

Council Meeting Agenda

Wednesday 15 April 2026

Council Chamber, Bass Coast Civic Centre

Baillieu Street East, Wonthaggi

Commencing at 1:00 pm



Community Vision 2045

From its flowing hills to its coastal woodlands and wild unspoiled coastlines, the Bass Coast is a source of celebration for all who live in and visit the region.

Our townships are vibrant, rich with culture and full of life, each with its own distinct character. Drawing on our creativity, innovation and resilience we've created a thriving and diverse economy that supports sustainable agriculture and industry.

We live proudly on Bunurong Country, and build on learnings from our First Peoples and their knowledge. We coexist in harmony with our environment, and are prepared for future challenges and changes.

We are the people of the Bass Coast. Experience our cultures and history, and contribute to our story.



Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the next **Council Meeting** of the Bass Coast Shire Council will be held at the Council Chamber Bass Coast Civic Centre Baillieu Street East, Wonthaggi on 15 April 2026 at **1:00 pm**

Date of Notice – 10 April 2026

Greg Box

CEO

Mobile Telephone Reminder

Please turn off all mobile telephones or in the case of an emergency, please advise the Chair and switch to silent mode.

Statement of Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Bunurong as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters, and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging

Councillor Statement

All members of this Council pledge to the Bass Coast Shire community to consider every item listed on this agenda:

- Based on the individual merits of each item;
- Without bias or prejudice by maintaining an open mind; and
- Disregarding Councillors' personal interests so as to avoid any conflict with our public duty.

Any Councillor having a conflict of interest in an item will make a proper, prior disclosure to the meeting and will not participate in the debate or vote on the issue.

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I Present and Apologies

2 Declarations of Interest

3 Confirmation of Minutes

3.1 Council Meeting 18 March 2026

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18 March 2026 be confirmed.

Mayor and Councillor Reports

4 Mayor and Councillor Reports

5 Public Question Time

Questions must be submitted in writing prior to the Council Meeting and questions and responses will be published in the minutes.

Please note:

Questions relating to an item in the agenda will be provided with the following response

- ***Councillors will consider and debate all aspects and implications of this issue as part of Council's agenda.***

Governance Rules 2025

Chapter 2 - Meeting Procedure for Council Meetings

Section 53 - Public Question Time

53. Question Time

- 53.1. Public question time must be held at each Council meeting fixed under Rule 9 to enable members of the public to submit questions to Council.
- 53.2. Sub-Rule 53.1 does not apply during any period when a meeting is closed to members of the public in accordance with section 66(2) of the Act.
- 53.3. Questions submitted to Council must:
 - 53.3.1. be in writing, state the name, email and address of the person submitting the question and generally be in a form approved or permitted by Council. This Personal Information is held in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) Principles. The submitted question/s and your name will be entered into the Council Minutes, be available to the public when placed on Council's website; and
 - 53.3.2. be lodged 48 hours prior to the Council meeting.
- 53.4. No person may submit more than two questions at any, one meeting. If a question has multiple parts to it, it is considered multiple questions. Any additional question will not be read out at the meeting or included in the minutes.
- 53.5. The person who submitted the question may be present in the Chamber at Public Question Time when the Chair will call their name. The submitter will have an opportunity to read out the previously submitted question or request the Chair read their question. The question and the response will then be included in the minutes.
 - 53.5.1. The submitter may not raise any additional questions or alter the previously submitted question.
 - 53.5.2. Speakers must abide by the direction of the Chair and in accordance with these Governance Rules.
 - 53.5.3. If the person is not present, the question may not be read out. The question and answer will be included in the meeting minutes. They will not be afforded another opportunity to read their question.

- 53.6. The Chair or a member of Council staff nominated by the Chair may read a question and response at the meeting which has been submitted in accordance with this Rule. Not all questions are required to be read at the meeting.
- 53.7. A question may be disallowed by the Chair if the Chair determines that it:
 - 53.7.1. relates to a matter outside the duties, functions and powers of Council.
 - 53.7.2. is defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable in language or substance.
 - 53.7.3. deals with a subject matter already answered.
 - 53.7.4. is aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or a member of Council staff.
 - 53.7.5. relates to personnel matters.
 - 53.7.6. relates to the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer.
 - 53.7.7. relates to confidential information as defined in Section 3 of the Act
 - 53.7.8. relates to matters affecting the security of Council property; or
 - 53.7.9. relates to any other matter which Council considers would prejudice Council or any person.
- 53.8. Any question which has been disallowed by the Chair will not be read at the meeting or published in the meeting minutes.
- 53.9. Any question which has been disallowed by the Chair must be made available to Councillors.
- 53.10. Where the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer does not accept a question, the submitter is to be informed of the reason or reasons for which their question was not accepted.
- 53.11. All questions and answers must be as brief as possible, and no discussion may be allowed other than by Councillors for the purposes of clarification.
- 53.12. Questions must be limited to 50 words inclusive of any preamble and additional information.
- 53.13. Like questions may be grouped together and a single answer provided.
- 53.14. The Chair may nominate a Councillor or the Chief Executive Officer to respond to a question.
- 53.15. A Councillor or the Chief Executive Officer may require a question to be taken on notice. If a question is taken on notice, the answer may be provided in the minutes or a written copy of the answer will be provided to the submitter, where practicable.
- 53.16. A Councillor or the Chief Executive Officer may advise Council that it is their opinion that the reply to a question should be given in a meeting closed to members of the public. The Councillor or Chief Executive Officer (as the case may be) must briefly state the reason why the reply should be so given and, unless Council resolves to the contrary, the reply to such question must be so given.
- 53.17. Question time will be for a maximum of 30 minutes unless extended by a Council resolution.

Notices of Motion

6 Notices of Motion

6.1 267/26 Supporting our residents and businesses with rising costs caused by extreme weather

Declaration

The author has no general or material interests in relation to this report.

I, Cr Mat Morgan, hereby give notice that I intend to move a motion at the Council Meeting 15 April 2026, which reads as follows:

Motion

- 1. That Council notes the impact of worsening and increasingly common extreme weather events and coastal inundation on our residents, businesses, and tourist economy, including:**
 - a) Losses and disruptions directly attributed to these disasters, including life, homes, businesses, income, properties, livestock, infrastructure, environment, and wildlife;**
 - b) The financial impact of extreme weather events and coastal inundation on individual households and businesses already tackling a cost-of-living crisis, through rising insurance premiums, recovery and repair measures, building retrofitting and resilience measures;**
 - c) The personal costs and sacrifices of local volunteers;**
 - d) Income losses and increasing business precarity, as experienced by primary producers especially;**
 - e) The rising costs to Council budgets as a result of responding to and preparing for disasters, including through coordinating responses and responding to community needs, increasing insurance, protection and removal of infrastructure;**
 - f) The existing constraints on local government budgets and shortfalls in existing government grants, meaning councils are ill-equipped to support residents and businesses without significantly compromising budget and resources; and;**
- 2. Endorses officers to write to the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy and relevant Parliamentary ministers to consider:**
 - a) The introduction of a levy on large fossil fuel companies, to raise additional funds and support the response of local government and communities dealing with extreme weather and coastal inundation; and**

-
- b) The establishment of a Parliamentary Inquiry into the adequacy of the National Adaptation Plan 2025, specifically addressing the lack of additional funding for local government already bearing the brunt of costs of tackling the impacts of extreme weather events in local communities.**
-

Background by Councillor

Bass Coast is already paying for the effects of extreme weather events. The Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services (2024) (The Inquiry) found that “Extreme weather events driven by climate change are a significant cost pressure on Victorian councils.”^[1] They go on to note the Municipal Association of Victoria’s submission stating extreme weather events: ‘strain emergency response systems; necessitate costly infrastructure repairs [and]; disrupt council services’.² The Inquiry’s Final Report notes that damages in Greater Melbourne to council-owned community assets due to climate hazards could increase by a further 150% by 2050. It is reasonable to expect that rural communities will be impacted even more significantly. Directly or indirectly, every member of our community is now paying a high price for climate change and projections show these costs will escalate. Whether through rising insurance premiums, productivity losses in farming, asset values falling; not to mention the water lapping at our coastal doorsteps.

Meanwhile, those most responsible for increased CO₂ in our atmosphere, the fossil fuel corporations, continue to benefit from billions of dollars in taxpayer funded subsidies and often pay little or no tax. This systemic imbalance means those most responsible for climate pollution contribute the least to its costs. The MAV notes “...that a \$10 billion fund is required to support local governments and communities across Australia to address climate change...”³ Without such a fund, the burden will continue falling disproportionately on local councils and everyday Australians. It’s only fair that it is the big polluters who foot this bill. Without decisive action to ensure they do; it will be local communities, and councils like ours, who continue to pay for the climate damage out of our own pockets.

Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee, Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services, Committee Final Report, 2024 — Finding 14.

Municipal Association of Victoria, Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services, Submission No. 105, page 51

Municipal Association of Victoria, Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services, Submission No. 105, page 52

Officers Comments

Bass Coast Shire Council continues to feel the impact of climate change and in recent years the intensity and length of events continue to increase, having significant impacts on our foreshores and community, particularly in locations such as Inverloch and Silverleaves.

In addition, we continue to also experience intense storm events, including flooding and significant wind damage resulting in communities being without power for days and weeks in some instances. This Notice of Motion builds on Council's advocacy for Coastal Erosion, where Council is seeking leadership from both State and Federal government on the planning for and funding to support vulnerable coastal communities.

.....

Cr, Mat Morgan, Bunurong Ward

Dated: 15 April 2026

Attachments

Nil

6.2 268/26 MotoGP Advocacy

Declaration

The author has no general or material interests in relation to this report.

I, Cr Rochelle Halstead, hereby give notice that I intend to move a motion at the Council Meeting 15 April 2026, which reads as follows:

Motion

That Council:

- 1. Notes the significant economic and community impact on Bass Coast Shire following the loss of the MotoGP event post 2026, and the need for a coordinated transition response;**
- 2. Notes that Council, in collaboration with industry and community stakeholders, has identified a range of potential initiatives and opportunities to support economic resilience, visitation and local business;**
- 3. Notes that these opportunities and transition concepts have been shared with the Victorian Government as part of ongoing advocacy, with limited formal response to date;**
- 4. Calls on the Victorian Government, including the Premier and Minister for Tourism to:**
 - a) Meet with Bass Coast Shire Council and key regional stakeholders at the earliest opportunity;**
 - b) Engage directly on the suite of transition opportunities and proposals that have been identified; and**
 - c) Provide a clear response and pathway for partnership and investment to support the region's economic transition.**
- 5. Continues its advocacy for State Government support, including funding for feasibility studies, business cases and enabling work required to progress priority initiatives identified through this transition process;**
- 6. Seeks a meeting with the Linfox Property Group to discuss utilisation of the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit;**
- 7. Positions Council's role as a coordinator, advocate and enabling partner, working with industry, tourism bodies and community stakeholders to:**
 - a) Champion locally-led opportunities;**
 - b) Align initiatives with State priorities and funding pathways; and**
 - c) Facilitate collaboration across government and industry.**

-
- 8. Requests that officers continue to progress advocacy efforts, including preparation of materials and coordination of stakeholder engagement, and provide updates to Council as appropriate.**
-

Background by Councillor

Bass Coast Shire is entering a period of economic transition following the loss of the MotoGP event, which has been a significant contributor to the region's visitor economy and local business activity.

In response, Council has worked collaboratively with industry and community stakeholders to identify a range of opportunities and proposals aimed at supporting long-term economic resilience and growth. These include event-based, tourism, infrastructure and broader economic development initiatives.

While these opportunities have been shared with the Victorian Government, there is a need for more direct engagement, coordination and response to ensure momentum is maintained and opportunities are not lost.

Officers Comments

This Notice of Motion seeks to formally call on the State Government to engage with Bass Coast Shire and regional stakeholders, and to partner in shaping and supporting a coordinated transition response that delivers sustainable outcomes for the community. Council is seeking a clear commitment from the State Government to work in partnership with Bass Coast Shire to co-design and deliver a transition pathway that reflects the scale of impact and opportunity for the region.

.....

Cr Rochelle Halstead, Western Port Ward

Dated: 15 April 2026

Attachments

Nil

7 Petitions and Joint Letters

7.1 Surf Parade Stage 3B

Division**Council Plan Strategic Objective****Future Places****Vibrant Communities**

Communities are healthy, inclusive, safe and socially connected. Communities celebrate opportunity, recreation, diversity, heritage and reconciliation.

Declaration

The author has no general or material interests in relation to this report.

A Petition containing 478 signatures has been received and an online amount of of 294, equalling 772 entries. The petition reads:

We, the undersigned residents and visitors of Inverloch, formally object to the proposed permanent one-way traffic change along Surf Parade (Ozone Street to Goroke Street).

We believe this change will:

- *Increase traffic on Lohr Avenue and surrounding residential streets, which are narrow and not designed for higher traffic.*
- *Put pedestrians, cyclists, and children at greater risk, including those using walkways from Ripple Drive, Paperbark Place, and other nearby streets, which connect through Lohr Avenue to Surf Parade and the beach path.*
- *Exacerbate existing parking and congestion issues.*

We ask Bass Coast Shire Council to reconsider the proposal and prioritise safe, sustainable traffic management without impacting residential streets.

Section 55.2 of the Bass Coast Shire Council Governance Rules states that:

“Unless Council resolves to deal with it earlier, no motion (other than a motion to receive the same) may be made on any petition, joint letter or other like application until a future Council meeting after that at which it has been presented.”

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Receive the petition, Surf Parade Stage 3B to lie on the table with a report to be presented no later than the June 2026 Council Meeting.**
 - 2. Advise the head petitioner of Council's decision.**
-

Attachments

- I. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Petition [7.1.1 - 98 pages]**

Reports Requiring Council Decision

8 Reports Requiring Council Decision

8.1 Draft 2026-27 Budget

Division	Innovation & Engagement
Council Plan Strategic Objective	Leading for our Community <i>Demonstrating leadership through good governance, transparency and accountability</i>

Declaration

The author has no general or material interests in relation to this report.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval for the release of the Draft 2026-27 Budget, which includes the proposed Fees and Charges for community consultation and submissions, and the key actions proposed for inclusion in the 2026–2027 Annual Action Plan.

The Draft 2026–27 Budget is presented as a dynamic document, prepared against a backdrop of heightened geopolitical tension and global economic volatility. Due to the unpredictable nature of international energy markets and supply chain costs, Council is currently reviewing the draft to incorporate specific contingencies for escalating fuel and capital works delivery expenses. Consequently, this draft remains subject to refinement prior to final adoption to ensure Council maintains financial resilience in a fluctuating global environment.

It is recommended that Council adopt an average rate increase of 2.75 per cent in line with the rate cap.

The Draft 2026-27 Budget totals \$124.6 million gross budget.

This includes:

- \$88 million Operating Budget
- \$30 million Capital Works Program
- \$5.6 million debt servicing.

This will allow service levels to be maintained at current levels and fund necessary investment in infrastructure and asset renewal (council owns \$1.4+ billion worth of assets). The draft Budget includes a capital program of \$30.3 million, which will provide the community with public realm improvements, upgraded and renewed infrastructure and recreational facilities. The standard fee for the Council's waste management service has increased by \$51.51 (8.3%) to \$669.51 in 2026-27. This has been assessed using a cost recovery model and is consistent with waste cost projections in our budget.

Council's waste costs have increased in line with expectations per the Long Term Financial Plan. The additional increase to the 3 bin Waste Charge has been impacted by Council's decision to offer a 20% discount to Pensioners.

Council has reviewed the proposed Council Fees and Charges 2026-27. Council fees and charges are adjusted annually to prevent cross-subsidisation of user-funded services by ratepayers. Average fee increments were based on a projected inflation rate of 3.0% per annum.

The report recommends that Council release the draft 2026-27 Budget and draft 2026-27 Fees and Charges for public exhibition and submissions from 16 April 2026 to 8 May 2026.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Approve the release of the draft 2026-27 Budget and the draft 2026-27 Fees and Charges for community engagement. The draft Budget has been prepared by the Council in accordance with the requirements of Sections 94 and 96 of the Local Government Act 2020.**
 - 2. Approve the release of the draft Annual Action Plan items 2026-27 for community consultation.**
 - 3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to deliver the following community engagement pursuant to Council's Community Engagement Policy:**
 - a) give public notice of the release of the draft 2026-27 Budget including the draft 2026-27 Fees and Charges.**
 - b) make available for public inspection a copy of the draft 2026-27 Budget.**
 - c) call for written submissions on the proposals contained in the draft 2026-27 Budget to be received up to 5.00 pm Wednesday 8 May 2026.**
 - 4. Considers any submissions received and hears any person who wishes to be heard (either personally or by a person acting on their behalf) in support of a submission received, in relation to the draft Budget on Wednesday, 13 May 2026 either at the Bass Coast Civic Centre, or virtually.**
-

Background

The Council Plan 2025-29 and the Long-Term Financial Plan 2025-2035 sets the framework for strategic decision making for Council and provides the base on which the Budget is developed.

The draft Budget provides authorisation for the delivery of all services and capital works projects. It includes performance measures, details of proposed borrowings, and sets the rates and charges for the year. It also identifies the funded Capital Works projects planned for delivery during the 2026-27 financial year.

The draft Budget includes a four-year financial outlook for the Council including forward funding statement, cash flow, balance sheet and capital works projections. Projections for Financial Indicators including indicators set by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) and Local Government Victoria (LGV) have been included in the draft Budget.

The forward indicators confirm that Bass Coast's financial position will remain sound with a stable liquidity ratio, and increased investment in capital expenditure.

The draft Budget contains a \$3.4 million decrease in net borrowings in 2026-27, with a further reduction of \$3.9million in 2027/28, however Loan financing increases by \$5.3 million and \$7.7 million the following 2 years for major project funding. The level of debt is expected to remain within prudential guidelines (indebtedness ratio less than 60 per cent of rates revenue) and slightly increase from 24% for budget 2026-27 year to 31% in 2029/30 year.

- Council plans to reduce its investment reserves from \$26.5 million to \$23.4 million over the four-year period. The drawdown on reserves will be applied to as a funding source for:
- Works to remediate the closed Wonthaggi landfill site
- Intergenerational long term capital works projects and
- Fund strategic operational projects per the Long Term Financial Plan

Discussion

The Draft 2026–27 Budget is presented as a dynamic document, prepared against a backdrop of heightened geopolitical tension and global economic volatility. Due to the unpredictable nature of international energy markets and supply chain costs, Council is currently reviewing the draft to incorporate specific contingencies for escalating fuel and capital works delivery expenses. Consequently, this draft remains subject to refinement prior to final adoption to ensure Council maintains financial resilience in a fluctuating global environment.

The Draft 2026-27 Budget includes a 2.75 per cent rates increase, in line with the State Government rate cap. The rate cap increase is lower than the current inflation rate of 3.6% per annum (December 2025 CPI (Consumer Price Index) and is also below the underlying inflation rate of 3.2% per annum (weighted median CPI).

Additionally, in the four years leading up to 2025-26, the rate cap has been lower than the inflation rate (2022/23 rate cap of 1.75% compared to June 2022 CPI of 6.1%, 2023/24 rate cap of 3.5% compared to June 2023 CPI of 6.0% and 2024/25 rate cap of 2.75% compared to the June 2024 CPI of 3.8%, 2025/26 rate cap of 3.0% compared to the June 2025 CPI of 2.1%). This highlights the need for Council to maintain an ongoing focus on the identification of opportunities for productivity improvements and financial efficiencies.

It is proposed to increase the waste service charge by \$51.51 or 8.3% to \$669.51 in 2026-27. This increase reflects cost pressures related to waste services, including the additional increase in landfill levies and Council's decision to offer a 20% discount to Pensioners.

