



LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING

**HELD IN KERNOT HALL, MORWELL AND VIA
AUDIO-VISUAL LINK
AT 6:00 PM ON 23 MARCH 2026
CM633**

PRESENT:

Councillors:	Cr Sharon Gibson, Mayor	Newborough Ward
	Cr Dale Harriman, Deputy Mayor	Loy Yang Ward
	Cr Leanne Potter	Budgerie Ward
	Cr Adele Pugsley	Moe Ward
	Cr Darren Howe	Tyers Ward
	Cr Steph Morgan	Yallourn Ward
Officers:	Steven Piasente	Chief Executive Officer
	James Rouse	General Manager Community Liveability
	Jody Riordan	General Manager Infrastructure & Sustainability
	Tim Ellis	General Manager Investment & Growth
	Nathan Kearsley	General Manager Organisational Performance
	Alba Elling	Manager Governance
	Georgia Karavis	Coordinator Council Business
	Kaitlyn Boram	Governance Officer
Apologies:	Cr David Barnes	Boola Boola Ward
	Cr Joanne Campbell	Jeeralang Ward

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Resolutions in this minutes document should be read in conjunction with the published agenda for the 23 March 2026 Council Meeting.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

The Mayor read the acknowledgement of the traditional owners of the land.

2. MOMENT OF REFLECTION

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION

Moved: Cr Morgan

Seconded: Cr Pugsley

That Council confirms the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23 February 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Joanne Campbell, Boola Boola Ward

Cr David Barnes, Jeeralang Ward

5. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Nil

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Gibson acknowledged the resignation of former Councillor Lund and her contribution as a Councillor at Latrobe City.

Cr Gibson acknowledged the Light up Latrobe event, Danielle Sherman's fundraising for the Royal Children's Hospital, and the fifth birthday celebrations at Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre.

Cr Gibson also acknowledged the launch of St Eugene's Catholic Retreat and Conference Centre in Newborough and a function through the Latrobe Valley Beekeepers Association to celebrate permaculture.

Cr Morgan acknowledged the Filipino Seniors and Carers Support Group's Harmony Day Festival and the 30th anniversary of the International Women's Group.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

Public Questions on Notice

In accordance with the Governance Rules, members of the public can lodge a question on notice by no later than midday one business day before the Council meeting in order for the question to be answered at the meeting. There were 2 public questions.

Question 1

From: Damian Andrews

Topic: Economic Impact - Traralgon Junior International Tennis

Question:

Economic impact data for the AGL Loy Yang Traralgon Junior International Tennis was withheld in September 2022, and \$2.9 million annually was projected in November 2025 for 2027-31. What was the actual economic impact delivered by the January 2026 tournament, including what methodology was used to calculate it?

Response:

The AGL Loy Yang Traralgon Junior International Tennis Championships continues to attract competitors from more than 35 countries, reinforcing its status as a premier international event which Council has secured for the next five years (2027–2031).

The January 2026 tournament delivered a record economic impact of just over \$3 million. The total economic impact over the past four years is just over \$11 million.

Council calculates these figures using the Tourism Victoria methodology, which considers the number of competitors and spectators, their length of stay within the municipality, and applies expenditure rates based on their origin (local, intrastate, interstate, and international visitors).

Question 2

From: Damian Andrews

Topic: Council Plan 2025-2029 - Baseline and Targets

Question:

The Council Plan 2025-2029 lists indicators as required by section 90(2)(d) of the Local Government Act 2020, but omits baseline figures and measurable targets, making achievement monitoring impossible. What baseline data did Council establish at commencement, and what specific targets has it set to measure progress against by 2029?

Response:

Latrobe City Council's Council Plan 2025–2029 includes nine specific indicators which relate to each of the Strategic Directions for Our Economy, Our City and Our Community. These indicators are outlined on pages 6 to 11 of the Plan.

The annual report for the 2025/26 year will be the first report on the current Council plan and this report will include the baseline results. Council will track each indicator over the life of the plan with the obvious target to improve the result for each.

