

- Audited all properties where there are registered declared dogs
- Declared Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed dogs registered accurately with the Victorian Declared Dog Registry

3.11 Over-Population and High Euthanasia

Latrobe City Council is aware of the high euthanasia rates for dogs and in particular cats and continues to promote the benefits of de-sexing. The introduction of compulsory de-sexing for all cats registered for the first time or released from the pound facility was implemented in 2008.

Council has in place twelve Section 84Y Domestic Animal Act agreements to re-house dogs and cats that have found their way to the pound.

Section 84Y agreements

In Victoria, dogs and cats may be impounded due for many reasons. When an owner is unidentifiable, unable or unwilling to collect that animal it may require extra care or be assessed as suitable for rehoming.

Under the provisions of the *Act,* Section 84Y allows for Councils to enter into a written agreement for the seizure, holding and disposal of dogs and cats. These agreements may be made between the Council and a pound, shelter, vet clinic, community foster care network or foster carer depending on the needs of the animals.

The provisions of the *Act*, allow for a person or body (that has a Section 84Y (a)(b) &/or (c) with a Council i.e. a pound, shelter or vet clinic) to have a Section 84Y(ca) agreement with a community

foster care network on the condition that the dog or cat is desexed and microchipped prior to leaving the ownership of the person or body.

Animals moving to a Community Foster Care Network under a Section 84Y(c) agreement are not required to have been desexed or microchipped prior to leaving the pound. Under a Section 84Y(c) agreement it is the responsibility of the person or group that take possession of the animal directly from the pound to desex and microchip the animal before it leaves their ownership. Carers are limited to caring for the number of animals permitted by their municipal (local) council.

Educational and/or Promotional Activities

- Promote responsible pet ownership to new and existing dog owners
- Promote Council's cat curfew
- Promote the benefits of de-sexing, such as no surprise litters, fewer unwanted animals in the community, fewer animals euthanised, reduced aggression and reduced wandering, via local radio spots, local newspaper articles and on Council's website
- Offer dogs and cats for sale from the pound at an affordable price which includes de-sexing and microchipping costs

Compliance Activities

- Investigating complaints and reports of numbers of dogs/cats on residential properties
- Provide cat cages to residents for containing trespassing cats as requested, subject to availability
- Investigate reports of animal hoarding and work with owners to reduce these to permitted numbers
- Enter into Section 84Y Domestic Animal Act agreements with local organisations and vets to re-house dogs and cats that are impounded
- Investigate reports of unauthorised 'backyard breeders' to ascertain whether they should be registered as a domestic animal business

2021-2025 Domestic Animal Management Plan Highlights

- Renegotiation of Section 84Y Domestic Animal Act agreements with local organisations and vets to re-house dogs and cats that have been impounded
- Streamlining of the Section 84Y agreement process to alleviate the renewal function
- Continued receipting at the Pound Facility

3.12 Domestic Animal Businesses

Latrobe City Council currently has 13 Registered Domestic Animal Businesses. These businesses are issued with registration renewal notices each year and Council conducts annual inspections in relation to their compliance with relevant codes of practice.

In Victoria, the *Act* defines Domestic Animal Businesses as any of the following:

- A Council pound (operated by the Council or a contractor on behalf of Council)
- A dog and/or cat breeding business - where there are three or more fertile females and animals are sold (whether a profit is made or not), and the proprietor is not a member of an Applicable Organisation. If the proprietor is a member of an Applicable Organisation, they are exempt from registering as a breeding Domestic Animal Business if they have less than 10 fertile female animals AND no more than 2 are not registered with an Applicable Organisation
- A dog training establishment (where the business is run for profit)

- A pet shop (operated in a permanent location that must be open at least 5 days per week)
- An animal shelter (e.g. welfare organisations such as the RSPCA and The Lost Dogs' Home)
- An establishment boarding dogs or cats (where the business is run for profit to provide overnight, day-care or homecare boarding)
- An establishment that is rearing dogs or cats (where the business is run for profit)

All domestic animal businesses must be registered annually with their local council and comply with the appropriate mandatory Code of Practice. Local council will often require an inspection of the facilities prior to registration each year. Councils are required to report the number of domestic animal businesses registered with them to DEDJTR on an annual basis

Council provides all registered Domestic Animal Businesses with any changes to the legislation or Code of Practice information relevant to the business and encourages business owners to be involved in any review of the mandatory Code of Practice

Any new registration applications are received and processed in line with the Code of Practice

Educational and/or Promotional Activities

- Provide relevant mandatory Code of Practice to proprietors of existing and proposed domestic animal businesses
- Ensure all relevant Domestic Animal Businesses are advised and involved in any review of the mandatory Code of Practice for their type of business
- Invite Domestic Animal Businesses to be involved in Council's animal related community events

Compliance Activities

- Conduct annual inspections/audits of each Domestic Animal Business premises to determine compliance with the Act, relevant mandatory Code of Practice, and any terms, conditions, limitations or restrictions on that registration
- Use the audit documents on Animal Welfare Victoria Animal Management website
- Follow-up Domestic Animal Business non-compliance issues with information on required actions and timeframe for resolution, further inspections, and prosecutions where necessary
- In the case of serious non-compliance issues, suspend or cancel registration
- Liaise with other units within Council to provide advice when planning applications for Domestic Animal Businesses are received, to ensure appropriate conditions are placed on construction, operation, etc
- Use of the Pet Exchange Register to identify unknown breeders

2021-2025 Domestic Animal Management Plan Highlights

- All registered Domestic Animal Businesses have been inspected annually for compliance in the four-year period
- All reports of non-compliance have been investigated and actioned accordingly

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4. Four-year action plan

The following pages outline Latrobe City Council's four-year action plan which has been designed to build on the successes of the previous Domestic Animal Management Plan.

Actions have been developed with a focus on staff training; community awareness; the provision of accessible, relevant and timely information and a simplified process for the reporting of issues.

4.1 Training of Authorised Officers

GOAL: To ensure all staff involved in animal management have the knowledge and skills necessary to carry out their work safely and effectively.

OUTCOMES: Confident, skilled and knowledgeable team members responding to customers which will result in an increased customer confidence that their enquiry will be professionally dealt with.

Action	Measure	When
Review and finalise, in consultation with relevant team members, training required for all Authorised Officers undertaking animal management duties.	Consultation with relevant team members, agreed list of skills required to undertake animal management duties developed.	Annually
Ensure all Authorised Officers have commenced or are enrolled to commence relevant training programs within 24 months of appointment.	The number of newly appointed officers who are undertaking or have completed training in required skills.	Ongoing
Maintain a central training register which includes individual Authorised Officers current level of training and agreed future training requirements.	Central training register reviewed and maintained on a regular basis.	Annually
Ensure that all team members are kept informed of and trained in changes to relevant legislation, policies, procedure and compliance codes within reasonable timeframes.	Changes to legislation, policy, procedure and compliance codes to be distributed to all team members via e- mail. All changes to be highlighted as agenda items during team meetings. Ongoing training as required.	Ongoing
Update all Local Laws Procedures to ensure compliance with current legislation and in line with industry best practice.	Completion of all animal procedure updates by end of 2026.	2025/2026

4.2 Registration and Identification

GOAL: Maximise the number of registered and identifiable domestic animals residing within Latrobe City to aid compliance and facilitate reuniting lost pets with their owners in a timely manner.

OUTCOMES: Improved accuracy of Councils pet registration database. Improved adherence to legislation and increased registration of new animals.

Action	Measure	When
Registration reminder notices to be sent out to all animal owners that have failed to re-register their pets by the 10th of April each year.	Reminder notices mailed out to owners of previously registered animals that have not been renewed.	Mail out completed by 31 May annually
Partner with local veterinarians and Section 84Y agreement holders to distribute animal registration information to new animal owners.	The number of veterinarians and Section 84Y agreement holders actively distributing registration information.	Ongoing
Offer animal registration renewal notices by email where requested by animal owner.	This program is working in a live environment available to the community.	2025
Ensure that all seized and impounded animals are registered in accordance with legislation prior to release to their owner.	Cross check pound release forms with Councils animal registration database.	Ongoing
Undertake targeted annual door knocks of the municipality to check for unregistered dogs and cats.	Completion of targeted door knocks undertaken in the municipality.	Annually

4.3 Animal Nuisance Complaints

GOAL: Minimise the number of complaints received by Council while increasing community satisfaction with Council's response to investigating complaints.

OUTCOMES: Improved community awareness and education to residents with an emphasis on responsible animal ownership. A reduction in animal complaints and an enhanced level of customer service and improved adherence to legislation.

Action	Measure	When
Provide / make available the most current educational material to animal owners in the municipality.	Preparation, sourcing and distribution of educational material to residents of the municipality.	Ongoing
Maintain a supply of cat cages for the community to utilise to control problem or feral cats.	Ensure a register of community members interested in utilizing cat cages is current and that they are contacted as soon as cages become available.	Ongoing
Maintain accurate and relevant information on Councils website advising how customers can make a complaint about nuisance animals.	A dedicated page has been set up this needs to be maintained and updated on a regular basis.	Ongoing
Review the barking dog complaint procedure.	The procedure is reviewed to deliver high quality investigations in line with Section 32 of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.	2026

4.4 Dog Attacks

GOAL: Minimise the risk to the community of dog attacks while increasing community understanding of potential aggressive animal behaviour and the benefits of dog socialisation and obedience training.

OUTCOMES: Increased community awareness of responsible pet ownership. A reduction in complaints and increased adherence to legislation.

Action	Measure	Outcome	When
Increased public awareness of what constitutes a dog attack and how to report them.	Update Councils web site with a dedicated section on dog attacks. Use Councils Social Media page to inform the community of dog attack information. Utilise local press to highlight successful prosecutions, when appropriate.	Increased community awareness of responsible pet ownership; a reduction in complaints and increased adherence to legislation.	ongoing

4.5 Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs

GOAL: Meeting legislative requirements relating to dangerous, menacing and Restricted Breed dogs while educating the community about such breeds.

OUTCOME: Improved community awareness of responsible pet ownership and a reduction in complaints and improved adherence to legislation.

Action	Measure	When
Random property inspections of declared dogs to ensure compliance.	Review internal register of declared dogs and determine checks to be conducted, undertake an inspection of each property.	Annually
Prosecute repeat offenders or serious breaches detected.	Number of successful outcomes from prosecutions conducted.	As occurs
After hours patrols for unregistered guard dogs.	Number of patrols conducted, and the number of unregistered guard dogs detected.	As occurs
Educate the community about what is a declared dog.	Half year updates on council social media site.	Half yearly

4.6 Over-Population and High Euthanasia

GOAL: Encourage responsible pet ownership by promoting de-sexing and confinement of dogs and cats to reduce the incidence of unwanted pet litters and feral domestic animals, while increasing the number of animals successfully re-housed.

OUTCOME: Improved community awareness of responsible pet ownership. A reduction in complaints and improved adherence to legislation and reduction in the number of animals euthanised.

Action	Measure	When
Promote Animal Welfare Victoria's responsible pet ownership program.	Regular utilisation of Councils Social Media site to promote responsible pet ownership.	Ongoing
Review existing Section 84Y Agreements and seek out other potential Section 84Y providers to enhance the re-homing of unclaimed dogs and cats.	Minimum 85% of impounded animals returned to owner, adopted or re-housed.	Ongoing
Utilise social media to promote available and suitable animals, unclaimed in the Pound.	Regular utilisation of Councils Social Media site to promote animals for adoption.	Ongoing

4.7 Domestic Animal Businesses

GOAL: To support and regulate domestic animal businesses established within the municipality.

OUTCOME: Improved accuracy of Councils pet registration database and greater adherence to legislation and improved community awareness and education with an emphasis on responsible animal ownership. A reduction in animal complaints and greater adherence to legislation. Increased access to Council services.

Action	Measure	When
Audit all Domestic Animal Businesses annually to ensure compliance to legislation.	Number of Audits conducted.	Annually
Maintain accurate and relevant information on Councils website advising how to register a Domestic Animal Business.	Dedicated page on Domestic Animal Businesses to be developed and regularly checked for accuracy. Number of hits the webpage receives.	Bi-monthly
Ensure that details of all registered Domestic animal Businesses are reported to Animal Welfare Victoria annually.	Number of Domestic Animal Businesses reported annually to Animal Welfare Victoria.	Annually

5. Annual Review and Annual Reporting

Actions identified in the Plan will commence in the 2025-2026 financial year and conclude at the end of the 2029-2030 financial year.

Latrobe City Council will review the Plan annually and, if appropriate, amend. Any amendment of the Plan will be provided to the Department of Agricultures' Secretary. An evaluation of our implementation of the Plan will be published in Latrobe City Council's Annual Report.

A full review of this Plan will be undertaken during the 2028/2029 financial year and will inform the development of any future Domestic Animal Management Plans.

Any questions relating to this Plan should be directed to the Coordinator Local Laws on 1300 367 700; or via email at latrobe@latrobe.vic.gov.au; or via post to Latrobe City Council, PO Box 264, Morwell Victoria 3840.

To obtain this information in languages other than English, or in other formats including audio, electronic, Braille or large print, please contact Latrobe City Council on 1300 367 700.

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

PURPOSE

To present Latrobe City Council's Community Engagement Policy (the Policy) for endorsement following community engagement held across February and March 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The proposed Policy fulfills the requirements under section 55 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and aligns with the Community Engagement Principles in section 56 of the Act.
- The current Policy was adopted in April 2021 for a four-year period, which ended in April 2025.
- Community engagement is a vital part of Council's operations, as it provides the opportunity for Council to learn about the variety of views, insights and issues in our region.
- Community engagement allows community members to actively contribute to Council decisions and actions by creating an inclusive environment in which community feedback is embraced, considered and acted upon.
- The Policy includes values, principles of management, and engagement approach to guide effective community engagement, aligning with the Overarching Governance Principles outlined in section 9 of the Act. Importantly it establishes clear processes and guidelines for Council officers, Councillors, and contractors.
- In addition to incorporating the Community Engagement Principles outlined in the Act, the Policy is also structured around the Core Values and Public Participation Spectrum developed by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2).
- The Policy outlines where deliberative engagement is mandated for critical Council plans, while consultative engagement will be applied to additional key Council decisions as required.
- Council engaged with the community from 3 February 2035 to 14 March 2025 on the draft Community Engagement Policy as endorsed at the 16 December 2024 Council Meeting.
- Majority of survey respondents strongly agreed, agreed or were neutral about the principles presented within the draft Policy.

- As a result, the proposed Policy remains largely unchanged from the current Policy and reaffirms Council's commitment to engaging with the community in decision-making processes, fostering greater transparency, inclusivity, and fairness.
- The proposed Policy has been reviewed to reduce corporate terms and use plain English where possible following Councillor feedback at the April 2025 Council Meeting.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **notes the community engagement results received as part of consultation conducted for the Community Engagement Policy;**
2. **adopts the Community Engagement Policy, as per Attachment 3;**
3. **notes with the adoption of this Community Engagement Policy, that any previous versions are now superseded; and**
4. **notes that after adoption, the Community Engagement Policy will be published on Council's website.**

BACKGROUND

As part of the requirements of the Act, Council is required to have an adopted Community Engagement Policy that gives effect to the Community Engagement Principles outlined in sections 55 and 56 of the Act.

Community engagement is a vital part of Council's operations, as it provides the opportunity for Council to learn about the variety of views, insights and issues in our region. It enables and ensures the responsiveness of the Council, as well as facilitating and enhancing the quality and effectiveness of major projects, infrastructure works, policy development, service planning, community-led developments and other initiatives.

Council endorsed at the 16 December 2024 Council Meeting to engage with the community from 3 February 2025 to 14 March 2025 on the proposed Policy. This report provides a breakdown of the results from this consultation and the proposed Policy for consideration.

ANALYSIS

In accordance with the requirements of the Act, Council must have and maintain an adopted Community Engagement Policy that gives effect to the following Community Engagement Principles as outlined in sections 55 and 56 of the Act:

a) A community engagement process must have a clearly defined objective and scope;

b) Participants in community engagement must have access to objective, relevant and timely information to inform their participation;

c) Participants in community engagement must be representative of the persons and groups affected by the matter that is the subject of the community engagement;

d) Participants in community engagement are entitled to reasonable support to enable meaningful and informed engagement; and

e) Participants in community engagement are informed of the ways in which the community engagement process will influence Council decision making.

The Policy must be capable of being applied to development of local laws, budgets, policies, the Community Vision, Council Plan, Financial Plan and Asset Plan. In relation to the Vision and Plans, the Act requires the Policy to include deliberative engagement practices that can be utilised.

Deliberative engagement is not defined in the Act. Broadly, it involves public participation in decision making towards the higher end of the IAP2 Spectrum. The Spectrum begins at Inform, and moves through Consult, Involve, Collaborate and Empower. Local Government Victoria has identified the key characteristics of deliberative engagement as:

- Authentic engagement with the community;

- Good representation of the community in engagement activities;
- Clear demonstration of how all views have been considered; and
- Accessible and relevant information available to the community to ensure the decision-making process and the community's level of influence is clear in each instance and that participants are fully informed.

The Policy must also provide some detail of the type and form of community engagement that Council will facilitate, depending on the circumstances, and guidance on how Council will ensure the community is advised of the results of a completed community engagement process.

The proposed Policy remains largely unchanged from the current Policy following a positive trend in the community engagement responses as outlined in this report and **Attachment 1**.

The proposed policy incorporates the Community Engagement Principles outlined in the Act and reaffirms Council's commitment to engaging with the community in decision-making processes, promoting greater transparency, inclusivity, and fairness.

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
COMPLIANCE Failure to consider consultation results would mean Council has not adequately complied with the public consultation requirement for development.	**Low** *Unlikely x Minor*	Community consultation has been undertaken and presented within this briefing paper and future reports for consideration.
COMPLIANCE The Policy is not ready for adoption by April 2025.	**Low** *Unlikely x Minor*	The current Community Engagement Policy still applies until a new version is considered.

CONSULTATION

A six-week community engagement process was held from 3 February 2025 to 14 March 2025. During this period, the proposed policy was available for public consultation and feedback, in line with the activities outlined in the Communications and Engagement Plan considered at the 16 December 2024 Council Meeting.

During the consultation period, 554 community members visited Council's Have Your Say page for the draft Policy, 192 community members viewed more information, and 33 participants completed either the survey or quick poll.

Council received one written submission during this period, which expressed support for the draft Policy. However, the submission also highlighted specific expectations

regarding planning matters and the role of community engagement. It emphasised that a broader range of planning matters should be subject to community consultation, involving both township associations and directly impacted individuals.

Overall, a clear majority of survey respondents strongly agreed, agreed or were neutral about the principles identified in the draft policy. The principle 'Participants in community engagement must have access to objective, relevant and timely information to inform their participation' was identified as the most important to respondents on average.

A full breakdown of the survey result is provided in **Attachment 1**.

COMMUNICATION

If adopted, the Policy will be published on Council's website and Have Your Say engagement platform to inform the community of the result of the community engagement process.

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 Policy has a significant and direct impact on the community. As a result, staff will be provided with a Community Engagement Toolkit to support the Policy that will highlight the importance and pathway to connect with priority groups.

Social

Not applicable.

