LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD IN KERNOT HALL, MORWELL AND VIA AUDIO-VISUAL LINK AT 6:00 PM ON 26 OCTOBER 2026 CM641

PRESENT:

Councillors:	Cr Sharon Gibson, Mayor	Newborough Ward
	Cr Dale Harriman, Deputy Mayor	Loy Yang Ward
	Cr David Barnes	Boola Boola Ward
	Cr Leanne Potter	Budgeree Ward
	Cr Joanne Campbell	Jeeralang Ward
	Cr Adele Pugsley	Moe Ward
	Cr Darren Howe	Tyers Ward
	Cr Steph Morgan	Yallourn Ward
	Cr Rob Moffatt	Morwell River 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
	Alba Elling	Interim General Manager Organisational Performance
	John Petrakos	Interim Manager Governance
	Georgia Karavis	Coordinator Council Business
	Ryan Murphy	Governance & Compliance Officer

Apologies:

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Resolutions in this minutes document should be read in conjunction with the published agenda for the 26 October 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

3. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION

Moved: Cr Potter
Seconded: Cr Campbell

That Council confirms the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5 October 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cr Campbell declared a conflict of interest at Item 16.2 of the Confidential Council Meeting agenda.

Cr Harriman declared a conflict of interest at Item 16.3, Attachment 3 of the Confidential Council Meeting agenda.

Cr Moffatt declared a conflict of interest at Item 16.3, Attachment 2 of the Confidential Council Meeting agenda.

Cr Gibson declared a conflict of interest at Item 16.3, Attachment 4 of the Confidential Council Meeting agenda.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Cr Campbell recognised Brian Ford for being a life member of Traralgon Swimming Club.
- Cr Harriman acknowledged the Municipal Association of Victoria's (MAV) dinner at which Cr Gibson was made a Mayor Emeritus.
- Cr Gibson acknowledged 15 years of service to Cr Harriman and 10 years of service to Cr Howe. Cr Gibson also acknowledged the MAV State Council. meeting at which 5 motions were tabled, and the lowest percentage of support was 92%.

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 no public questions.

Public Speakers

Members of the public who registered by no later than midday on the day of the Council Meeting were invited to speak to an item on the agenda. There was 1 public speaker.

9.2 Latrobe City Council submission to Environment Effects Statement for the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project

- Tracey Anton

NOTICES OF MOTION

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

Item Number 8.1 26 October 2026 Investment and Growth

2026/04 STRENGTHENING TERTIARY EDUCATION AND FUTURE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN LATROBE CITY

MOTION

Moved: Cr Morgan
Seconded: Cr Campbell

That Council:

1. **recognises the critical role of tertiary education in driving economic growth, workforce development, research and innovation, and social prosperity across Latrobe City and the broader Gippsland region;**
2. **acknowledges the ongoing contribution of Federation University in providing local access to higher education, vocational training, research, and industry partnerships;**
3. **advocates for the expansion and diversification of locally delivered courses offered by Federation University to meet known skills shortages, emerging workforce needs, and the overall offerings and tertiary qualifications available for Latrobe and Gippsland, particularly in:**
   a) **Engineering;**
   b) **Renewable energy;**
   c) **Advanced manufacturing;**
   d) **Sciences;**
   e) **Digital technologies and cybersecurity;**
   f) **Construction and infrastructure delivery;**
   g) **Business, entrepreneurship, and leadership;**
   h) **Performing and Visual Arts;**
4. **writes to the Vice-Chancellor of Federation University Australia, expressing Council's concern that Federation University are no longer providing courses that will support the future workforce needs of Latrobe and the broader Gippsland region;**
5. **requests that officers engage with Federation University, Gippsland TAFE, local industry and new employers to identify future workforce skills requirements, and available training placements; and**

6. requests officers engage with Federation University to identify future joint advocacy opportunities for increased funding to enable the provision of a broader range of tertiary qualifications in Gippsland.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments

Nil

2026/05 POTENTIAL HOME OF THE LATROBE CITY SPORTING HALL OF FAME

MOTION

Moved: Cr Harriman
Seconded: Cr Moffatt

That Council:

1. **requests officers prepare a briefing report outlining potential options for the establishment of a physical location for the Latrobe City Sporting Hall of Fame, including:**
   a) **estimated capital and operational costs;**
   b) **potential locations and delivery models;**
   c) **key advantages and disadvantages of each option;**
   d) **any other strategic, operational or financial considerations; and**
2. **receives the briefing report for consideration by no later than 30 June 2027.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments

Nil

2026/06 DEFERRING THE ELECTION OF THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

MOTION

Moved: Cr Harriman
Seconded: Cr Pugsley

That Council:

1. **defers the meeting scheduled for Monday 9 November 2026 at 6pm to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, to Monday 16 November 2026 at 6pm, to allow the maximum number of Councillors the opportunity to participate in the meeting; and**
2. **authorises the Chief Executive Officer to confirm the location and then notify the public on Council's website and social media of the date, time and place of the meeting.**

CARRIED

For: Cr Gibson, Cr Harriman, Cr Howe, Cr Morgan, Cr Moffatt, Cr Pugsley, Cr Barnes, Cr Campbell

Against: Cr Potter

Attachments

Nil

STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DECISION

9. STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DECISION

Item Number 9.1 26 October 2026 Investment and Growth

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DATA CENTRES PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

MOTION

Moved: Cr Howe
Seconded: Cr Harriman

That Council:

1. **retrospectively endorses Latrobe City Council's submission to the Australian Parliament's Inquiry into Artificial Intelligence and Data Centres, lodged on 3 September 2026;**
2. **endorses the proposed additional recommendation requiring major data-centre proponents to prepare and implement Community Engagement Plans, as shown in Attachment 1; and**
3. **authorises the amended submission to be resubmitted.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. Latrobe City Council's Submission to Australian Parliament's Inquiry into AI and Data Centres with tracked changes

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT FOR THE HAZELWOOD REHABILITATION PROJECT

Procedural Notes:

- Cr Gibson vacated the Chair at 6:40PM.
- Cr Harriman assumed the Chair at 6:40PM.

ALTERNATE MOTION

Moved: Cr Gibson
Seconded: Cr Morgan

That Council:

1. **authorises officers to add a further requirement to Recommendation 11 (Long-term stability) of the draft submission (Attachment 2) for ENGIE to protect the northern batters from erosion and maintain their long-term stability to protect Morwell township throughout filling, rehabilitation and post-closure, for as long as erosion and stability risks remain;**
2. **endorses Latrobe City Council's submission to the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project's Environmental Effects Statement (EES) with the authorised addition detailed in point 1 above; and**
3. **authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or delegate, to represent Council's submission to the EES Advisory Committee at the public hearing.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Procedural Notes:

- Cr Harriman vacated the Chair at 6:50pm.
- Cr Gibson assumed the Chair at 6:50pm.

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. Summary of Council's Recommendations
2. Latrobe City Council Submission to the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project Environment Effects Statement
3. Strategic Planner Assessment - Draft Planning Scheme Amendment C159latr

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

MOTION

Moved: Cr Potter
Seconded: Cr Moffatt

That Council:

1. **approves the Annual Report 2025/2026 at Attachment 1, prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*; and**

2. **notes that the Annual Report 2025/2026 will be made available on Council's website.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. Annual Report 2025/26

COMMUNITY AMENITY LOCAL LAW 2026 INCORPORATED DOCUMENTS

MOTION

Moved: Cr Pugsley
Seconded: Cr Howe

That Council:

1. **adopts the Footpath and Roadside Trading Guidelines at Attachment 1;**
2. **adopts the Nature Strip and Roadside Verges Policy at Attachment 2;**
3. **notes with the adoption of the Footpath and Roadside Trading Guidelines and Nature Strip and Roadside Verges Policy, they replace any previous versions; and**
4. **notes that the Guidelines and Policy will be published on Council's website.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. Footpath and Roadside Trading Guidelines
2. Nature Strip and Roadside Verges Policy
3. Maintenance of Nature Strips and Roadside Verges Policy