Public Speakers

There were no public speakers.

NOTICES OF MOTION

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil reports.

STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DECISION

9. STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DECISION

Item Number 9.1 23 March 2026

Investment and Growth

ADVOCACY AGENDA 2026/27 - TIERED PRIORITIES

MOTION

Moved: Cr Pugsley

Seconded: Cr Morgan

That Council endorses the following advocacy priorities:

- 1. Economic Support Package;**
- 2. Advanced Air Mobility;**
- 3. Infrastructure Activation Fund;**
- 4. Community Safety – Place-Based Activation;**
- 5. Removal of Redundant Coal Overlays;**
- 6. Inter-Township Trail Network (ITTN);**
- 7. Moe Revitalisation Project – Stage 3;**
- 8. Traralgon Activity Centre Master Plan;**
- 9. Traralgon Bypass; and**
- 10. Traralgon Flood Recovery – Glenview Park Multi-Use Pavilion.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. Prioritisation Criteria Toolkit
2. Advocacy Triage Flowchart
3. Advocacy Implementation Guide
4. Advocacy Projects Assessment and Recommendations Overview

GOVERNMENT & INDUSTRY MEMBERSHIPS

MOTION

Moved: Cr Howe

Seconded: Cr Pugsley

The Council resolves to:

- 1. Renew the following memberships:**
 - (a) Municipal Association Victoria (MAV);**
 - (b) National Timber Council Australia;**
 - (c) One Gippsland;**
 - (d) Rail Freight Alliance;**
 - (e) Regional Cities Victoria (RCV);**
 - (f) South East Australian Transport Strategy (SEATS);**
- 2. Cease the following memberships upon the conclusion of their current terms:**
 - (a) Australian Japan Business Council;**
 - (b) Regional Capitals Australia;**
 - (c) South East Melbourne Manufacturers Alliance (SEMMA); and**
 - (d) Timber Towns Victoria.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. Membership Analysis
2. Prioritisation Criteria Toolkit

LATROBE CITY SUBMISSION TO YALLOURN ENERGY INDUSTRY JOBS PLAN

MOTION

Moved: Cr Morgan

Seconded: Cr Harriman

That Council endorses the submission to the Net Zero Economic Authority's Yallourn Energy Industry Jobs Plan consultation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. Consultation Paper Yallourn Energy Industry Jobs Plan
2. LCC Submission to Yallourn Energy Industry Jobs Plan consultation

DRAFT LOCAL LAW 3 - PUBLIC EXHIBITION

MOTION

Moved: Cr Potter

Seconded: Cr Howe

That Council:

- 1. endorses the draft Local Law 3 - Asset Protection During Building Works, Attachment 1 to be released for community feedback;**
- 2. gives notice that the draft Local Law 3 - Asset Protection During Building Works will be made available for feedback period at Council Headquarters, Service Centres and on Council's website; and**
- 3. invites written submissions from the public to be received by no later than 5pm 21 April 2026.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. Draft Local Law 3 - Asset Protection During Building Works
2. Draft Local Law 3 - Community Impact Statement

SOUTH EAST TRARALGON PRECINCT STRUCTURE PLAN - NEXT STEPS

MOTION

Moved: Cr Harriman

Seconded: Cr Howe

That Council:

- 1. awaits a response from the Minister for Energy and Resources before determining next steps;**
- 2. provides a progress report to Council by no later than 31 March 2027; and**
- 3. notifies all landowners and interested parties of Council's decision.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. South East Traralgon Timeline

STATUTORY PLANNING

10. STATUTORY PLANNING

Nil reports

CORPORATE ITEMS FOR DECISION

11. CORPORATE ITEMS FOR DECISION

Item Number 11.1 23 March 2026

Infrastructure and Sustainability

INTENTION TO ENTER INTO LONG TERM LEASE AGREEMENTS WITH THE COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY

MOTION

Moved: Cr Howe

Seconded: Cr Pugsley

That Council:

1. in accordance with Section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Community Engagement Policy, gives public notice of its intention to enter into long-term lease agreements with the Country Fire Authority at the below listed locations:
 - (a) 78 Main Road, Tyers;
 - (b) Boolarra South-Mirboo N Road, Mirboo (Boolarra South);
 - (c) 438 Old Callignee Road, Callignee;
 - (d) 1 Keith Morgan Drive, Traralgon South;
 - (e) Warren Terrace Reserve, Warren Terrace, Hazelwood North; and
2. upon completion of the community consultation and assessment of any submissions received, notes that a further report will be presented for consideration and decision.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. CFA Agreement Summary
2. CFA Location Maps
3. CFA Request - Long Term Agreements
4. CFA Request - Warea Terrace Reserve, Hazelwood North
5. Warren Terrace Reserve Master Plan - June 2024

REQUEST TO PURCHASE COUNCIL LAND - HEESOM CRESCENT, CHURCHILL

MOTION

Moved: Cr Potter

Seconded: Cr Morgan

That Council:

- 1. in accordance with Section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Community Engagement Policy, gives public notice of its intention to sell a portion of approximately 6,554m² of 22A Heesom Crescent by Private Treaty to the Victorian State Government; and**
- 2. upon completion of the community consultation and assessment of any submissions received, notes that a further report will be presented for consideration and decision.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. Request to Purchase a portion of 22A Heesom Crescent, Churchill (Published Separately)

This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (a) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released. The process requires the request to be confidential.

POTENTIAL ROAD CLOSURE - OLD MELBOURNE ROAD, MORWELL

MOTION

Moved: Cr Morgan

Seconded: Cr Pugsley

That Council:

- 1. proposes that a part of Old Melbourne Road, Morwell and part of Toners Lane Morwell, be closed as a road under clause 3, schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989*;**
- 2. authorises public notice be given of the proposed road closure in accordance with section 223/207A(a) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, and consider any submissions received in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*; and**
- 3. notes that all submissions received under section 223 and section 114 will be presented to a future Council Meeting for consideration.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. Request from Energy Australia

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

(i) relates to trade secrets; or

(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage. The request from Energy Australia is considered confidential.

2. Council Resolution - March 2011
3. Council Resolution - May 2011

ADDITIONAL MAINTENANCE ALLOCATION - RURAL RECREATION RESERVES

MOTION

Moved: Cr Potter

Seconded: Cr Howe

That Council:

1. **endorses the allocation of \$172,250 from the 2025/26 Annual Budget Additional Maintenance Allocation to fund plant and equipment purchases to undertake maintenance at Rural Recreation Reserves;**
2. **endorses the balance of the 2025/26 Annual Budget Additional Maintenance Allocation, \$77,750, to establish a pressure washing program for central business districts;**
3. **as of 30 June 2026, discontinues the provision of Annual Maintenance Grants for:**
 - (a) **Baillie Reserve, Tyers - Community Asset Committee;**
 - (b) **George Bates Reserve, Yallourn North – Community Asset Committee;**
 - (c) **Yallourn North Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee;**
 - (d) **Glengarry Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee;**
 - (e) **Toongabbie Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee;**
4. **notes the ongoing cost to Council commencing 1 July 2026 of \$249,642, for ongoing maintenance provided by Council to the following reserves:**
 - (a) **Baillie Reserve, Tyers;**
 - (b) **George Bates Reserve, Yallourn North;**
 - (c) **Yallourn North Recreation Reserve;**
 - (d) **Glengarry Recreation Reserve;**
 - (e) **Toongabbie Recreation Reserve;**
5. **notes the allocation of \$249,642 commencing 1 July 2026 includes a building maintenance grant provided annually and indexed as per Council's increase in fees and charges, for:**
 - (a) **Yallourn North Recreation Reserve Committee of Management;**
 - (b) **Glengarry Recreation Reserve Committee of Management;**
 - (c) **Toongabbie Recreation Reserve Committee of Management;**
6. **notes a future report will be provided to:**
 - (a) **dissolve the Community Asset Committees at Baillie Reserve, Tyers and George Bates Reserve, Yallourn North;**