Cultural

Not applicable.

Health

Not applicable.

Environmental

Not applicable.

Economic

Not applicable.

Financial

Not applicable.

Attachments

1. Draft Community Engagement Policy - survey responses
2. CDCA submission on draft Community Engagement Policy
3. Community Engagement Policy - June 2025

10.2

Community Engagement Policy

1 Draft Community Engagement Policy - survey responses 585

2 CDCA submission on draft Community Engagement Policy 598

3 Community Engagement Policy - June 2025 600

Draft Community Engagement Policy

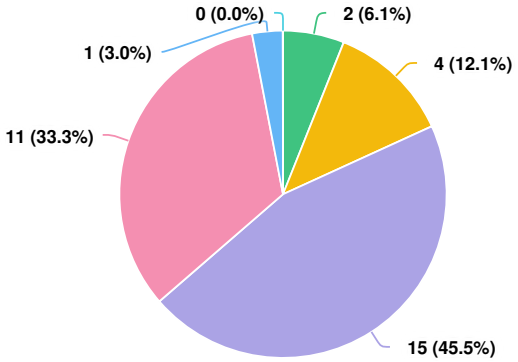
SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT
03 February 2025 - 14 March 2025

PROJECT NAME:
Draft Community Engagement Policy

GRANICUS

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 The community engagement process has a clearly defined objective and scope?

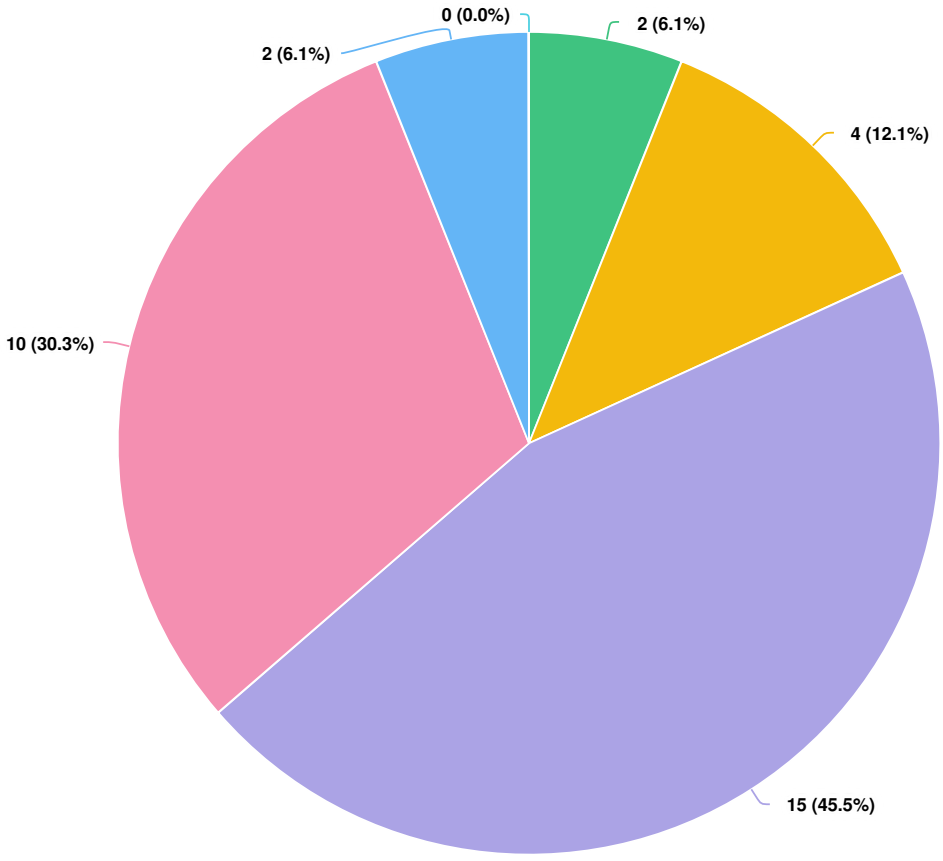


Question options

Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree Comments Strongly disagree

Mandatory Question (33 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q2 **Participants in community engagement will have access to objective, relevant and timely information to inform their participation.**

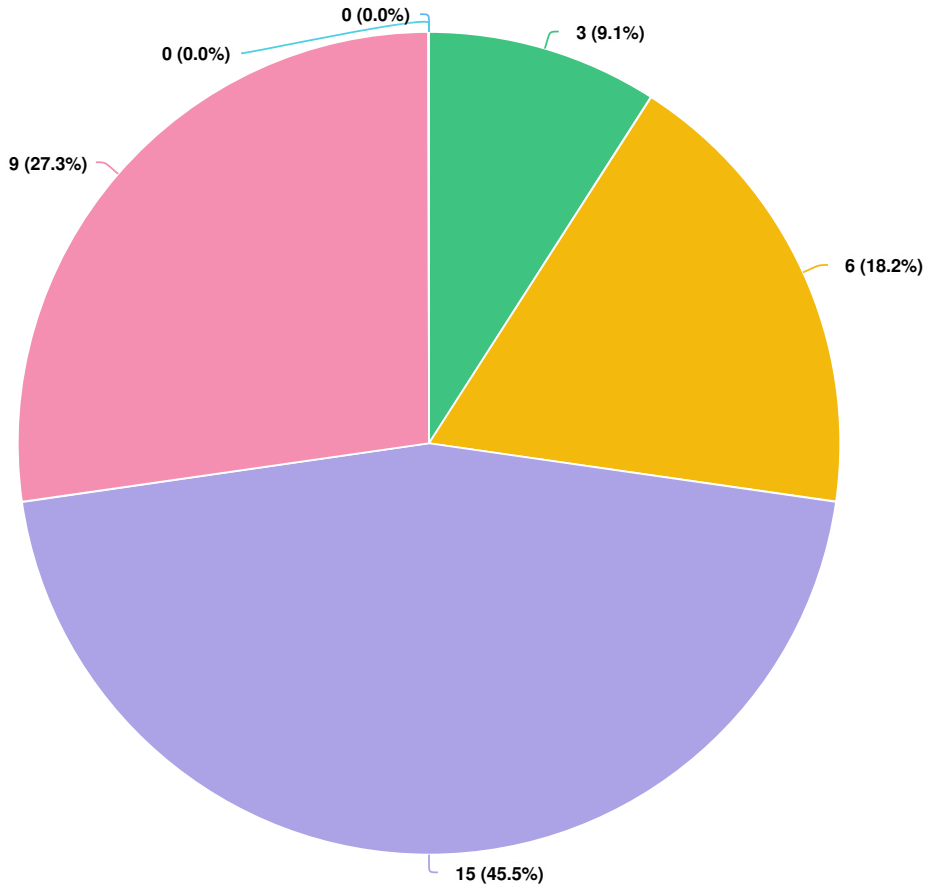


Question options

Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree Comments Strongly disagree

Mandatory Question (33 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q3 **Participants in community engagement will be representative of the persons and groups affected by the matter.**

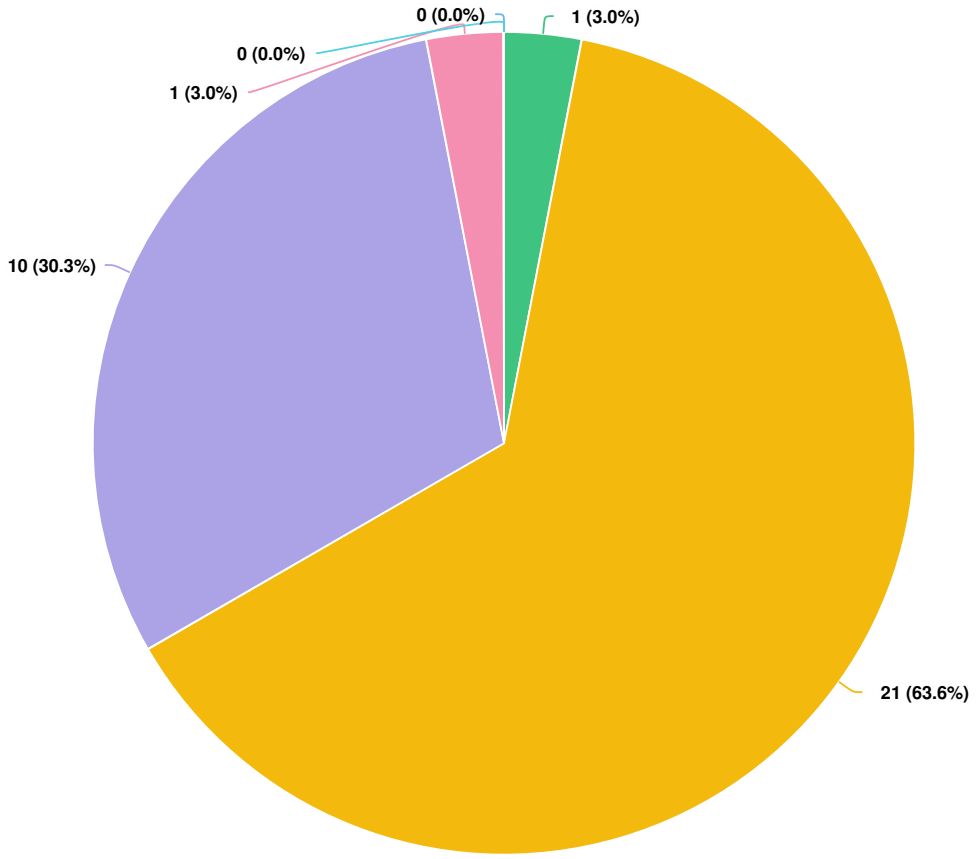


Question options

Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree Strongly disagree Comments

Mandatory Question (33 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q4 **Participants in community engagement are entitled to reasonable support to enable meaningful and informed engagement.**

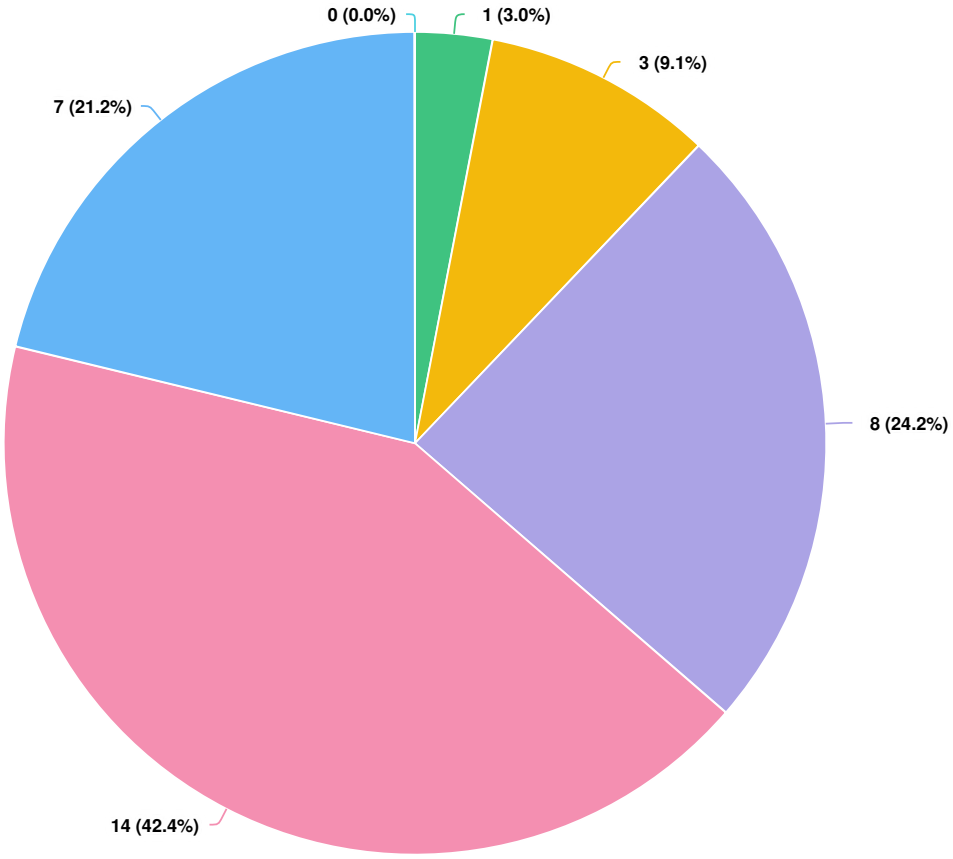


Question options

Disagree Agree Strongly agree Comments Strongly disagree Neutral

Mandatory Question (33 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q5 **Participants in community engagement are informed of the ways in which the community engagement process will influence Council decision-making.**



Question options

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree Comments

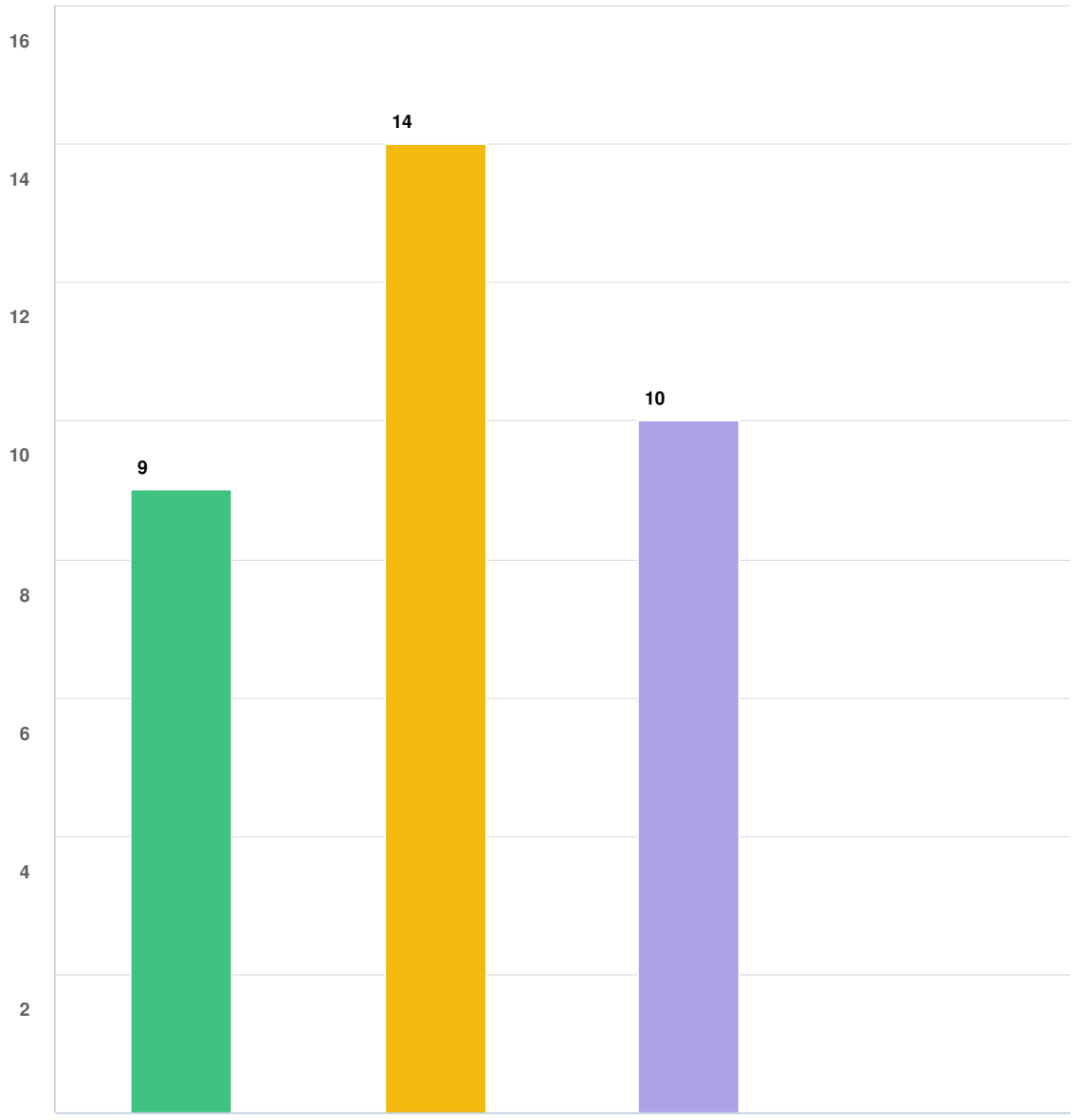
Mandatory Question (33 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q6 Rank the principles in order of importance to you (most important is first)

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Participants in community engagement must have access to objective, relevant and timely information to inform their participation.	2.61
A community engagement process must have a clearly defined objective and scope.	2.82
Participants in community engagement must be representative of the persons and groups affected by the matter that is the subject of the community engagement.	2.94
Participants in community engagement are entitled to reasonable support to enable meaningful and informed engagement.	3.73
Participants in community engagement are informed of the ways in which the community engagement processes will influenced Council decision-making.	4.12
A community engagement process must be designed to reduce inequality.	4.79

Mandatory Question (33 response(s))
Question type: Ranking Question

Q7 Which statement best describes your connection to Council decision-making?



Question options

- I would only comment on Council business that directly affects my household or my local neighbourhood
- I want to be more active in the community and would like regular updates on Council projects and local issues
- I'm very interested in what Council does and have provided feedback and attended community consultations
- I'm not the kind of person who comments on local issues or attends community consultation

Mandatory Question (33 response(s))
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q8 Would you like to provide further comments on the Engagement Policy?

