



LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING

**HELD IN GIPPSLAND PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE,
TRARALGON AND VIA AUDIO-VISUAL LINK
AT 6:00 PM ON 24 MARCH 2025
CM615**

PRESENT:

Councillors:	Cr Dale Harriman, Mayor	Loy Yang Ward
	Cr Sharon Gibson, Deputy Mayor	Newborough Ward (Virtual)
	Cr David Barnes	Boola Boola Ward
	Cr Leanne Potter	Budgerie Ward
	Cr Joanne Campbell	Jeeralang Ward
	Cr Adele Pugsley	Moe Ward
	Cr Darren Howe	Tyers Ward
	Cr Steph Morgan	Yallourn Ward
	Cr Tracie Lund	Morwell River Ward

Officers:	Steven Piasente	Chief Executive Officer
	James Rouse	Acting General Manager Community Health & Wellbeing
	Jody Riordan	General Manager Regional City Planning & Assets
	Tim Ellis	General Manager Regional City Strategy & Transition
	Josh Wilson	Acting Executive Manager Sports Legacy & Activation
	Nathan Kearsley	General Manager Organisational Performance (Virtual)
	Alba Elling	Manager Governance
	Courtney Aquilina	Coordinator Council Business
	Kaitlyn Boram	Governance Officer

Apologies:

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Resolutions in this minutes document should be read in conjunction with the published agenda for the 24 March 2025 Council Meeting.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND

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

2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION

Moved: Cr Pugsley

Seconded: Cr Gibson

That Council confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 February 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cr Pugsley declared a Material Interest in Item 7.1 2025/05 Number of Protective Service Officers in Morwell, Moe and surrounding areas.

Cr Campbell declared a Material Interest in Confidential Agenda Item 15.1 Kosciuszko Street Primary School - Kindergarten on School Site.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cr Potter made the following acknowledgements:

- 22nd Boolarra Folk Festival was held Saturday 1 March 2025 where the Mayor and Cr Potter opened the event and thanked the event organisers, volunteers, performers and attendees.
- Yinnar sculpture exhibition which is being held between 9 March – 20 April 2025 and thanked the exhibition organisers and volunteers.
- Class Act for their production of Little Shop of Horrors. The successful production had its final show on Sunday 23 March 2025.

Cr Gibson made the following acknowledgments:

- International Women's Group Harmony Day celebration held Saturday 22 March 2025 and shared her congratulations on a successful event.
- Henselite Victorian Open Bowls tournament which has been held at numerous locations across Latrobe Valley and thanked everyone involved. The event commenced on 21 March, finishing on 30 March 2025.

- Light up Latrobe held at Apex Park, Moe. This event was broadcast worldwide and shared her congratulations on a successful event.

Cr Lund acknowledged the many Harmony Day events which have been held over the past week across Latrobe City and thanked the Filipino Senior Group, the International Women's Group and the volunteers for contributing to these events.

Cr Barnes acknowledged the Big freeze event held in Glengarry. The event was successful, supporting an important cause and raising money to fight Motor Neurone Disease.

Cr Morgan acknowledged Yourfest event held 8 March 2025 in Morwell. This was a great display of the Morwell community and shared her congratulations to everyone involved.

Cr Harriman made the following acknowledgements:

- Henselite Victorian Open Bowls tournament which is being held at numerous locations across Latrobe Valley and thanked everyone involved. The event commenced on 21 March, finishing on 30 March 2025.
- Announcement of the Victorian under 16 basketball team and congratulated the 2 players who were selected for the team and 1 player selected as an emergency.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

Public Questions on Notice

In Accordance with the Council Meeting Policy, members of the public can lodge a question on notice before 12 noon on the Friday before the day of the Council meeting in order for the question to be answered at the meeting. There were 3 public questions.

Question 1

From: Damien Andrews

Topic: 2025 Canberra Delegation

Question:

Latrobe City Council's Federal Election Strategy

Given the delegation met with opposition leaders regarding economic diversification and job creation, did Council seek to meet with Prime Minister Albanese to secure concrete federal government commitments for Latrobe City's economic transition and job creation?