- (b) present the Terms of Reference and process required to endorse one Advisory Committee each, for Baillie Reserve, Tyers and George Bates Reserve, Yallourn North;
7. endorses the balance of the 2026/27 Annual Budget Additional Maintenance Allocation, \$124,156, to the delivery of pressure washing programs in central business districts; and
 8. notes that should remaining Annual Maintenance Grant recipients wish to transition maintenance to Council in the future, the balance allocation for the pressure washing program or general revenue, be used to fund this requirement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. Collated Feedback
2. Tailored Maintenance Transition Proposals
3. Ongoing Financials

MORWELL RECREATION RESERVE - TURF CRICKET PITCHES

ALTERNATE MOTION

Moved: Cr Potter

Seconded: Cr Morgan

That Council defers consideration of this matter and requests Officers prepare a supplementary report detailing any additional options to be presented to the May 2026 Council meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Procedural note: Jody Riordan left the meeting at 7:00PM and returned at 7:08PM.

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. Attachment One - PRG Minutes (Published Separately)

This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (h) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a). PRG Minutes include information which makes individuals identifiable.

2. Attachment Two - Joint Letter (Published Separately)

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

3. Attachment Three - User Group Meeting Minutes (Published Separately)

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

4. Attachment Four - User Group Feedback

5. Attachment Five - Consultant Opinion on Option 3

TOURISM AND MAJOR EVENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE NEW TERMS OF REFERENCE

ALTERNATE MOTION

Moved: Cr Howe

Seconded: Cr Pugsley

That Council defers consideration of this matter and requests Officers prepare a supplementary report and updated Terms of Reference to be presented to the April 2026 Council meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. Draft Visitor Economy Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
2. Tourism & Major Events Advisory Committee: Major Events Selection and Funding Framework

ENDORSEMENT OF CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL SUPPORT PACKAGE PROJECTS

MOTION

Moved: Cr Pugsley

Seconded: Cr Harriman

That Council:

1. **increases the allocations for:**
 - (a) **Stage 2 of the Streetscape Improvements at McDonald Street / Maryvale Road (Project 11) by \$70,000 (ex GST);**
 - (b) **the purchase of Additional Grounds Maintenance Equipment (Project 20) by \$130,000 (excl GST);**
2. **allocates \$25,000 (excl GST) to deliver a second edition of the Moe Shred Fest event (Project 23); and**
3. **sets aside the remaining \$7,685 excl GST as an overall project contingency.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments

Nil

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

MOTION

Moved: Cr Pugsley

Seconded: Cr Howe

That Council:

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Procedural note: Cr Gibson called for a break commencing at 7:17PM. The meeting resumed at 7:23PM.

Attachments

Nil

URGENT BUSINESS

12. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil reports

REPORTS FOR NOTING

13. REPORTS FOR NOTING

Item Number 13.1 23 March 2026

Organisational Performance

CONTRACT VARIATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2025 - 31 DECEMBER 2025

MOTION

Moved: Cr Harriman

Seconded: Cr Morgan

That Council receives and notes the report on contract variations for the period 1 October 2025 – 31 December 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. Variations Summary
2. Variation Detail

LATROBE CITY BUSINESS CHAMBER KPI REPORT FOR 2024/2025

MOTION

Moved: Cr Howe

Seconded: Cr Pugsley

That Council receives and notes the Latrobe City Business Chamber's Key Performance Indicators report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments

Nil

14. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil reports

ITEMS FOR TABLING

15. ITEMS FOR TABLING

Nil reports

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

16. MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC TO CONSIDER CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

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

Nil reports

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 7:31PM.

I certify that these minutes have been confirmed.

Mayor: _____

Date: _____