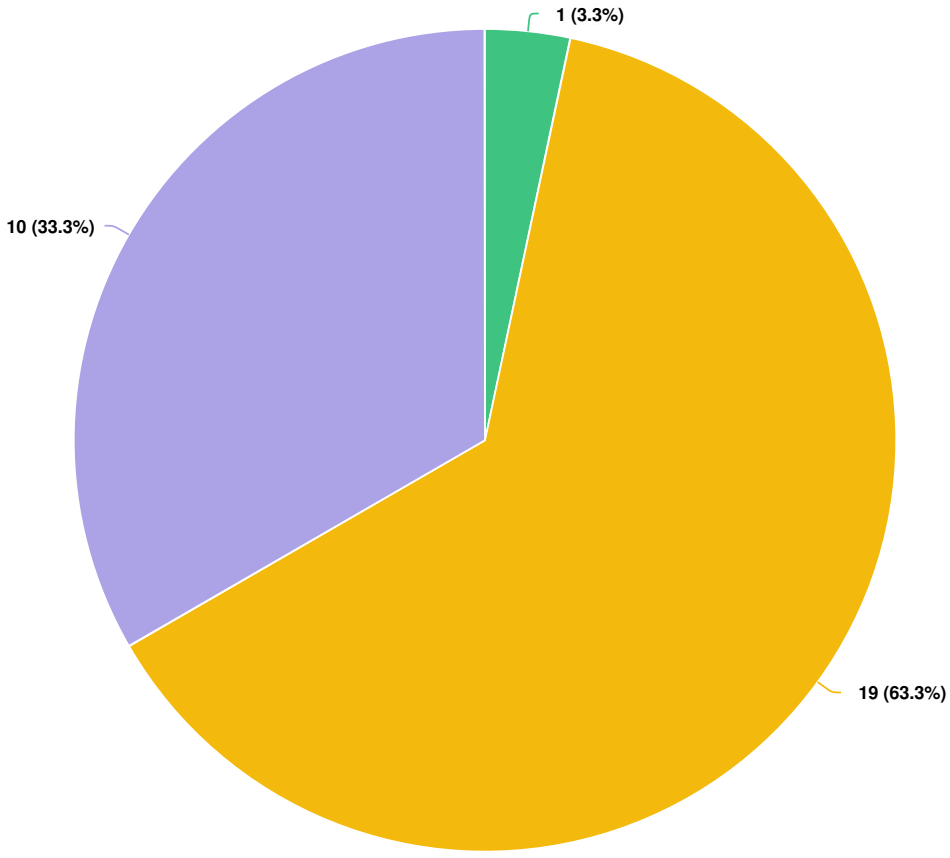
2/03/2025 03:22 PM	I would like to see feedback provided directly to those that engaged in the process so they know it's not just a talkfest
2/03/2025 05:19 PM	Engagement practices must pass 'the pub' test. Policies have ignored by council when they are in conflict with Labor. eg Timber workers. The perception is that Council meetings have been closed to public as a mechanism to avoid open discussion with disaffected, frustrated residents.
2/03/2025 05:45 PM	No
2/03/2025 05:47 PM	Every rate payer should have the right to planing and housing estates planing roads and traffic congestion
2/04/2025 10:30 AM	Council needs to work on it's transparency. A common perception among community members is Council staff are unapproachable or unavailable. Communication begins to breakdown between council administrators and the general public, which has the tendency to create misunderstandings, which leads to animosity.
2/04/2025 12:08 PM	thanks for allowing me to engage
2/05/2025 11:06 PM	yes
2/06/2025 05:38 AM	Yes, I would. I recently completed the phone survey conducted by National Field Service. It was very basic. It is positive that the Council is using this as one means of obtaining community perceptions of the Council's performance. Of course, it has severe limitations.
2/10/2025 04:39 PM	I'd have liked to upload a submission on the draft Policy from the Township Association I'm involved in - this form of engagement doesn't allow me to do so (as far as I can see)
	Having read the policy it is clear that Council is willing to take on the

2/23/2025 06:55 AM	views if the community
3/03/2025 04:40 PM	I am extremely concerned about our councillors and a large number of our community for the past few years. Many engage in facebook pages that I am surprised they are even a friend or follower ...judging by their "likes" on these pages. The facebook pages I am talking about are well known for being divisive, a feed for misinformation, or distortion of truth, extreme political views and allowing extremely personal insultive comments from their followers. Councillors following these pages are indicative that they are clearly not interested in our community being inclusive with our council, nor interested in acknowledging diversity of our community (be it religious, gender, political or plain views of everyday issues affecting our community)... as it hopes with this "Community Engagement Policy. This policy is just a tick the box to satisfy the state bureaucrats. is it any wonder community engagement is eroding? Is it any wonder only the strong and powerful have the monopoly in the LVE with their letters and no one rebuttals them. That's because , like me, I am too scared to respond. Clearly many community members are angry but the councillors have an obligation and responsibility to be our leader and tone down this rhetoric vile spew that is slowly taking over our community.
3/04/2025 11:35 PM	When engagement is sort from targeted community members and those members are not likely to engage with the council the community perspective will be lost. Targeting low socio economic households will give less engagement and still have a significant impact on the rest of the community. Engage as many voices and perspectives. Facebook posts for engagement and surveys can often be outdated. Council information is not very accessible to community members.
3/06/2025 04:59 PM	I found the policy lenghty and while it states it applies to Councillors and employee someone needs to tell some Councillors they need to be governed by the community engagment policy as some Councillors will not engage we ANYONE in the community
3/07/2025 11:01 AM	Definitely need participants not in it for themselves but for all
3/07/2025 11:15 AM	Not at this stage

	Yes
3/07/2025 11:40 AM	
3/07/2025 02:07 PM	"We promise to implement the policies adopted by Council" Does this only apply to the community engagement policy adopted here in 2025 or include the original policy adopted in 2019, which this policy is a mirror of! In other words that 2019 policy is fundamentally unchanged? that being the case I believe that council failed to fully implement and review it's Arts Strategy 2016-2019. This wasn't reviewed and has since disappeared into the round filing cabinet (in other words the rubbish bin!)
3/12/2025 05:06 PM	It’s really important to have focus groups not open forums. Open forums don’t represent the community they only serve groups with their own agenda
3/12/2025 08:52 PM	I would like to see a full disclosure policy implemented by council. I would like to see the paid officials and employees bring their points of reference for all decision making before the public hearings that so the paying public - your employers - get to be the directors of the policy! I believe that the decisions should not be made behind closed doors, weather it be talks about bin collection or re zoning, have the conversation in front of the community it is about. Also I want to see the council meeting cast on the internet. Not all people can get to all the town meetings. Put a camera in the room and let the people be involved.
3/14/2025 02:43 PM	Policies are just policies - I'm a pragmatist and I'm just interested to see how this actually plays out when the rubber meets the road. This document has so much corporate speak in it that this in itself is a barrier to engagement. And I found out about this survey through Facebook of all places - a medium I only use because of work that has the credibility second only to the back of a toilet door when it comes to quality information. My rates notices never fail to find me, so I know the council can find better ways to engage with me...

Optional question (20 response(s), 13 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

Q9 **Have you interacted with Council's online engagement platform Have Your Say Latrobe? If so please rate your experience.**



Question options

Unhappy Neutral Happy

Optional question (30 response(s), 3 skipped)
Question type: Emoji Question

9th February 2025

CDCA Submission on Draft Community Engagement Policy

Churchill & District Community Association (CDCA) is the township group advocating on local issues of concern to residents of the Churchill & district area. Membership comprises residents with wide-ranging connections to a variety of local not-for-profit community groups, major stakeholders, local retailers & other businesses.

CDCA, as the local township group, is well placed to represent the views of this community and frequently engages with Council on a wide range of matters. CDCA aims to always engage in a positive fashion, making suggestions for improvements or alternatives that meet Council's objectives and those of this community.

CDCA supports the draft Community Engagement Policy, as written.

The matters which we raise would appropriately sit under "Implementation"

CDCA would specifically like to draw attention to planning matters and the role of community engagement in providing 'best outcomes', along with how & when such matters are communicated to township associations.

Principle 2 states that: "Participants in Community Engagement will have access to objective, relevant and timely information to inform their participation"

Item 4.6 includes, under the heading "In addition to the matters listed above….." the statement: "Area improvement, for example major projects and infrastructure…." and a further statement: "Site specific, being any changes to an area…."

CDCA believes that a broader number of planning matters ought be subjected to community engagement, with both township association(s) and those directly impacted.

For example:

- infrastructure developments within the CBD – a 2024 planning application was made by a private developer for a new Childcare centre within the Churchill shopping centre precinct – this is of significance due to function & safety, traffic management, car-parking, yet there was no community engagement. It is insufficient for Council's planning officers to advise that "the statutory requirements were met" particularly when CDCA has a long history of engaging with Council over the development of Churchill CBD
- recreational area changes – whilst Council engaged with sporting clubs over the relocation of Churchill Cricket Club & other Andrews Park West based clubs, CDCA was not. CDCA is aware that there are many passive users of Andrews Park West and has concerns for the future of this green space (once all clubs are fully relocated) CDCA believes that the township association (representing

the local community and the many passive users of this park) should have been engaged with from the commencement of relocation planning and, most certainly, should be party to community engagement when the future of Andrews Park West is under consideration.

- Re-zoning of land in and around Churchill township and planning applications for development – CDCA has, in the past, been advised of several re-zoning & development applications and has constructively engaged with Council officers and the developer (e.g. Gaskin Rise, Philip Parade developments). However, there seems to be little consistency in which developments are raised with our township association; sometimes there is direct contact with CDCA from Council officer(s); at other times members stumble across pertinent information; sometimes CDCA is uninformed until well after Council has made a decision

CDCA would like to see specific notification to the relevant township association of major planning matters, including new residential developments (of a significant size), new buildings or major variations to existing infrastructure (such as shopping centre extensions) and changes to land use, including recreational parks & reserves.

CDCA considers that direct notification to township associations is most preferable, where the onus is on Council to at least email or phone, rather than rely on township associations always having the volunteers & time to keep up-to-date with Council's "Have Your Say" webpage, view the weekly LV Express and trawl through Council's monthly Agendas to find out about planning matters of significance to a local community.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Margaret Guthrie

President, on behalf of CDCA
0407 876 443

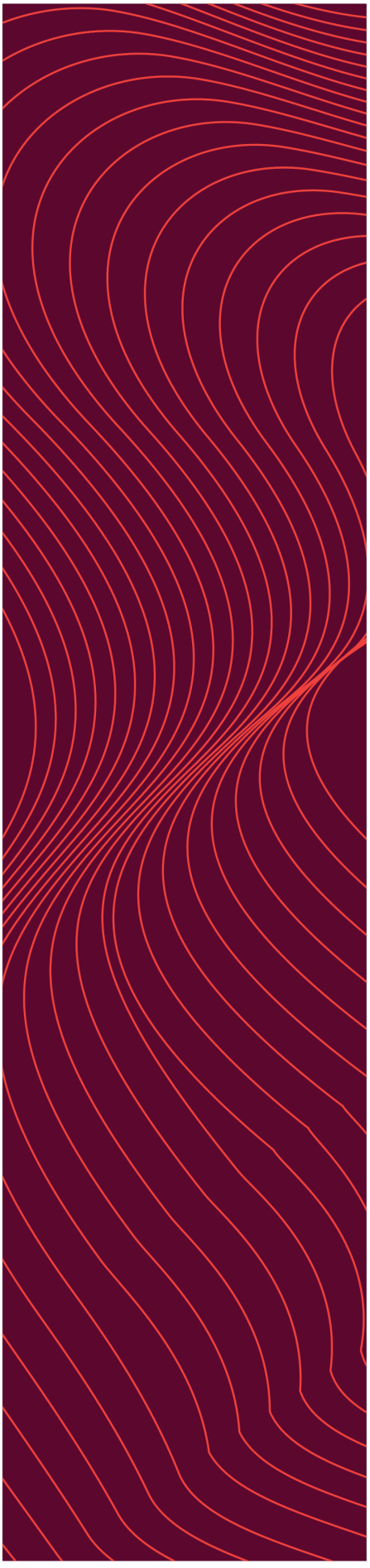
LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

Community Engagement Policy

Version no.

Approval date: 00/00/0000

Review date: 00/00/0000



Document control

Responsible GM	Tim Ellis	
Division	Regional City Strategy & Transition	
Last updated (who and when)	Manager Engagement and Customer Focus, Lauren Carey	2021

Document history		
Authority	**Date**	**Description of change**
Council	12, April 2021	Adopted
References	Refer to section 8 and 9 of this policy	
Next review date	April 2025	
Published on website	Yes	
Document reference no.		

1. Background

This Policy meets the requirement for Council to have a Community Engagement Policy under section 55 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) and outlines the Community Engagement Principles noted in section 56 of the Act.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- Outline the Community Engagement Principles;
- Outline Council's community engagement processes;
- Support community understanding of how Council will involve individuals and stakeholders in decision- making and development of Latrobe City.

The Policy is an important part of how Council will meet the Overarching Governance Principles in section 9 of the Act.

3. Scope

- This Policy applies to all Councillors and employees of Latrobe City Council, as well as all contractors engaged by Latrobe City Council.
- This Policy applies to all community engagement to be undertaken by Council, excluding where Victorian legislation mandates a differently

Division name
Approved: 00/00/0000 | Review: 00/00/0000

4. Principles of management

4.1 Introduction

Latrobe City Council is committed to ongoing conversation with our community through providing genuine, consistent, inclusive and effective community engagement processes.

Successful community engagement allows Council to benefit from the knowledge and experience of the Latrobe City community, and enables community members to influence, and see their influence on the decisions and actions that impact their daily lives.

Council's community engagement values are:

- **Respect:** is shown to all members of the community. The views, concerns and experiences of community members are listened to, and each person's point of view is valued;
- **Inclusiveness and accessibility:** we will make every effort to provide opportunities for all members of the community to participate in community engagement activities. All members of the community are supported to actively contribute, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, income, education, cultural background, language skills or disability.
- **Integrity and honesty:** we will ensure a trustworthy and honest manner is used in all levels of community engagement and decision-making, through processes being open and transparent. The community are provided with a clear understanding of how their input has been considered as part of the final decision-making process.
- **Accountability and ownership:** responsibility is taken by Council for decisions and actions relating to community engagement activities.
- **Communication:** we will communicate throughout the community engagement process when receiving and providing feedback, making decisions and taking action. This includes follow up with participants by clearly demonstrating how their input was considered in the final decision.
- **Innovation:** we will continue to find new ways to listen to and engage with members of the community.

4.2 Latrobe City Council's approach

Three key documents and a toolkit guide Council's Community Engagement.

Community Engagement Policy

Overarching document that sets the standards, principles, values and legislated environment

Community Engagement Framework

Sets out in detail Council's objectives for community engagement and the guidelines for successful engagement

Community Engagement Toolkit

The Community Engagement Toolkit provides tools and templates to ensure a consistent approach

Community Engagement Action Plan

The Community Engagement Action Plan outlines Council's key commitments and actions to improve community engagement

Community Engagement Plan

For every community engagement activity, a plan will be developed, guided by the IAP2 Spectrum

4.3 Principles

Latrobe City Council's Community Engagement Policy is required to outline the five Community Engagement Principles set out at section 56 of the Act. The statements below outlines our commitment to deliver each principle.

Principle	Council's Commitment
1. The community engagement process has a clearly defined objective and scope.	Before engagement we will publish an Engagement Plan Overview.. This will explain: • Why the project is needed; • What the community can influence and what they can't; • What information we need from the community • How we will gather feedback from the community; and • The timeline to provide feedback and when the matter is expected to be decided. If the project or matter has several stages of engagement, we will define the objective and scope for each stage. We will allocate resources depending on the complexity of the project or matter.
2. Participants in community engagement will have access to objective, relevant and timely information to inform their participation.	We will provide access to factual and transparent information on the project or matter, including: • A summary of known impacts, risks and benefits including social, environmental, physical, and financial; and • Relevant background information, technical and research reports, related policies, budget estimate and funding source. This information will be provided through a range of communications. We will provide information in accessible formats, such as large print, translated materials, Easy English, or digital alternatives alongside plain language summaries and provide opportunities to ask questions and receive responses.

3. Participants in community engagement will be representative of the persons and groups affected by the matter.	We will identify community members community that have a connection to the project or matter, and will publish an assessment of the level of: • Impact: what level of change will the community member experience as a result of the project/matter; and • Interest: what level of interest has been expressed or is anticipated. This information is used to work out how best to engage and communicate. Community members who are likely to be more affected, may be offered more opportunities to engage on the decision than others.
4. Participants in community engagement are entitled to reasonable support to enable meaningful and informed engagement.	We will design engagement activities and schedule to meet the needs of community members. This will consider: • Multiple ways to participate, including written, visual, online and verbal; • The time participants will require to provide a response; and • The resourcing available for engagement needs depending on the complexity and scale of the project. For community members who may experience barriers to participation, additional resources may be considered such as: • Information and feedback processes in formats to meet their needs; and • Support to participate, including personal care and/or support for transport and after-hours options.

6. A community engagement process must be designed to promote fairness and equity	We will design engagement programs to encourage fairness, equity and the participation of p community through: • One- to-one and small group discussion; • Ability to participate in a private or closed forum and/or anonymously; • Monitor participation to ensure all are involved and adapt activities to promote increased participation if required; and • Moderation and management of public forums to enable respectful and equal sharing of ideas.

4.4 What is community engagement and why it is important

Community engagement means listening to the community. It gives people a chance to share their ideas and be part of Council decisions. It helps everyone feel included and shows that their feedback is heard and matters.

When people can be involved and share their thoughts on things that matter to them, it helps make decisions fairer. It also helps people feel included, builds trust in the process, and shows that their opinions are respected.

Community engagement is an important part of how Council works. It helps Council understand different ideas, opinions, and issues from people in our region.

4.5 Who we engage with

Latrobe City is a diverse community with a broad range of views and interests.

While many people in the community care about decisions, it isn't practical for Latrobe City Council to talk to everyone about every issue. Some decisions also have a bigger impact on certain people than others.

We decide who is affected by looking at how a project, plan or idea might change things for people like where they live, how they work, or their community. This might include individuals, neighbours, or people in local groups and town associations.

4.6 When we will engage

Making sure the community has a say is an important part of how Latrobe City Council does its work. The Act sets out a number of matters where community engagement is compulsory.

Deliberative engagement is required for:

- Community Vision;
- Council Plan;

- Financial Plan;
- Asset Plan.

Consultative engagement is required for:

- Budget (or any revised Budget);
- Adopting Local Laws;
- Governance Rules;
- Acquiring or disposing of land;
- Leasing of Council land (in some circumstances).

In addition to the above, where appropriate Latrobe City Council will engage the community under a range of other scenarios, such as:

- Other Policy, Strategy and Plan development;
- Service planning, including development, amendment or improvement of a service provided by Council;
- Area improvement, for example major projects and infrastructure, and upgrades to recreational areas, community assets and Council buildings and facilities; Site specific, being any changes to an area, and including matters affecting an individual property;
- Additional legislative requirements under this Act including related regulations, or as required by any other Act, for example:
    - Road Management Act 2004;
    - Planning and Environment Act 2007;
    - Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008;
    - Issues affecting the:
        - Cultural and social liveability of the community;
        - Local economy and labour market; or
        - Natural environment.

Community engagement will occur in the earlier stages of a project/initiative, providing an opportunity for the public to influence the development process.

Depending on the circumstances, community engagement may be undertaken in more than one stage.

Council will give the community and stakeholders enough time to get involved and have their say. Sometimes, the amount of time we have to ask the community for feedback is set by law and can't be changed.

Not all decisions of Latrobe City Council will provide an opportunity for broad community consultation or participation. Sometimes, a decision has already been made by Council or is required by law, which means we can't talk about it or change it any further.

Some areas where community engagement activities may not occur include:

- Where a situation poses an immediate threat or risk to the health, safety or wellbeing of the community to which Council is required to respond quickly, including emergency events;
- A consultation process involving Council that is being conducted by another level of government (such as Federal or State government);
- If the matter involves confidential information;

When the law says it must happen.

Division name
Approved: 00/00/0000 | Review: 00/00/0000

4.7 How we will engage

The table below shows a model that helps make sure we follow the same steps for community engagement each time. The model provides:

- Our role in the engagement;
- Our commitment to the community; and
- Examples of some of the methods we may use in our engagement activities.

All levels of engagement can be supported by methods from the previous level.

The engagement level selected will be influenced by the project's scope, impact and available resources.