Capital works investment is maintained with \$30.3 million in funding for the 2026-27 capital program. This includes a range of major strategic projects for delivery across several different precincts and growth and development within the shire. The Funding Statement is balanced and considers Council's ability to fund its capital works program and to raise and repay borrowings.

It is supported by operational results and drawings from investment reserves. A liquidity ratio of 1.33 demonstrates Council's strong financial position and its ability to meet financial commitments as they fall due.

The adjusted underlying position (deficit of \$10 million) has been impacted by a sharp increase in the asset valuations for roads, pathways and open space assets with a corresponding significant increase in the depreciation charge (which is updated to reflect current costs). Council is impacted by a significant slowdown in the property market, reduced growth in the rates base and development related fees and charges.

In response, Council's draft budget focuses on efficiency, resourcefulness, and community needs while prioritising essential services and long-term sustainability. The draft 2026-27 Budget provides for the following total income and expenditure (cash basis):

- Total Expenditure \$124.6 million
- Operations \$88.6 million
- Capital Works \$30.3 million
- Debt Servicing \$5.6 million

Funded by:

- Rates and Charges \$84.7 million
- Grants and Subsidies \$16.2 million
- Fees and Charges \$10.0 million
- Contributions \$1.3 million
- Interest revenue \$1.7 million
- Transfers from/(to) Reserves \$8.0 million
- Other Revenue \$2.6 million

Council's investment in capital projects continues to be a priority, with a draft program of \$30.3 million. More specifically, the proposed capital budget includes funding for:

- Cowes Streetscape Master Plan (funded by external grants) - \$3.6 million
- Waste management infrastructure - \$7.7 million
- Climate change action plan Capital projects - \$275,000
- Tracks and trails - \$2.8 million
- Rural Roads renewals - \$1.6 million

- Urban Roads renewals - \$2.6 million
- Storm Water Drainage - \$1.0 million
- Thompson Reserve Inverloch Pavillion - \$1.9 million

The draft Budget also extends funding for the Urban Forest Strategy.

Further detail on the proposed capital works program is included in the budget document.

The draft \$30.3 million capital works program represents a \$7.5 million reduction from the projection in the Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2035; this annual budget adjustment reflects updated project phasing and the timing of grant funding.

The Draft 2026-27 Budget incorporates the new rating differentials, which were adopted following community consultation from November 2025 to January 2026 as part of the new Rating Strategy. The changes reduce the rating differential for farmland from 80% to 65% and increase the rating differential for vacant land from 150% to 200%. Developed land remains unchanged at 100%. Council has also resolved to reform the Rural Land Management Program to ensure alignment with Council Plan objectives, to deliver enhanced biodiversity and natural asset protection that targets high-value conservation work.

Attachment 1 provides an overview of the key actions proposed for inclusion in the 2026–2027 Annual Action Plan, which will also be part of the community consultation for the 2026–2027 Draft Budget. These 29 proposed actions are aligned with all 21 priorities outlined in the 2025–2029 Council Plan, reflecting Council's ongoing commitment to delivering on these important priorities. 8 selected LGPRF indicators have been added to the budget document, their domain, measure, 24/25 actual (if applicable), 25/26 forecast and Budget Target + 3 year projections is included in section 9.

Sustainability Implications

In response to the Climate Change Emergency declared in 2019, Council committed funding in the draft Budget for a number of projects that support its objective of having zero net emissions over the next 10 years. The capital works program for 2026-27 is influenced by the following adopted strategies:

- Circular Economy Framework 2025-2035
- Climate Change 2020-2030 Action Plan

Finances

The draft 2026-27 Budget provides a total operating income of \$114.8 million and a total operating expenditure of \$119.1 million. This results in a budgeted deficit of \$4.3 million (underlying deficit of \$10 million).

The Funding Statement projects a balanced budget.

Total Equity is budgeted to remain consistent with the forecast \$1.348 billion at 30 June 2026, decreasing to \$1.343 billion at 30 June 2027.

Stakeholders

All residents, ratepayers, visitors, businesses, and other government agencies have an interest in the proposed Budget.

Four community engagement sessions will be undertaken at different Shire-wide locations (Wonthaggi, Coronet Bay, Newhaven and online) during April and May to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to discuss the draft Budget, Fees and Charges and draft Annual Action Plan items.

The relevant Budget and Fees and Charges documents will be available on Council's Engage Bass Coast website at engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au as well as Council's website at www.basscoast.vic.gov.au or at any of our Customer Service Centres. The dates and times for these community engagement sessions are proposed as follows:

- Thursday 23 April 6 pm-7:30 pm Online
- Tuesday 28 April 5pm-7pm Wonthaggi Town Hall
- Wednesday 29 April 11am-1pm Coronet Bay Community Hall
- Wednesday 29 April 2pm-4pm Newhaven Visitor Information Centre

The draft 2026-27 Budget and draft Fees and Charges schedule will be open for public submissions from Wednesday 15 April 2026 until 5.00 p.m. Friday 8 May 2026. Council will hear submissions on Wednesday 13 May 2026.

Conclusion

The draft 2026-27 Budget and the key actions proposed for inclusion in the 2026–2027 Annual Action Plan outline how the priorities of the Council Plan will be funded. It is a useful tool for measuring the performance of Council and determining where Council's financial resources will be directed. It is also used in association with other plans and strategies to provide direction to Council in decision-making.

Details of the draft 2026-27 Budget, key actions proposed for inclusion in the 2026–2027 Annual Action Plan and draft 2026-27 Fees and Charges are attached to this report.

Governing Documents

Council has a statutory obligation under *Section 94* of the *Local Government Act 2020* to prepare and adopt a budget for each financial year and the subsequent three financial years by 30 June each year or any other date fixed by the Minister. The specific content required under *Section 94* includes:

- Financial statements in the form and containing the information required by the Regulations.
- A general description of the services and initiatives to be funded in the budget.
- Major initiatives identified by the Council as priorities in the Council Plan to be undertaken during each financial year.

- For services provided in the budget, the prescribed indicators and measures of service performance must be reported against by this Act.
- The total amount that the Council intends to raise by rates and charges.
- A statement as to whether the rates will be raised by applying a uniform or differential rate.
- A description of any fixed component of the rates, if applicable.

Attachments

1. Attachment 1-Annual Action Plan 2026 2027 Draft Actions [**8.1.1** - 4 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - Revenue and Rating Plan - 2026-27 Budget DRAFT [**8.1.2** - 26 pages]
3. Attachment 3 - Budget Document [**8.1.3** - 79 pages]

Draft 2026-2027 Annual Action Plan Items



Strategic Objective:
Naturally Beautiful

Together we build resilience and protect and enhance our natural environment.

Action	Aligned Priority	Lead Department
Deliver the Urban Forestry Strategy planting program	Increasing energy, disaster and climate resilience	Sustainable Environment
Reform the Rural Land Management Program and align to Council Plan objectives, to deliver enhanced biodiversity and natural asset protection that targets high-value conservation work.	- Enhancing biodiversity and natural asset protection - Optimising water management	Sustainable Environment
Develop priority actions for the Circular Economy Framework	Supporting circular economy	Sustainable Environment
Partner with Bass Coast Landcare Network and Western Port Biosphere Foundation to deliver environmental leadership that promotes biodiversity, waterway health and climate resilience across the region	- Enhancing biodiversity and natural asset protection - Optimising partnerships - Optimising water management	Sustainable Environment

Draft 2026-2027 Annual Action Plan Items



Strategic Objective: Thriving Places

Facilities and infrastructure meet current and future needs. Growth is sustainable and well planned. Our economy, agriculture, tourism and industries are resilient. Unique character is preserved.

Action	Aligned Priority	Lead Department
Deliver Invest Bass Coast – a digital investment attraction project	Supporting local industry, business and agriculture	Economic Development and Investment
Obtain Eco Destination Certification	Enhancing Eco Tourism	Economic Development and Investment
Deliver the 2026-2027 Capital Works Program	- Providing fit for purpose assets and facilities - Delivering well-planned townships	Infrastructure Services
Amend the Road Management Plan	Providing fit for purpose assets and facilities	Infrastructure Services
Finalise the Bass Coast Planning Scheme Review	- Delivering well-planned townships - Facilitating sustainable development	Strategy and Growth
Advocate for funding for the delivery of Stage 1 of the Phillip Island Sporting Precinct	Providing fit for purpose assets and facilities	Major Projects and Property
Finalise delivery of stage 1 of the Cowes Foreshore Precinct Project works	Providing fit for purpose assets and facilities	Major Projects and Property
Continue Land Use Planning, Partnership Development and Master Planning of the Former Wonthaggi Secondary College Site	Providing fit for purpose assets and facilities	Major Projects and Property
Finalise Detailed Designs for the Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre (Wonthaggi)	Providing fit for purpose assets and facilities	Major Projects and Property
Commence a Planning Scheme Amendment to implement priority actions of the Wonthaggi Structure Plan Review	- Delivering well-planned townships - Facilitating sustainable development	Strategy and Growth
Finalise a Planning Scheme Amendment to implement priority actions of the San Remo Structure Plan	- Delivering well-planned townships - Facilitating sustainable development	Strategy and Growth
Finalise background studies for the environmental values mapping across the Shire, including the Western Port Woodlands	Facilitating sustainable development	Strategy and Growth
Develop the Encroachments Policy	Delivering well-planned townships	Major Projects and Property

Draft 2026-2027 Annual Action Plan Items



Strategic Objective: Vibrant Communities

Communities are healthy, inclusive, safe and socially connected. Communities celebrate opportunity, recreation, diversity, heritage and reconciliation.

Action	Aligned Priority	Lead Department
Deliver the Healthy, Safe and Resilience Plan 2025-2029 and Disability Action Plan 2025-2029	- Promoting healthy, active, safe and inclusive communities - Support young people to live, learn, play and connect locally - Advocate to increase in affordable housing and access to local services	Community Wellbeing and Culture
Deliver the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029	Promoting healthy, active, safe and inclusive communities	Community Wellbeing and Culture
Develop the 2026-2029 Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) in partnership with Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee agencies	Strengthening community connection and resilience	Community Wellbeing and Culture
Implement the First Nations Framework and further engage the Bass Coast First Nations Communities in development of inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan.	Walking alongside First Nations communities on the path to reconciliation	Community Wellbeing and Culture
Develop the Marketing and Audience Development Strategy 2026-2029 for Arts, culture and Heritage	Celebrating culture and history	Community Wellbeing and Culture
Progress implementation of dinosaur trail masterplan	Promoting healthy, active, safe and inclusive communities	Economic Development and Investment

Draft 2026-2027 Annual Action Plan Items



Strategic Objective: Visionary Leadership

Our communities flourish through leadership that is open and responsible, ensuring decisions serve the communities best interests, and comply with legislative obligations.

Action	Aligned Priority	Lead Department
Enhance customer experience by improving engagement channels	- Effective communication and engagement - Driving innovation	Customer and Digital Experience
Finalise a review of the Waste Service Charge	- Strengthening waste management - Effective communication and engagement - Maximising alternative revenue	Financial Services
Deliver a new Council website	- Effective communication and engagement - Driving innovation	Governance and Communications
Deliver the Workforce Plan 2026-2029	Driving innovation	People and Culture
Actively champion Council's advocacy priorities	- Strong advocacy - Optimising partnerships	Governance and Communications
Deliver sector-leading beach safety through partnership	- Driving innovation - Optimising partnerships	Community Wellbeing and Culture



Bass Coast Shire Council

Revenue and Rating Plan

*Revenue and Rating Plan***Contents**

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Revenue and Rating Plan

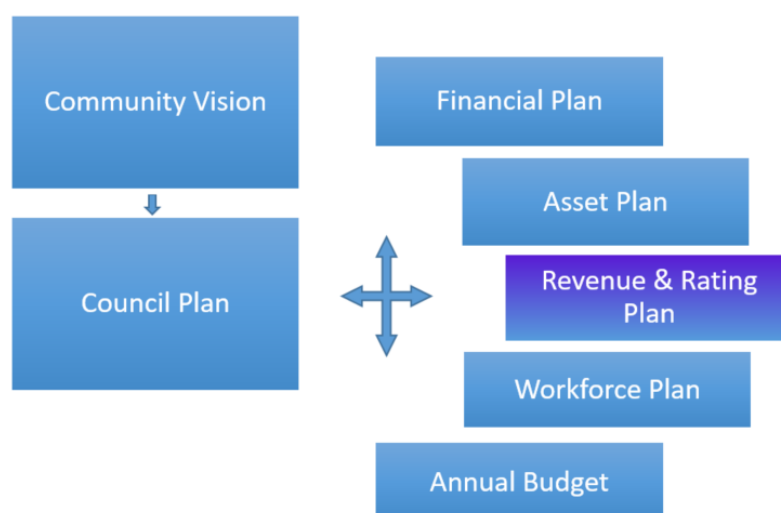
1.1 PURPOSE

The *Local Government Act 2020* 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 Bass Coast Shire Council which, in conjunction with other income sources, will adequately finance the objectives set out in the Council Plan, while being aligned to the revenue assumptions that are articulated in the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP).

This plan is an important part of Council's integrated planning framework, all of which is created to help Council achieve its vision of *"...an engaged and responsible community.."*

Strategies outlined in this plan align with the objectives contained in the Council Plan and will feed into our budgeting and long-term financial planning documents, as well as other strategic planning documents under our Council's strategic planning framework.



This plan explains how Council calculates the revenue needed to fund its activities, and how it apportions funding between ratepayers and other users of Council facilities and services.

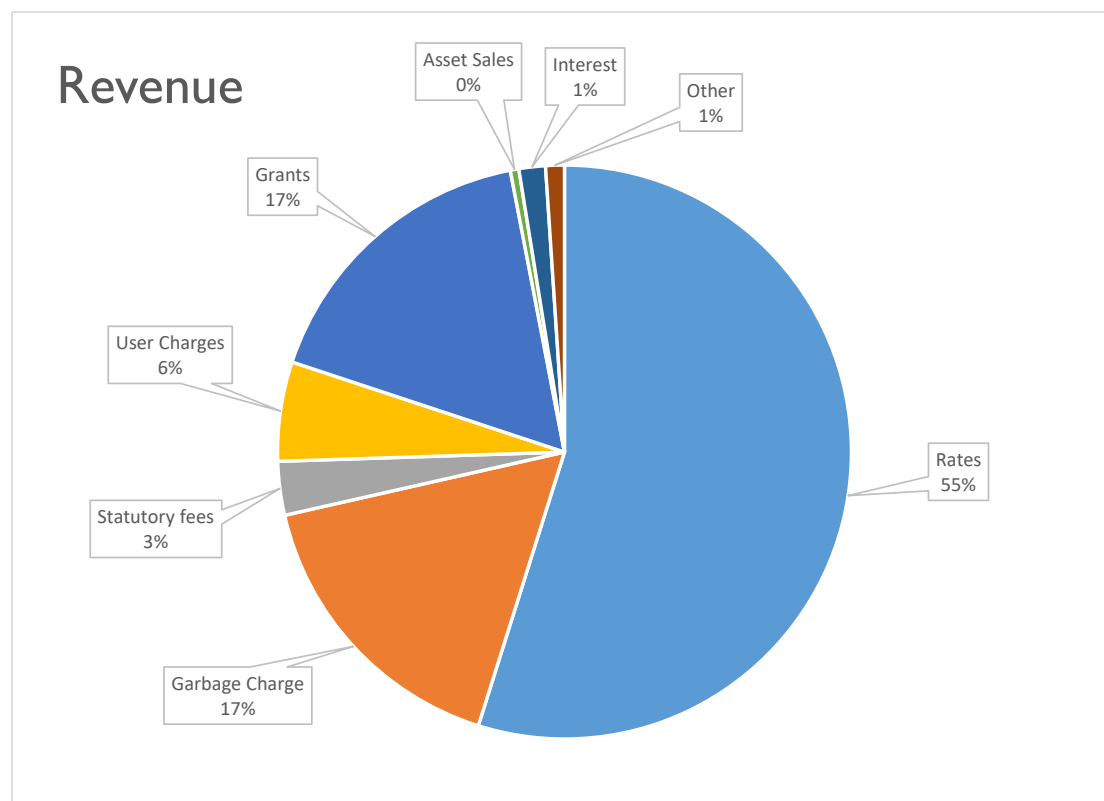
The plan includes decisions Council has made in relation to rating options available to it under the *Local Government Act 2020* to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of rates across property owners. It presents principles used in decision making for other revenue sources, such as fees and charges.

It is also important to note that this plan does not set revenue targets for Council; it outlines the framework and methodology applied by Council for calculating and collecting revenue.

Revenue and Rating Plan

INTRODUCTION

Council provides a number of services and facilities to our local community, and in doing so, needs to collect revenue to help offset the cost of providing these services and facilities.



Council's revenue sources include:

- Municipal Rates
- Service Charges for Waste Management
- Government Grants – Commonwealth and State
- Statutory Fees and Fines
- User Fees
- Cash and non-cash contributions from other parties (i.e. developers, community groups)
- Interest from investments
- Property rentals
- Proceeds from Asset Sales

Rates and charges are the most significant revenue source for Council, accounting for almost three quarters of annual income.

The introduction of the Fair Go Rates System (rate capping) has created substantial financial challenges to Council's long-term financial sustainability. This restricts Council's ability to raise revenue to maintain service delivery levels and invest in community assets and infrastructure.

Revenue and Rating Plan

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 statutory or discretionary services. Some of these, such as planning fees, are set by State Government statute and are commonly known as statutory fees. In these cases, councils usually have no control over service pricing. However, Council has the ability to set a fee or charge for other services and will set these fees 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 understand the obligations that grants create in the delivery of services or infrastructure as well as the financial implications which could include significant co-funding or matching payments.

1.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Revenue and Rating Plan outlines Council's decision-making process on how revenues are calculated and collected. The following public consultation process has been carried out to ensure due consideration and feedback is received from relevant stakeholders.

Revenue and Rating Plan community engagement process:

- Rating Strategy community consultation conducted from November 2025 to January 2026.
- Draft Revenue and Rating Plan prepared by officers for Councillor feedback pursuant to being released for public input and comment.
- Draft Revenue and Rating Plan placed on public exhibition on 15 April 2026 Council meeting for a period of 23 days and calling for public submissions and feedback.
- A standard community consultation and engagement program undertaken during April and May to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to discuss the Revenue and Rating Plan.
- Hosting in person community engagement sessions to provide our community with an opportunity to chat about the proposed plan or provide their input including any specific questions through website link. The date and time for the proposed for the sessions is:
 - Thursday 23 April 6 pm-7:30 pm Online
 - Tuesday 28 April 5pm-7pm Wonthaggi Town Hall
 - Wednesday 29 April 11am-1pm Coronet Bay Community Hall
 - Wednesday 29 April 2pm-4pm Newhaven Visitor Information Centre
- Public submissions on the Plan to be heard and received on 13 May 2026.
- Revenue and Rating Plan (including any changes following public input) presented to 17 June 2026 Council meeting for adoption.

1.3 RATES AND CHARGES

Municipal rates are a property tax that provides Council with revenue to fund a range of universal and essential public services that maintain and support public amenities and provide benefits to the local population. These services include local roads and drainage, parks and recreational facilities maintenance, arts and cultural services, street and beach cleaning, town planning, public health and customer service. Noting that Council rates are a property tax, there needs to be a degree of flexibility



Revenue and Rating Plan

to enable councils to use different tools in its rating structure to accommodate issues of equity and to ensure fairness in rating for all ratepayers.