STATUTORY PLANNING

10. STATUTORY PLANNING

Item Number 10.1 26 October 2026 Investment and Growth

PROPOSED PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C160 - CHURCHILL TOWN CENTRE PLAN

MOTION

Moved: Cr Potter
Seconded: Cr Pugsley

That Council:

1. **endorses the draft Churchill Town Centre Plan (October 2026) and associated background documents, provided at Attachments 1- 8 for public exhibition as part of Amendment C160;**
2. **requests authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Amendment C160 to the Latrobe Planning Scheme, in accordance with section 16F of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987;***
3. **prepares Amendment C160 to the Latrobe Planning Scheme to implement the Churchill Town Centre Plan, generally in accordance with the documentation provided at Attachment 9-13, subject to Ministerial Authorisation; and**
4. **places Amendment C160 on exhibition in accordance with the requirements of section 19 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, subject to Ministerial Authorisation.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. Churchill Town Centre Plan (Published Separately)

This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. Early release of land use planning information may lead to speculation. Community members will have the opportunity to provide comments once the proposed Amendment is exhibited.

2. Consultation Summary Report (Published Separately)

   This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. Early release of land use planning information may lead to speculation. Community members will have the opportunity to provide comments once the proposed Amendment is exhibited.

3. Economic Analysis Report (Published Separately)

   This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. Early release of land use planning information may lead to speculation. Community members will have the opportunity to provide comments once the proposed Amendment is exhibited.

4. Movement and Access Study (Published Separately)

   This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. Early release of land use planning information may lead to speculation. Community members will have the opportunity to provide comments once the proposed Amendment is exhibited.

5. Planning Context Report (Published Separately)

   This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. Early release of land use planning information may lead to speculation. Community members will have the opportunity to provide comments once the proposed Amendment is exhibited.

6. Potentially Contaminated Land Report (Published Separately)

   This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. Early release of land use planning information may lead to speculation. Community members will have the opportunity to provide comments once the proposed Amendment is exhibited.

7. Social Infrastructure Needs Analysis Report (Published Separately)

   This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. Early release of land use planning information may lead to speculation. Community members will have the opportunity to provide comments once the proposed Amendment is exhibited.

8. Urban Design and Built Form Analysis Report (Published Separately)

   This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. Early release of land use planning information may lead to speculation. Community members will have the opportunity to provide comments once the proposed Amendment is exhibited.

9. C160 Explanatory Report (Published Separately)

   This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. Early release of land use planning information may lead to speculation. Community members will have the opportunity to provide comments once the proposed Amendment is exhibited.

10. C160 Proposed Policy Changes (Published Separately)

    This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. Early release of land use planning information may lead to speculation. Community members will have the opportunity to provide comments once the proposed Amendment is exhibited.

11. C160 Instruction Sheet (Published Separately)

    This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. Early release of land use planning information may lead to speculation. Community members will have the opportunity to provide comments once the proposed Amendment is exhibited.

12. Proposed Design and Development Overlay Map (Published Separately)

This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. Early release of land use planning information may lead to speculation. Community members will have the opportunity to provide comments once the proposed Amendment is exhibited.

13. Proposed Environmental Audit Overlay Map (Published Separately)

This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (c) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values. Early release of land use planning information may lead to speculation. Community members will have the opportunity to provide comments once the proposed Amendment is exhibited.