Community participation and engagement levels

Activity category			**Category 1:** Matters which require deliberative engagement under the *Local Government Act*.		
		Category 2: Matters which are of higher or long-term impact and significant interest to the community.			
	Category 3: Matters which are of lower impact or interest to the community, or where the community's ability to influence is limited.				
	Levels of community participation				
Our role	**Inform** Provide the community with balanced and objective information to assist them to understand the problem, alternatives, opportunities, and/or solutions.	**Consult** Obtain community feedback on analysis, alternatives, and/ or decisions.	**Involve** Work directly with the community to ensure that their concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	**Collaborate** Partner with the community in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	**Empower** To place final decision making in the hands of the community.
Our commitment	We promise to keep you informed.	We promise to: • keep you informed • listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations • provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We promise to: • work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed • provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We promise to: • work together with you to formulate solutions • incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We promise to implement your decision.
Engagement type	**Consultative** The community provide feedback on alternatives, draft documents or decisions.		**Deliberative** The community are provided with sufficient time and information to consider and prioritise options, as a part of the decision making process.		
Examples of tools and techniques	Website Social media Newsletters and other mail outs Media releases Letters Flyers and posters Signage	Submissions Public comments Surveys Public meetings Polls Drop-in/ pop-up Listening posts	Workshops Stakeholder networks Focus/working groups Interviews Site visit Focus groups	Advisory committees Working group Participant led workshops Co-design Deliberative poll	Delegated committees and community asset committees Citizen juries Democratic voting Practical skills workshops Training events

4.8 Deliberative engagement

The Act requires that the development of Council's Community Vision, Council Plan, Financial Plan and Asset Plan involve deliberative engagement practices. Deliberative engagement is an important approach that will also be used in other non-legislated situations as it is required. What do we mean by 'deliberative engagement'?

Deliberative engagement is a form of community engagement that places people closer to the decision- making of a democratic society, without taking away from the decision-making powers of the elected Council. Deliberative engagement happens when a group of people from the community are given the time, facts, and support they need to work together and agree on a solution or idea. . The time we have, how complex the topic is, how big the impact is, and the resources we have all help decide how we involve people in deeper community discussions. Local Government Victoria has identified the key characteristics of deliberative engagement as:

- Authentic engagement with the community;
- Good representation of the community in engagement activities;
- Clear demonstration of how all views have been considered; and
- Accessible and relevant information available to the community to ensure the decision-making process and the community's level of influence is clear in each instance and that participants are fully informed.

4.9 Latrobe City Council's approach

For every community engagement activity, Council officers will create a clear and timely plan. This plan will focus on the right people and the best ways to involve them, so everyone has a fair chance to take part.

Council uses the following steps to guide community engagement:

1. Clearly define the purpose and scope of the community engagement
2. Understand stakeholder and community interests
3. Design an appropriate community engagement process
4. Deliver genuine and respectful engagement
5. Review and interpret the engagement data
6. Apply the outcomes of the engagement to inform the decision-making process
7. Evaluate the community engagement process for improvement
8. Close the loop on the community engagement - advise the community of the final outcome and how their feedback was considered in the final decision.

4.10 Evaluation

Feedback will be provided acknowledging and respecting the valuable contributions of community members and stakeholders, as well as the time they dedicate to participating. Outcomes and updates will be reported online via Council's Have Your Say platform and in other ways the community asks for such as print, radio or social media. Updates will also be sent directly to those who have requested to stay informed and have provided their contact details.

4.11 Privacy

Being honest and open is a big part of community engagement. When a person participates at workshops or events or in forums, contributions and identity are considered public. The same rules apply for submissions, unless someone asks to stay anonymous. Responses to surveys,

questionnaires and feedback forms may be published but identities, if known, will remain anonymous.

Contact information will be kept secure and separate from any other data provided.

Council will only collect what personal information it requires to carry out its statutory and legal responsibilities and to deliver its services. Council complies with the requirements of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 in carrying out these responsibilities.

5. Accountability and responsibility

Accountability and responsibility for this policy is outlined below.

5.1 Council

- Responsibility to ensure this Policy is consistent with Latrobe City Council Strategic Direction and other Latrobe City Council Policy
- Responsibility for the decision to approve this Policy by Council Resolution

5.2 Chief Executive Officer

- Overall responsibility for compliance with this policy
- Overall responsibility for enforcing accountability
- Overall responsibility for providing resources
- Overall responsibility for performance monitoring

5.3 General Manager

- Responsibility for compliance with this policy
- Responsibility for enforcing accountability
- Responsibility for providing resources
- Responsibility for performance monitoring

5.4 Manager

- Develop frameworks and procedures in compliance with this policy
- Enforce responsibilities to achieve compliance with frameworks and procedures
- Provide appropriate resources for the execution of the frameworks and procedures

5.5 Employees, Contractors and Volunteers

- Participate where required in the development of frameworks and procedures in compliance with this policy.
- Comply with frameworks and procedures developed to achieve compliance with this policy.

6. Evaluation and Review

This policy will be reviewed on request of Council, in the event of significant change in the Executive team, significant changes to legislation applicable to the subject matter of the policy or, in any other case, during each Council term (generally four years).

7. Definitions

Include definitions of any words which are critical to the interpretation of the policy or whose meaning is distinguishable from common use/understanding.

8. Related Documents

List all related Latrobe City Council Policies, Frameworks and Procedures.

9. Reference Documents

List any external reference materials, such as Acts, Regulations, Guidance, Industrial Instruments, Planning Instruments, etc.

10. Appendices

Division name
Approved: 00/00/0000 | Review: 00/00/0000

LATROBE CITY MEDIA POLICY REVIEW AND UPDATE

PURPOSE

To present Latrobe City Council's Draft Media Policy 2025-2029 following a review of the existing Media Policy due for renewal in June 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Draft Media Policy 2025-2029 ensures a consistent approach when dealing with the media, providing a clear framework for engaging with all media organisations to ensure that all official Council communication is a positive reflection of Council's commitment to informing the community of Council decisions and policies.
- The Draft Media Policy 2025-2029 is an important document that helps to protect Council's reputation by ensuring consistency, relevance and accuracy in the information Council places in the public realm. It also seeks to provide a process to ensure that the community and stakeholders are informed, recognising that ongoing communication activities are critical in building and maintaining productive relationships with the community and other stakeholders.
- It is recommended that the Draft Media Policy 2025-2029 is implemented throughout the entirety of the current Council term and includes Council's dedicated spokesperson for both policy and operational matters, target response times for media enquiries, and guidelines for Councillors and staff when responding to the media.
- When implemented, the policy will assist the Mayor, Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and staff in understanding the correct communication processes when approached for media enquiries, identifying spokespersons for media interviews, preparing media statements and making comments to the media.
- Recent Councillor feedback emphasising the importance of using clear, accessible, and plain language in Council policies and plans has been considered in the drafting of the policy.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **adopts the Media Policy 2025-2029 at Attachment 1;**
2. **notes with the adoption of this Media Policy 2025-2029, that any previous versions are now superseded; and**
3. **notes that after adoption the Media Policy 2025-2029 will be published on Council's website.**

BACKGROUND

In preparation of the Draft Media Policy 2025-2029 officers reviewed the existing media policy.

The review included consideration of:

- Changes in the media landscape, including a rise in online news platforms and digital publications;
- A statewide media inquiry conducted in collaboration with other councils or external agencies; and
- Recent Councillor feedback emphasising the importance of using clear, accessible, and plain language in Council policies and plans.

ANALYSIS

The Draft Media Policy 2025-2029 remains largely unchanged from the existing Media Policy 2022-2025.

Attachment 1 tracks the proposed changes which provides additional guidance for statewide enquiries and determining legitimate media outlets.

The Draft Media Policy 2025-2029 is also proposed to extend to a four-year review cycle, to keep the policy in alignment with new Council terms.

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
COMPLIANCE Council's Media Policy is not reviewed in time for the June 2025 review.	**Medium** *Possible x Minor*	Report is being presented for consideration at the June 2025 Council Meeting. If delayed the current Media Policy will remain active.
COMPLIANCE Media outlets publish comments attributable to a Council officer who is not an authorised spokesperson.	**Low** *Unlikely x Minor*	Council-initiated news stories must be coordinated and managed by the Communication and Engagement Team. Comments will only be approved and provided from an authorised spokesperson as noted in the Draft Media Policy.

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
STRATEGIC Council's media is inappropriately managed, resulting in reputational risk.	**Medium** *Unlikely x Moderate*	The Draft Media Policy outlines the development and approval process to ensure there is managerial oversight of the development of all Council communications.
STRATEGIC Council's communication activities fail to inform community and stakeholders of what is occurring in Latrobe City in respect of activities and future plans of Council.	**Low** *Unlikely x Minor*	The Draft Media Policy will enhance and protect Council's reputation, meeting Council's commitment to communicate its many and varied decisions, activities, services, major projects, and policy initiatives to the community.

CONSULTATION

The Draft Media Policy was reviewed by officers across Council and feedback has been incorporated.

COMMUNICATION

The Draft Media Policy will guide how Council works with the media to communicate with our community. When finalised, the policy will be posted to the Council website and will be communicated internally.

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

Not applicable.

Cultural

Not applicable.

Health

Not applicable.

Environmental

Not applicable.

Economic

Not applicable.

Financial

There are no financial impacts as a result of this Draft Media Policy.

Attachments

1. Media Policy 2025 - 2029

10.3

Latrobe City Media Policy Review and Update

1 Media Policy 2025 - 2029 619

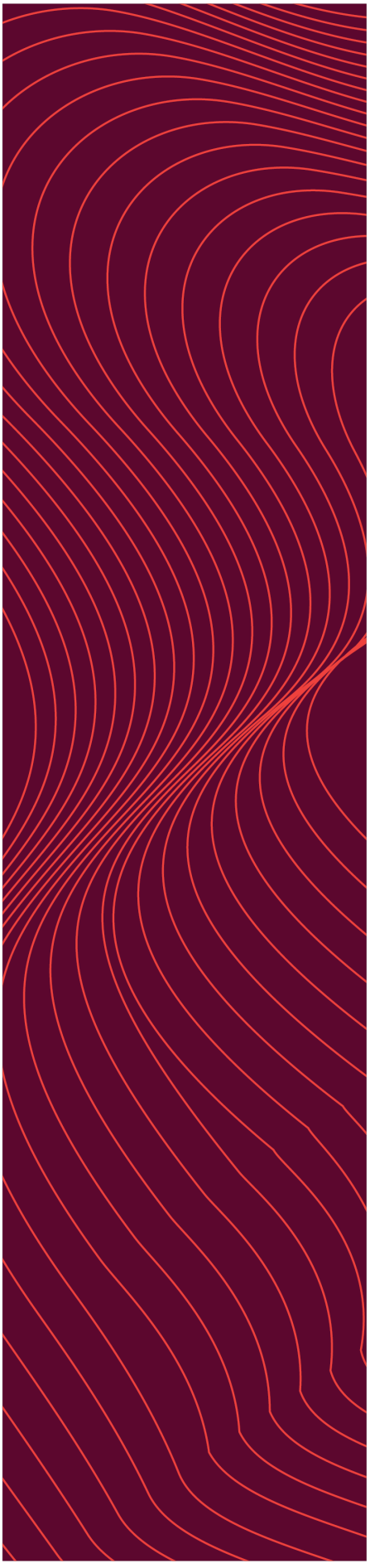
LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

Media Policy

Version no. 2

Approval date: xx

Review date: June 2029



Document control

Responsible GM	Tim Ellis	
Division	Regional City Strategy and Transition	
Last updated (who and when)	Manager Engagement and Customer Focus, Lauren Carey	2025

Document history		
Authority	**Date**	**Description of change**
Council	June 2025	Additional guidance given for statewide enquiries and determining legitimate media outlets.
References	Refer to section 8 and 9 of this policy	
Next review date	June 2029	
Published on website	Yes	
Document reference no.		

1. Background

The Latrobe City Council Media Policy 2025-2029 provides clear rules for Council working with all types of media such as newspapers, radio, TV, and online to make sure we share accurate and useful information the community can trust.

The policy will help protect and grow Latrobe City Council's good reputation, by making sure the community knows about its decisions, services, major projects, and plans.

2. Objectives

The purpose of the policy is to ensure a consistent approach by Council when working with the media. The Media Policy 2025-2029 is an important document that helps protect Council's reputation by making sure all public information is clear, correct, and consistent. The policy helps make sure that all official messages from Council are clear, correct, and easy to understand. It shows Council's promise to share information with the community in a timely, fair, and consistent way.

3. Scope

The policy is implemented throughout the current Council term and includes Council's dedicated spokesperson for both policy and operational matters, target response times for media enquiries, and guidelines for Councillors and staff when responding to the media.

This policy relates to all verbal, printed, electronic and online communications, and applies to all internal and external engagement with media involving elected Councillors, the Executive Leadership Team and staff including full-time, part-time, contract, casual, work experience and trainees, contractors, and volunteers of Latrobe City Council.

The responsibilities of Councillors, the Executive Leadership Team and staff including full-time, part-time, contract, casual, work experience and trainees, contractors, and volunteers of Latrobe City Council regarding the use of social media is outlined in the organisational policy Social Media Policy 2023 and Social Media Guidelines 2024. During a Council election this policy must be read in conjunction with the Election Period Policy.

4. Principles of management

Media Relations

Media relations are a key part of Council's operations, an important source of information for our community, and a significant part of Council's role as a community leader and advocate within the region. Council recognises that traditional media (print, television, magazine, radio) and social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X, YouTube) provide opportunities for Latrobe City Council to communicate and engage with its community and stakeholders.

Latrobe City Council's policy is to speak openly and honestly with the media. This helps us stay fair, clear, and keep the community informed about what we're doing.

Communication should reinforce the reputation and values of Council and its organisation, and be accurate, timely, impartial and consistent with legislation and policies.

Council will maintain good working relationships with all media organisations including local and metropolitan print, radio, television and digital media. To maintain these relationships, there will be no exclusive stories provided to individual media outlets. Doing so has the potential to damage relationships with other media outlets and restricts our ability to achieve the best coverage possible for stories that promote the work of Latrobe City.

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Latrobe City Council will use this policy, in conjunction with the Social Media Policy, to assist the Mayor, Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and staff in understanding Council's communication processes when handling media enquiries, identifying spokespersons for media interviews, preparing media statements and making comments to the media.

Response Times

The Latrobe City community is entitled to receive all public information, as is the media. Journalists are entitled to expect that Council will provide them with all public information relevant to their enquiries.

Council will respond to enquiries in a timely manner and recognise that some media requests may require a prompt response. We will aim to reply to enquiries within 48 hours of being received. In the event that a response time cannot be met due to the complexity of the request or the need to seek information from a cross-section of departments, a member of the Communications and Engagement Team will contact the journalist and advise of an alternative timeframe. All enquiries will be acknowledged by the Communications and Engagement Team.

To meet these response times, Council officers shall place priority on responding to enquiries allocated to them by Council's Communication and Engagement Team.

Enquiries

To ensure Council meets its response times, we request that the media direct enquiries through to the Communications and Engagement Team. The Communications and Engagement Team will be responsible for organising the appropriate spokesperson and coordinating Council's response.

Enquiries are to be directed to the Communications and Engagement Team via the following methods:

- Sending an email request, clearly outlining the enquiry and associated questions to comms@latrobe.vic.gov.au;
- Telephoning a member of the Communications and Engagement Team.

Council officers who are contacted by a journalist are to refer the media enquiry to the Communications and Engagement Team immediately. The Communications and Engagement Team will then take responsibility in the coordination, preparation of the response and seek additional information where required from relevant teams.

The Communications and Engagement Team will determine if an enquiry received is from a legitimate media outlet. Credibility will be considered based on:

- Information available about the news source;
- Coverage of the news source includes the municipality;
- Ethical standards including fairness, balance, accuracy and independence;
- Transparency about their reporting practices and ownership;
- Accountability for corrections.

A response will not be provided to enquiries that are received from outlets not deemed as legitimate.

Where Council receives an enquiry alongside other councils or external agencies (i.e. a statewide enquiry), the Communications and Engagement Team will work with relevant departments to determine if Council's participation is advantageous. Otherwise, the opportunity will be declined.

Spokesperson

The Mayor is spokesperson on decisions of the Council and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is the spokesperson on all operational matters, including a declared municipal emergency and activated Business Continuity Plan. In circumstances in which the enquiry has a particular focus or

calls for the spokesperson to have specific knowledge, the CEO may defer to a General Manager, who may in turn delegate to a Manager.

In the event that a General Manager is out of the office or not contactable for a period of time that would push the enquiry response past the 48-hour turn-around time, a Manager may be asked to comment in their place.

If the enquiry is minor and/or regarding something that is a matter of public record, the enquiry can be answered immediately by a member of the Communications and Engagement Team, or a referral made to the journalist to visit Council's website for the relevant information.

Role of the Communications and Engagement Team

All media enquiries must be referred to, coordinated and managed, by the Communications and Engagement Team. The Communications and Engagement Team will write, and seek necessary approvals, for media releases and statements. The Communications and Engagement Team will liaise directly with the media to follow up and coordinate enquiries.

The Communications and Engagement Team will provide advice and support to all Council departments to create newsworthy opportunities and target media appropriately. Council-initiated news stories must be coordinated and managed by the Communication and Engagement Team.

The Communications and Engagement Team will support the Mayor in their role as Council spokesperson. This includes liaison with media and ensuring the Mayor is appropriately briefed and supported as spokesperson.

Media Support

While the Mayor and CEO handle the majority of media enquiries, there may be a need for other staff to act as Council spokesperson from time-to-time. Where these circumstances arise, staff will be briefed and prepared by Communications and Engagement team.

Media Briefings

Council will schedule media briefings on topics of interest to the community. All media outlets will be invited to attend. In the event that a journalist wishes to propose additional questions for discussion at the media briefing, to ensure Council is able to provide timely information, we invite the media to send questions in writing to the Communications and Engagement Team 24 hours prior to the briefing taking place; otherwise questions may be taken on notice and responded to after the event in accordance with Council's standard response timeframes.

Community Engagement | Public Meetings / Meetings of Residents / Special Interest Groups

The Mayor is the only one authorised to call or endorse a public meeting, or a meeting of residents on behalf of Council. Unless otherwise determined by the Mayor, the Mayor shall chair all public meetings, meetings of residents and special interest groups called or arranged by Council. This does not preclude Councillors from attending community meetings on local issues.

This reflects the objectives of the Latrobe City Council Community Engagement Policy 2025.

Councillors and the Media

Councillors must abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct when engaging with the media. In recognising that an individual Councillor may have a view that differs from the official Council position, Councillors who express personal views should qualify their remarks to indicate this is a personal view.

When approached by the media, Councillors have the following options available to them:

- Make comment (not as the official spokesperson).
- Decline to make comment and refer the journalist to the Mayor to make official comments.

- Defer the enquiry to the Communications and Engagement Team for an official response to be prepared.

Councillors need to be careful when talking to the media before a decision is made, so it doesn't appear like they've already established a position.

This does not mean that Councillors cannot publicly make comment on a forthcoming issue, but Councillors should think carefully about what their words mean and how others might understand them.

Individual Councillors wishing to initiate their own communication, through any channel, must make it clear that they are expressing their 'individual' view and not the 'official' view of Council. Councillors are responsible for ensuring that information that they are commenting on, or providing is accurate and consistent with legislation and policies.

Involvement of other Councillors at media engagement events

The Mayor can invite other Councillors to participate in any media engagement opportunity, especially if it relates to that Councillors' Ward or Committee appointment.