Revenue and Rating Plan

Council has established a rating structure comprised of two key elements. These are:

- **General Rates** – Based on property values (using the Capital Improved Valuation methodology), which are indicative of a ratepayer's relative capacity to pay rates. This forms the central basis of rating under the *Local Government Act 1989*. Rating of property for municipal revenue is common practice across Australian and international jurisdictions.
- **Waste Service Charges** – Council also levies a waste service charge to all households that can receive a kerbside waste collection service. Revenue raised from the waste service charge is used to offset the costs of providing a whole of Council waste management service which in addition to kerbside waste collection, provides residents with access to a number of transfer station and recycling facilities, funds the cost of Council's landfill operation at Grantville, funds the cost of maintaining and rehabilitating closed landfill sites, and the cost of collecting waste from public bins.

Council makes a further distinction when calculating general rates. It applies rating differentials based on the development status of the land and applies a higher differential rate of 200% to vacant or undeveloped residential land while it applies a standard rate to all developed residential, commercial or industrial land. Council also recognises the contribution that the agricultural sector makes in managing rural landholdings in the Shire and applies a lower farm differential rate of 65%. This distinction is based on the concept that different property categories should pay a fair and equitable contribution, which considers the benefits those properties derive from the local community as well as the contribution they make as land managers.

Council also provides farmers with a land management rebate, on application. This may be used to offset the costs associated with soil erosion mitigation, the eradication and control of noxious weeds and plants, and management of wildlife corridors.

The Bass Coast Shire Council rating structure comprises three differential rates (developed land, vacant land and farmland). These rates are structured in accordance with the requirements of Section 161 'Differential Rates' of the *Local Government Act 1989*, and the Ministerial Guidelines for Differential Rating 2013.

The differential rates are currently set as follows:

- Developed (Residential, Commercial and Industrial) 100%
- Vacant Land 200%
- Farmland 65%

Council does not levy a municipal charge. Municipal charges are a regressive form of taxation that imposes a relatively higher burden on ratepayers who own land that has a relatively lower value within the municipality than a progressive ad valorem rate in the dollar system.

The formula for calculating General Rates, excluding any additional charges, arrears or additional supplementary rates is:

- Valuation (Capital Improved Value) x Rate in the Dollar (Differential Rate Type)

The rate in the dollar for each rating differential category is included in Council's annual budget.

Rates and charges are an important source of revenue, accounting for over three quarters of operating revenue received by Council. The collection of rates is an important source of funding for Council services and infrastructure maintenance and renewal.

Revenue and Rating Plan

Planning for future rate increases is an essential component of the long-term financial planning process. Rates revenue provides a significant funding source for both additional service delivery and the increasing costs, including those related to growth, of providing Council services.

Council is aware of the balance between rate revenue (as an important income source) and community sensitivity to rate increases. With the introduction of the State Government's Fair Go Rates legislation, all rate increases are tied to a rate cap that is usually declared in December by the Minister for Local Government, for the following financial year.

Council currently raises a waste service charge to recover the cost of Council's waste services including waste related capital expenditure and the provision for future landfill rehabilitation and remediation costs. While the waste service charge is not capped under the Fair Go Rates legislation, Council is required to report back each year to the Essential Services Commission (ESC) on the revenue raised and waste related expenditure applied towards the service charge.

1.3.1 RATING LEGISLATION

The legislative framework set out in the *Local Government Act 1989* determines Council's ability to develop a rating system. The framework provides significant flexibility for Council to tailor a system that suits its needs.

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
- Special rates and charges under Section 163

The recommended strategy in relation to service rates and charges, and special rates and charges are discussed later in this document.

In raising Council rates, Council is required to primarily use the valuation of the rateable property to levy rates. Section 157 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* provides Council with three choices in terms of which valuation base they can use. They are: Site Value (SV), Capital Improved Value (CIV) and Net Annual Value (NAV).

The advantages and disadvantages of the respective valuation bases are discussed further in this document. Whilst this document outlines Council's strategy regarding rates revenue, rates data will be reported in the Council's Annual Budget as required by the *Local Government Act 2020* and the integrated planning and reporting requirements of the act.

Section 94(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that Council must adopt a budget by 30 June each year (or at another time fixed by the Minister) to include:

- a) the total amount that the Council intends to raise by rates and charges.
- b) a statement as to whether the rates will be raised by the application of a uniform rate or a differential rate.
- c) a description of any fixed component of the rates, if applicable
- d) if the Council proposes to declare a uniform rate, the matters specified in Section 160 of the *Local Government Act 1989*
- e) if the Council proposes to declare a differential rate for any land, the matters specified in Section 161(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*

Revenue and Rating Plan

Section 94(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* also states that Council must ensure that, if applicable, the budget also contains a statement:

- a) that the Council intends to apply for a special order to increase the Council's average rate cap for the financial year or any other financial year; or
- b) that the Council has made an application to the ESC for a special order and is waiting for the outcome of the applications; or
- c) that a special Order has been made in respect of the Council and specifying the average rate cap that applies for the financial year or any other financial year

This plan outlines the principles and strategic framework that Council will use in calculating and distributing the rating burden to property owners, however, the quantum of rate revenue and rating differential amounts will be determined in the annual Bass Coast Shire Council budget.

In 2019 the Victorian State Government carried out a review of the Local Government Rating System Review. The Victorian Government released its response to the Rating Review in December 2020 and no substantive changes have been made to the Rating System as a result of this review.

1.3.2 RATING PRINCIPLES

Taxation Principles

When developing a rating strategy, with reference to differential rates, a Council should give consideration to the following good practice taxation principles:

- Wealth Tax – Rates are a form of wealth tax based on the relative value of the property
- Equity
- Efficiency
- Simplicity
- Benefit
- Capacity to Pay
- Diversity

The “wealth tax” principle implies that the rates paid are linked to the relative value of a ratepayer's property and have no correlation to the individual ratepayer's consumption of services or the perceived benefits derived by individual ratepayers from Council services.

Equity

Horizontal equity – ratepayers in similar situations should pay similar amounts of rates (ensured mainly by accurate property valuations, undertaken in a consistent manner, their classification into homogenous property classes and the right of appeal against valuation).

Vertical Equity – those who are better off should pay more rates than those worse off (the rationale applies for the use of progressive and proportional income taxation. It implies a “relativity” dimension to the fairness of the tax burden)

Efficiency

Economic efficiency is measured by the extent to which production and consumption decisions by people are affected by rates.

Simplicity

How easily a rates system can be understood by ratepayers and the practicality and ease of administration.

Revenue and Rating Plan

Benefit

The extent to which there is a nexus between consumption/benefit and the rate burden.

Capacity to Pay

The capacity of ratepayers or groups of ratepayers to pay rates.

Diversity

The capacity of ratepayers within a group to pay rates.

The rating challenge for Council therefore is to determine the appropriate balancing of competing considerations.

Rates and Charges Revenue Principles

Property rates will:

- be reviewed annually
- not change dramatically from one year to the next
- be sufficient to fund current operating and capital expenditure commitments, including:
 - Costs associated with developing Council's Vision, and
 - Deliverables outlined in the Council Plan, Long Term Financial Plan, and Asset Plan

Differential rating should be applied as equitably as is practical and will comply with the [Ministerial Guidelines for Differential Rating 2013](#).

1.3.3 DETERMINING WHICH VALUATION BASE TO USE

Under the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council has three options as to the rating valuation method base it elects to use. They are:

- **Capital Improved Valuation (CIV)** – Value of land and improvements to the land
- **Site Valuation (SV)** – Value of land only
- **Net Annual Value (NAV)** – Rental valuation based on market rental assessment

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.

Capital Improved Value (CIV)

Capital Improved Value is the most used valuation base by Local Government with over 90% of Victorian Councils applying this methodology. Based on the value of both land and all improvements on the land, it is generally easily understood by ratepayers as it equates to the market value of the property.

Section 161 of the *Local Government Act 1989* provides that a Council may raise any general rates by the application of a differential rate if:

- a) It uses the capital improved value system of valuing land; and
- b) It considers that a differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of its functions

Where a Council does not utilise CIV, it may only apply limited differential rates in relation to farm land, urban farm land or residential use land.

*Revenue and Rating Plan***Advantages of using Capital Improved Value (CIV)**

- CIV includes all property improvements and is often supported on the basis that it more closely reflects “capacity to pay”. The CIV rating method considers the full developed value of the property, and is a better proxy for the equity criteria than Site Value and NAV
- With the increased frequency of valuations (previously biennial now annual) the market values are more predictable. This has reduced the number of objections resulting from valuations
- The concept of the market value of property is more easily understood with CIV compared to NAV or SV
- Most councils in Victoria have now adopted CIV which makes it easier to compare relative movements in rates and valuations across councils
- The use of CIV allows Council to apply differential rates which adds to Council’s ability to adjust the distribution of the rating burden between different classes of ratepayers in accordance with policy objectives and equity concerns. CIV allows Council to apply higher rating differentials to the commercial and industrial sector that offset residential rates

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. This could result in so called ‘asset rich/cash poor’ ratepayers, including pensioners, being required to pay higher levels of rates due to the wealth tax characteristics of property rates.

Site Value (SV)

No Victorian Councils currently use this valuation method. With valuations based purely on the valuation of land and with only very limited ability to apply differential rates, the implementation of Site Value in a Bass Coast Shire Council context would cause a shift in the rate burden from developed property assessments in the inland parts of the Shire to the coastal parts of the Shire including Phillip Island and Inverloch that have higher relative land values.

There would be further rating movements away from modern townhouse style developments on relatively small land parcels to older established homes on quarter acre residential blocks. In many ways, it is difficult to see an equity argument being served by the implementation of Site Value in the Bass Coast Shire Council.

Advantages of Site Value

- There is a perception that under Site Value, 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
- Scope for possible concessions for urban farm land and residential use land

Revenue and Rating Plan

Disadvantages in using Site Value

- Under SV, there will be a significant shift from the Industrial/Commercial sector onto the residential sector of Council
- 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 flats, units, or townhouses which will all pay low 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. Farmland and residential use properties). Large landowners, such as farmers for example, are disadvantaged using 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
- The community may have greater difficulty in understanding the SV valuation on their rate notices

Net Annual Value (NAV)

NAV, in concept, represents the annual rental value of a property. However, in practice, NAV is linked to capital improved value for residential and farm properties and generally assessed by Valuers as being 5 per cent of CIV.

In contrast to the treatment of residential and farm properties, NAV for commercial and industrial properties are assessed on actual market rental. This differing treatment of commercial versus residential and farm properties has led to some suggestions that all properties should be valued on a rental basis.

The use of NAV is not supported as while it may have an in-built differential for commercial and industrial properties, Council is unable to apply differential rating in fostering its policy objectives and ensuring equity between different ratepayer classes. In addition, the valuation used for NAV is likely to cause confusion in the community.

Recommended Valuation System

In choosing a valuation system, councils must decide on whether they wish to adopt a differential rating system (different rates in the dollar for different property categories) or a uniform rating system (same rate in the dollar). If a Council was to choose the former, under the *Local Government Act 1989*, it must adopt the CIV rating system.

Bass Coast Shire Council applies a Capital Improved Value (CIV) to all properties within the municipality to consider the fully developed value of the property. This basis of valuation considers the total market value of the land plus buildings and other improvements.

Differential rating allows Council to shift part of the rate burden from some groups of ratepayers to others, through different "rates in the dollar" for each class of property.

Revenue and Rating Plan

Section 161 of the *Local Government Act 1989* outlines the regulations relating to differential rates, which include:

- (1) A Council may raise any general rates by the application of a differential rate, if Council considers that the differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of its functions
- (2) If a Council declares a differential rate for any land, the Council must specify the objectives of the differential rate, which must be consistent with the equitable and efficient carrying out of the Council's functions and must include the following:
 - i. A definition of the types of classes of land which are subject to the rate and a statement of the reasons for the use and level of that rate
 - ii. An identification of the type or classes of land which are subject to the rate in respect of the uses, geographic location (other than location based on whether or not the land is within a specific ward in Council's district)
 - iii. Specify the characteristics of the land, which are the criteria for declaring the differential rate

Once the Council has declared a differential rate for any land, the Council must:

- Specify the objectives of the differential rates
- Specify the characteristics of the land which are the criteria for declaring the differential rate

The purpose is to ensure that Council has a sound basis on which to develop the various charging features when determining its revenue strategies and ensure that these are consistent with the provisions of the *Local Government Act*.

The general objectives of each of the differential rates are to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council. There is no limit on the number or types of differential rates that can be levied, but the highest differential rate can be no more than four times the lowest differential rate.

Property Valuations

The *Valuation of Land Act 1960* is the principal legislation for the determination of property valuations. Under the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*, the Victorian Valuer-General conducts property valuations annually. Bass Coast Shire Council applies a Capital Improved Valuation (CIV) to all properties within the municipality to determine the full developed value of the property. This basis of valuation accounts for the total market value of the land including buildings and other improvements.

The value of land is always derived by the principle of valuing land for its highest and best use at the relevant time of valuation.

Council needs to be mindful of the impacts of revaluations on the various property types.

In implementing the differential rating strategy outlined in the previous section, it needs to ensure that rises and falls in Council rates remain affordable and that rating 'shocks' are mitigated to some degree.

*Revenue and Rating Plan***Supplementary Valuations**

Supplementary valuations are carried out for a variety of reasons including rezoning, subdivisions, amalgamations, renovations, new constructions, extensions, occupancy changes and corrections. The Victorian Valuer-General is tasked with undertaking supplementary revaluations and advises Council monthly of valuation and Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC) changes.

Supplementary valuations bring the value of the affected property into line with the general valuation of other properties within the municipality. Objections to supplementary valuations can be lodged in accordance with Part 3 of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*. Objections must be lodged with Council within two months of the issue of the supplementary rate notice.

Objections to Property Valuations

Part 3 of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960* provides that a property owner may lodge an objection against the valuation of a property or the Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC) within two months of the issue of the original or amended (supplementary) Rates and Valuation Charges Notice (Rates Notice), or within four months if the notice was not originally issued to the occupier of the land.

A property owner must lodge their objection to the valuation or the AVPCC in writing to the Bass Coast Shire Council. Property owners also can object to the site valuations on receipt of their Land Tax Assessment. Property owners can appeal their land valuation within two months of receipt of their Council Rate Notice (via Council) or within two months of receipt of their Land Tax Assessment (via State Revenue Office).

*Revenue and Rating Plan***I.3.4 RATING DIFFERENTIALS**

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

General Rate**Definition**

Developed land is any land that does not have the characteristics of Farmland or Vacant Land and on which a building is erected, which building is:

- Lawfully used primarily for residential, commercial or industrial purposes, and
- Designed for permanent occupation

Objectives

The objective of this differential rate is to ensure that such land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council. Those functions include the:

- implementation of good governance and sound financial stewardship, and
- construction, renewal, upgrade, expansion and maintenance of infrastructure assets, and
- development and provision of health, environmental, conservation, leisure, recreation, youth and family community services, and
- provision of strategic and economic management, town planning and general support services, and
- promotion of cultural, heritage and tourism aspects of Council's municipal district

Characteristics

Developed land is any land that does not have the characteristics of Farmland or Vacant Land and on which a building is erected, which building is:

- lawfully used primarily for residential, commercial or industrial purposes, and
- designed for permanent occupation

Types and Classes

Developed land having the relevant characteristics described below:

- used primarily for residential, commercial or industrial purposes; or
- any land that is not defined as Farmland or Vacant Residential Land

Use of Rate

The differential rate will be used to fund items of expenditure described in the Budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Level of Rate

100% of General Rate.

Use of Land

Any use permitted under the Bass Coast Shire Council Planning Scheme.

Geographic Location

Wherever located within the municipal district.



Revenue and Rating Plan

Planning Scheme Zoning

The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the relevant Bass Coast Shire Council Planning Scheme.

Types of Buildings

All buildings which are already constructed on the land, or which are constructed prior to the end of the financial year.

Vacant Land

Definition

Vacant Land is any land which does not have the characteristics of Farmland or Developed Land.

Objectives

The objective of this differential rate is to:

- encourage the development of land, and
- ensure that such land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council. Those functions include the:
 - implementation of good governance and sound financial stewardship, and
 - construction, renewal, upgrade, expansion and maintenance of infrastructure assets, and
 - development and provision of health, environmental, conservation, leisure, recreation, youth and family community services, and
 - provision of strategic and economic management, town planning and general support services, and
 - promotion of cultural, heritage and tourism aspects of Council's municipal district

Characteristics

Vacant land is any land that does not have the characteristics of Farmland or Developed Land.

Types and Classes

Vacant land has the relevant characteristics described above and is not used as Farmland.

Use of Rate

The differential rate will be used to fund items of expenditure described in the Budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Level of Rate

200% of General Rate.

Use of Land

Any use permitted under the Bass Coast Shire Council Planning Scheme.

Geographic Location

Wherever is located within the municipal district.

Planning Scheme Zoning

The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the relevant Bass Coast Shire Council Planning Scheme.

Revenue and Rating Plan

Farm Rate

Definition

Any land which is “Farmland” within the meaning of Section 2(1) of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*.

- Farmland means any rateable land that is 2 or more hectares in area
- used primarily for primary producing purposes from its activities on the land; 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

That is used by a business:

- That has a significant and substantial commercial purpose of character
- That seeks to make a profit on a continuous or repetitive basis from its activities on the land
- 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

Objectives

The objective of this differential rate is to: -

- identify land used for primary production; and
- ensure that such land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council. Those functions include the:
 - implementation of good governance and sound financial stewardship, and
 - construction, renewal, upgrade, expansion and maintenance of infrastructure assets, and
 - development and provision of health, environmental, conservation, leisure, recreation, youth and family community services, and
 - provision of strategic and economic management, town planning and general support services, and
 - promotion of cultural, heritage and tourism aspects of Council’s municipal district

Characteristics

Farmland is any land which is ‘farmland’ under the meaning of Section 2(1) of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*.

The characteristics of the planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of farmland which will be subject to a differential rate of 80 per cent of the developed land rate. The classification of the land will be determined by the occupation of that land for its best use and have reference to the planning scheme zoning.

Types and Classes

Farmland having the relevant characteristics described below:

- used primarily for primary production purposes, or
- any land that is not defined as Developed Land or Vacant Residential Land



Revenue and Rating Plan

Use of Rate

The differential rate will be used to fund items of expenditure described in the Budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Level of Rate

65% of the General Rate.

Use of Land

Any use permitted under the Bass Coast Shire Council Planning Scheme.

Geographic Location

Wherever is located within the municipal district.

Planning Scheme Zoning

The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the relevant Bass Coast Shire Council Planning Scheme.

Types of Buildings

All buildings which are already constructed on the land, or which are constructed prior to the end of the financial year.

Recreational Land**Definition**

Recreational Land is any land that has the characteristics of 'recreational lands' as defined by the *Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963*

Characteristics

The types and classes of rateable land within this differential are those having the relevant characteristics described above with the additional basis that the land and facilities contribute towards the enjoyment of residents and visitors to the municipal district.

Use of Rate

The differential rate will be used to fund items of expenditure described in the Budget adopted by Council. The level of the differential rate is the level which Council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Level of Rate

60% of the General Rate.

Use of Land

Any use permitted under the Bass Coast Shire Council Planning Scheme.

Geographic Location

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is wherever it is located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

Planning Scheme Zoning

The characteristics of planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of vacant land which will be subject to the rate applicable to vacant land. The classification of land which is improved will be determined by the occupation of that land and have reference to the planning scheme zoning.

Revenue and Rating Plan

Types of Buildings

The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings already constructed on the land or which will be constructed prior to the expiry of the 2025-26 financial year.