Response:

Yes, prior to the delegation to Canberra taking place Council wrote to the Prime Minister to request a meeting, unfortunately due to the Prime Ministers scheduling conflicts the meeting request was declined. Council has since sent a follow up letter to the Prime Minister requesting a meeting before the election and are awaiting a reply.

Question 2

From: Guss Lambden

Topic: Security Patrol in Local Areas

Question:

What would Council think in regards to having Council security staff to patrol local areas with high levels of antisocial behaviour. A long time local man suggested it on social media. It would greatly assist Police and PSO's who are clearly short staffed.

Response:

Thank you for this suggestion. Council acknowledges that there is concern in the community about incidents of anti-social behaviour.

The proposal is an innovative way to respond to anti-social behaviour however it is not a current strategy that Council are exploring.

Council's current focus is to work with the relevant State Government Agencies in order to address the Community concerns.

Council has been collaborating with Victoria Police and they have increased their presence in local CBD's when there are escalated reports of anti-social behaviour to help improve perceptions of community safety and reduce instances of anti-social behaviours.

Police are also currently working with Councils' Local laws officers to enforce regulations regarding drinking alcohol in public spaces. This collaboration ensures that incidents are dealt with by personnel with the appropriate training and legal authority.

We appreciate your concern and your proactive approach to finding solutions. We will continue to explore options to enhance safety in our community, in particular working with the State Government and other partners and continuing to advocate to the State Government in relation to community concerns about public safety.

Question 3

From: Damien Andrews

Topic: Lake Narracan Advisory Committee

Question:

Can the Council provide an update on the activities of the Lake Narracan Advisory Committee, including its recent meeting dates, vision and plans for Lake Narracan, recommendations made and their implementation, how the public can access past meeting records, and whether meetings are open to public observers or public submissions?

Response:

The Lake Narracan Advisory Committee Terms of Reference outlines the committee's role which includes to report to Council and provide appropriate advice, information and feedback on matters relevant to the Terms of Reference in order to facilitate decision making by the Council in relation to the discharge of its responsibilities.

It is an advisory committee only and has no delegated decision making authority.

Minutes of advisory committee meetings can contain various types of confidential information and accordingly are not made publicly available on Council's website.

Any request to obtain specific documents (including Minutes) would need to be assessed for their suitability to be released. Whether all or part of minutes sought are able to be released would depend on content, and the parameters of the application.

Advisory committee meetings are not open to the public, as again, confidential information is often discussed at such meetings. There is no requirement for advisory committee meetings to be open to the public under the Local Government Act 2020.

The committee may agree to respond to a written submission forwarded from community members, although this would be at its discretion.

The meeting schedule and times for each of the meetings are determined by the Committee, with meetings held bi-monthly or as deemed necessary by Latrobe City Council or the Committee to fulfil its objectives.

The previous meeting was held on 19 June 2024. There were no advisory committee meetings scheduled during the Council Election Period, and the meeting scheduled for December 2024 was postponed until a new Chair was appointed following Councillor Inductions. The next meeting is scheduled for 30 April 2025.

Public Speakers

Members of the public who registered before 12 noon were invited to speak to an item on the agenda. There were 6 public speakers.

- Ray Burgess spoke to item 7.3
- Kathryn Harrison spoke to item 9.1
- Rod Harrison spoke to item 9.1
- Albertina Pol spoke to item 9.1
- Taylah Gardner spoke to item 9.1
- William A Stewart spoke to item 9.2

NOTICES OF MOTION

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

Item Number 7.1

24 March 2025

Community Health and Wellbeing

2025/05 NUMBER OF PROTECTIVE SERVICE OFFICERS IN MORWELL, MOE AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Procedural note

Cr Pugsley left the meeting for this item at 6.45 pm

MOTION

Moved: Cr Gibson

Seconded: Cr Lund

That Council:

Advocate to the Premier, Minister for Police and Police Commissioner to significantly increase the number of Protective Services Officers (PSOs) that attend the Morwell and Moe Railway stations, and surrounding areas in order to maintain a visible presence, and foster a sense of safety.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments

Nil

Procedural note

Cr Pugsley returned to the meeting at 6.51 pm

2025/06 TRARALGON YOUTH ACTIVITY PRECINCT SITE

Procedural note

The Mayor vacated the chair for this item and Cr Gibson took the chair at 6.51 pm

MOTION

Moved: Cr Harriman

Seconded: Cr Pugsley

That Council selects the Agnes Brereton Reserve as the site for the Traralgon Youth Activity Precinct (inclusive of the Traralgon Skate Park).