Such media engagement may be conducted jointly with the Mayor and other eligible Councillors, and could typically involve:

- A public, media or event spokesperson role (as a Master of Ceremonies, or to deliver a speech);
- Participation in a staged media opportunity or event (a photo shoot, radio or TV interview);
- Being quoted in a proactive Latrobe City media release or media response (approved by the Mayor);
- And being included in any other relevant proactive Latrobe City media engagement – including all social media, print and online.

Assigning order of representation for Councillors

If the Mayor invites a Councillor (or Councillors) to participate in a Latrobe City organised media engagement, the Mayor will generally:

- Speak first on behalf of Council;
- Be the focus of any Latrobe City organised media engagement;
- And be first quoted in any Latrobe City media release or other content (Latrobe City's social media, if appropriate).

If several Councillors attend a Media Engagement event then the Mayor will determine which order these Councillors might speak and/or appear, if at all (including on Council's social media).

Communication Methods

Latrobe City Council utilises a variety of communication tools to provide the media and community with timely information.

Media Releases

A media release is the starting point for gaining editorial on an issue or event. Journalists and editors receive the media release and decide if they want to write a story based on the information provided. The story angle taken by a journalist may differ from the one presented in the media release. Council has no influence on editorial decisions.

All media releases are written by the Communications and Engagement Team. The Communications and Engagement Team will seek appropriate approvals prior to posting on the

Council website and distributing to the media. All Councillors and the Executive Leadership Team receive a copy of media releases.

Latrobe City Council treats all media outlets equally and avoids giving one outlet preferential treatment. As such, media releases are distributed to all media outlets at the same time.

Protocol for quoting in media releases:

- Latrobe City-wide, policy-oriented or highly political stories are to quote the Mayor.
- Stories connected to a specific ward or geographic location can be quoted on by a ward Councillor and/or the Mayor. This is at the discretion of the Mayor.
- Stories arising from the work of a committee can be quoted on by a Councillor who serves on that committee and/or the Mayor. This is at the discretion of the Mayor.
- Operational issues are quoted on by the CEO.
- Staff with specialist knowledge may be quoted in media releases with the permission of the relevant delegated authority.

All Councillors will receive a copy of the media release when it is distributed.

Media Alert

A media alert invites media outlets to an upcoming event or opportunity that may be of interest to the community.

All media alerts will be managed by the Communications and Engagement team.

Media alerts are reserved for high-level events and opportunities such as those that include funding acknowledgements and partnerships. The appropriate use of a media alert will be at the discretion of the Communications and Engagement team.

Social Media

The Communications and Engagement Team oversees the management of all Latrobe City-managed social media accounts and holds all passwords.

Latrobe City will not solicit or pay for any followers (or similar) on any City-managed social media accounts.

The Mayor and Councillors are wholly responsible for maintaining any private social media accounts they might hold, create or operate under their own name, and accept all legal responsibilities for such accounts.

Council officers shall not assist any Councillor with the creation or operation of any private social media account – unless approved by the CEO.

When operating any private social media accounts Councillors are encouraged to be mindful of Council's Social Media Policy, Councillor Social Media Guidelines and the Councillor Code of Conduct.

5. Accountability and responsibility

Accountability and responsibility for this policy is outlined below.

5.1. Council

- Responsibility to ensure this Policy is consistent with Latrobe City Council Strategic Direction and other Latrobe City Council Policy
- Responsibility for the decision to approve this policy by Council Resolution

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- Mayor to support Councillor compliance with this policy
- Councillors to act in accordance with the policy

5.2. Chief Executive Officer

- Overall responsibility for compliance with this policy
- Overall responsibility for enforcing accountability
- Overall responsibility for providing resources
- Overall responsibility for performance monitoring

5.3. General Manager

- Responsibility for compliance with this policy
- Responsibility for enforcing accountability
- Responsibility for providing resources
- Responsibility for performance monitoring

5.4. Manager

- Develop frameworks and procedures in compliance with this policy
- Enforce responsibilities to achieve compliance with frameworks and procedures
- Provide appropriate resources for the execution of the frameworks and procedures

5.5. Employees, Contractors and Volunteers

- Participate where required in the development of frameworks and procedures in compliance with this policy
- Comply with frameworks and procedures developed to achieve compliance with this policy

6. Evaluation and Review

This policy will be reviewed on request of Council, in the event of significant change in the Executive team, significant changes to legislation applicable to the subject matter of the policy or, in any other case, during each Council term (generally four years).

7. Related Documents

Public Transparency Policy

Social Media Policy

8. Reference Documents

- Public Records Act 1973
- Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014
- Copyright Act 1968
- Local Government Act 2020

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Approved: June 2025 | Review: June 2029

REVIEW OF GIFTS, BENEFIT AND HOSPITALITY POLICY

PURPOSE

To present the revised Gifts, Benefit and Hospitality Policy (Policy) for adoption, at **Attachment 1**.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Section 138 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires Council to adopt a Councillor gift policy.
- An Internal review of the current Policy and associated procedures and practices was undertaken by officers as per the annual Internal Control Environment Plan.
- The purpose of the review was to assess Council's compliance with the Policy's key requirements. The review provided recommendations for updates to the Policy.
- The key proposed changes are:
    - inclusion of wording to encourage a 'thanks is enough' culture;
    - improvement of flow and clarity of the Gift Disclosure Form and Gift Register sections;
    - update to the gift disclosure form (individual and bulk) to ensure it is clear who is the authorised delegate for approval;
    - addition of business reason for accepting gift on the gift disclosure form (individual and bulk);
    - removal of reporting to Executive Team as reporting is provided to the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) on a 6 monthly basis; and
    - inclusion of offers of civic memorabilia.
- The Policy was due for an update in February 2025. However, it was considered appropriate to postpone the review slightly to allow consideration of the recommendations provided by the review.
- The Policy has been updated to ensure it is compliant with the Act as well as meeting the needs of the organisation.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **adopts the revised Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy at Attachment 1;**
2. **notes with the adoption of this Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy, that any previous versions are now superseded; and**
3. **notes that after adoption, the Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy will be published on Council's website.**

BACKGROUND

The current Policy was adopted at the Ordinary Council Meeting held 8 February 2021. The Policy applies to Councillors, Council employees and contractors.

With the introduction of the revised Act in 2020, all Councils are required to adopt a Councillor gift policy. The Policy must include:

- procedures for the maintenance of a gift register; and
- any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

The principal change to the Policy adopted in 2021 was to introduce a requirement that anonymous gifts not be accepted, including the option of disposing of such a gift to Council within 30 days where it has inadvertently been received. Section 137 of the Act states:

(1) Subject to subsection (2), a Councillor must not accept, directly or indirectly, a gift for the benefit of the Councillor the amount or value of which is equal to or exceeds the gift disclosure threshold unless—

(a) the name and address of the person making the gift are known to the Councillor; or

(b) at the time when the gift is made—

(i) the Councillor is given the name and address of the person making the gift; and

(ii) the Councillor reasonably believes that the name and address so given are the true name and address of the person making the gift.

(2) If the name and address of the person making the gift are not known to the Councillor for whose benefit the gift is intended, the Councillor is not in breach of subsection (1) if the Councillor disposes of the gift to the Council within 30 days of the gift being received.

(3) In addition to the penalty specified in subsection (1), a Councillor who is found guilty of a breach of that subsection must pay to the Council the amount or value of the gift accepted in contravention of that subsection.

While this part of the Act only applies to Councillors, the prohibition of accepting anonymous gifts is proposed to be extended to staff and contractors in the Policy as officers considered this would be of benefit to Council's fraud and corruption framework.

The key proposed changes to the Policy are outlined in the Executive Summary of this report.

Minor word and formatting changes have also been made.

Following adoption of the revised policy, the gift register procedure will be updated to reflect the changes.

ANALYSIS

The review was undertaken of the policy, the gift register, a sample of declarations over the past 2 years and reporting to ARC. Discussions with the Policy owner and relevant officers also took place.

The review provided recommendations for areas of improvement for the Policy, the gifts register and associated procedures.

Opportunities for improvement for the Policy included to:

- emphasise principles of the Policy and strengthen focus on ‘thanks is enough;’
- improve flow and clarity of the Policy and consider attaching copies of the gift forms as an attachment rather than listing them in the policy;
- confirm the process for approval of gifts received by the CEO; and
- review current reporting arrangements (to Executive Team and ARC).

These recommendations were considered and changes to the Policy made where appropriate.

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
COMPLIANCE Failure to comply with legislative requirements due to outdated or inaccurate policies.	**Medium** *Possible x Minor*	Undertake scheduled reviews and update policy to ensure it accurately reflects legislation.
COMPLIANCE Non-compliance with the Act regarding the disclosure of offers of Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality.	**Medium** *Possible x Moderate*	Further education and information to Councillors, employees and contractors to be provided following adoption of the revised policy.
SERVICE DELIVERY Lack of clear direction in service delivery due to outdated or inaccurate policies.	**Medium** *Possible x Minor*	Undertake scheduled reviews and update policy to ensure it remains consistent with service delivery.

CONSULTATION

Internal consultation has been undertaken for the review of this policy. Once adopted, the revised Policy will be made available on Council’s website.

COMMUNICATION

Following adoption of the revised Policy, an awareness campaign will be undertaken to ensure Councillors, employees and contractors have a clear understanding of their requirements and obligations under the Policy.

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 Policy is an externally facing document. There were no major impacts to the Policy following the completion of the GIA.

Social

A comprehensive Policy that reflects current legislative requirements and practice supports community access to information, through facilitating understanding of available information and methods of access.

Cultural

Not applicable.

Health

Not applicable.

Environmental

Not applicable.

Economic

Not applicable.

Financial

Not applicable.

Attachments

1. Draft Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy

10.4

Review of Gifts, Benefit and Hospitality Policy

1 Draft Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy 634

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy

Version 5.0

Approval date: 00/00/2025

Review date: June 2029

DRAFT

Document control

Responsible GM	General Manager Regional City and Transition	
Division	Regional City and Transition	
Last updated (who and when)	Coordinator Council Business	2025

Document history		
Authority	**Date**	**Description of change**
Council	30 June 2025	Revision of existing policy against recommendations received from an Internal Control Environment (ICE) review.
Council	08 February 2021	The 2020 Act requires a Council to adopt a Councillor gift policy within six months of when the section comes into operation, which was on 24 October 2020.
Council	5 August 2019	Revision of existing policy against internal audit findings and better practice requirements.
Council	22 August 2016	Adopted.
Administration Update	July 2016	Revision of existing policy against the Victorian Public Sector Commission applicable Framework, new template structure, renaming of policy.
References	Refer to section 8 and 9 of this policy.	
Next review date	June 2029	
Published on website	<Yes or no>	
Document reference no.		

Regional City Strategy and Transition
Approved: 00/06/2025 | Review: 06/2029

1. Background

Latrobe City Council (Council) is committed to ensuring that Councillors, Council employees and contractors act with integrity and honesty when performing their duties or while attending functions as Council representatives.

The acceptance of gifts, benefits and hospitality can create perceptions that a Councillor, employee or contractor's integrity has been compromised.

This policy states Council's position on responding to offers of gifts, benefits and hospitality. It is intended to support Councillors, employees and contractors to avoid conflicts of interest and maintain high levels of integrity and public trust.

Council is a public body subject to the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). This Act is part of the legislative framework that provides for Victorian local councils to be accountable to their local communities in the performance of functions, exercise of power and use of resources.

DRAFT

2. Objectives

The purpose and objectives of this policy are to:

- to state the position of Council on responding to offers of gifts, benefits and hospitality;
- intended to support individuals and Council avoid conflicts of interest; and
- to maintain high levels of integrity, transparency, accountability and public confidence in Council.

3. Scope

- This policy applies to all Councillors, Council employees and all contractors engaged by Council.
- All Councillors, Council employees and contractors of Council are accountable for compliance with this policy.

4. Principles of management

The following principles underline the application of this policy.

- You must not seek any gift, benefit or hospitality, for yourself or others, if the offer could be seen as connected to your employment at Council.
- You must not seek or accept a bribe or other improper inducement. Any attempts of bribery must be reported to the Chief Executive Officer immediately. The Chief Executive Officer has a mandatory requirement to report these attempts to the *Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission*.
- You must not accept any gift, benefit or hospitality that could raise a perception of or actual bias or preferential treatment.
- If you are unsure that acceptance of a gift, benefit or hospitality could give rise to the

perception of actual bias or preferential treatment, the best course is to refuse the gift, benefit or hospitality.

- You are not to accept gifts, benefits or hospitality from those where you exercise rights of decision or influence.
- You must not seek or accept a gift, benefit, or hospitality from any actual or potential supplier or contractor during or approaching a Procurement activity and all such offers must be declared regardless of whether it is a Low Value Offer or an offer of Value.
- You should seek advice from your supervisor or the Governance Team if you are unsure what to do prior to accepting a gift, benefit or offer of hospitality.
- You should encourage a 'thanks is enough' culture and if asked, advise that offers of gifts, benefits and hospitality are discouraged.

5. Management of offers of Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality

5.1. Prohibited Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality

You must not accept any offer of a gift, benefit or hospitality (regardless of amount) in the following circumstances:

- from a person or organisation where you make a decision or exercise influence within Council in relation to that person or organisation (examples include – but not limited to – procurement activities, contracts, grants, sponsorship, planning, regulation, enforcement or licencing);
- it is likely to be or is likely to be perceived to be a bribe or inducement to make a decision or act in a particular way;
- it is cash, money, or a financial payment card (including a gift card);
- acceptance is or could be perceived to be an endorsement of a product or service, or acceptance would unfairly advantage the person/organisation in future decisions (particularly procurement decisions);
- the primary purpose of the gift, benefit or hospitality is, or could be perceived to be, to lobby Council; or
- it could compromise the public's trust that your role can be performed in an impartial manner.

5.2. Anonymous Gifts

Section 137 of the Act–prohibits acceptance of anonymous gifts by Councillors, as follows:

> *(1) Subject to subsection (2), a Councillor must not accept, directly or indirectly, a gift for the benefit of the Councillor of the amount or value of which is equal to or exceeds the gift disclosure threshold unless –*
>
> *(a) the name and address of the person making the gift are known to the Councillor; or*
>
> *(b) at the time when the gift is made –*
>
> *(i) the Councillor is given the name and address of the person making the gift; and*
>
> *(ii) the Councillor reasonably believes that the name and address so given are the true name and address of the person making the gift.*

(2) If the name and address of the person making the gift are not known to the Councillor for whose benefit the gift is intended, the Councillor is not in breach of subsection (1) if the Councillor disposes of the gift to the Council within 30 days of the gift being received.

(3) In addition to the penalty specified in subsection (1), a Councillor who is found guilty of a breach of that subsection must pay to the Council the amount or value of the gift accepted in contravention of that subsection.

This policy also prohibits acceptance of anonymous gifts directly or indirectly by any individual to whom this policy applies. An individual will not be considered in breach of this policy if the gift is surrendered to and then disposed of by Council within 30 days of receipt.

5.3 Low Value Offers

Subject to clause 5.1, acceptance of a Low Value Offer is at your discretion.

Disclosure of a Low Value Offer or a gift, benefit or hospitality of Low Value is not required unless:

- the total value of all Low Value Offers from the same source over a 12-month period exceeds Low Value; or
- the offer is from any actual or potential supplier or contractor during or approaching a Procurement activity.

If disclosure is required, all Low Value Offers and all gifts, benefits or hospitality of Low Value from that source must be disclosed and approved in accordance with the requirements applying to gifts, benefits and hospitality of Value.

5.4. Accepting Offers of Value

You must not seek gifts, benefits or hospitality of Value.

You must decline any Offer of Value if it could undermine or reasonably be perceived as undermining the integrity and impartiality of the Council or yourself.

You must take all reasonable steps to ensure that your immediate family members do not receive gifts, benefits or hospitality of Value that could undermine or reasonably be perceived as undermining the integrity and impartiality of the Council or yourself.

Individuals should consider the examples of policy application (**Appendix 1**) before accepting gift offers.

Individuals should consider the GIFT test (**Appendix 2**) and the following requirements prior to accepting a non-token offer.

5.5 Disclosure of all Offers of Value

You must disclose all Offers of Value, whether or not the offer is actually accepted.

The business reason for accepting an Offer of Value must be recorded in the register and provide sufficient detail to link the acceptance to the individual's work functions and benefit to Council.

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5.6 Requirements following acceptance

You must submit for approval and fully disclose all accepted Offers of Value using an applicable Gift Disclosure Form within five business days of receiving the offer (or in the case of invitations, prior to the event) to your General Manager or to the Chief Executive Officer, and your disclosure must be consistent with the following requirements:

- It does not raise a conflict of interest (real or perceived) or have the potential to bring you or Council into disrepute;
- There is a legitimate business reason for acceptance; and
- It is offered in the course of your official duties, relates to your responsibilities and has a benefit to Council.

Where an Offer of Value is made to a Councillor or Mayor, it must be disclosed in writing to the Chief Executive Officer on an applicable Gift Disclosure Form within five business days of receiving the offer.

Where an Offer of Value is made to the Chief Executive Officer, it must be disclosed in writing to the Mayor on an applicable Gift Disclosure Form, seeking approval within five business days of receiving the offer.

5.7 Decisions in relation to gifts, benefits or hospitality of value

All accepted gifts, benefits or hospitality of Value are deemed to be property of the Council until a decision is made by the relevant General Manager, Chief Executive Officer or Mayor as the case may be.

The decision options following the acceptance of an Offer of Value are:

- Approve acceptance and allow the retention of the gift, benefit or hospitality by the individual or other individual as determined by the decision-maker;
- Approve acceptance and retain by Council (may also be required to be listed on Councils asset register);
- Approve acceptance and dispose (e.g. donate to a local charity, reward/recognition programs, sold/auctioned in accordance with any applicable procedures/policies); or
- Decline and return.

The decision as well as a reason for the decision must be recorded on the gift disclosure form by the decision maker.

The following examples show acceptable and unacceptable levels of detail to be included when recording the business reason:

Unacceptable:

- Networking
- Maintaining stakeholder relationships

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Acceptable:

- Individual is responsible for evaluating and reporting outcomes of Latrobe City Councils sponsorship of Event A. Individual attended Event A in an official capacity and reported back to the Executive Management Team on the event.
- Individual made a presentation to a visiting international delegation. The delegation presented the Individual with a gift. Declining the gift would have caused offence. The gift was accepted, written approval was subsequently obtained for the gift which became Council's property.

5.8 Acceptance of invitations and tickets to sporting, entertainment and cultural events

Where an individual is required to attend a sporting, entertainment or cultural event for the purpose of official duties (e.g. speech) and is therefore able to attend at no or reduced cost, the attendance is not considered to be a gift, however approval must be sought from the individual's General Manager or from the Chief Executive Officer and documented in the gift register.

Where an individual is required to attend a sporting, entertainment or cultural event for the purpose of work (e.g. event management, IT) the attendance is not considered to be a gift and there is no requirement for the attendance to be documented in the gift register.

Applicable Code of Conduct whilst in attendance applies.

All other invitations and complimentary tickets that are of Value are treated as an Offer of Value and must be dealt with in accordance with this policy.