Advantages of a differential rating system

The advantages of using a differential rating system are:

- There is greater flexibility to distribute the rate burden between all classes of property, and therefore link rates with the ability to pay and/or specific Council policy objectives.
- Differential rating allows Council to incentivise the development of vacant residential land.
- Allows Council to reflect the unique circumstances of some rating categories where the application of a uniform rate may create an inequitable outcome (e.g. 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 a differential rating system

The disadvantages in applying differential ratings summarised below are:

- The justification of the differential rate can at times be difficult for the various groups to accept, giving rise to queries and complaints where the differentials may seem to be excessive.
- Differential rates can be confusing to ratepayers, as they may have difficulty understanding the system. Some rating categories may feel they are unfavourably treated because they are paying a higher level of rates than other ratepayer groups.
- Differential ratings involve a degree of administrative complexity as properties continually shift from one type to another (e.g. vacant residential to developed) requiring Council to update its records. Ensuring the accuracy/integrity of Council's database is critical to ensure that properties are correctly classified into their right category.
- Council may not achieve the objectives it aims for through differential ratings. For example, Council may set its differential rate objectives to levy a higher rate on land not developed, however it may be difficult to prove whether the rate achieves those objectives.

1.3.5 SPECIAL CHARGE SCHEMES

The *Local Government Act 1989* recognises that councils need help to provide improved infrastructure for their local communities. Legislation allows councils to pass on the cost of capital infrastructure to the owner of a property that generally receives a unique benefit from the construction works. The technical explanation of a Special Charge comes from legislation (under the *Local Government Act 1989*) that allows Councils to recover the cost of works from property owners who will gain special benefits from that work.

The purposes for which special rates and special charges may be used include road construction, kerb and channelling, footpath provision, drainage, and other capital improvement projects.

The special rate or special charges may be declared based on any criteria specified by the Council in the rate (*Section 163 (2)*). In accordance with *Section 163 (3)*, Council must specify:

- the wards, groups, uses or areas for which the special rate or charge is declared
- the land in relation to which the special rate or special charge is declared
- the manner in which the special rate or special charge will be assessed and levied
- details of the period for which the special rate or special charge remains in force

Revenue and Rating Plan

The special rates and charges provisions are flexible and can be used to achieve a wide range of community objectives. The fundamental principle of special rates and charges is the proof that “special benefit” applies to those being levied. For example, they could be used to fund drainage and street upgrades in a particular township.

Landscaping and environmental improvement programs that benefit small or localised areas could also be funded using special rates or charges.

1.3.6 SERVICE RATES AND CHARGES

Section 162 of the *Local Government Act (1989)* provides Council with the opportunity to raise service rates and charges for any of the following services:

- waste, recycling or resource recovery services
- any other prescribed service

Council currently applies a service charge for the collection and disposal of refuse on urban properties and providing waste services for the municipality (street litter bins, transfer station and recycling facilities). Council retains the objective of setting the service charge for waste at a level that fully recovers the cost of the waste services, including providing for the cost of rehabilitation and remediation of the Council's Landfill once it reaches the end of its useful life.

It is recommended that Council retain the existing waste service charge – Should Council elect not to have a waste service charge, this same amount would be required to be raised by way of an increased general rate. This will result in a shift in the rates burden to farms and vacant land assessments that are not currently required to contribute to the waste service charge.

Whilst this same principle applies for rates in general, the mix of having a single fixed charge combined with valuation driven rates for the remainder of the rate invoice provides a balanced and equitable outcome.

1.3.7 COLLECTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF RATES AND CHARGES

The purpose of this section is to outline the rate payment options, processes, and the support provided to ratepayers facing financial hardship.

Payment options

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989, Section 167(1)*, Ratepayers have the option of paying rates and charges by way of four instalments. Payments are due on the prescribed dates below, or alternatively a payment in full can be made by 15 February.

- 1st Instalment: 30 September
- 2nd Instalment: 30 November
- 3rd Instalment: 28 February
- 4th Instalment: 31 May

Revenue and Rating Plan

Council offers a range of payment options including:

- in person at Council offices (cheques, money orders, EFTPOS, credit/debit cards and cash)
- online via Council's website, direct debit, BPAY
- Australia Post (over the counter, over the phone via credit card and on the internet)
- by mail (cheques and money orders only)

Interest on arrears and overdue rates

Interest is charged on all overdue rates in accordance with *Section 172* of the *Local Government Act 1989*. The interest rate applied is fixed under *Section 2* of the *Penalty Interest Rates Act 1983*, which is determined by the Minister (currently 10%) and published by notice in the *Government Gazette*.

Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy

Council adopted an enhanced Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy in July 2024. This policy superseded the previous Financial Hardship Policy and provides broader definitions for Hardship and Financial Hardship which will enable officers to provide better targeted assistance to vulnerable ratepayers who are experiencing difficulties in meeting their rate payment obligations.

This Policy is closely aligned to the requirements and inherent principles of the Draft Ministerial Guidelines that were released by the State Government in 2023. The policy positions Bass Coast as a rating authority that has an empathetic approach to managing arrears rates and helping ratepayers meet their financial obligations. It recognises two thresholds of financial vulnerability, 'hardship' and the more serious concept of 'financial hardship' where payment of rates will result in the ratepayer being unable to afford the necessities of life for themselves or their dependents.

Pensioner rebates

Holders of a Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession card or a Veteran Affairs Gold card which stipulates TPI or War Widow may claim a rebate on their sole or principal place of residence. Upon initial application, ongoing eligibility is maintained, unless rejected by Centrelink or the Department of Veteran Affairs during the annual verification procedure. Upon confirmation of an eligible pensioner concession status, the pensioner rebate is deducted from the rate account before payment is required by the ratepayer.

With regards to new applicants, after being granted a Pensioner Concession Card (PCC), pensioners can then apply for the rebate at any time throughout the rating year. Retrospective claims up to a maximum of one prior financial year can be approved by Council on verification of eligibility criteria, for periods prior to this, claims may be approved by the relevant government department.

In addition to State Government pensioner rebates, Council has introduced a 20 per cent Waste Charge rebate for eligible pensioners who hold Centrelink or Veteran Affairs Pension Concession Cards.

Vacant land first home-owners short-term relief rebate

Council has introduced short-term relief for first home-owners, providing relief from the 50 per cent increase in the vacant land rate (from 150% to 200% of the general rate) for a maximum of two years. This will be provided as a rebate on application and subject to the provision of documentary evidence that confirms the ratepayer(s) first homeowner status.



Revenue and Rating Plan

Deferred payments

Under Section 170 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council may defer the payment of any rate or charge for eligible ratepayers whose property is their sole place of residency, allowing ratepayers an extended period of time to make payments or alternatively to forestall payments on an indefinite basis until the ratepayer ceases to own or occupy the land in respect of which rates and charges are to be levied.

Deferral of rates and charges are available to all ratepayers who satisfy the eligibility criteria and have proven financial difficulties. Where Council approves an application for deferral of rates or charges, interest will continue to be levied on the outstanding balance of rates and charges but at an interest rate fixed annually by Council. This deferred interest rate will typically be well under the penalty interest rate levied by Council on unpaid rates and charges.

Ratepayers seeking to apply for such provision will be required to submit a Rates Deferment Application form which is available at the council offices, on the Council website or which can be posted upon request.

Debt recovery

Council makes every effort to contact ratepayers at their correct address, but it is the ratepayer's responsibility to properly advise Council of their contact details.

If an account becomes overdue, Council will issue an overdue reminder notice which will include accrued penalty interest. If the account remains unpaid, Council may take legal action without further notice to recover the overdue amount. All fees and court costs incurred will be recoverable from the ratepayer.

If an amount payable by way of rates in respect to land has been in arrears for three years or more, Council may take action to sell the property in accordance with *Section 181* of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (formerly Fire Services Property Levy)

In 2012 the Victorian State Government passed legislation requiring the Fire Services Property Levy to be collected from ratepayers. Previously this was collected through building and property insurance premiums. The Fire Services Property Levy helps fund the services provided by Fire Services Victoria and all levies collected by Council are passed through to the State Government.

The Fire Services Property Levy is based on two components, a fixed charge, and a variable charge which is linked to the Capital Improved Value of the property. This levy is not included in the rate cap, and increases in the levy are at the discretion of the State Government.

The Fire Services Property Levy will be rebadged as an Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESFV) with effect from 1 July 2025. The State Government has announced that the ad valorem rates for the ESFV will increase significantly and that funds raised will be used to offset the cost of a broad range of emergency services.

*Revenue and Rating Plan***1.4 OTHER REVENUE ITEMS****1.4.1 USER FEES AND CHARGES**

User fees and charges are those that Council will charge for the delivery of services and use of community infrastructure.

Examples of User Fees and Charges include:

- Kindergarten and Childcare fees
- Leisure Centre, Gym, and Pool visitation and membership fees
- Waste Management fees
- Aged and Health Care service fees
- Leases and facility hire fees

The provision of infrastructure and services form a key part of Council's role in supporting the local community. In providing these, Council must consider a range of 'Best Value' principles including service cost and quality standards, value-for-money, and community expectations and values. Council must also balance the affordability and accessibility of infrastructure and services with its financial capacity and in the interests of long-term financial sustainability.

Councils must also comply with the government's Competitive Neutrality Policy for significant business activities they provide and adjust their service prices to neutralise any competitive advantages when competing with the private sector.

In providing services to the community, Council must determine the extent of cost recovery for services consistent with the level of both individual and collective benefit that the services provide and in line with the community's expectations.

Services are provided based on one of the following pricing methods:

- **Market price**
- **Full cost recovery price**
- **Subsidised price (partial or full subsidy)**

Market pricing (A) is where Council sets prices based on the benchmarked competitive prices of alternate suppliers. Market price would normally reflect full cost recovery plus a margin for profit. Market prices will be used when other providers exist in the given market, and Council needs to ensure that it complies with the principles of Competitive Neutrality and does not set prices or services at levels that are commercially unsustainable.

If a market price is lower than Council's full cost price, then the market price would result in Council subsidising that service. If this situation exists, and there are other suppliers existing in the market at the same price, this indicates that Council is not the most efficient supplier in the marketplace. In this situation, Council should consider whether there it has a community obligation to provide the service or whether it should be providing this service at all.

Full cost recovery price (B) aims to recover all direct and indirect costs incurred by Council. This pricing should be used where a service provided by Council benefits individual customers specifically, rather than the community as a whole. In principle, fees and charges should be set at a level that recovers the full cost of providing the services unless there is a policy objective or equity need that supports the service being subsidised by ratepayers.

Revenue and Rating Plan

Subsidised pricing (C) is where Council subsidises a service by not passing the full cost of that service onto the customer. Subsidies may range from full subsidies (i.e. Council provides the service free of charge) to partial subsidies, where Council provides the service to the user with a discount. The subsidy can be funded from Council's rate revenue or other sources such as Commonwealth and State funding programs or grants.

Full Council Subsidy Pricing and Partial Cost Pricing should always be supported by knowledge of the full cost of providing a service, including the extent of any subsidy.

As per the Victorian Auditor General's Office report "Fees and charges – cost recovery by local government" recommendations, Council has developed a user fee pricing policy to help guide the fair and equitable setting of prices. The policy outlines the process for setting fee prices and includes such principles as:

- Both direct and indirect costs to be considered when setting prices
- Accessibility, affordability and efficient delivery of services must be considered
- Competitive neutrality with commercial providers

Council will develop a table of fees and charges ahead of the release of its annual budget each year. Proposed pricing changes will be included in this table and will be communicated to stakeholders before the budget is adopted, giving them the chance to review and provide valuable feedback before the fee changes are finalised.

1.4.2 STATUTORY FEES AND CHARGES

Statutory fees and fines are those that Council collects under the direction of legislation or other government directives. The rates used for statutory fees and fines are generally advised by the relevant State Government department or following the release of the State budget.

Examples of Statutory Fees and Fines include:

- Planning and subdivision fees
- Building and Inspection fees
- Infringements and fines
- Land Information Certificate fees

Penalty and fee units are used in Victoria's Acts and Regulations to describe the amount of a fine or a fee.

Penalty units

Penalty units are used to define the amount payable for fines for many offences. For example, the fine for selling a tobacco product to a person aged under 18 is four penalty units.

Penalty units are updated annually as part of the State Government Budget. One penalty unit is currently \$197.59 (1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025).

The rate for penalty units is indexed each financial year so that it is raised in line with inflation. Any change to the value of a penalty unit will happen on 1 July each year.

Revenue and Rating Plan

Fee units

Fee units are used to calculate the cost of a certificate, registration or licence that is set out in an Act or Regulation. For example, the cost of depositing a Will with the supreme court registrar of probates is 1.6 fee units.

The value of one fee unit is currently \$16.33. This value may increase at the beginning of a financial year, at the same time as penalty units.

The cost of fees and penalties is calculated by multiplying the number of units by the current value of the fee or unit. The exact cost may be rounded up or down.

1.4.3 GRANTS

Grant revenue represents income usually received from other levels of government. Some grants are singular and attached to the delivery of specific projects, whilst others can be of a recurrent nature and may or may not be linked to the delivery of projects.

Council will proactively advocate 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 the grants that it wishes to apply for. Council will only apply for and accept external funding if it is consistent with the Community Vision/Council Plan and does not lead to a distortion of the Council Plan priorities.

Grant assumptions are then clearly detailed in Council's budget document. No project that is reliant on grant funding will proceed until a signed funding agreement is in place.

1.4.4 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.
- Monies collected under developer contribution plans and infrastructure contribution plans.
- 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.

Contributions linked to developments can be received well before any Council expenditure occurs. In this situation, the funds will be identified and held separately for the specific works identified in the agreements.

*Revenue and Rating Plan***I.4.5 INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS**

Council receives interest on funds managed as part of its investment portfolio. These include funds are held in advance of expenditure, or for special purposes. The investment portfolio is managed in accordance with Council's investment policy, which seeks to earn the best return on funds, whilst minimising risk. Council's investment policy also requires it to invest with financial institutions that do not finance the extraction of resources or fossil fuels.

I.4.6 BORROWINGS

Whilst not a source of income, borrowing can be an important cash management tool in appropriate circumstances. Loans can only be approved by Council resolution. The following financial sustainability principles must be adhered to with new borrowings:

- Borrowings must only be applied for where it can be proven that repayments can be met in the Long Term Financial Plan
- Borrowings must not be used to fund ongoing operations.
- Borrowings are appropriate for funding large capital works where the benefits are provided to future generations.
- Council will maintain its debt at levels which are sustainable, with:
 - indebtedness <60% of rate and charges revenue
 - debt servicing cost <5% of total revenue (excluding capital revenue).

I.5 GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT (GIA) STATEMENT

In accordance with the Gender Equality Act 2020, a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been undertaken when developing this policy.

Bass Coast Shire Council

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Executive summary

Bass Coast Shire Council has prepared the Draft 2026–27 Budget for public exhibition during a period of heightened global economic uncertainty. While this Budget is built upon the best available financial assumptions, the community is advised that the document remains a dynamic draft as Council reviews the draft budget to create a contingency for escalating fuel and capital works delivery costs. Should international energy markets escalate beyond current projections—factors outside of Council's direct control—revisions to the final budget may be required to maintain essential service delivery and fleet operations.

The Draft 2026-27 Budget totals \$124.6 million gross budget. This includes :

- \$88 million Operating Budget
- \$30 million Capital Works Program
- \$5.6 million debt servicing

all within a 2.75% average general rate increase in line with the State Government rate cap.

The Budget has been prepared in alignment with the Long Term Financial Plan 2025–2035 to ensure the ongoing financial sustainability of Council while continuing to deliver essential infrastructure and services to a growing community. It has been developed to:

- Maintain affordable and stable revenue and financing mechanisms;
- Deliver an ongoing balanced financial position over the long term;
- Manage capital investment efficiently and responsibly; and
- Maintain, enhance and where appropriate rationalise Council's asset base to meet current and future community needs.

The Budget provides the authorisation for the ongoing provision for a range of core Council services to be delivered within the rate cap increase of 2.75 per cent. Council remains committed to balancing service delivery expectations with responsible financial management in a constrained revenue environment. This is increasingly difficult as external cost escalations for fuel, construction materials, and labour frequently outpace the revenue growth permitted under the Fair Go Rates System.

The Budget presents a four-year financial outlook and incorporates projections against key indicators established by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) and Local Government Victoria. It projects an operating deficit of \$4.3 million for 2026–27 (due to a combination of \$4.8 million funding for waste management operating projects and a sharp increase in depreciation following recent revaluations of bridges, roads, pathways and open space assets) and an adjusted underlying deficit of \$10 million (due to the increases in depreciation), while maintaining a balanced Funding Statement position. A capital works program of \$30.3 million will deliver continued investment in community infrastructure (valued at \$1.4+ billion), including new tracks and trails, the Cowes Streetscape development, and upgrades to sporting facilities at Inverloch and Wonthaggi.

Beyond the immediate volatility of fuel prices, Council continues to operate within an increasingly challenging structural environment for local government across Victoria. This Budget acknowledges the growing pressure on the long-term financial sustainability of the sector, particularly for regional councils. The compounding effects of rate capping, persistent inflation, and the ongoing challenge of cost shifting from other levels of government place immense strain on the sectors financial capacity. Even without the current global instability, these sector-wide headwinds would require a disciplined approach to financial management. Council is committed to proactively addressing these challenges by seeking operational efficiencies and exploring new opportunities to ensure our long-term

These challenges are being amplified by broader global economic uncertainty and geopolitical tensions in key energy-producing regions, which have contributed to volatility in energy markets, supply chains, and construction costs. Such global pressures have direct local impacts on project delivery costs and operational expenditure, with the full impacts not yet known at the time of drafting this budget.

Bass Coast Shire Council will continue its advocacy to State and Federal Governments for sustainable funding arrangements that recognise the expanding role of local government. This includes advocating for improved assistance to strengthen the sustainability of regional councils, which forms part of Council's adopted advocacy priorities for 2026-2028.

Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and remains committed to climate action. The 2026–27 Capital Budget includes dedicated investment in infrastructure and initiatives supporting delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan 2020–2030, contributing to emissions reduction and climate resilience.

Executive summary (continued)

Through this Budget, Council seeks to responsibly balance financial stewardship, community service delivery and long-term investment, ensuring Bass Coast remains a resilient, liveable and sustainable community despite an increasingly complex global operating environment.

I Budget Highlights**2026-27 Budget Snapshot:**

\$124.6 million total gross budget, including:

- \$88.6 million operating budget to support Council services
 - \$30.3 million Capital Works Program funding to invest in new infrastructure and meet asset renewal targets
 - \$5.6 million Debt Servicing
- all within a 2.75% average general rate increase in line with the State Government rate cap

2026-27 Budget Highlights:**\$4.85 million on our leisure and recreational facilities, including:**

- Thompson Reserve Inverloch pavilion upgrade \$1.9 million
- Wonthaggi sporting field upgrade \$720,000
- Wonthaggi Aquatics & Leisure Centre upgrade \$500,000
- Playspace renewal and upgrade program \$300,000
- Mountain Bike/BMX Strategy implementation \$100,000

\$8.5 million to improve and maintain Council's road network, including:

- Investment in urban roads renewal \$2.6 million
- Drainage improvement program \$1.9 million
- Rural roads renewal program \$1.4 million
- Transport Structures Design \$0.3 million

\$3.3 million to improve tracks, trails and footpaths, including:

- Inverloch to Wonthaggi trail - Phase 2 \$1.2 million
- Surf Parade pathway \$1.16 million
- Pathway Gaps and Renewal Program \$497,000
- Cowes to Ventnor Trail Design \$400,000

\$8.7 million to upgrade community facilities, including:

- Cowes Streetscape delivery \$3.6 million
- Structural renewals program \$1.2 million
- Inverloch community hub renewal program Phase 2 \$0.5 million
- Old Wonthaggi Post Office renewal \$0.3 million

\$24.1 million on our waste services, including:

- Delivery and management of waste services \$16.0 million
- Landfill rehabilitation \$4.8 million
- Waste facility improvements \$1.7 million
- Construction of Grantville Landfill Cell 8 \$1.2 million

2 Budget Influences

This section sets out the key budget influences arising from the internal and external environment within which the Council operates.