For: Cr Barnes, Cr Campbell, Cr Pugsley, Cr Gibson, Cr Harriman

Against: Cr Potter, Cr Lund, Cr Howe, Cr Morgan

CARRIED

Attachments

Nil

Procedural note

The Mayor resumed the chair at 7.03 pm

2025/07 COMMUNITY CONNECTORS PROGRAM

MOTION

Moved: Cr Lund

Seconded: Cr Morgan

That Council:

Receive a report at the April Council meeting on the implementation of the Community Connectors Program in the Morwell CBD to respond to community safety concerns.

For: Cr Barnes, Cr Potter, Cr Lund, Cr Howe and Cr Morgan

Against: Cr Campbell, Cr Pugsley

Abstain: Cr Harriman, Cr Gibson

CARRIED

Attachments

Nil

STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DECISION

8. STRATEGIC ITEMS FOR DECISION

Item Number 8.1

24 March 2025

Community Health and Wellbeing

REVIEW OF SINGLE USE WATER BOTTLES AT COUNCIL FACILITIES

MOTION

Moved: Cr Campbell

Seconded: Cr Pugsley

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the reinstatement of single use plastic water bottles at Council facilities and events.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments

Nil

STATUTORY PLANNING

9. STATUTORY PLANNING

Item Number 9.1

24 March 2025

Regional City Planning and Assets

2019/173/B USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF LAND FOR A DWELLING AND ANCILLARY OUTBUILDINGS

MOTION

Moved: Cr Campbell

Seconded: Cr Lund

That Council issues a Notice of Decision to issue the Amended Permit 2019/173/B at 144 McGraths Track, Hernes Oak (Lot 2 PS 506484) subject to the conditions at Attachment 1 to this report, for:

- 1. Clause 35.07-1 Use of the land for a dwelling; and**
- 2. Clause 35.07-4 A building or works associated with a use in Section 2 of Clause 35.07-1.**

For Cr Barnes, Cr Campbell, Cr Harriman, Cr Pugsley, Cr Lund, Cr Gibson, Cr Howe

Against: Cr Potter

Abstain: Cr Morgan

CARRIED

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. Attachment 1 Draft permit conditions
2. Attachment 2 Endorsed plans for planning permit 2019/173
3. Attachment 3 Endorsed plans for planning permit 2019/173/A
4. Attachment 4 Original plans lodged with amended application 2019/173/B
5. Attachment 5 Amended plans lodged in response to objections for amended application 2019/173/B
6. Attachment 6 Copy of objections (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 personal information of objectors.

7. Attachment 7 Map of objectors (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 addresses of objectors.

8. Attachment 8 Response to grounds of objection

9. Attachment 9 Planning Scheme Assessment

PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION 2024/133 USE OF LAND FOR A CHILDCARE CENTRE, DISPLAY OF BUSINESS IDENTIFICATION SIGNAGE AND SUBDIVISION OF LAND

MOTION

Moved: Cr Campbell

Seconded: Cr Howe

That Council issues a Notice of Decision to Refuse to Grant Permit 2024/133 at Manley Circuit Traralgon (Lot C PS838403), subject to the grounds set out in Attachment 1 to this report, for:

- 1. Clause 32.08-2 use the land for a childcare centre;**
- 2. Clause 32.08-3 subdivide land;**
- 3. Clause 32.08-10 construct a building or construct or carry out works;**
- 4. Clause 43.02-3 subdivide land;**
- 5. Clause 43.04-2 subdivide land; and**
- 6. Clause 52.05-13 construct or display signage.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. Attachment 1 Grounds of refusal
2. Attachment 2 Proposed plans
3. Attachment 3 Traffic Management Plan
4. Attachment 4 Approved development plan and summary report
5. Attachment 5 Copy of objections (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. Personal details of objectors contained in the attachment.

6. Attachment 6 Map of objectors (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. Personal details of objectors contained in the attachment.

7. Attachment 7 Detailed assessment of objections

8. Attachment 8 Clause 56 assessment

9. Attachment 9 Policy assessment

Procedural note

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7.39 pm and it recommenced at 7.49 pm.