PROPOSED PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C157 - LATROBE PLANNING SCHEME REVIEW

MOTION

Moved: Cr Morgan
Seconded: Cr Howe

That Council:

1. **adopts the Latrobe Planning Scheme Review 2026, provided at Attachment 1;**
2. **submits the Review to the Minister for Planning in accordance with requirement of Section 12B(5) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987;**
3. **requests authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Amendment C157 to the Latrobe Planning Scheme, in accordance with section 16F of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987;***
4. **prepares Amendment C157 to the Latrobe Planning Scheme to implement the recommendations of the Latrobe Planning Scheme Review 2026, generally in accordance with the documentation provided at Attachments 2-4, subject to Ministerial Authorisation; and**
5. **places Amendment C157 on exhibition in accordance with the requirements of section 19 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, subject to Ministerial Authorisation.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. Latrobe Planning Scheme Review
2. Proposed Ordinance Changes
3. Proposed Mapping Changes
4. Draft Planning Scheme Amendment Documents

CORPORATE ITEMS FOR DECISION

11. CORPORATE ITEMS FOR DECISION

Item Number 11.1 26 October 2026 Infrastructure and Sustainability

REQUEST TO ENTER INTO LONG TERM LEASE AT 81-89 HOTHAM STREET, TRARALGON

MOTION

Moved: Cr Howe
Seconded: Cr Harriman

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 a long-term lease with Body Corporate Strata Plan 35615M for the tenancy area identified at Confidential Attachment 1; 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. Proposed Tenancy Area (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. Publishing the proposed tenancy area may disclose information relevant to negotiations before Council has determined its position.

2. Request for New Lease (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. Publishing the request could disclose information relevant to negotiations before Council has determined its position.

3. Valuation Certificate - August 2026 (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. Contains commercially sensitive information which, if prematurely released, may affect Council's position in negotiations regarding the proposed lease.

ANIMALS IN COUNCIL FACILITIES POLICY

MOTION

Moved: Cr Morgan
Seconded: Cr Pugsley

That Council:

1. **adopts the Animals in Council Facilities Policy 2026; and**
2. **notes that the Animals in Council Facilities Policy 2026 will be made available on Council's website.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. DRAFT Animals in Council Facilities Policy 2026

AUTHORISATION OF COUNCIL OFFICER UNDER THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987

MOTION

Moved: Cr Harriman
Seconded: Cr Potter

That Council, in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, resolves that:

1. **Tara Membery be appointed and authorised as set out in the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation at Attachment 1;**
2. **the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation comes into force immediately after the common seal of Council is affixed to the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation, and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it; and**
3. **the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation be sealed.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. S11A - Tara Membery

URGENT BUSINESS

12. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

REPORTS FOR NOTING

13. REPORTS FOR NOTING

Item Number 13.1 26 October 2026 Organisational Performance

TABLING OF AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE BI-ANNUAL REPORT

MOTION

Moved: Cr Potter
Seconded: Cr Campbell

That Council receives and notes the Audit and Risk Committee Bi-Annual Report for the period of 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. ARC Bi-Annual Report Jan - June 2026

PRESENTATION OF AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 14 AND 21 SEPTEMBER 2026

MOTION

Moved: Cr Campbell
Seconded: Cr Potter

That Council receives and notes the Audit and Risk Committee Minutes for the 14 September and 21 September 2026 meeting at Attachment 1 and Attachment 2, respectively.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. Audit and Risk Committee minutes 14.9.2026
2. Audit and Risk Committee minutes 21.9.2026

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.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Morgan
Seconded: Cr Harriman

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

16.1 Crinigan Bushland Reserve and Traralgon Railway Reservoir Conservation Reserve Community Asset Committees - Community Representative Nominations
This item is confidential as it contains personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs (section 3(1)(f)). This ground applies because the report and attachments contain personal information of applicants including name and contact details.

16.2 LCC-932 Supply and Delivery - Quarry Products and Sports Turf Sand
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.

16.3 2026/27 Community Grant Program - Round One
This item is confidential as it contains confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a) (section 3(1)(h)). This ground applies because information regarding applications received through the Community Grants Program and the recommendations for individual applications.

16.4 Strategic Property Opportunity
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)). This ground applies because this report relates to a property purchase opportunity.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Meeting closed to the public at 7:24pm.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 7:51PM.

I certify that these minutes have been confirmed.

Mayor: _____

Date: _____