2.1 Snapshot of Bass Coast

The people of Bass Coast acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, the Bunurong people who maintained a beautiful combination of unspoilt coastline and picturesque rural hinterland. We live in respectful harmony with our environment, a popular holiday destination with vibrant townships rich with culture and distinct character. Our world-renowned surf breaks and Penguin Parade provide a breathtaking getaway for over three million visitors each year.

Currently one of the fastest growing areas in regional Victoria, Bass Coast's population is spread among the townships of Wonthaggi, Cowes, Inverloch, San Remo and Grantville as well as numerous smaller hamlets. It has a thriving and diverse economy that supports agribusiness and service industries. Bass Coast is an ideal place to raise a family in a friendly regional community that embraces true country values.

Population

The total population of Bass Coast is estimated to be 44,862 people according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Reflecting the appeal of the Bass Coast as a holiday and retirement destination, a substantial number of ratepayers reside outside the Shire.

Tourism

From surfing and cycling to wining and dining, Bass Coast offers over 180 kilometres of spectacular coastline, beautiful bush areas and scenic rolling hills. During summer season the population grows to around 80,000. Bass Coast welcomes more than 3 million (overnight and daytrip) visitors every year.

Ageing population

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics as at 2021, the municipality has a significant ageing resident population with 38% of residents aged over 60. This is higher than average for regional Victoria where those aged over 60 is approximately 29% of the population. There is a prevalence of second homes ownership within the Shire. Almost 10% of the Australian population has access to a second home, mostly within driving distance of their primary residence, these can be used for a variety of purposes, such as holidaying, investment or retirement.

Housing

Over the next 15 years it is estimated that across Bass Coast, it will need to provide for an additional 10,000 homes to accommodate the changing housing needs of our growing population. Our attractive townships, coastal villages and rural hamlets make Bass Coast one of the most desirable place to live, work and visit. Council will continue to focus growth in Wonthaggi while allowing some infill development in Inverloch, Cowes, San Remo and Grantville. This is based on the principle of linking good access to jobs, services and infrastructure with housing supply.

2.2 External Influences

The preparation of this Budget is influenced by the following external factors:

- The Victorian Government has set the 2026-27 rate cap at 2.75%.
- Geopolitical instability continues to drive significant volatility in global energy markets and fuel prices. While this draft budget incorporates specific cost assumptions, the situation remains dynamic and unpredictable. These escalations represent an external factor beyond Council's control and may necessitate adjustments to operational expenditure should prices exceed current projections
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 3.8% over the 12 months to December 2025, driven by higher prices for housing, food and non alcoholic beverages and recreation and culture.
- The Wage Price Index has increased to 3.4% for the 12 months to December 2025. This increase is linked to growth in health care and social assistance.
- Interest rates have increased with the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) increasing rates in February and March 2026 and forecasts indicating rates will likely be increased further over the remainder of 2026.
- Population growth will continue to be an important driver of economic growth and demand for housing.
- Over time funding provided to Local Governments has not kept pace with service cost growth and has escalated through cost shifting where Local Government provides a service to the community on behalf of the State or Federal Government.

2.3 Budget principles

In response to these influences, guidelines were prepared and distributed to all Council officers with budget responsibilities. The guidelines set out the key budget principles upon which the officers were to prepare their budgets.

The principles included:

- Grants to be based on confirmed funding levels.
- New revenue sources to be identified where possible.
- Service levels to be maintained with the aim to use fewer resources with an emphasis on innovation and efficiency.
- Salaries and wage increases are linked to the current Enterprise Agreement.
- Employer Superannuation Guarantee contributions are 12% ongoing
- New initiatives or employee proposals to be justified through a business case.
- Targeted a 0% increase in non-CPI linked expenses.
- Operating revenues and expenses arising from completed capital projects to be included.

2.4 Addressing the Climate Change Emergency

Bass Coast has declared a climate emergency and developed a *Climate Change Action Plan 2020-30* recognising the role of both Council and the community in our collective response to reduce our emissions, build community resilience against the local impacts of climate change and ultimately reverse the impacts of global warming. Council has committed funding in the Budget for several projects that will support its objective of having zero net emissions by 2030 and ensuring a climate resilient community. Details of projects that are aligned to the actions within the Climate Change Action Plan are:

- Continuation of the sector leading waste collection system which includes the use of an organics bin for the disposal of household food waste. This initiative has enabled Bass Coast to divert more than three quarters of its waste from landfill, which is a sector leading outcome.
- Implementing Council's Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy, aligning Council's building and infrastructure projects with its net zero by 2030 target.
- Delivering a climate resilience toolkit and campaign, that supports emissions reduction and adaptation across Bass Coast.
- Continuing to upgrade the energy efficiency and solar coverage at Council facilities, by acting on recommendations from energy audits across our sites.
- Continuing to deliver the Biolinks Program, that provides significant carbon drawdown and habitat enhancement outcomes.
- Improving the pedestrian friendly aspects of our townships through the Footpaths Gaps Program.
- Delivering the Urban Forest Strategy, and key actions to support it.
- Delivering significant coastal erosion management, including detailed monitoring and grant funded projects.

2.5 Long term strategies

The Budget includes consideration of a number of long term strategies including the Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2035 and contextual information to assist Council to prepare the Budget in a proper financial management context. These include Budget financial statements for 2026-27 and 3 years of Projections to 2029-30 (Section 7), Rating Strategy (Section 4) and intended Borrowings (Section 8.2).

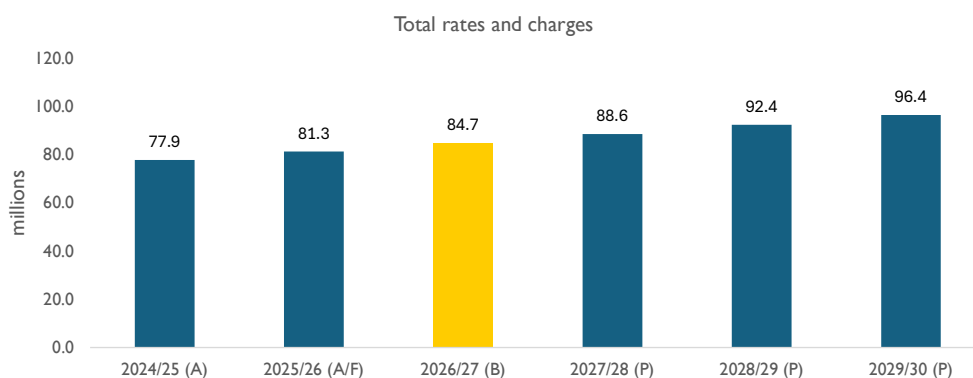
2.6 Gender Impact Assessment

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been undertaken when developing this policy.

3 Summary of financial position

Council has prepared a Budget for the 2026-27 financial year which seeks to balance the demand for services and infrastructure with the available funds. Key budget information is provided below about rates and charges, operating result, cash and investments, capital works, financial position, financial sustainability and strategic objectives of Council.

3.1 Total rates and charges



The total rates and charges of **\$84.7 million** for the 2026-27 year are in line with prior year projections.

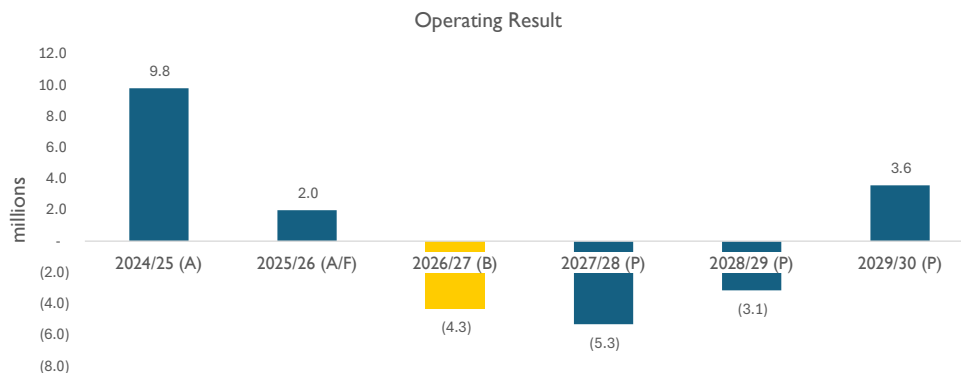
Rate revenue for 2026-27 year is expected to be **\$63.7 million**. The year on year increase includes a 0.6% growth in the number of properties within the municipality combined with an average rate increase of 2.75% in line with the rate cap as mandated by the State Government.

Waste Charges for 2026-27 is expected to be **\$20.1 million**. Council utilises a waste recovery model; that sets the Waste Charge at a level that covers the cost of providing waste services across the municipality and meet regulatory requirements. The standard Waste Charge will increase by \$51.51 to **\$669.51** in 2026-27.

The balance of **\$0.9 million** includes supplementary rates and interest.

Refer also to Section 8.1.1 for further information on rates and charges.

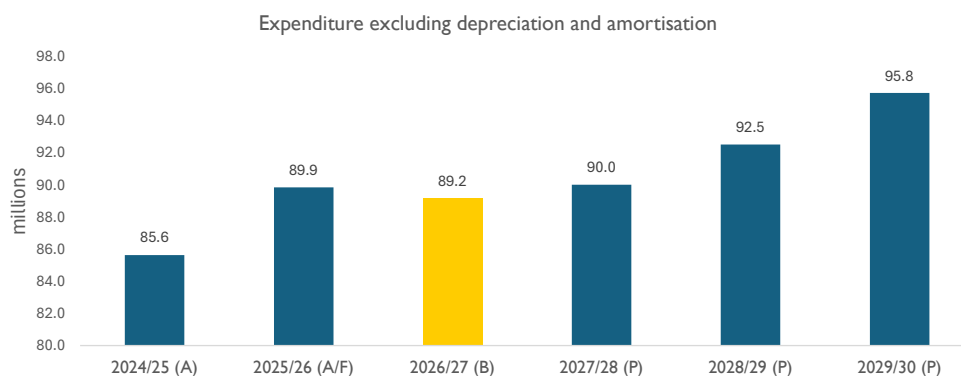
3.2 Operating result



The operating deficit in the 2026-27 year is projected to be \$4.3 million. The 2026-27 projected deficit is due to a combination of \$4.8 million funding for waste management operating projects and a sharp increase in depreciation following recent revaluations of bridges, roads, pathways and open space assets.

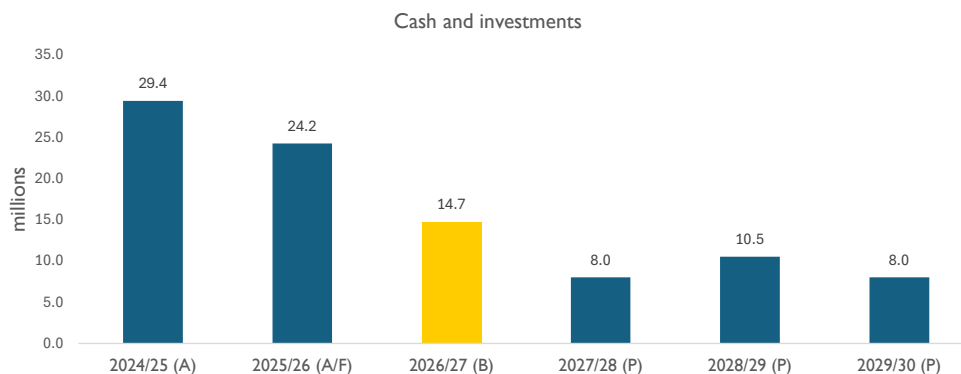
The elevated 2024-25 result reflects the receipt of \$6.0 million in unbudgeted developer contributed assets. Council's current forecast surplus of \$2.0 million is due to \$15.3 million in capital grant funding, which is linked to the development of major intergenerational capital projects.

3.3 Expenditure excluding depreciation and amortisation



Expenditure excluding depreciation and amortisation for the 2026-27 year is expected to be \$89.2 million. Growth of operating expenses has been restrained, by a focus on cost containment and the inclusion of labour cost efficiencies in the Budget. The 2026-27 Budget reflects the impact of waste compliance costs through old landfill rehabilitation \$4.8 million reducing slightly from the 2025-26 Forecast of \$5.1 million.

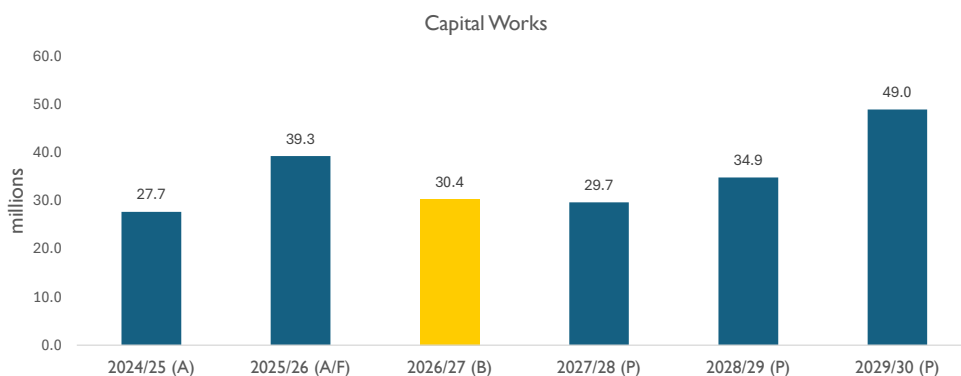
3.4 Cash and cash equivalents



Cash and cash equivalents are budgeted to be \$14.7 million as at 30 June 2026. Cash and cash equivalents are expected to reduce to \$8 million as at 30 June 2030. This is due to the planned utilisation of discretionary reserves as a capital works funding source.

Refer to Section 7.4 for the Statement of Cash Flows and Section 8.4 for the detailed capital works program.

3.5 Capital works



The Capital Works Program for 2026-27 is expected to be \$30.35 million.

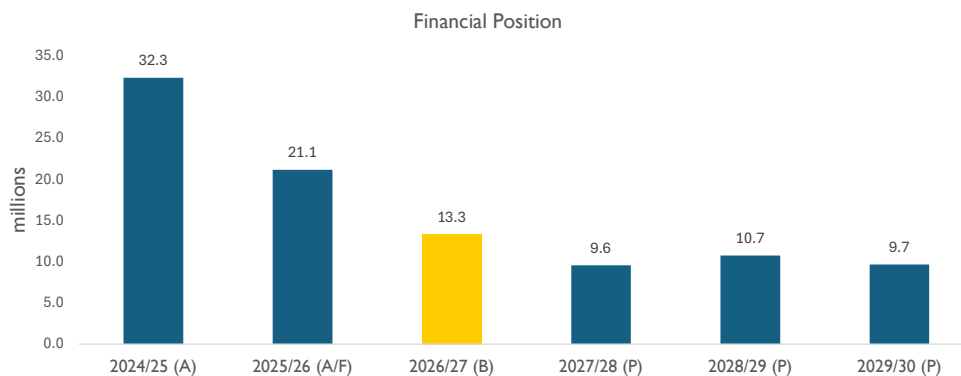
The 2026-27 Program includes a continued investment in new, renewal and upgrade of Council assets including \$3.6 million on the continuation of the Cowes Streetscape Master Plan, \$2.6 million on sporting pavilions and \$1.2 million for completion of phase two of the Wonthaggi-Inverloch Shared Path.

The program is funded by capital grants of \$6.3 million, borrowings of \$1.3 million and the remainder from Council funds. The capital expenditure program has been rigorously prioritised considering deliverability and community need.

The 2029/30 Program is predominately driven by the Wonthaggi Aquatics and Leisure Centre \$20.0 million

Refer to Section 7.4 for the Statement of Capital Works and Section 8.4 for the detailed capital works program.

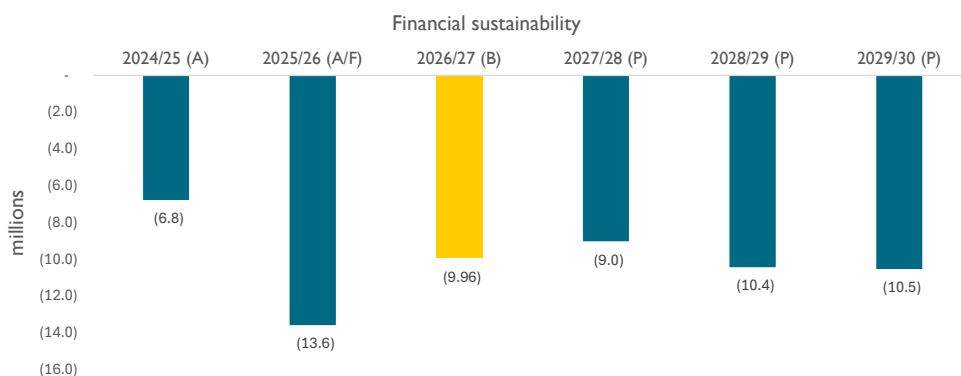
3.6 Financial position



Council's working capital position is expected to reduce over the coming four years from a net \$13.3 million in 2026-27 to \$9.7 million by June 2030. This result remains within VAGO's low risk rating and confirms that Council's financial position will remain sound with a working capital ratio greater than 1.0.

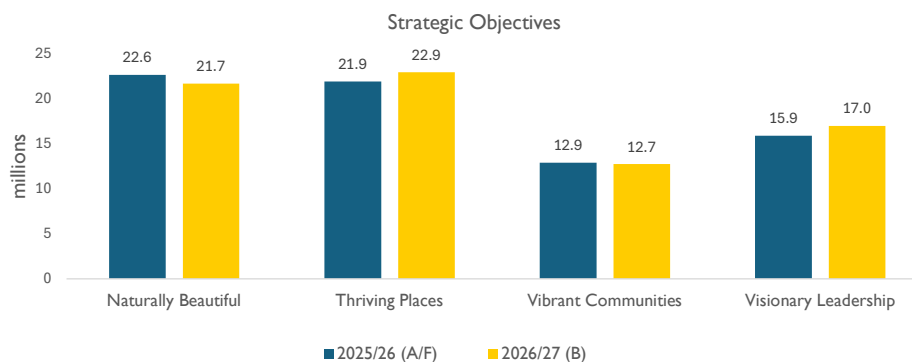
Refer to Section 7.2 for the Balance Sheet.

3.7 Financial sustainability



Council's projected adjusted underlying results range from a deficit of \$10 million in 2026-27 to \$10.5 million in 2029-30. This reflects the impact of a significant increase in depreciation expense resulting from asset revaluation uplifts, significant waste compliance costs through old landfill rehabilitation, and a projected 2.5 per cent rate cap.

3.8 Strategic objectives



The Budget includes a range of services and initiatives to be funded that will contribute to the achievement of the strategic objectives specified in the Council Plan. The above graph shows the level of funding allocated in the Budget compared to 2025-26 Forecast at Quarter 2.

The services that contribute to these objectives are set out in Section 6.

Rating Strategy

4 Rating information

This section contains information on Council's past and projected rating levels along with Council's rating structure and the impact of changes in property valuations.

4.1 Rating context

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, Council's Rating Strategy was reviewed and updated following community consultation. Rates and charges were identified as an important source of revenue, and 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 2026-27 the FGRS cap has been set at 2.75%. The cap applies to general rates 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.

Council has resolved to make changes to the existing rate differentials following community consultation from November 2025 to January 2026 and adoption of a new Rating Strategy. The changes reduce the rating differential for farm land from 80% to 65%, and increase the rating differential for vacant land from 150% to 200%. Developed land remains unchanged at 100%. Council has also resolved to reform the Rural Land Management Program to ensure alignment with Council Plan objectives, to deliver enhanced biodiversity and natural asset protection that targets high-value conservation work.

To achieve Council's objectives while maintaining service levels and a strong capital expenditure program, the average general rate will increase by 2.75% in line with the rate cap.