5.9 Acceptance of Hospitality

Individuals must balance the need for developing effective working relationships with contacts and community members with the requirements of this policy. Gift offers of hospitality that exceed common courtesy must be avoided as they are often inconsistent with community expectations and have a high risk of creating a conflict of interest or the reasonable perception of one.

The following examples are not considered to be a gift of Value for the purposes of this policy:

- Functions where the individual has been invited to attend in an official capacity as a representative of Council;
- Hospitality has been included as part of a conference for which Council has paid a fee for attendance;
- Catered briefings or meetings where invitees from a range of external organisations are present or is hosted by Latrobe City Council; or
- Occasional working lunches where the hospitality is incidental and of low value – e.g. sandwiches and coffee.

The following examples are considered to be a gift of Value and must be approved in accordance with this policy:

- Restaurant meals;

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- Invitations to corporate boxes or marquees;
- Discounted prices for goods or services for personal use;
- Invitations to functions held in private homes; and
- Invitations which extend to family members, relations, friends and associates.

5.10 Acceptance of Civic Memorabilia

Civic Memorabilia can consist of a range of items that hold historical, cultural, or ceremonial significance to the council and its community. These typically include:

- Artworks – including paintings, sculptures, and prints gifted to or commissioned by the council.
- Plaques – commemorative plaques from events, openings, or dedications.
- Glass awards or trophies – presented to the council or its representatives in recognition of service or achievements.
- Framed photographs – of significant events, past mayors or councillors, visiting dignitaries, or major civic milestones.
- Ceremonial items – such as mayoral chains, gavels, robes, or flags.
- Historical documents or records – such as charters, certificates of incorporation, or letters of significance.
- Gifts from delegations or sister cities – often symbolic or handcrafted items.
- Commemorative items – such as medals, coins, or specially crafted objects marking anniversaries or civic events.

A gift disclosure form is required to be completed for any offers of civic memorabilia. Civic memorabilia should be stored securely and appropriately and maintained in accordance with any relevant heritage and conservation standards. Disposal of any Civic Memorabilia must be approved by the relevant General Manager and conducted in line with relevant legislative and policy requirements.

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6. Gift Disclosure Form and Gift Register

6.1 Gift Disclosure Form

Upon receiving/accepting a gift the Councillor, employee or contractor must complete a Disclosure Form (**Appendix 3**). When completing the form, it is important to ensure you are providing accurate information. The following information is required to be included:

- the date of (and time, if available) on which the offer was made;
- the name of the recipient or group to whom the offer was made;
- position held at Council;
- the person and/or organisation offering the gift, benefit or hospitality;
- contact details of the person or organisation offering the gift;
- description of what was offered;
- business reason/circumstance gift was offered;
- the date of disclosure;
- face value or estimated retail value of gift;

- whether the gift is accepted or refused;
- date of approval or refusal;
- if accepted, who approved the acceptance;
- cumulative value of gifts offered by the individual or organisation within the last 12 months;
- form must be signed; and
- any comments or disclosure relevant to acceptance or refusal, the approval process, gift return or disposal.

Once the form is completed the gift receiver must forward the form to the appropriate person for approval – as per listing on the form. The gift is to remain the property of Council until approval is given.

Councillors should provide their completed form to the Mayoral and Councillor Support or Governance team to have the form processed.

Contractors should provide their completed form to their contract manager or supervisor to have the form processed.

Once finalised, the form should be tasked to the Governance Team via the Corporate Management System. The details provided in the approved form will then be added to the Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Register.

6.2 Gift Register

The Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Register will be maintained and updated by the Governance team regularly.

The Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Register may be made available for public inspection upon request. However, consideration will be given to maintaining reasonable confidentiality in situations where public disclosure will prejudice a proposed development or proposed business venture, legal advice or legal proceedings.

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7. Accountability and responsibility

Accountability and responsibility for this policy is outlined below.

7.1 Council

- Responsibility to ensure this Policy is consistent with Latrobe City Council Strategic Direction and other Council Policy
- Responsibility for the decision to approve this Policy by Council Resolution

7.2 Chief Executive Officer

- Overall responsibility for compliance with this policy
- Overall responsibility for enforcing accountability
- Overall responsibility for providing resources
- Overall responsibility for performance monitoring

7.3 General Manager

- Responsibility for compliance with this policy
- Responsibility for enforcing accountability
- Responsibility for providing resources
- Responsibility for performance monitoring

7.4 Manager

- Develop frameworks and procedures in compliance with this policy
- Enforce responsibilities to achieve compliance with frameworks and procedures
- Provide appropriate resources for the execution of the frameworks and procedures

7.5 Employees, Contractors and Volunteers

- Participate where required in the development of frameworks and procedures in compliance with this policy.
- Comply with frameworks and procedures developed to achieve compliance with this policy.

8. Evaluation and Review

8.1 Evaluation

Ongoing evaluation and regular reporting against the objectives as outlined in this policy will occur as follows:

- A report will be provided every 6 months to the Audit and Risk Committee to ensure that there is transparent reporting of accepted gifts, benefits and hospitality, and that there is no evidence of attempts to improperly influence the decisions or actions of Councillors, Council employees or Council contractors.
- Councillors and Council employees are able to request an extract of their own gift disclosures from the Gift Register via a written request to the Governance team via the egovernance@latrobe.vic.gov.au email address.

8.2 Review

This policy will be reviewed and updated at least once every four years, unless one of the following occurs first:

- Significant changes to legislation applicable to the subject matter of the policy; or
- Upon request of the Council or Chief Executive Officer.

Unless otherwise indicated, this policy will still remain applicable beyond the proposed review date until that review has been finalised by the Council.

8.3 Administrative Updates

It is recognised that from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter

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this document, such a change may be made administratively.

Examples include updating to the latest style/template for policy, a change to the name of a Council department, a change to the name of an applicable responsible position, a change to the name of a Federal or State Government department, and a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact.

However, any change or update which materially alters this document must be by decision of Council.

9. Breaches

- Where an employee fails to comply with this policy, the issue shall be dealt with in accordance with Latrobe City Council's Employee Code of Conduct.
- Where a Councillor fails to comply with this policy, the issue shall be dealt with in accordance with the Councillor Code of Conduct and *Local Government Act 2020* requirements.
- Where a contractor fails to comply with this policy, the issue shall be dealt with in accordance with the agreement between Council and the contractor.

10. Definitions

Asset Register	The register of assets held or managed by Council. Significant gifts (with estimated value over $1,000) accepted and retained by Council should be recorded on the asset register.
Audit & Risk Committee	The Committee appointed under the *Local Government Act 2020* by Council providing surety of the adequacy of the Council's risk management framework and integrity of management reporting.
Benefit	Includes preferential treatment, privileged access, favors or other advantage offered (e.g. invitation to sporting, cultural or social events; access to discounts and loyalty programs; promises of further contracts or a new job) to an individual. The value may be difficult to define in dollars, but as they are valued to the individual, they may be used to influence the individual's behavior.
Bribes	Money or other inducements given to individuals to corruptly influence the performance of their role.
Ceremonial Gifts	Official gifts provided as part of the culture and practices of communities and government, within Australia or internationally.

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	Ceremonial gifts are usually provided when conducting business with official delegates or representatives from another organisation or community. Ceremonial Gifts are the property of Latrobe City Council, irrespective of value, and but receipt should still be recorded on the Gifts Register.
Civic Memorabilia	Items that hold historical, cultural, or ceremonial significance to the council and its community
Conflict(s) of Interest	The *Local Government Act 2020* requires Councillors and officers to declare General or Material conflicts of interest. A conflict of interest is a conflict between a person's public duty to act in the best interest of the Council and their private interests (financial or non-financial). A conflict exists whether it is: • Real – it currently exists; • Potential – it may arise, given the circumstances; or • Perceived – members of the public could reasonably form the view that a conflict exists, or could arise, that may improperly influence the person's performance of their duty to the Council, now or in the future.
Gift(s)	Anything of monetary or other value that is offered by an external organisation or individual to a Councillor, Officer or contractor as a result of their role with Council. It includes free or discounted items or services, benefits or hospitality that exceeds common courtesy.
Gifts Declaration	The form used to declare reportable gifts. Information on the form is transferred to the gifts register.
Gift Disclosure Threshold	A disclosable gift means any gift valued at or above $500 or a higher prescribed amount that a relevant person received in the preceding five years if: • the relevant person was a Councillor, officer or member of a delegated committee at the time the gift was received, or • the gift was an election campaign donation. If multiple gifts are received from a person, they must be treated as a single gift with an aggregate value. A gift includes any good or service (other than volunteer labour) that is provided for free or at an inadequate price. It includes a

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	payment or contribution at a fundraising function.
Gift, benefit and hospitality register	The register of gifts, benefits and hospitality declared. it records the date a gift was offered, information about the donor and recipient, the nature of the gift, its estimated value and how it was handled.
Hospitality	The friendly reception and treatment of guests, ranging from offers of light refreshment at a business meeting to restaurant meals and sponsored travel and accommodation.
Low Value	The estimated or actual value of $30 Australian dollars or less.
Low Value Offer	An offer of a gift, benefit or hospitality where the reasonably estimated or actual value of the gift, benefit or hospitality is $30 Australian dollars or less.
Value	The estimated or actual value of $30 Australian dollars or more.

11. Related Documents

- Model Councillor Code of Conduct
- Guidance on the Model Councillor Code of Conduct
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Procurement Policy

12. Reference Documents

- *Local Government Act 2020*
- Local Government Victoria – Fact sheet: Conflict of interest for councillors (2024)
- Local Government Victoria –Managing Personal Interests in Local Government (2020)
- Local Government Victoria – In the Public Interest – A conflict of interest guide for councillors, delegated committee members and council staff (2020)
- IBAC - Local Government Integrity Frameworks review (2019)
- IBAC - State Government Integrity Frameworks Review (2019)

13. Appendices

- Appendix 1: Examples of Policy Application
- Appendix 2: Take the GIFT test
- Appendix 3: Gift Disclosure Form

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Appendix 1: Examples of Policy Application

A manager attends a seminar related to their work duties. Latrobe City Council has paid a fee for the attendance. At the seminar, the manager is given a corporate satchel from the sponsor with an estimated value of $25.00. *The estimated value of the corporate satchel equates to a low value gift so is not required to be reported. In addition, it was received as part of attending the seminar, for which a fee was paid, so is not considered a gift.*
The same manager wins the door prize whilst at the seminar. The prize is valued at $60.00. *Because the prize is not considered part of the fee paid for the seminar, it must be disclosed. Because the prize is valued at $30.00 or above, the prize has been accepted on behalf of Latrobe City Council and the manager must seek permission from their General Manager.*
A manager meets with a developer at a local restaurant at lunchtime. The developer offers to pay for the manager's lunch, which cost $35.00. The manager declines the offer and pays for it themselves. *Even though the manager did not accept the offer of a gift of value, the manager must still disclose the hospitality.*

Appendix 2: Take the GIFT Test

G	**Giver**	**Who is providing the gift, benefit or hospitality and what is their relationship to me?** Does my role require me to select contractors, award grants, regulate industries or determine government policies? Could the person or organisation benefit from a decision I make?
I	**Influence**	**Are they seeking to gain an advantage or influence my decisions or actions?** Has the gift, benefit or hospitality been offered to me publicly or privately? Is it a courtesy or a token of appreciation or valuable non-token offer? Does its timing coincide with a decision I am about to make?
F	**Favour**	**Are they seeking a favour in return for the gift, benefit or hospitality?** Has the gift, benefit or hospitality been offered honestly? Has the person or organisation made several offers over the last 12 months? Would accepting it create an obligation to return a favour?
T	**Trust**	**Would accepting the gift, benefit or hospitality diminish public trust?** How would the public view acceptance of this gift, benefit or hospitality? What would my colleagues, family, friends or associates think?

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Appendix 3: Gift Disclosure Form (Single)

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

Gift Disclosure Form

In the first instance, all gifts, benefits and hospitality should be reported to your Manager.

Please refer to the Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy for detail. Further information and advice may be obtained from the Governance team. The personal information requested on this form is being collected by Council for the purpose of compliance with the Gift, Benefit and Hospitality Policy and for inclusion in the Gift Register. The personal information will be used solely by Council for this purpose or directly related purposes or as required by other Laws. Please note that the Gifts Register is a publicly accessible document.

The following information is to be completed by the recipient/refuser of gift, benefit or hospitality.

This form must be approved and lodged to Governance within five (5) days of the offer of the reportable gift being made. Once completed, please send this form to the applicable approver (see approvals table).

Recipient/Refuser	Date Gift(s) offered:	Time:
	Councillor/Staff member or Contractor's Name:	
	Position: Division:	
Offered from	Name:	
	Organisation (if applicable):	
	Address:	
Description of gift/benefit/hospitality:		
Reason/circumstances gift/benefit/hospitality was offered:		
Business reason for accepting gift (if accepted refer to the policy for examples of acceptable reasons):	Estimate or face value of gift/benefit/hospitality:	
All Gifts valued at $30.00 and over MUST be declared	Initial response to offer: Accepted: ☐ Refused: ☐	
	First time offer ☐ Retained by individual ☐ Returned to Giver ☐ Transferred to organisation's ownership ☐ Donate to Charity through Council ☐	
	Cumulative value of gifts offered by this individual or organisation within the last twelve months:	
Signature of Councillor/Staff Member or Contractor:	Date:	

Approvals table:

Gift offered to a Council contractor	*to be approved by the Council Contract Supervisor*
Gift offered to a member of staff	*to be approved by their General Manager*
Gift offered to a General Manager	*to be approved by the CEO*
Gift offered to a Councillor or the Mayor	*to be declared to the CEO*
Gift offered to the CEO	*to be declared to the Mayor*
All non-token offers must be approved in accordance with the Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy and remain the property of the Council until determined.	

Gift Disclosure Form Version 2025.01

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

Gift Disclosure Form

The following information is to be completed by the authorised delegate (if applicable).

In the event that the designated officer considers either the gift and/or the circumstances in which it is given to be inappropriate, and for some reason the gift cannot be returned, the Chief Executive Officer must decide on whether to retain the item as corporate property or a suitable method for its disposal. The decision of the Chief Executive Officer is to be recorded on this form.

Decision	Approved to be retained by individual	☐or
	Gift to be Returned to Giver	☐or
	Inappropriate gift/not approved	☐or
	Transfer Gift to organisation's ownership	☐or
	Noted (Declarations only)	☐or
	Other (please specify in the comments section)	☐
Comments including details of gift return (e.g. ECM number of letter sent) or registration details		

Name of Authorised Delegate (refer to approvals table).	Signature of Authorised Delegate:
Date	

The below approval of the CEO is only required if the designated officer considers either the gift and/or the circumstances in which it is given to be inappropriate, and for some reason the gift cannot be returned. The Chief Executive Officer must decide on whether to retain the item as corporate property or what a suitable method for its disposal is.

CEO Decision	Gift to be retained by the organisation	☐or
	Dispose of Gift	☐
Please specify disposal requirements and any justification for decision		

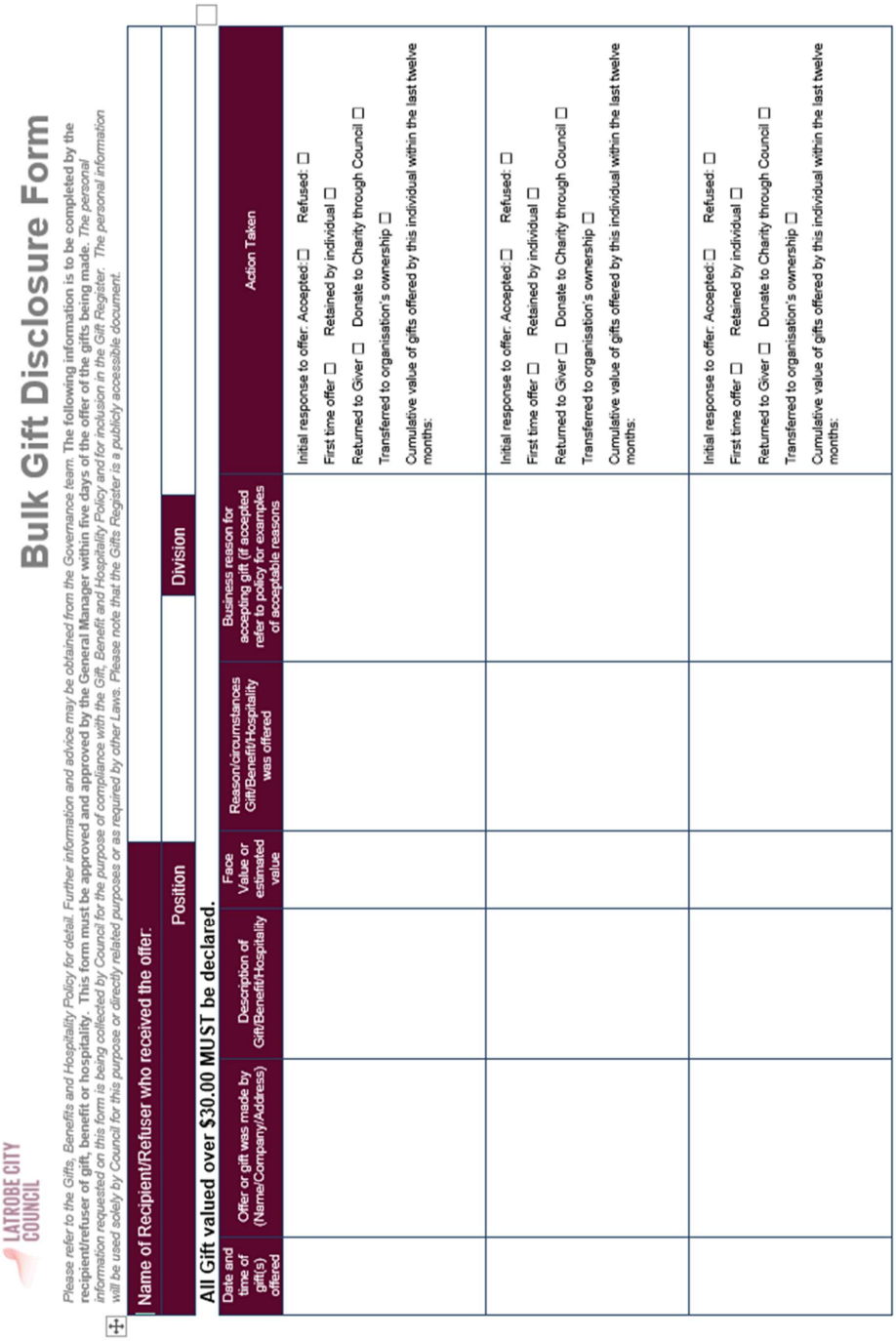
Signature of CEO:	
Date	

Once completed, this form with the signature/signatures is to be given to the Governance team for registering on the gifts register.