CORPORATE ITEMS FOR DECISION

10. CORPORATE ITEMS FOR DECISION

Item Number 10.1 24 March 2025

Regional City Strategy & Transition

AUTHORISATION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS UNDER THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987

MOTION

Moved: Cr Morgan

Seconded: Cr Lund

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

- 1. Daniel Mersin, Oscar Anderson and Kellie Wood be appointed and authorised as set out in the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation attached to this report;**
- 2. The Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation comes into force immediately after the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument, 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. Instrument of Delegation & Appointment - Planning Officer - Kellie Wood
2. Instrument of Delegation & Appointment - Strategic Planner - Daniel Mersin
3. Instrument of Delegation & Appointment - Student Planner - Oscar Anderson

URGENT BUSINESS

11. URGENT BUSINESS

Procedural note

The Mayor vacated the chair and left the meeting and Cr Gibson took the chair at 7.51 pm.

ADMITTING AN ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS

MOTION

Moved: Cr Pugsley

Seconded: Cr Campbell

That Council admits, in accordance with the Governance Rules 2023, Clause 20, the following item of business as it cannot be reasonably or conveniently deferred until the next Council meeting:

- Traralgon City Band Tour of Remembrance – Invitation to Mayor**

For Cr Barnes, Cr Campbell, Cr Pugsley, Cr Gibson

Against: Cr Potter, Cr Lund, Cr Howe, Cr Morgan

Cr Gibson as Chair cast the deciding vote, and voted FOR the motion.

CARRIED

ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS

MOTION

Moved: Cr Campbell

Seconded: Cr Barnes

I, Cr Joanne Campbell move:

That Council:

- 1. Allocate \$9,500 for the Mayor to travel overseas to attend the Traralgon City Bands Tour of Remembrance in United Kingdom, Belgium, Paris and Denmark from June 11 to June 25, 2025;**
- 2. Approve the Mayor to travel with the official Mayoral Chains from the former City of Traralgon; and**
- 3. Note that the costs associated with the Mayor attending the Traralgon City Bands Tour of Remembrance will be allocated from the unallocated cash reserve.**

For Cr Barnes, Cr Campbell, Cr Pugsley, Cr Gibson

Against: Cr Potter, Cr Lund, Cr Howe, Cr Morgan

**Cr Gibson as Chair cast the deciding vote, and voted FOR the motion
CARRIED**

Procedural note

The Mayor returned to the meeting and resumed the chair at 8.23 pm.

REPORTS FOR NOTING

12. REPORTS FOR NOTING

Item Number 12.1 24 March 2025

Regional City Strategy & Transition

FURTHER OPTIONS FOR FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING LOCATIONS

MOTION

Moved: Cr Morgan

Seconded: Cr Lund

That Council notes this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments

Nil

TRANSITION PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

MOTION

Moved: Cr Pugsley

Seconded: Cr Morgan

That Council:

- 1. Notes the Transition Plan Performance Report.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

1. Our Transition Plan
2. Our Transition Plan Progress Report

13. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil reports

ITEMS FOR TABLING

14. ITEMS FOR TABLING

Item Number 14.1 24 March 2025

Regional City Strategy & Transition

UPDATED AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE CHARTER

MOTION

Moved: Cr Campbell

Seconded: Cr Potter

That Council:

- 1. Adopts the Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2025; and**
- 2. Publishes the Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2025 on the Council website; and**
- 3. Rescinds the Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2023.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

- 1. Draft Audit and Risk Committee Charter**

TABLING OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE BIANNUAL REPORT AND ANNUAL SELF ASSESSMENT

MOTION

Moved: Cr Campbell

Seconded: Cr Potter

That Council receive and note the following reports prepared by the Audit and Risk Committee:

- 1. Audit and Risk Committee Bi-Annual Report; and**
- 2. Audit and Risk Committee Annual Self-Assessment**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments - Refer to Council Meeting Agenda

- 1. Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report 2024**
- 2. ARC Self Review**

**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.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Lund

Seconded: Cr Morgan

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 Kosciuszko Street Primary School - Kindergarten on School Site

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)).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Meeting closed to the public at 8.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.35pm.

I certify that these minutes have been confirmed.

Mayor: _____

Date: _____