This will raise total rates and charges for 2026-27 to \$84,692,000.

4.2 Current and proposed rates and charges

The following table sets out current and future proposed increases in revenue from total rates and charges and is based on the forecast financial position of Council as at 30 June 2026. Please note that the total rates and charges increase includes expected growth within the municipality during these periods. The average rate increase per assessment is anticipated to be in accordance with the projected rate cap.

Year	Rate Cap Increase %	Waste Charge increase %	Total Rates and charges \$'000s	Total Rates & Charges Increase %
2025/26	3.00%	8.7%	81,267	4.4%
2026/27	2.75%	6.1%	84,692	4.2%
2027/28	2.50%	5.0%	88,560	4.6%
2028/29	2.50%	5.0%	92,388	4.3%
2029/30	2.50%	5.0%	96,392	4.3%

4.3 Rating Structure

Council proposes to apply various rates:

a) Developed Land rate

The Developed Land rate being any land that does not have the characteristics of Farm Land or Vacant Land and on which a building is erected and is lawfully used for residential, commercial or industrial purposes and designed for permanent occupation. The objective of this differential rate is to ensure that such land makes an equitable financial contribution toward the cost of carrying out the functions of Council.

b) Farm Land rate

The Farm rate currently set at 65% of the Developed Land rate (previously 80%) is based on the definition of a farm within the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*. The *Valuation of Land Act 1960* definition of Farm Land for valuation purposes requires that farm properties are at least 2 hectares and be:

- i. primarily used for agricultural production (grazing, dairying, pig farming, poultry farming, pig farming, fish farming, tree farming, bee keeping, viticulture, horticulture, fruit growing or the growing of crops of any kind); and,
- ii. used by a business which has a significant or substantial commercial purpose, seeks to make a profit on a continuous or repetitive basis or has a reasonable prospect of making a profit from the agricultural activities being undertaken.

c) Vacant Land rate

The vacant land differential rate applies to all vacant land in the Shire (except for Farm Land) and is set at 200% of the developed land rate (previously 150%) on the basis that Council will encourage development of vacant land and therefore generate economic development within the Shire.

d) Cultural and Recreational Land rate

Council also applies a Cultural and Recreational Land rate (set at 60% of the Developed Land rate). Under the *Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963*, provision is made for Council to grant a rating concession to any "recreational lands" which meet the test of being "rateable land" under the Act. This concession is given to cultural and recreational organisations that provide general community benefits as part of their activities.

e) Waste Charge

Council currently applies a service charge for the collection and disposal of refuse on urban properties and providing waste services for the municipality (street litter bins, transfer station and recycling facilities). Council retains the objective of setting the service charge for waste at a level that fully recovers the cost of the waste services, including providing for the cost of rehabilitation and remediation of the Council's Landfill once it reaches the end of its useful life.

For more information on the rates and charges see Note 8.1.1.

4.4 Consideration of Ministerial Guidelines for Differential Rates

The Bass Coast Shire Council rating structure comprises three differential rates (developed land, vacant land and farm). These rates are structured in accordance with the requirements of Section 161 'Differential Rates' of the *Local Government Act 1989*, and the *Ministerial Guidelines for Differential Rating 2013*.

As part of the review of its rating structure, Council has considered a detailed Rating information and discussion paper. This paper considered the State Government's *Developing a Rating Strategy: A Guide for Councils*. This has helped Council to properly consider the matters included in the Guidelines. In particular:

- a) Council believes that the use of differential rates will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of its functions. Council is of the view that equity is achieved through the distribution of rates between rateable properties by the application of current and accurate property valuations. Council undertakes regular property valuations as required by the Act and to the standards set out by the Valuer-General. Equity can also be achieved by the classification of properties into homogenous property categories. Council has identified these categories in its rating structure set out above. Equity therefore can be achieved by the treatment of like properties, in other words, that similar rates are paid by similar properties. Council achieves this by a combination of accurate valuations and homogenous property classification. Council also believes that the rating structure can be administered efficiently as it is a relatively simple structure which has been in place for some time.
- b) In specifying the objective of each differential rate, Council has had regard to good practice taxation principles and its assessment against each differential rate objective and determination. It has done this by considering the taxation principles based upon the capacity to pay principle, the benefit principle and the wealth taxation

The capacity to pay principle looks at the issue of the relativity of rates paid by the major categories of property. However, the most vexed issue related to capacity to pay is assessing it across different categories of property. Council is of the view that differential rates based upon the capacity to pay principle will not deal practically with the situations of all individuals, businesses and households who pay rates.

The benefit principle looks at whether there should be a link in the amount of rates paid and the benefit received by ratepayers. A common complaint levelled at Council is that "the rates I pay have no correlation with the services I consume or the benefits I receive". This argument is based on the benefit principle (the opposite of the wealth tax principle) that argues there should be a nexus between the consumption of services or benefit and the rate burden.

4.4 Consideration of Ministerial Guidelines for Differential Rates (continued)

However, any assessment of the relative benefits received by various categories of property owners raises many practical difficulties, in particular, trying to trace quantifiable consumption/benefits to particular types of property or geographic locations and attributing varying levels of access by ratepayers to services that are universally available. Any in-depth analysis of this issue could also be quite costly and impact on efficiency. Any such analysis could reduce to arguments of what services are consumed by town versus rural, businesses versus residences, and town versus town. The exercise is not clear cut – for example, it might be argued that rural ratepayers derive less benefit from street cleaning than their town counterparts but the reverse argument may be put with respect to the costs of maintaining rural roads. For these reasons, Council does not believe that setting differential rates based upon the benefit principle is practical, equitable and efficient.

The wealth tax principle implies rates paid are dependent upon the value of a ratepayer's real property and have no correlation to the individual ratepayer's consumption of services or the perceived benefits derived by individual ratepayers from the expenditures funded from rates.

Council is limited to property taxes with which to tax wealth. Wealth can be defined as the total value reflected in property and investments and income directed to day-to-day living. Local government is limited to taxing one component of wealth – real property. Council rates tax the stored "wealth" or unrealised capital gains inherent in land and buildings.

Council believes that the Wealth Tax principle is the most equitable and efficient to adopt in terms of its rating structure. Some moderation of the effect of property value on the level of rates levied is however required to make the rating system more equitable and stable than it would be in the absence of such intervention. Council believes that differential rates should be used in this regard.

- c) Council has done modelling in order to understand the impact of the rating decision on those rated differentially and the consequential impact upon the broader municipality.

In specifying the objectives of the differential rates in this Budget, Council has had regard to the strategic objectives set out in the Council Plan to ensure that its objectives for differential rates accord with the strategic objectives set out in the Council Plan.

4.5 General revaluation of properties

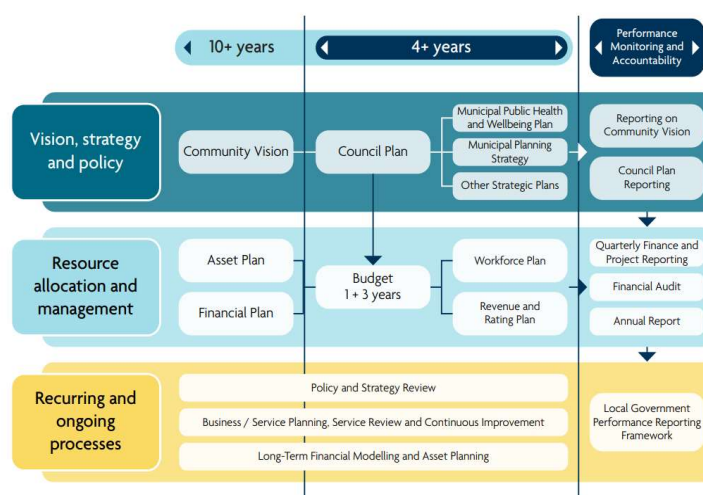
The *Valuation of Land Act 1960* is the principal legislation for the determination of property valuations. Under the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*, the Victorian Valuer-General conducts property valuations annually. Bass Coast Shire Council applies a Capital Improved Valuation (CIV) to all properties within the municipality to take into account the full developed value of the property. This basis of valuation takes into account the total market value of the land, including buildings and other improvements.

5 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 strategic planning and reporting framework. This framework guides the Council in identifying community needs and aspirations over the long term (Community Vision, Financial Plan and Asset Plan), medium term (Council Plan, Workforce Plan, and Revenue and Rating Plan) and short term (Budget) and then holding itself accountable (Annual Report).

5.1 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: Department of Government Services

The timing of each component of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework is critical to the successful achievement of the planned outcomes.

5.2 Key planning considerations

Service level planning

Although councils have a legal obligation to provide some services or source these through external providers (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 should 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 council's adopted Community Engagement Policy and Public Transparency Policy.

5.3 Our purpose

Community Vision

From its flowing hills to its coastal woodlands and wild unspoiled coastlines, the Bass Coast is a source of celebration for all who live in and visit the region. Our townships are vibrant, rich with culture and full of life, each with its own distinct character. Drawing on our creativity, innovation and resilience we've created a thriving and diverse economy that supports sustainable agriculture and industry. We live proudly on Bunurong Country, and build on learnings from our First Peoples and their knowledge. We coexist in harmony with our environment, and are prepared for future challenges and changes. We are the people of the Bass Coast. Experience our cultures and history, and contribute to our story.

Operating Principle

Bass Coast Shire Council is committed to delivering good governance for the benefit and well-being of the local communities and future generations. This involves partnering with the communities to address current needs and be prepared for future challenges. In all that we do, Council is committed to being:

Responsive	Actively engaging with the community, listening with intent, and addressing needs promptly and appropriately.
Efficient	Maximising the impact of our resources by reducing waste and providing high-quality, cost-effective services
Transparent	Operating with openness, inclusivity, and accountability in all decision-making processes.
Future-focused	Identifying challenges and opportunities, showing strong leadership to foster resilience, support climate adaptation, and make decisions that benefit both current and future generations.

Our values

Bass Coast Shire Council has a clear strength in the bond and affinity between its employees and our community. Employees support the community leadership and governance role of Councillors and work together to achieve the commitments of the Council Plan. Having all Bass Coast Shire Council employees practice the following organisational values enhances the quality of this partnership:

- Accountability
- Respect
- Integrity
- Passion
- Community

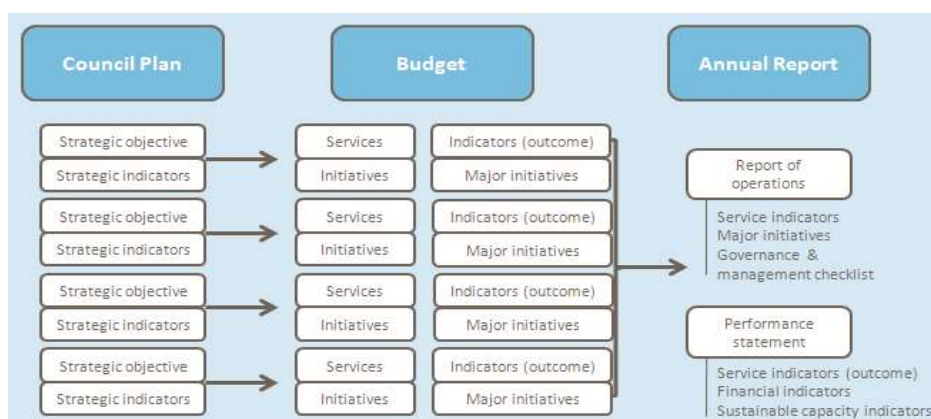
5.4 Strategic objectives

Council delivers services and major initiatives under 30 major service categories. Each contributes to the achievement of one of the four Strategic Objectives as set out in the Council Plan 2025-2029. The following table lists the four Strategic Objectives as described in the Council Plan. Further detail of services is provided in Section 6.

Strategic Objective	Description
1. Naturally Beautiful	Together we build resilience and protect and enhance our natural environment.
2. Thriving Places	Facilities and infrastructure meet current and future needs. Growth is sustainable and well planned. Our economy, agriculture, tourism and industries are resilient. Unique character is preserved.
3. Vibrant Communities	Communities are healthy, inclusive, safe and socially connected. Communities celebrate opportunity, recreation, diversity, heritage and reconciliation.
4. Visionary Leadership	Our communities flourish through leadership that is open and responsible, ensuring decisions serve the communities best interests, and comply with legislative obligations.

6 Services and service performance indicators

This section provides a description of the services and major initiatives to be funded in the Budget for the 2026-27 year and how these will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives 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 and service performance outcome indicators in the Budget and report against them in its 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 Government Services

6.1 Strategic Objective 1: Naturally Beautiful

Described below are the services, major initiatives and service performance indicators for each business area to achieve our objective of Naturally Beautiful; Together we build resilience and protect and enhance our natural environment.

Services

Service areas	Description of services provided		2024/25 Actual \$'000	2025/26 Forecast \$'000	2026/27 Budget \$'000
Governance & Leadership	Deliver leadership and management to build resilience and protect and enhance our natural environment.	Income	-	-	-
		Expenditure	697	699	646
		Surplus / (Deficit)	(697)	(699)	(646)
Environmental Partnerships	Support environmental partnership relationships and oversee management agreements and projects.	Income	2	10	-
		Expenditure	351	379	378
		Surplus / (Deficit)	(349)	(369)	(378)
Environmental Policy & Strategy	Manage environmental strategies and plans.	Income	138	33	5
		Expenditure	191	234	141
		Surplus / (Deficit)	(53)	(201)	(136)
Environmental Program Delivery	Manage foreshore and bushland reserves, urban forestry and sustainability programs.	Income	97	59	21
		Expenditure	2,495	2,504	1,771
		Surplus / (Deficit)	(2,398)	(2,445)	(1,750)
Resource Recovery & Waste Management	Kerbside bin collection, manage active and closed landfills, operate Transfer Stations, waste education.	Income	3,867	3,396	3,742
		Expenditure	15,386	20,802	20,920
		Surplus / (Deficit)	(11,519)	(17,406)	(17,178)
Open Space	Maintain fit for purpose wetlands. Deliver tree planting program.	Income	-	-	-
		Expenditure	1,374	1,528	1,583
		Surplus / (Deficit)	(1,374)	(1,528)	(1,583)

6.1 Strategic Objective 1: Naturally Beautiful (continued)

Major Initiatives

1. Deliver the Urban Forestry Strategy planting program
2. Reform the Rural Land Management Program and align to Council Plan objectives, to deliver enhanced biodiversity and natural asset protection that targets high-value conservation work
3. Develop priority actions for the Circular Economy Framework
4. Partner with Bass Coast Landcare Network and Western Port Biosphere Foundation to deliver environmental leadership that promotes biodiversity, waterway health and climate resilience across the region

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Council Plan Strategic Indicators	Target or desired trend
Increase number of trees within shire townships	Council plant 1500 trees
Community satisfaction of waste management	Maintain or increase
Percentage of Council electricity use from renewable sources	100%
Increase native vegetation across the Shire	Council and partners plant 360,000 native plants in the rural landscape

Domain	Indicator	Performance Measure
Environment*	Waste management	Kerbside collection waste to landfill per serviced property
Cost	Waste management	Cost of kerbside waste collection services

* Refer to table at section 6.7 for information on the calculation of Service Performance Outcome Indicators

6.2 Strategic Objective 2: Thriving Places

Described below are the services, major initiatives and service performance indicators for each business area to achieve our objective of Thriving Places; Facilities and infrastructure meet current and future needs. Growth is sustainable and well-planned. Our economy, agriculture, tourism and industries are resilient. Unique character is preserved.

Service areas	Description of services provided		2024/25 Actual \$'000	2025/26 Forecast \$'000	2026/27 Budget \$'000
Building & Statutory Planning	Administer and enforce building requirements and regulations. Assess planning permits and other applications, provide land use advice.	Income	1,153	1,257	1,201
		Expenditure	2,791	2,791	2,935
		Surplus / (Deficit)	(1,638)	(1,534)	(1,734)
Buildings, Plant & Operations	Maintain Council owned facilities, public amenities and equipment.	Income	-	28	79
		Expenditure	3,611	4,014	4,231
		Surplus / (Deficit)	(3,611)	(3,986)	(4,152)
Economic Development	Drive sustainable economic growth by delivering strategic marketing and brand development, supporting local business, and enhancing the region through visitor experience and event development.	Income	248	123	117
		Expenditure	1,831	1,876	1,812
		Surplus / (Deficit)	(1,583)	(1,753)	(1,695)
Construction, Civil Design & Assets	Deliver, manage and maintain fit for purpose community infrastructure and assets.	Income	92	179	20
		Expenditure	2,476	2,814	2,701
		Surplus / (Deficit)	(2,384)	(2,635)	(2,681)
Development Services	Facilitate quality and functional infrastructure, Ensure development compliance.	Income	572	401	571
		Expenditure	1,322	1,403	1,483
		Surplus / (Deficit)	(750)	(1,002)	(912)
Governance & Leadership	Deliver leadership and management to ensure facilities and infrastructure meet current and future needs; Growth is sustainable and well planned; Our economy, agriculture, tourism and industries are resilient, and our unique character is preserved.	Income	-	-	-
		Expenditure	1,895	1,953	1,959
		Surplus / (Deficit)	(1,895)	(1,953)	(1,959)
Growth Area Planning	Assess planning permits. Collect and manage developer contributions. Monitor and prioritise the delivery of infrastructure.	Income	29	129	25
		Expenditure	1,299	1,406	1,731
		Surplus / (Deficit)	(1,270)	(1,277)	(1,706)
Major Projects	Master planning and advocacy for transformative projects.	Income	-	-	-
		Expenditure	123	123	127
		Surplus / (Deficit)	(123)	(123)	(127)

6.2 Strategic Objective 2: Thriving Places (continued)

Service areas	Description of services provided		Actual \$'000	Forecast \$'000	Budget \$'000
Open Space	Maintain fit for purpose open spaces, tracks and trails, playgrounds and public amenities.	<i>Income</i>	96	100	103
		<i>Expenditure</i>	4,371	4,929	5,120
		<i>Surplus / (Deficit)</i>	(4,275)	(4,829)	(5,017)
Property	Oversee Council managed land, including leases and licensing, and purchasing and sales.	<i>Income</i>	1,111	1,154	1,310
		<i>Expenditure</i>	744	608	700
		<i>Surplus / (Deficit)</i>	367	546	610
Roads & Drainage	Maintain fit for purpose local roads, footpaths and drainage systems.	<i>Income</i>	2,910	1,994	2,045
		<i>Expenditure</i>	4,696	4,924	5,018
		<i>Surplus / (Deficit)</i>	(1,786)	(2,930)	(2,973)
Structures	Maintain fit for purpose marine structures, bridges, boardwalks, major culverts, retaining walls, jetties and public artwork.	<i>Income</i>	334	58	100
		<i>Expenditure</i>	437	463	681
		<i>Surplus / (Deficit)</i>	(103)	(405)	(581)

Major Initiatives

5. Deliver Invest Bass Coast – a digital investment attraction project
6. Obtain Eco Destination Certification
7. Deliver the 2026-2027 Capital Works Program
8. Amend the Road Management Plan
9. Finalise the Bass Coast Planning Scheme Review
10. Advocate for funding for the delivery of Stage 1 of the Phillip Island Sporting Precinct
11. Finalise delivery of stage 1 of the Cowes Foreshore Precinct Project works
12. Continue Land Use Planning, Partnership Development and Master Planning of the Former Wonthaggi Secondary College Site
13. Finalise Detailed Designs for the Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre (Wonthaggi)
14. Commence a Planning Scheme Amendment to implement priority actions of the Wonthaggi Structure Plan Review
15. Finalise a Planning Scheme Amendment to implement priority actions of the San Remo Structure Plan
16. Finalise background studies for the environmental values mapping across the Shire, including the Western Port Woodlands
17. Develop the Encroachments Policy

6.2 Strategic Objective 2: Thriving Places (continued)

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Council Plan Strategic Indicators	Target or desired trend
Community satisfaction of sealed roads	Maintain or increase
Percentage of Council's Capital Works Program completed	80%
Renewal Funding Ratio	85-115%
Community satisfaction of recreational facilities	Maintain or increase
Annual total number of visits to leisure centres	Maintain or increase
Community satisfaction of the appearance of public areas	Maintain or increase
Community satisfaction of tourism development	Maintain or increase
Number of business permit applications supported through Council's Business Concierge Program	Maintain or increase

Domain	Indicator	Performance Measure
Environment*	Roads	Sealed local roads below the intervention level
Responsiveness*	Statutory planning	Planning applications decided within the relevant required time

* Refer to table at section 6.7 for information on the calculation of Service Performance Outcome Indicators

6.3 Strategic Objective 3: Vibrant Communities

Described below are the services, major initiatives and service performance indicators for each business area to achieve our objective of Vibrant Communities; Communities are healthy, inclusive, safe and socially connected. Communities celebrate opportunity, recreation, diversity, heritage and reconciliation.