Governance Use Only	Gifts Register Updated: ☐ Date: ECM Document number:

Gift Disclosure Form Version 2025.01

Appendix 3: Gift Disclosure Form (bulk)



LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

Bulk Gift Disclosure Form

Please refer to the Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy for detail. Further information and advice may be obtained from the Governance team. The following information is to be completed by the recipient/refuser of gift, benefit or hospitality. This form must be approved and approved by the General Manager within five days of the offer of the gifts being made. The personal information requested on this form is being collected by Council for the purpose of compliance with the Gift, Benefit and Hospitality Policy and for inclusion in the Gift Register. The personal information will be used solely by Council for this purpose or directly related purposes or as required by other Laws. Please note that the Gifts Register is a publicly accessible document.

Name of Recipient/Refuser who received the offer:

Position

Division

All Gift valued over $30.00 MUST be declared.

Date and time of gift(s) offered	Offer or gift was made by (Name/Company/Address)	Description of Gift/Benefit/Hospitality	Face Value or estimated value	Reason/circumstances Gift/Benefit/Hospitality was offered	Business reason for accepting gift (if accepted refer to policy for examples of acceptable reasons	Action Taken
						Initial response to offer: Accepted: ☐ Refused: ☐ First time offer ☐ Retained by individual ☐ Returned to Giver ☐ Donate to Charity through Council ☐ Transferred to organisation's ownership ☐ Cumulative value of gifts offered by this individual within the last twelve months:
						Initial response to offer: Accepted: ☐ Refused: ☐ First time offer ☐ Retained by individual ☐ Returned to Giver ☐ Donate to Charity through Council ☐ Transferred to organisation's ownership ☐ Cumulative value of gifts offered by this individual within the last twelve months:
						Initial response to offer: Accepted: ☐ Refused: ☐ First time offer ☐ Retained by individual ☐ Returned to Giver ☐ Donate to Charity through Council ☐ Transferred to organisation's ownership ☐ Cumulative value of gifts offered by this individual within the last twelve months:

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

Bulk Gift Disclosure Form

Please refer to the Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy for detail. Further information and advice may be obtained from the Governance team. The following information is to be completed by the recipient/refuser of gift, benefit or hospitality. This form must be approved and approved by the General Manager within five days of the offer of the gifts being made. *The personal information requested on this form is being collected by Council for the purpose of compliance with the Gift, Benefit and Hospitality Policy and for inclusion in the Gift Register. The personal information will be used solely by Council for this purpose or directly related purposes or as required by other Laws. Please note that the Gifts Register is a publicly accessible document.*

Date and time of gift(s) offered	Offer or gift was made by (Name/Company/Address)	Description of Gift/Benefit/Hospitality	Face Value or estimated value	Reason/circumstances Gift/Benefit/Hospitality was offered	Business reason for accepting gift (if accepted refer to policy for examples of acceptable reasons	Action Taken
						Initial response to offer: Accepted:☐ Refused: ☐ First time offer ☐ Retained by individual ☐ Returned to Giver ☐ Donate to Charity through Council ☐ Transferred to organisation's ownership ☐ Cumulative value of gifts offered by this individual within the last twelve months:
						Initial response to offer: Accepted:☐ Refused: ☐ First time offer ☐ Retained by individual ☐ Returned to Giver ☐ Donate to Charity through Council ☐ Transferred to organisation's ownership ☐ Cumulative value of gifts offered by this individual within the last twelve months:
						Initial response to offer: Accepted:☐ Refused: ☐ First time offer ☐ Retained by individual ☐ Returned to Giver ☐ Donate to Charity through Council ☐ Transferred to organisation's ownership ☐ Cumulative value of gifts offered by this individual within the last twelve months:

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

Bulk Gift Disclosure Form

Please refer to the Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy for detail. Further information and advice may be obtained from the Governance team. The following information is to be completed by the recipient/refuser of gift, benefit or hospitality. This form must be approved and approved by the General Manager within five days of the offer of the gifts being made. *The personal information requested on this form is being collected by Council for the purpose of compliance with the Gift, Benefit and Hospitality Policy and for inclusion in the Gift Register. The personal information will be used solely by Council for this purpose or directly related purposes or as required by other Laws. Please note that the Gifts Register is a publicly accessible document.*

Date and time of gift(s) offered	Offer or gift was made by (Name/Company/Address)	Description of Gift/Benefit/Hospitality	Face Value or estimated value	Reason/circumstances Gift/Benefit/Hospitality was offered	Business reason for accepting gift (if accepted refer to policy for examples of acceptable reasons	Action Taken
						Initial response to offer: Accepted:☐ Refused: ☐ First time offer ☐ Retained by individual ☐ Returned to Giver ☐ Donate to Charity through Council ☐ Transferred to organisation's ownership ☐ Cumulative value of gifts offered by this individual within the last twelve months:
						Initial response to offer: Accepted:☐ Refused: ☐ First time offer ☐ Retained by individual ☐ Returned to Giver ☐ Donate to Charity through Council ☐ Transferred to organisation's ownership ☐ Cumulative value of gifts offered by this individual within the last twelve months:

Signature of Councillor/Staff Member or Contractor:

Date

The following information is to be completed by the authorised delegate. *In the event that the designated officer considers either the gift and/or the circumstances in which it is given to be inappropriate, and for some reason the gift cannot be returned, the Chief Executive Officer must decide on whether to retain the item as corporate property or a suitable method for its disposal. The decision of the Chief Executive Officer is to be recorded on this form.*

Gift offered to a Council contractor	*to be approved by the Council Contract Supervisor*
Gift offered to a member of staff	*to be approved by their General Manager*
Gift offered to a General Manager	*to be approved by the CEO*
Gift offered to a Councillor or the Mayor	*to be declared to the CEO*
Gift offered to the CEO	*to be declared to the Mayor*

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

Bulk Gift Disclosure Form

Please refer to the Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy for detail. Further information and advice may be obtained from the Governance team. The following information is to be completed by the recipient/refuser of gift, benefit or hospitality. This form must be approved and approved by the General Manager within five days of the offer of the gifts being made. *The personal information requested on this form is being collected by Council for the purpose of compliance with the Gift, Benefit and Hospitality Policy and for inclusion in the Gift Register. The personal information will be used solely by Council for this purpose or directly related purposes or as required by other Laws. Please note that the Gifts Register is a publicly accessible document.*

Decision	Approved to be retained by individual ☐or Gift to be Returned to Giver ☐or Inappropriate gift/not approved ☐or Transfer Gift to organisation's ownership ☐or Noted (Declarations only) ☐or Other (please specify in the comments section) ☐	**Comments including details of gift return (e.g. ECM number of letter sent) or registration details**	
Signature of Authorised Delegate (refer to approvals table):			
Print Name of Authorised Delegate		Date	

The below approval of the CEO is only required if the designated officer considers either the gift and/or the circumstances in which it is given to be inappropriate, and for some reason the gift cannot be returned. The Chief Executive Officer must decide on whether to retain the item as corporate property or what a suitable method for its disposal is.

CEO Decision	Gift to be retained by the organisation ☐ or Dispose of Gift ☐	**Please specify disposal requirements and any justification for decision**	
Signature of CEO:		Date	

Once completed, this form with the original signature/signatures is to be given to the Governance team for registering on the gifts register.

Governance Use Only	Gifts Register Updated: ☐ Date:	ECM Document Number:

GENERATIVE AI POLICY

PURPOSE

To seek approval of the Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Council Policy (Policy) **Attachment 1**.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Generative AI is technology that can produce human-like text, images, or other media content using AI algorithms based on information it is provided. This is relatively new and developing technology that assists the user to summarise long-form texts; answer questions; translate text into another language, simple language, etc; create draft content; and write code.
- There are numerous publicly available Generative AI tools.
- Council acknowledges that there are productivity benefits for Council, along with risks to our operations and customers when using Generative AI.
- Council is committed to protecting the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information held by Council. The Policy contains principles, guidelines for the responsible and secure use of Generative AI tools by Council, with the aim of protecting Council's and its customers' and partners' data privacy and to ensure Generative AI is used in an ethical and responsible manner. It is supported by an operational Best Practice Guide.
- The Policy will apply to all councillors, employees, contractors, and third-party individuals who have access to publicly available Generative AI tools or are involved in using Generative AI tools on behalf of Council.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **approves the Generative AI Policy at Attachment 1; and**
2. **notes that after adoption, the Generative AI Policy will be published on Council's website.**

BACKGROUND

There is an increasing number of publicly available Generative AI tools. While there are benefits Council can derive through using these tools, there are risks of the release of personal, confidential or sensitive information or the intellectual property of another person or entity, thereby potentially breaching Victorian and or Commonwealth law.

In response to these risks, to support councillors, staff, volunteers and contractors when they are using these tools, the Policy and the accompanying Guide have been developed. These will be supported by user training.

ANALYSIS

As this is a relatively new technology, officers were able to find a few councils that have a council policy. Others were operational or user guides. All sources were used to inform the development of the Policy. Key reference points were:

- Murrindindi - Council Policy;
- Warrnambool – Council Policy;
- Cardinia – Management Policy; and
- Western Downs – Acceptable Use Guidelines.

In accordance with Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner's (OVIC's) *Administrative Guideline for the safe and responsible use of Generative AI in the Victorian Public Sector*, a risk assessment and a review of Terms and Conditions (T&Cs) are part of the process to develop the approved list of Generative AI tools. A a list of approved Generative AI tools is being formed by officers, following OVIC's guideline, as set out in the Policy. This list will be maintained internally, and not published. It will need to be regularly reviewed as technology in this area is progressing rapidly.

The broader application of AI technology will be the subject of future examination, to identify areas of the organisation that could reap the benefits and then trials could be conducted, where appropriate.

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
COMPLIANCE Release of personal, confidential or sensitive information or the intellectual property through the use of a publicly available Generative AI tool.	**High** *Possible x Major*	Creation and adoption of the Generative AI Policy Best Practice Guide User training
STRATEGIC Release of confidential or sensitive information prior to a Council decision and/or approval to release, through the use of a publicly available Generative AI tool.	**High** *Possible x Major*	Creation and adoption of the Generative AI Policy Best Practice Guide User training

CONSULTATION

Community consultation is not required for this Policy.

The Policy was reviewed by the Council Solicitor. In addition, due to the timing of the June 2025 Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) meeting, and the June 2025 Council Meeting, it was provided out of session to the ARC Chair for consideration. On 23 April 2025 the Chair advised he was *'happy with the approach, content and structure.'*

COMMUNICATION

If adopted, the Policy will be available on Council's website, the Councillor Portal and the staff intranet. User training will be arranged internally.

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

Council's requirements under the following laws were taken into account during the drafting of this Policy:

Commonwealth legislation

- *Copyright Act 1968*
- *Cybercrime Act 2001*
- *Designs Act 2003*
- *Security Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Act 2002*
- *Spam Act 2003*
- *Telecommunication Act 1997*

State of Victoria legislation

- *Health Records Act 2001*, containing the Health Privacy Principles (HPPs)
- *Freedom of Information Act 1982*
- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*
- *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005*
- *Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Act 2015*

Cultural

Refer to 'Social' above.

Health

Refer to 'Social' above.

Environmental

Not applicable.

Economic

Not applicable.

Financial

There are no immediate financial implications related to this Policy.

If, at a future time, Council progresses to an internal Generative AI tool, additional funding will be required.

Attachments

1. Generative AI Policy

10.5

Generative AI Policy

1 Generative AI Policy 660

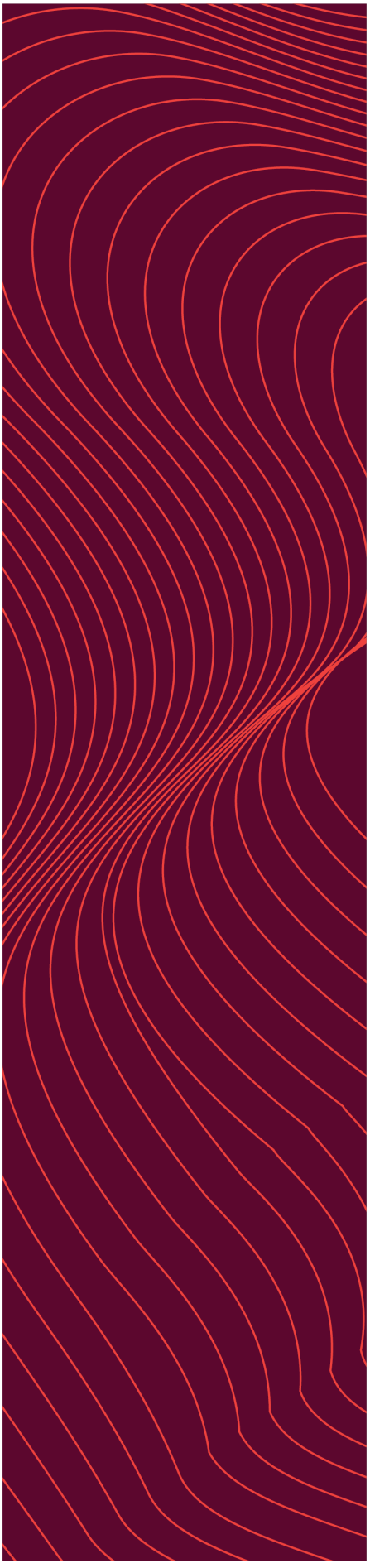
LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

Generative AI Policy

Version no. 0.1

Approval date: 00/00/2025

Review date: 00/06/2029



Document control

Responsible GM	Tim Ellis	
Division	Regional City Strategy & Transition	
Last updated (who and when)	NA	NA

Document history		
Authority	**Date**	**Description of change**
Council	xx June 2025	First version of the policy
References	Refer to section 8 and 9 of this policy	
Next review date	May 2029	
Published on website	Yes	
Document reference no.	xxx	

1. Background

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) refers to technology that can produce human-like text, images, or other media content using AI algorithms. This is relatively new and developing technology that assists the user to:

- summarise long-form texts;
- answer questions;
- translate text into another language, simple language, etc;
- create draft content; and
- write code.

It is critical that the use of these technologies is undertaken in a safe, respectful manner, and compliant with guidelines and best practices for the responsible and secure use of generative AI within Latrobe City Council's (Council's) legal obligations and ethical standards.

2. Objectives

This policy contains guidelines and best practices for the responsible and secure use of generative AI within Council. This policy is in place to protect the Council's and its customers' and partners' data privacy and ensure generative AI is used in an ethical and responsible manner.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all councillors, employees, contractors, and third-party individuals who have access to publicly available generative AI technologies or are involved in using generative AI tools or platforms on behalf of Council.

4. Principles of management

Council acknowledges the productivity benefits, along with the risks to our operations and customers when using generative AI. Therefore, we are committed to protecting the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information held by Council. Specifically:

- Users must respect and protect intellectual property (IP) rights, both internally and externally.
- Unauthorised use of copyrighted material or creation of content that infringes on the intellectual property of others is strictly prohibited.
- Users are responsible for ensuring that the content produced using the approved generative AI tools aligns with the organisation's values, ethics, and quality standards.
- Generated content must not be used:
    - for decision making as the content cannot be applied to explain or justify a decision-making process; or
    - if it is misleading, harmful, offensive, discriminatory or breaches Council's policies.

4.1 Using generative AI tools

Users of generative AI tools must adhere to the following.

4.1.1 Do not share/copy paste any confidential or sensitive information – it is not kept securely. Users should think of these solutions as if they are posting on a public site (for example, social media). Do not input or post:

- personally identifiable information (for example, names, email addresses, phone
- numbers, or physical addresses – for further information, refer to Council's Privacy Policy);
- Council information;
- Commercial or financial information; or
- any information which is not generally available to the public.

4.1.2 Do not share/copy paste any information that might be the IP of someone other than Council, whether or not the information is confidential or sensitive.

4.1.3 Responses are not substitutes for decision making, professional advice or services.

4.1.4 Responses must not be treated as accurate or reliable, the user must make sure they:

- verify any information generated through multiple sources; and
- seek professional advice to confirm the output is true and correct.

4.1.5 Be transparent by stating that the content was generated using such tools.

4.2 Data Protection

4.2.1 Users must handle any personal, sensitive, or confidential data generated or used by generative AI tools in accordance with Council's data protection policies and applicable laws.

4.2.2 Encryption and secure transmission must be used whenever necessary.

4.2.3 Entering confidential or sensitive organisation data into a generative AI tool is prohibited. Where personal information has been entered, this is considered a privacy breach and must be reported to the Privacy Officer as soon as practicable.

4.2.4 Any suspected or confirmed security incidents related to generative AI usage must be reported promptly to the IT ServiceDesk.

If users are unsure about whether information is or is not allowed to be shared/copy pasted into a generative AI, they are encouraged to seek guidance from their immediate supervisor, Governance or IT.

5. Accountability and responsibility

Accountability and responsibility for this policy is outlined below.

5.1 Council

- Responsibility to ensure this Policy is consistent with Council's Strategic Direction and other relevant Council Policy
- Responsibility for the decision to approve this Policy by Council Resolution

5.2 Chief Executive Officer

- Overall responsibility for compliance with this policy
- Overall responsibility for enforcing accountability

- Overall responsibility for providing resources
- Overall responsibility for performance monitoring

5.3 General Manager

- Responsibility for compliance with this policy
- Responsibility for enforcing accountability
- Responsibility for providing resources
- Responsibility for performance monitoring

5.4 Manager

- Develop frameworks and procedures in compliance with this policy
- Enforce responsibilities to achieve compliance with frameworks and procedures
- Provide appropriate resources for the execution of the frameworks and procedures

5.5 Councillors, Employees, Contractors and Volunteers

- Comply with this policy
- Participate where required in the development of frameworks and procedures in compliance with this policy.
- Comply with frameworks and procedures developed to achieve compliance with this policy.

6. Evaluation and Review

This policy will be reviewed on request of Council, in the event of significant change in the Executive team, significant changes to legislation applicable to the subject matter of the policy or, in any other case, during each Council term (generally four years).

Definitions

Reference Term	Definition
Confidential Information	Information that under section 3 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is • Council business information, that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released; • security information, that if released is likely to endanger the security of Council property or the safety of any person; • land use planning information, that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values; • law enforcement information, which if released would be reasonably likely to prejudice the investigation into an alleged breach of the law or the fair trial or hearing of any person; • legal privileged information, to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies; • personal information, which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs; • private commercial information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that— ○ relates to trade secrets; or

Reference Term	Definition
	○ if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage; • confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a); • internal arbitration information specified in section 145 of the *Local Government Act 2020*; • Councillor Conduct Panel confidential information, being information specified in section 169 *Local Government Act 2020* • information prescribed by the regulations to be confidential information for the purposes of this definition; • information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the *Local Government Act 1989*
Council	Latrobe City Council
Councillor	A person holding the office of member of Latrobe City Council (including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor)
Generative artificial intelligence (AI)	Technology that can produce human-like text, images, or other media content using AI algorithms.
Intellectual Property (IP)	Creations of the mind. It could include a brand, logo, invention, design or artistic work, or new plant variety.
Personal Information	Information or an opinion about an individual who can be identified from the information, or whose identity can reasonably be ascertained from the information. The information can be recorded in any form and does not need to be true. This includes information the Council has collected in any format including correspondence, in person, over the phone, and via our various web sites, or information or an opinion that forms part of a database. It does not include health information as defined in the Health Records Act 2001. Where an individual has been deceased for more than 30 years, information about that person is no longer considered to be personal information. Examples of personal information: • names; • addresses; • contact details; • work addresses; • signatures; • attendances at meetings; • opinions (particularly where those opinions would identify the person); and • personal information on a public register, in complaints records, in records of telephone calls, on building plans, in meeting minutes and various other types of records held by the Council.
Sensitive Information	Council may also hold sensitive information to provide education, welfare and other services. Sensitive information is personal information that is information or an opinion about an individual's: • Race or ethnic origin; • Political opinions; • Membership of a political association;

Reference Term	Definition
	• Religious beliefs or affiliations; • Philosophical beliefs; • Membership of a professional trade association; • Membership of a trade union; • Sexual preferences or practice; or • Criminal record.

8. Related Documents

Privacy Policy

Records Management Operational policy

Child Safe Policy

Model Councillor Code of Conduct

9. Reference Documents

Commonwealth legislation

Copyright Act 1968

Cybercrime Act 2001

Designs Act 2003

Security Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Act 2002

Spam Act 2003

Telecommunication Act 1997

State of Victoria legislation

Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014, containing the Information Privacy Principles (IPPs)

Health Records Act 2001, containing the Health Privacy Principles (HPPs)

Freedom of Information Act 1982

Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006

Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005

Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Act 2015

Guidelines

Artificial Intelligence – Understanding Privacy Obligations – Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (ovic.vic.gov.au)

Use of personal information with publicly available Generative AI tools in the Victorian public sector – Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner

Administrative Guideline for the safe and responsible use of Generative AI in the Victorian Public Sector

National Framework for the assurance of AI in government

DECOMMISSIONING OF PUBLIC TOILETS AT GLENDONALD PARK AND MORWELL RECREATION RESERVE

PURPOSE

To seek endorsement from Council to decommission public toilet facilities located at Morwell Recreation Reserve and Glendonald Park, Churchill.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Latrobe City Council Public Toilet Plan 2023-2033 (the Plan) was endorsed at the Council Meeting held on 4 September 2023 subject to a condition that prior to the removal of any toilet facilities, a further report is provided to Council.
- The Plan recommends the following facilities are removed due to poor condition, poor location, high vandalism and anti-social behaviour:
    - Morwell Recreation Reserve (North Block); and
    - Glendonald Park, Churchill.
- The estimated cost to remove the toilets at Morwell Recreation Reserve (North Block) and Glendonald Park, Churchill is $60,000, which is included in the 2025/26 Draft Budget.
- The Plan estimates it would cost up to $600,000 to replace these toilets (2023 estimation) in addition to ongoing maintenance costs of at least $6,000 per year.
- The estimated annual maintenance cost is typically based on the general rule of 1% of the buildings value. However, due to the ongoing vandalism at these locations, the actual costs would be significantly higher.
- Extensive internal and external consultation was undertaken during development of the Public Toilet Plan 2023-2033.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the:

1. **removal of the public toilets located at Morwell Recreation Reserve (North Block); and**
2. **removal of the public toilets located at Glendonald Park, Churchill, to occur, once a Council managed public toilet in the Churchill CBD is operational.**

BACKGROUND

The Plan was endorsed at the Council Meeting held on 4 September 2023 subject to a condition that prior to the removal of any toilet facilities, a further report is provided to Council.

The Plan recommends the following facilities are removed:

Location	Year	Reason
Morwell Recreation Reserve (North Block)	Year 1-2 2024/25	Poor condition Does not align with design guidelines and standards of The Plan Low usage The Morwell Recreation Reserve Precinct Master Plan includes an action to: *Remove standalone public toilets and incorporate into refurbished player amenities and change rooms.* The Plan estimates a cost of up to $400,000 for a replacement toilet facility in this location (2023 estimation).
Glendonald Park, Churchill	Year 1-2 2024/25	Poor condition (structurally unsound) Poor location High vandalism and anti-social behaviour New facility planned for the CBD The Plan estimates a replacement cost of $200,000 for one accessible toilet in this location (2023 estimation, and ongoing maintenance costs of $2,000)

The Plan notes that usage data is to be collected to support recommendations provided to Council in relation to the decommissioning of these facilities. The Plan also states that daily visits should exceed 30 to warrant provision of a public toilet.

To investigate the utilisation of these toilets to inform decision making, motion sensors were installed. The data is not guaranteed to be 100% accurate for people count because the sensors detect ‘motion’ and cannot specifically distinguish between people and other moving objects. However, it does allow for an observation of usage trends over specific periods of time.

Please note that for one visit to a facility, two motion counts are recorded (entry and exit).

ANALYSIS

Morwell Recreation Reserve (North Block)

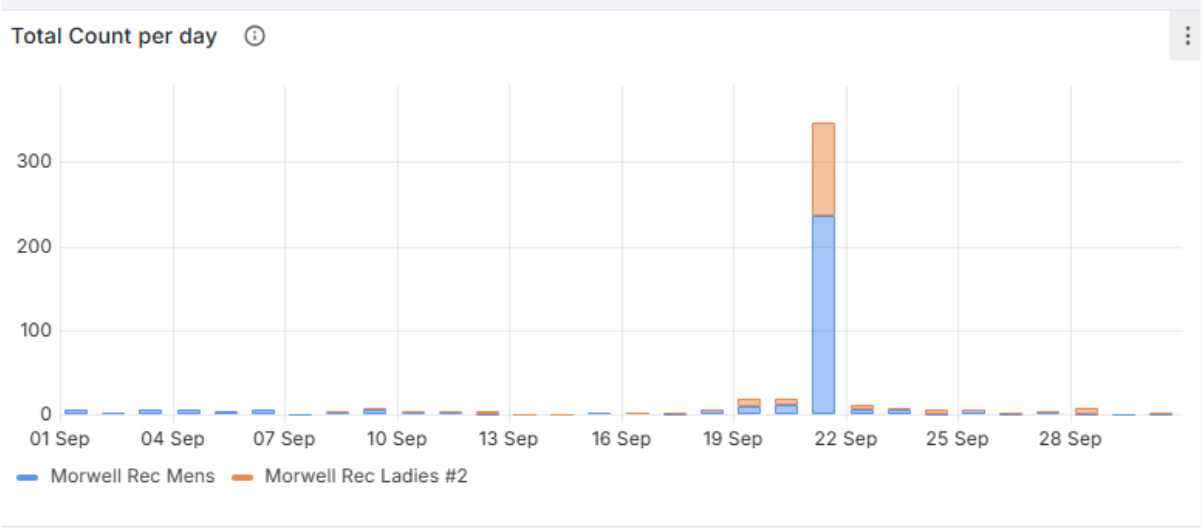
Condition and Usage

This facility has an asset rating of condition 3-4, meaning that it is in poor condition and significant maintenance and renewal is required, see **Attachment 1** – Photos Morwell Recreation Reserve North Block. It has separate male/female compartments with multiple stalls in each (rather than self-contained, individual cubicles as per the recommendation of the Public Toilet Plan 2023-2033) and there is very limited passive surveillance outside of game day. In addition, the Morwell Rose Garden facility is within walkable distance of 400-metres.

To investigate the utilisation of these toilets, motion sensors were installed in both male and female compartments at the Morwell Recreation Reserve North Block in July 2024.

Data indicates that peak numbers coincide with game day and events held at the venue, and the men's toilets account for the majority of use. For example, data for September 2025 includes peak numbers occurring on the day of the Gippsland League Grand Final, which was held at this reserve (see Diagram 1).

Diagram 1:



The motion data from the male toilets shows scattered days of peak activity, and a week in February 2025 with unusually high readings which is believed to relate to increased onsite activity during construction of a new spectator deck, however generally daily numbers are below 10, see **Attachment 2** – Morwell Recreation Reserve North Block (Male) Daily Numbers.

The motion data from the female toilets confirms minimal use of these facilities see **Attachment 3** – Morwell Recreation Reserve North Block (Female) Daily Numbers.

If required, portable toilets can be brought in for future large events, such as Gippsland League finals and the sewer connection from the North Block toilets will be retained as supporting infrastructure for these portable toilets.

The Morwell Recreation Reserve Precinct Master Plan

The Morwell Recreation Reserve Precinct Master Plan (2014) includes an action to: *Remove standalone public toilets and incorporate into refurbished player amenities and change rooms*.

Since 2014, there is now an adequate provision of compliant amenities for game days for both players and spectators with the provision of three new external unisex toilets located near the grandstand and three new external unisex toilets at the netball courts. Additionally there are facilities available in player/umpire changerooms, the club social rooms and the Gert Mahoney function room.

Furthermore, a new spectator deck has recently been added as an extension to the social rooms which has moved most spectators away from the North Block toilets and the historical outdoor bar area to the north of the Reserve, now making the internal toilets the most accessible.

Feedback from user groups

Correspondence was received from the Treasurer of the Morwell Football Netball Club (MFNC) in February 2024, raising concerns around the removal of the North Block toilet as it is well used by male spectators on game day who gather around the bar in the same location. The feedback advised that hiring a portable facility for events was not a cost-effective option and requested that if the toilets are removed that they be replaced with urinal space rather than individual unisex cubicles.

The following information is provided in support of removing urinals from Council's inventory:

- The design guidelines and standards within the Plan recommends public toilets are individual, self-contained, lockable cubicles (on a single frontage) to ensure they are accessible and safe and; when upgrading or refurbishing facilities, urinals are replaced with cubicles.
- The Latrobe City Council Fair Access and Use Policy – Community Sports and Recreation Facilities promotes gender equitable access to, and use of, community sports infrastructure by ensuring club environments are genuinely welcoming, safe and inclusive to support participation in community sport and active recreation for the whole community.
- Sport and Recreation Victoria do not provide funding to projects that include urinals as they are not universally accessible and do not align with their Design for Everyone Guide and Female Friendly Sport Infrastructure Guidelines.
- Under the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, Councils are required to promote gender equality in their policies, programs and services and take necessary and proportionate action towards achieving gender equality.

More recently, the MFNC was contacted to discuss the removal of the North Block toilet at the Morwell Recreation Reserve, on the condition that the sewer connection remains in place and portable toilets are provided for future Gippsland League Grand Finals. A request was also made to retain the concrete base to further support bump in facilities, which will be considered at the time of the future works. Officers understand this conversation was considered and well received.

Glendonald Park, Churchill

Condition and Usage

This facility has one accessible unisex cubicle and an asset rating of condition 3-4, meaning that it is in poor condition and significant maintenance and renewal is required. A more recent assessment of this facility indicates it is structurally unsound and not suitable for renewal, see **Attachment 4** – Photos Glendonald Park.

To investigate the utilisation of this facility, motion sensors were installed in July 2024.

Motion data indicates that at times, the facility is used, see **Attachment 3** – Glendonald Park Public Toilet Daily Numbers) however due to the number of reports by the cleaning contractor for vandalism and graffiti, it is assumed that high detections of motion are related to anti-social behaviour. Over the last 12 months, this has come at an additional cost to Council of approximately $2,000, in addition to the regular cleaning for the facility, which totals $6,000 per year.

New facility planned for CBD

Due to community demand, budget has been allocated to construct a new facility in Churchill's CBD (scheduled for Year 1-2 in the Public Toilet Plan) which will provide a fully accessible 24-hour facility for Churchill. It is anticipated that this new facility will service both the local community as well as tourists, visitors, commuters and drivers.

In addition, Glendonald Park is classified as a local level park within the current Play Space Strategy, therefore does not require a public toilet as per the current Public Open Space Strategy. The redevelopment and upgrade of Mathison Park will prioritise this as Churchill's district level park, which already has a public toilet facility supporting the park.

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
SERVICE DELIVERY Not maintaining current service level of public toilets	**Medium** *Possible x Moderate*	New facility being constructed in Churchill CBD Portable toilets can be brought in for larger events at Morwell Recreation Reserve when required.

RISK	RISK RATING	TREATMENT
FINANCIAL Financial burden to Council to upgrade and maintain these facilities	**High** *Likely x Moderate*	Decommissioning these toilets will remove the financial commitment on Council to upgrade, maintain and service these facilities.
STRATEGIC Current toilet provisions do not comply with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*	**High** *Likely x Moderate*	Decommissioning these facilities per the Plan will resolve Council's requirement to upgrade or replace with compliant facilities.

CONSULTATION

Extensive internal and external consultation was undertaken during development of the Plan, and recent discussions with the MFNC and Churchill and District Community Association (CDCA) have also occurred given their previous feedback.

COMMUNICATION

Officers have recently contacted MFNC and CDCA to discuss this proposal:

- MFNC have requested for the sewer connections and concrete base to remain in place to support the placement of future temporary facilities; and
- CDCA expressed their understanding of removing the public toilet at Glendonald Park, with acknowledgement to the new toilets being provided in the Churchill CBD.

Further communication is planned with both MFNC and CDCA regarding the specifics involved with decommissioning both facilities.

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

Social

Gender Impact Assessment

A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) under the *Gender Equality Act 2020* has been conducted as the Plan has a significant and direct impact on the community. The GIA identified that public toilets should be self-contained, individual cubicles and align with Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles.

Cultural

Not applicable.

Health

Upgrading public toilet inventory will have positive health impacts for the community.

Environmental

Not applicable.

Economic

Not applicable.

Financial

There will be a cost associated with the demolition of these facilities. However, there will be savings from removing maintenance and service costs.

Attachments

1. Photos Morwell Recreation Reserve North Block
2. Morwell Recreation Reserve North Block (Male) Daily Numbers
3. Morwell Recreation Reserve North Block (Female) Daily Numbers
4. Photos Glendonald Park
5. Glendonald Park Daily Numbers

10.6

Decommissioning of Public Toilets at Glendonald Park and Morwell Recreation Reserve

1 Photos Morwell Recreation Reserve North Block 675
2 Morwell Recreation Reserve North Block (Male) Daily Numbers 676
3 Morwell Recreation Reserve North Block (Female) Daily Numbers 677
4 Photos Glendonald Park 678
5 Glendonald Park Daily Numbers 682

MORWELL RECREATION RESERVE (NORTH BLOCK)

MORWELL RECREATION RESERVE NORTH BLOCK (MALE)

PUBLIC TOILET DAILY NUMBERS

January 2025

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
				1	4	1
3	4	2	2	3	4	1
2	2	7	5	8	22	2
2	3	5	5	5	4	2
2	3	3	4	5	2	1

February 2025

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
6	1	9	5	5	2	3
4	8	2	2	5	5	16
38	3	10	42	12	7	35
323	180	75	129	113	101	197

March 2025

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
90	18	9	29	34	42	80
34	14	21	4	46	18	27
6	4	7	8	9	13	8
4	6	5	6	19	6	7
2	2	3				

April 2025

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
			3	48	24	12
33	30	3	7	9	9	6
29	1	1	4	5	7	10
2	3	2	7	6	2	3
0	2	6	4	8		

May 2025 (up to 18/5/2025)

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
					1	4
13	0	1	5	5	3	7
38	3	4	49	6	2	4
11	1					

Highlighted numbers = daily count over 60 (2 motion counts per person)

MORWELL RECREATION RESERVE NORTH BLOCK (FEMALE)

PUBLIC TOILET DAILY NUMBERS

January 2025

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
				0	0	0
1	0	1	0	2	2	3
0	0	2	0	0	3	1
3	0	1	0	1	1	1
2	2	1	1	0	1	0

February 2025

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
5	2	5	7	1	1	2
1	0	2	1	1	2	0
0	3	9	1	1	1	2
3	7	2	2	0	0	3

March 2025

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
10	17	6	12	20	10	17
2	5	10	2	8	6	3
4	0	0	2	3	0	1
3	0	1	4	1	2	19
0	1	3				

April 2025

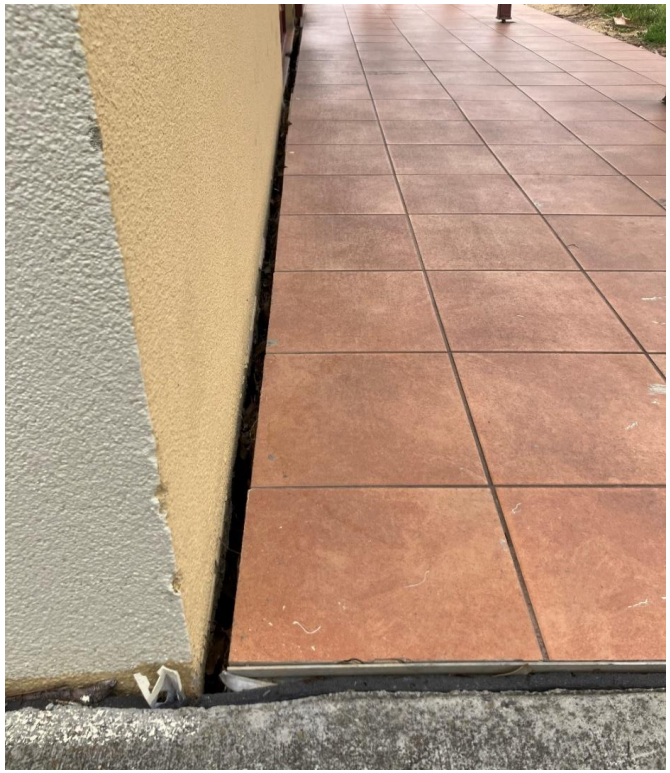
Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
			0	43	14	6
4	8	0	2	3	9	3
4	10	2	0	1	6	2
2	16	4	3	2	0	0
1	0	0	3			

May 2025 (up to 18/5/2025)

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
					3	1
2	2	5	0	0	1	2
4	1	1	1	1	0	1
1	0					

Highlighted numbers = daily count over 60 (2 motion counts per person)

GLENDONALD PARK



GLENDONALD PARK

PUBLIC TOILET DAILY NUMBERS

January 2025

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
				23	34	81
54	28	15	49	95	26	45
30	8	18	46	6	11	20
85	46	26	27	11	17	24
12	76	7	13	13	16	5

February 2025

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
51	16	14	25	27	63	6
21	22	20	33	71	14	9
6	11	10	8	5	26	36
27	21	30	66	24	46	6

March 2025

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
4	7	34	38	13	9	54
29	28	9	25	8	12	10
15	4	12	27	24	13	6
15	37	8	32	7	32	9
8	17	2				

April 2025

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
			28	13	19	5
11	22	12	18	6	5	7
3	6	18	14	20	6	19
1	1	1	7	9	3	4
10	2	11	4	3		

May 2025 (up to 18/5/2025)

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
					13	1
12	12	3	7	4	10	7
4	7	12	2	4	10	7
2	5					

Highlighted numbers = daily count over 60 (2 motion counts per person)

URGENT BUSINESS

11. 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

12. REPORTS FOR NOTING

Nil reports

13. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil reports

ITEMS FOR TABLING

14. ITEMS FOR TABLING

Nil reports

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC TO CONSIDER CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

15. 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:

15.1 LCC-872 Amenities Refurbishment, New Changerooms & Lighting Works - GRISS, Traralgon

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)) and 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)). These grounds apply because Releasing this information publicly and/or prematurely may prejudice the undertaking of this process and would release private commercial information of the tenderers that may cause disadvantage.

15.2 LCC-866 Supply & Installation of Solar Panels & Battery, GRISS

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)) and 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)). These grounds apply because Releasing this information publicly and/or prematurely may prejudice the undertaking of this process and would release private commercial information of the tenderers that may cause disadvantage.