Service areas	Description of services provided		2024/25 Actual \$'000	2025/26 Forecast \$'000	2026/27 Budget \$'000
Arts Culture & Heritage	Deliver vibrant cultural experiences including activating cultural facilities and supporting creative community projects.	Income	1,196	1,153	1,143
		Expenditure	2,701	2,684	2,650
		Surplus / (Deficit)	(1,505)	(1,531)	(1,507)
Community Wellbeing	Supports people at every stage of life to build inclusive and connected communities. Promote inclusion, accessibility, and safe, welcoming spaces for all. Manage contracted service of maternal child health, youth services and libraries. Coordinate kindergarten enrolment services and deliver immunisation and community grants.	Income	258	303	108
		Expenditure	4,427	4,810	4,757
		Surplus / (Deficit)	(4,169)	(4,507)	(4,649)
Community Safety & Resilience	Administer local laws, domestic animal management, school crossings, parking enforcement, boat ramp operations, environmental health and other regulatory compliance. Lead emergency management response and community safety initiatives.	Income	2,177	2,240	2,311
		Expenditure	3,361	3,967	3,894
		Surplus / (Deficit)	(1,184)	(1,727)	(1,583)
Customer & Visitor Experience	Deliver high quality customer service that is welcoming and inclusive.	Income	266	270	284
		Expenditure	2,361	2,357	2,388
		Surplus / (Deficit)	(2,095)	(2,087)	(2,104)
Governance & Leadership	Deliver leadership and management to ensure communities are healthy, inclusive, safe and socially connected; Foster communities that celebrate opportunity, recreation, diversity, heritage and reconciliation.	Income	-	-	-
		Expenditure	438	467	186
		Surplus / (Deficit)	(438)	(467)	(186)
Recreation & Leisure	Planning, maintenance and service delivery of recreation facilities, sporting grounds, leisure facilities, projects, programs and strategies.	Income	33	42	15
		Expenditure	1,691	1,910	1,774
		Surplus / (Deficit)	(1,658)	(1,868)	(1,759)
Transport & Movement	Transport planning, traffic and road safety, Electric Vehicle (EV) charging, road and drainage upgrade projects.	Income	-	6	-
		Expenditure	770	719	924
		Surplus / (Deficit)	(770)	(713)	(924)

6.3 Strategic Objective 3: Vibrant Communities (continued)

Major Initiatives

18. Deliver the Healthy, Safe and Resilience Plan 2025-2029 and Disability Action Plan 2025-2029
19. Deliver the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029
20. Develop the 2026-2029 Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) in partnership with Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee agencies
21. Implement the First Nations Framework and further engage the Bass Coast First Nations Communities in development of inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan.
22. Develop the Marketing and Audience Development Strategy 2026-2029 for Arts, Culture and Heritage
23. Progress implementation of dinosaur trail masterplan

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Council Plan Strategic Indicators	Target or desired trend
Youth Services contract KPIs met or exceeded	≥ 85 % of KPIs met or exceeded each year
Community satisfaction with art centres and libraries	Maintain or increase
Community satisfaction with community and cultural activities	Maintain or increase

Domain	Indicator	Performance Measure
Community	Library services	Library membership
Cost	Library services	Cost of library services
Responsiveness	Food safety	Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications

* Refer to table at section 6.7 for information on the calculation of Service Performance Outcome Indicators

6.4 Strategic Objective 4: Visionary Leadership

Described below are the services, major initiatives and service performance indicators for each business area to achieve our objective of Visionary Leadership; Our communities flourish through leadership that is open and responsible, ensuring decisions serve the communities best interests, and comply with legislative obligations.

Service areas	Description of services provided		2024/25 Actual \$'000	2025/26 Forecast \$'000	2026/27 Budget \$'000
Communications & Engagement	Provide relevant and accessible information, engage authentically with the community, and advocate for its needs.	<i>Income</i>	-	-	-
		<i>Expenditure</i>	903	996	1,114
		<i>Surplus / (Deficit)</i>	(903)	(996)	(1,114)
Corporate Planning and Performance	Provide strategic planning and performance reporting to support organisational goals and compliance.	<i>Income</i>	-	-	-
		<i>Expenditure</i>	445	424	467
		<i>Surplus / (Deficit)</i>	(445)	(424)	(467)
Finance, Systems & HR	Manage financial operations, business systems, and strategic procurement. Deliver HR functions including recruitment, workforce planning, employee relations, health, safety and wellbeing and development.	<i>Income</i>	3,003	2,775	2,157
		<i>Expenditure</i>	9,961	11,844	12,367
		<i>Surplus / (Deficit)</i>	(6,958)	(9,069)	(10,208)
Governance & Leadership	Deliver governance and leadership for Council, including Councillors and management.	<i>Income</i>	67	84	19
		<i>Expenditure</i>	3,470	2,976	2,666
		<i>Surplus / (Deficit)</i>	(3,403)	(2,892)	(2,647)
Governance	Deliver governance for Council, including Council meetings, compliance, Audit and Risk Committee, insurance, risk management and corporate information.	<i>Income</i>	-	1	2
		<i>Expenditure</i>	2,191	2,479	2,529
		<i>Surplus / (Deficit)</i>	(2,191)	(2,478)	(2,527)

Major Initiatives

24. Enhance customer experience by improving engagement channels
25. Finalise a review of the Waste Service Charge
26. Deliver a new Council website
27. Deliver the Workforce Plan 2026-2029
28. Actively champion Council's advocacy priorities
29. Deliver sector leading beach safety through partnership

6.4 Strategic Objective 4: Visionary Leadership (continued)

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Council Plan Strategic Indicators	Target or desired trend
Views on Engage Bass Coast website	Maintain or increase
Responsive customer service	≥ 70% resolution at first contact via customer service
Community satisfaction with customer service	Maintain or increase
Enable more efficient interactions with Council	Increase annually % of digital interactions
Percentage of total income from sources other than rates	Maintain or increase
Community satisfaction with Overall Council direction	Maintain or increase
Community satisfaction with Value for money	Maintain or increase
Community satisfaction with Council decisions	Maintain or increase
Community satisfaction with overall Council performance	Maintain or increase
Community satisfaction with lobbying on behalf of community	Maintain or increase
Community satisfaction with informing community	Maintain or increase

Domain	Indicator	Performance Measure
Governance*	Community engagement	Satisfaction with the opportunities offered by Council to be consulted on or engaged in Council decisions
Governance	Financial decisions	Total unpaid rates and charges

* Refer to table at section 6.7 for information on the calculation of Service Performance Outcome Indicators

6.7 Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Governance	Community engagement	Satisfaction with the opportunities offered by Council to be consulted on or engaged in Council decisions (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
	Financial decisions	Total unpaid rates and charges (total unpaid rates and charges and unpaid interest on rates and charges for all financial years as a percentage of all rates and charges for the financial year)	[Sum of unpaid rates and charges and unpaid interest on rates and charges for all financial years / Sum of all rates and charges for the financial year] x100
Community	Library services	Library membership (Percentage of the population that are registered library members)	[Number of registered library members / Population] x100
Environment	Roads	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
	Waste management	Kerbside collection waste to landfill per serviced property (amount of waste collected from kerbside waste collection services that is sent to landfill per serviced property)	Amount of waste in tonnes (t) collected from kerbside waste collection services that is sent to landfill / Number of serviced properties
Responsiveness	Food safety	Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications. (Percentage of critical and major non-compliance outcome 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
	Statutory planning	Planning applications decided within the relevant required time (percentage of regular and VicSmart planning application decisions made within the relevant required time)	[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
Cost	Library services	Cost of library services (direct cost of library services per head of population)	Direct cost of library services / Population
	Waste management	Cost of kerbside waste collection services (direct cost of kerbside waste collection services per serviced property)	Direct cost of kerbside waste collection services / Number of serviced properties

6.8 Performance Statement

Any service performance indicators detailed in the preceding pages will be reported on in the Performance Statement which is prepared at the end of the year as required by Section 98 of the Act and included in the 2026-27 Annual Report. The Performance Statement will also include reporting on prescribed indicators of financial management and financial forecasting (outlined in Section 9.3). Some of these prescribed indicators are not included in this Budget report. The prescribed performance indicators contained in the Performance Statement 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.

6.9 Reconciliation with budgeted operating result

Strategic Objectives	Surplus/ (Deficit) \$'000	Expenditure \$'000	Income / Revenue \$'000
Naturally Beautiful	(21,671)	25,439	3,768
Thriving Places	(22,927)	28,498	5,571
Vibrant Communities	(12,712)	16,573	3,861
Visionary Leadership	(16,965)	19,143	2,178
Total	(74,275)	89,653	15,378
Expenses added in:			
Depreciation & Amortisation	29,980		
Borrowing Costs	876		
Finance costs - leases	46		
Other expenses/Adjustments	45		
Landfill Provision Amounts Used	(1,451)		
Deficit before funding sources	(103,770)		
Funding sources added in			
Rates & charges	84,692		
General Purpose Financial Assistance Grant	7,368		
Capital Grants	6,325		
Capital Contributions	1,086		
Total funding sources	99,471		
Operating surplus/(deficit) for the year	(4,299)		

7 Financial Statements

This section presents information in regard to the Financial Statements and Statement of Human Resources. The Budget information for the year 2026-27 has been supplemented with projections to 2029-30.

This section includes financial statements in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

Unless otherwise stated, amounts in the financial report have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars. Figures in the financial statement may not equate due to rounding.

7.1 Comprehensive Income Statement

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

		Forecast				
		Actual	Budget	Projections		
		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
	NOTES	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income / Revenue						
Rates and charges	8.1.1	81267	84692	88560	92388	96392
Statutory fees and fines	8.1.2	3399	3808	3942	4081	4225
User fees	8.1.3	5614	6214	6433	6660	6895
Grants - operating	8.1.4	10249	9866	9936	10185	10439
Grants - capital	8.1.4	16737	6325	4827	8667	15622
Contributions - monetary	8.1.5	569	1308	1113	798	694
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		92	0	0	0	0
Other income	8.1.6	3240	2636	2477	2525	2413
Total income / revenue		121167	114849	117289	125304	136680
Expenses						
Employee costs	8.1.7	39299	40771	42140	43838	45605
Materials and services	8.1.8	44974	43611	43082	43814	44821
Depreciation	8.1.9	28607	29288	31896	35212	36613
Amortisation - intangible assets	8.1.10	350	357	365	372	379
Depreciation - right of use assets	8.1.11	368	334	321	333	345
Allowance for impairment losses		47	14	10	10	10
Borrowing costs	8.2.1	1081	876	757	701	1009
Finance costs - leases		46	46	56	48	39
Other expenses	8.1.12	4413	3851	3983	4122	4268
Total expenses		119185	119148	122610	128450	133089
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		1,982	(4,299)	(5,321)	(3,146)	3,590
Total comprehensive result		1,982	(4,299)	(5,321)	(3,146)	3,590

7.2 Balance Sheet

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

	NOTES	Forecast			
		Actual 2025/26	Budget 2026/27	Projections 2027/28	Projections 2028/29
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents		24,245	14,748	8,024	10,527
Trade and other receivables		11,955	9,919	10,104	10,838
Other financial assets		27,776	27,776	27,776	27,776
Inventories		55	55	55	55
Other assets		1,346	1,363	1,381	1,399
Total current assets		65,377	53,862	47,340	50,595
Non-current assets					
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment		1,355,224	1,355,839	1,353,218	1,352,503
Right-of-use assets		762	1,781	1,524	1,248
Intangible assets		2,518	4,832	4,964	4,592
Total non-current assets		1,358,504	1,362,451	1,359,707	1,358,343
Total assets		1,423,881	1,416,313	1,407,047	1,408,938
Liabilities					
Current liabilities					
Trade and other payables		9,666	7,633	7,689	7,928
Trust funds and deposits		2,379	2,427	2,475	2,525
Contract and other liabilities		15,908	15,908	15,908	15,908
Provisions		11,023	9,213	9,111	10,182
Interest-bearing liabilities	8.2.1	5,012	5,058	2,295	2,992
Lease liabilities	8.2.3	260	291	312	333
Total current liabilities		44,248	40,530	37,789	39,868
Non-current liabilities					
Provisions		12,146	15,090	15,246	13,834
Interest-bearing liabilities	8.2.1	19,105	15,623	14,521	19,180
Lease liabilities	8.2.3	536	1,524	1,265	977
Total non-current liabilities		31,787	32,237	31,032	33,991
Total liabilities		76,035	72,767	68,821	73,859
Net assets		1,347,846	1,343,547	1,338,225	1,335,080
Equity					
Accumulated surplus		382,664	386,358	387,219	380,767
Reserves		965,182	957,189	951,006	954,313
Total equity		1,347,846	1,343,547	1,338,225	1,335,080

7.3 Statement of Changes in Equity

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

	NOTES	Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Revaluation Reserve \$'000	Other Reserves \$'000
2026 Forecast Actual					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,345,864	368,488	930,596	46,780
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		1,982	1,982	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain /(loss)		-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves		-	(4,031)	-	4,031
Transfers from other reserves		-	16,223	-	(16,223)
Balance at end of the financial year		1,347,846	382,662	930,596	34,588
2027 Budget					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,347,846	382,662	930,596	34,588
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(4,299)	(4,299)	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain /(loss)		-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves	8.3.1	-	(2,133)	-	2,133
Transfers from other reserves	8.3.1	-	10,126	-	(10,126)
Balance at end of the financial year		1,343,547	386,356	930,596	26,595
2028					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,343,547	386,356	930,596	26,595
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(5,321)	(5,321)	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain /(loss)		-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves		-	(679)	-	679
Transfers from other reserves		-	6,862	-	(6,862)
Balance at end of the financial year		1,338,225	387,217	930,596	20,412
2029					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,338,225	387,217	930,596	20,412
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(3,146)	(3,146)	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain /(loss)		-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves		-	(3,647)	-	3,647
Transfers from other reserves		-	340	-	(340)
Balance at end of the financial year		1,335,080	380,765	930,596	23,719
2030					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,335,080	380,765	930,596	23,719
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		3,590	3,590	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain /(loss)		-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves		-	(2,709)	-	2,709
Transfers from other reserves		-	2,983	-	(2,983)
Balance at end of the financial year		1,338,670	384,629	930,596	23,445

7.4 Statement of Cash Flows

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

NOTES	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
	Actual 2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities					
Rates and charges	85,071	85,278	87,810	91,593	95,591
Statutory fees and fines	3,399	4,239	4,325	4,475	4,634
User fees	5,853	6,918	7,057	7,303	7,562
Grants - operating	9,713	9,985	9,932	10,161	10,418
Grants - capital	14,924	6,401	4,951	8,350	15,050
Interest received	2,112	1,710	1,528	1,553	1,416
Trust funds and deposits taken	87	48	49	50	50
Other receipts	2,501	2,971	2,773	2,475	2,381
Net GST refund / payment	5,333	6,995	6,243	6,784	8,203
Employee costs	(37,551)	(41,671)	(42,045)	(43,697)	(45,468)
Materials and services	(48,495)	(46,030)	(45,313)	(46,764)	(49,482)
Other payments	(6,597)	(8,755)	(6,850)	(6,116)	(5,725)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	36,350	28,088	30,460	36,166	44,631
Cash flows from investing activities					
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(39,280)	(33,383)	(32,684)	(38,337)	(53,924)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	700	490	481	391	476
Payments for investments	3,664	-	-	-	-
Net cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities	(34,916)	(32,893)	(32,203)	(37,947)	(53,448)
Cash flows from financing activities					
Finance costs	(1,081)	(876)	(757)	(701)	(1,009)
Proceeds from borrowings	2,000	1,340	1,200	7,700	10,750
Repayment of borrowings	(7,138)	(4,776)	(5,065)	(2,344)	(3,017)
Interest paid - lease liability	(46)	(46)	(56)	(48)	(39)
Repayment of lease liabilities	(355)	(334)	(302)	(323)	(346)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	(6,620)	(4,692)	(4,981)	4,284	6,340
Net increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents	(5,186)	(9,497)	(6,724)	2,503	(2,478)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	29,431	24,245	14,748	8,024	10,527
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year	24,245	14,748	8,024	10,527	8,049

7.5 Statement of Capital Works

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

	NOTES	Forecast	Budget	2027/28	Projections	
		Actual 2025/26			2028/29	2029/30
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Property						
Land improvements		11,291	6,678	5,441	6,485	5,636
Total land		11,291	6,678	5,441	6,485	5,636
Buildings		7,951	5,672	4,999	14,334	28,284
Total buildings		7,951	5,672	4,999	14,334	28,284
Total property		19,242	12,350	10,440	20,819	33,920
Plant and equipment						
Plant, machinery and equipment		3,676	1,480	1,520	1,450	1,430
Computers and telecommunications		700	768	660	660	660
Other infrastructure		-	-	104	-	109
Total plant and equipment		4,376	2,248	2,284	2,110	2,199
Infrastructure						
Roads		9,602	6,818	5,859	6,315	6,619
Bridges		971	1,760	2,000	2,000	2,100
Footpaths and cycleways		3,023	3,257	2,247	1,706	636
Drainage		1,434	970	1,070	1,000	1,270
Waste management		632	2,944	5,813	902	2,278
Total infrastructure		15,662	15,749	16,989	11,923	12,903
Total capital works expenditure	8.4.1	39,280	30,348	29,713	34,852	49,022
Represented by:						
New asset expenditure		14,806	8,660	8,130	13,975	25,959
Asset renewal expenditure		19,120	15,369	16,666	16,636	18,064
Asset expansion expenditure		655	1,535	1,697	270	1,629
Asset upgrade expenditure		4,699	4,784	3,220	3,971	3,370
Total capital works expenditure	8.4.1	39,280	30,348	29,713	34,852	49,022
Funding sources represented by:						
Grants		16,737	6,325	4,827	8,667	15,622
Contributions		284	1,086	885	565	455
Council cash		19,334	21,597	22,800	17,920	22,195
Borrowings		2,925	1,340	1,200	7,700	10,750
Total capital works expenditure	8.4.1	39,280	30,348	29,713	34,852	49,022

7.6 Funding Impact Statement

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

	Forecast				
	Actual	Budget	Projections		
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
NOTES	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue					
Rates and charges	81,266	84,692	88,560	92,388	96,392
Statutory fees and fines	3,399	3,808	3,942	4,081	4,225
User fees	5,614	6,214	6,433	6,660	6,895
Grants - operating	10,250	9,866	9,936	10,185	10,439
Contributions - monetary	285	222	228	233	239
Interest revenue	2,108	1,710	1,528	1,553	1,416
Other income	1,132	926	949	973	997
Total revenue	104,054	107,438	111,576	116,072	120,603
Proceeds					
Sale of assets	701	445	438	355	433
Total proceeds	701	445	438	355	433
Expenses					
Employee costs	(39,299)	(40,771)	(42,140)	(43,838)	(45,605)
Materials and services	(44,966)	(43,611)	(42,907)	(43,376)	(44,264)
Borrowing costs	(1,081)	(876)	(757)	(701)	(1,009)
Interest on leases	(46)	(46)	(56)	(48)	(39)
Other expenses	(4,444)	(3,865)	(4,168)	(4,571)	(4,835)
Total expenses	(89,836)	(89,168)	(90,029)	(92,534)	(95,752)
Reserve fund movements					
Transfers from/(to) reserves	12,192	7,993	6,183	(3,307)	274
Net reserve movements	12,192	7,993	6,183	(3,307)	274
Capital expenditure and income					
Grants - capital	16,737	6,325	4,827	8,667	15,622
Contributions - monetary	284	1,086	885	565	455
Repayment of borrowings	(7,138)	(4,776)	(5,065)	(2,344)	(3,017)
Repayment of lease liabilities	(364)	(334)	(302)	(323)	(346)
New loans	2,000	1,340	1,200	7,700	10,750
Capital works	(39,280)	(30,348)	(29,713)	(34,852)	(49,022)
Net capital works and income	(27,761)	(26,707)	(28,168)	(20,587)	(25,558)
Surplus/(deficit)	(650)	-	-	-	-

7.7 Statement of Human Resources

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

	Forecast	Budget	Projections		
	Actual				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Employee Expenditure					
Employee costs - operating	39,299	40,771	42,140	43,838	45,605
Employee costs - capital	1,549	1,926	1,990	2,070	2,154
Total employee expenditure	40,849	42,697	44,130	45,909	47,759
Employee numbers					
Employee	349.1	352.1	353.7	357.7	361.7
Total employee numbers	349.1	352.1	353.7	357.7	361.7

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

Division	Budget	Comprises			
		Permanent			
		Full time	Part time	Casual	Temporary
	2026/27				
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Chief Executive Office	520	520	-	-	-
Community and Culture	16,942	13,921	2,481	458	82
Future Places	12,997	11,679	1,318	-	-
Innovation and Engagement	12,148	10,006	2,078	-	64
Total permanent employee expenditure	42,606				
Other employee related expenditure	90				
Capitalised labour costs	(1,926)				
Total expenditure	40,771				

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

Division	Budget	Comprises			
		Permanent			
		Full Time	Part time	Casual	Temporary
	2026/27				
Chief Executive Office	2.0	2.0	-	-	-
Community and Culture	151.7	123.0	27.1	-	1.6
Future Places	97.8	85.0	12.8	-	-
Innovation and Engagement	100.6	79.0	20.8	-	0.8
Total staff	352.1	289.0	60.7	-	2.4

7.8 Human Resources by Gender

Summary of Planned Human Resources Expenditure

For the four years ending 30 June 2030

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Chief Executive Office				
Permanent - Full time	520	535	551	568
Women	147	151	156	160
Men	373	384	396	408
Total Chief Executive Office	520	535	551	568
Community and Culture				
Permanent - Full time	13,921	14,428	15,013	15,621
Women	4,498	4,688	4,877	5,075
Men	8,734	9,028	9,394	9,774
Vacant positions	689	712	741	771
Permanent - Part time	2,481	2,564	2,668	2,776
Women	1,218	1,259	1,310	1,363
Men	1,099	1,136	1,182	1,230
Vacant positions	164	170	177	184
Total Community and Culture	16,402	16,992	17,681	18,397
Future Places				
Permanent - Full time	11,679	12,148	12,640	13,152
Women	3,623	3,821	3,976	4,137
Men	7,276	7,521	7,826	8,143
Vacant positions	779	806	838	872
Permanent - Part time	1,318	1,362	1,418	1,475
Women	929	961	1,000	1,040
Men	333	344	358	372
Vacant positions	56	58	60	63
Total Future Places	12,997	13,510	14,057	14,627
Innovation and Engagement				
Permanent - Full time	10,006	10,381	10,801	11,239
Women	6,710	6,936	7,217	7,509
Men	2,677	2,805	2,919	3,037
Vacant positions	619	639	665	692
Permanent - Part time	2,078	2,148	2,235	2,326
Women	1,712	1,770	1,841	1,916
Men	77	79	82	86
Vacant positions	290	299	311	324
Total Innovation and Engagement	12,084	12,529	13,037	13,565
Casuals, temporary and other expenditure	694	563	583	603
Capitalised labour costs	(1,926)	(1,990)	(2,070)	(2,154)
Total staff expenditure	40,771	42,140	43,838	45,605

7.8 Human Resources by Gender (continued)

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
Chief Executive Office				
Permanent - Full time	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Women	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Men	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total Chief Executive Office	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Community and Culture				
Permanent - Full time	123.0	124.0	125.0	126.0
Women	35.0	36.0	37.0	38.0
Men	81.0	81.0	81.0	81.0
Vacant positions	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Permanent - Part time	27.1	27.1	27.1	27.1
Women	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5
Men	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9
Vacant positions	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Total Community and Culture	150.1	151.1	152.1	153.1
Future Places				
Permanent - Full time	85.0	87.0	89.0	91.0
Women	26.0	28.0	30.0	32.0
Men	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0
Vacant positions	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
Permanent - Part time	12.8	12.8	12.8	12.8
Women	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9
Men	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
Vacant positions	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Total Future Places	97.8	99.8	101.8	103.8
Innovation and Engagement				
Permanent - Full time	79.0	80.0	81.0	82.0
Women	52.0	52.0	52.0	52.0
Men	19.0	20.0	21.0	22.0
Vacant positions	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Permanent - Part time	20.8	20.8	20.8	20.8
Women	16.4	16.4	16.4	16.4
Men	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Vacant positions	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
Total Innovation and Engagement	99.8	100.8	101.8	102.8
Casuals and temporary employees	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Capitalised labour*	16	16	16	16
Total employee numbers	352.1	353.7	357.7	361.7

*this does not have any impact on total employee numbers

8 Notes to the financial statements

8.1 Comprehensive Income Statement

8.1.1 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 2026-27 the FGRS cap has been set at 2.75%. The cap applies to general rates 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 will increase by 2.75% in line with the rate cap.

This will raise total rates and charges for 2025-26 to \$84,692,000.

8.1.1(a) Reconciliation of total rates and charges

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

	Forecast		Change \$'000	Change %
	Actual	Budget		
	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000		
General rates*	61,604	63,728	2,124	3.4%
Service rates and charges	18,971	20,073	1,102	5.8%
Supplementary rates and rate adjustments	395	424	29	7.3%
Interest on rates and charges	261	435	174	66.7%
Revenue in lieu of rates	36	32	(4)	(11.1%)
Total rates and charges	81,267	84,692	3,425	4.2%

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

8.1.1(b) Rate in the dollar to be levied as general rates

The rate in the dollar to be levied as general rates under section 158 of the *Local Government Act 1989* for each type or class of land compared with the previous financial year

General rate for rateable properties	2025/26	2026/27	Change %
	Cents / \$ CIV	Cents / \$ CIV	
Residential	0.23121000	0.23911223	3.4%
Farm	0.18496000	0.15542295	(16.0%)
Commercial	0.23121000	0.23911223	3.4%
Industrial	0.23121000	0.23911223	3.4%
Vacant Land	0.34682000	0.47822445	37.9%
Recreational	0.13872600	0.14346734	3.4%

These rate calculations are subject to change following the finalisation of the valuation by the Valuer General Victoria.

8.1.1(c) Estimated total amount to be raised by general rates

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	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	Change \$'000	Change %
Residential	50,082	51,296	1,214	2.4%
Farm	3,978	3,333	(646)	(16.2%)
Commercial	2,156	2,368	212	9.8%
Industrial	684	732	48	7.0%
Vacant Land	4,665	5,960	1,294	27.7%
Recreational	38	40	1	3.4%
Total amount to be raised by general rates	61,604	63,728	2,123	3.4%

8.1.1(d) Number of assessments

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

Type or class of land	2025/26 Number	2026/27 Number	Change Number	Change %
Residential	29,636	29,945	309	1.0%
Farm	1,002	1,014	12	1.2%
Commercial	930	931	1	0.1%
Industrial	460	478	18	3.9%
Vacant Land	2,619	2,494	(125)	(4.8%)
Recreational	20	20	-	0.0%
Total number of assessments	34,667	34,882	215	0.6%

8.1.1(e) Basis of valuation

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

8.1.1(f) Estimated total value of land

Type or class of land	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	Change \$'000	Change %
Residential	21,657,630	21,452,550	(205,080)	(0.9%)
Farm	2,150,245	2,144,310	(5,935)	(0.3%)
Commercial	964,180	990,375	26,195	2.7%
Industrial	272,185	306,128	33,943	12.5%
Vacant Land	1,342,189	1,246,196	(95,993)	(7.2%)
Recreational	27,560	27,560	-	0.0%
Total value of land	26,413,989	26,167,119	(246,870)	(0.9%)

8.1.1(g) Rate or unit amount to be levied

The rate or unit amount to be levied for each type of service rate or charge under Section 162 of the *Local Government Act 1989* compared with the previous financial year and detailed disclosure of the actual services rendered for the amount levied:

Type of Charge	2025/26	2026/27	Change	Change
	\$	\$	\$	%
Waste charge	618.00	669.51	51.51	8.3%
- 240 Litre organics				
- 240 litre recycle				
- 120 litre landfill				
Waste charge - with 20% Pensioner Rebate	618.00	535.60	- 82.40	(13.3%)
Additional recycling 240 litre bin	128.00	139.50	11.50	9.0%
Additional recycling 240 litre bin - commercial	128.00	139.50	11.50	9.0%
Additional organics 240 litre bin	161.00	175.50	14.50	9.0%
Additional organics 240 litre bin - commercial	161.00	175.50	14.50	9.0%
Additional landfill 120 litre bin	160.00	174.40	14.40	9.0%
Additional landfill 120 litre bin - commercial	161.50	176.00	14.50	9.0%
Additional landfill 240 litre bin	283.00	308.50	25.50	9.0%
Additional landfill 240 litre bin - commercial	286.50	312.30	25.80	9.0%
Upsized landfill bin (120 litre to 240 litre)	123.60	133.90	10.30	8.3%
Upsized landfill bin with a medical exemption	-	-	-	0.0%

8.1.1(h) Estimated total amount to be raised

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	2025/26	2026/27	Change	Change
	\$	\$	\$	%
Waste	18,926,164	20,073,016	1,146,852	6.1%
Total service rates and charges	18,926,164	20,073,016	1,146,852	6.1%

8.1.1(i) Estimated total amount to be raised by supplementary charges

The estimated total amount to be raised by supplementary charges compared with the previous financial year:

Type of Charge	2025/26	2026/27	Change	Change
	\$	\$	\$	%
Supplementary rates	600,000	320,000	(280,000)	(46.7%)
Supplementary Waste charges	120,000	104,000	(16,000)	(13.3%)
Total supplementary rates and charges	720,000	424,000	(296,000)	(41.1%)

8.1.1(j) Estimated total amount to be raised by all rates and charges

The estimated total amount to be raised by all rates and charges compared with the previous financial year:

Type of Charge	2025/26	2026/27	Change	Change
	\$	\$	\$	%
General rates	61,603,510	63,727,669	2,124,159	3.4%
Waste management charge	18,926,164	20,073,016	1,146,852	6.1%
Supplementary rates	720,000	424,000	(296,000)	(41.1%)
Revenue in lieu of rates	35,000	32,000	(3,000)	(8.6%)
Total rates and charges	81,284,674	84,256,685	2,972,011	3.7%

Revenue in lieu of rates comprises charges under the *Electricity Industries Act 2000* s94(4).

8.1.1(k) Fair Go Rates System Compliance

Bass Coast Shire Council is required to comply with the State Government's Fair Go Rates System (FGRS). The table below details the Budget assumptions consistent with the requirements of the Fair Go Rates System:

	2025/26	2026/27
Total rates	\$ 59,813,388	\$ 62,025,659
Number of rateable properties	34,667	34,882
Base average rate	\$ 1,725	\$ 1,778
Maximum rate increase (set by Government)	3.00%	2.75%
Capped average rate	\$ 1,777	\$ 1,827
Maximum general rates	\$ 61,607,790	\$ 63,731,365
Budget general rates	\$ 61,603,510	\$ 63,727,669
Budgeted supplementary rates	\$ 720,000	\$ 424,000
Budgeted total rates	\$ 62,323,510	\$ 64,151,669

8.1.1(l) 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 (2026-27: estimated \$320,000 and 2025-26: \$600,000)
- The variation of returned levels of value (e.g. valuation appeals)
- Changes in use of land such that rateable land becomes non-rateable land and vice versa
- Changes in use of land such that residential land becomes business land and vice versa.

8.1.1(m) Differential rates

Council has applied the differential rates system in calculating the general rate percentage in the dollar of CIV for rateable properties in Bass Coast.

The objective of differential rating is to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including (but not limited to) the:

- Construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets
- Development and provision of health and community services
- Provision of general Council operations and support services.

The level of the differential rates is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land.

Council has considered the 'Ministerial Guidelines for Differential Rating' issued by the Minister for Local Government.

These guidelines seek to ensure that when using differential rating Council consider the following:

- Council rates are a tax and hence good practice taxation principles should be applied in determining the application of differential rates
- Ensure that differential rating categories have regard to the strategic objectives set out in the Council Plan
- How the use of the differential rating contributes to the equitable and efficient carrying out of Council's functions compared to the use of a uniform rate.

8.1.1(n) Differential rates to be levied

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

- A general rate of 100% (0.239112 cents in the dollar) of CIV for all rateable residential, commercial and industrial properties
- A general rate of 65% (0.155423 cents in the dollar) of CIV for all rateable farm properties
- A general rate of 200% (0.478224 cents in the dollar) of CIV for all rateable vacant land from all categories
- A general rate of 60% (0.143467 cents in the dollar) of CIV for all rateable recreational and cultural properties.

Each differential rate will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of rateable land (categorised by the characteristics described below) by the relevant rate in the dollar as listed above.

Details of the types of classes of land which are subject to each differential rate and the uses of each differential rate are set out below.

8.1.1(o) Residential land

Residential land is any land excluding vacant land, which is:

- Not zoned for farming, commercial, industrial or recreational uses; and,
- Is not developed with public housing.

The types and classes of rateable land within this differential rate are those having the relevant characteristics described above.

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is where it is located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

The use of the land within this differential rate, in the case of improved land, is any use of land.

The characteristics of planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of vacant land, which will be subject to the rate applicable to vacant land. The classification of land which is improved will be determined by the occupation of that land, and have reference to the planning scheme zoning.

The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings already on the land or which will be constructed prior to the expiry of the 2026-27 financial year.

8.1.1(p) Commercial land

Commercial land is any land which is:

- Occupied for the principal purpose of carrying out the manufacture, production of, or trade in, goods or services; and,
- Not zoned for residential, farm, industrial, public housing or recreational uses.

The types and classes of rateable land within this differential rate are those having the relevant characteristics described above with the additional basis of contributing towards economic development and tourism.

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is wherever it is located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

The use of the land within this differential rate, in the case of improved land, is any use of land.

The characteristics of planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of vacant land, which will be subject to the rate applicable to vacant land. The classification of land which is improved will be determined by the occupation of that land, and have reference to the planning scheme zoning.

The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings already constructed on the land or which will be constructed prior to the expiry of the 2026-27 financial year.

8.1.1(q) Industrial land

Industrial land is any land which is:

- Primarily used for industrial purposes and is zoned for that use; and,
- Does not have the characteristics of residential, farm, commercial, vacant public housing or recreational land.

The types and classes of rateable land within this differential rate are those having the relevant characteristics described above with the additional basis of contributing towards economic development.

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is wherever it is located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

The use of the land within this differential rate, in the case of improved land, is any use of land.

The characteristics of planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of vacant land which will be subject to the rate applicable to vacant land. The classification of land which is improved will be determined by the occupation of that land, and have reference to the planning scheme zoning.

The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings already constructed on the land or which will be constructed prior to the expiry of the 2026-27 financial year.

8.1.1(r) Farm land

Farm land is any land which is:

- Defined as "farm land" in Section 2 of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960* ;
- Zoned to allow for the land to be used for rural and/or farming purposes; and,
- May contain buildings used as a residence and for farming purposes, and also comprises land with no buildings.

The types and classes of rateable land within this differential rate are those having the relevant characteristics described above with the additional basis that such properties provide broader environmental benefits to the wider community through activities such as removal of noxious weeds, retention of native vegetation and undertake management of water quality and riparian zones on waterways and in recognition of the visual amenity and resulting economic benefits to the wider community.

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is wherever it is located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

The characteristics of planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of vacant land, which will be subject to the rate applicable to vacant land. The classification of land which is improved will be determined by the occupation of that land, and have reference to the planning scheme zoning.

The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings already constructed on the land or which will be constructed prior to the expiry of the 2026-27 financial year.

8.1.1(s) Vacant land

Vacant land is any land which is:

- Considered vacant in that it has no buildings or dwellings constructed on it prior to the expiry of the 2025-26 financial year; and,
- May include land zoned as residential, commercial, industrial or rural residential.

The types and classes of rateable land within this differential rate are those having the relevant characteristics described above with the additional basis of promoting responsible land management through appropriate maintenance and development of the land and ensuring that the foregone community and economic development resulting from underutilisation of land is minimised.

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is wherever it is located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

The characteristics of planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of vacant land which will be subject to the rate applicable to vacant land. The classification of land which is improved will be determined by the occupation of that land, and have reference to the planning scheme zoning.

8.1.1(t) Recreational land

Recreational Land is any land that has the characteristics of 'recreational lands' as defined by section 2 of the *Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963*.

The types and classes of rateable land within this differential rate are those having the relevant characteristics described above with the additional basis that the land and facilities contribute towards the enjoyment of residents of and visitors to the municipal district.

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is wherever it is located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

The characteristics of planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of vacant land which will be subject to the rate applicable to vacant land. The classification of land which is improved will be determined by the occupation of that land, and have reference to the planning scheme zoning.

The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings already constructed on the land or which will be constructed prior to the expiry of the 2026-27 financial year.

8.1.2 Statutory fees and fines

	Forecast		Change \$'000	Change %
	Actual	Budget		
	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000		
Infringements and costs	418	409	(9)	(2.2%)
Town planning fees	240	440	200	83.5%
Land information certificates	90	90	0	0.5%
Permits	2,651	2,869	217	8.2%
Total statutory fees and fines	3,399	3,808	409	12.0%

8.1.3 User Fees

	Forecast		Change \$'000	Change %
	Actual	Budget		
	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000		
Aged and health services	9	10	1	6.2%
Leisure centre and recreation	1,095	1,284	188	17.2%
Waste management services	2,974	3,297	323	10.8%
Other fees and charges	1,535	1,624	89	5.8%
Total user fees	5,614	6,214	600	10.7%

8.1.4 Grants

	Forecast Actual 2025/26 \$'000	Budget 2026/27 \$'000	Change \$'000	Change %
Grants were received in respect of the following:				
Summary of grants				
Commonwealth funded grants	13,612	11,217	(2,395)	(17.6%)
State funded grants	13,374	4,974	(8,400)	(62.8%)
Total grants received	26,986	16,191	(10,795)	(40.0%)
(a) Operating Grants				
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Financial Assistance Grants	9,078	9,433	354	3.9%
Other	29	29	(0)	(0.0%)
Recurrent - State Government				
Community safety	165	168	3	1.9%
Community health	37	31	(6)	(15.3%)
Environment	-	21	21	N/A
Other	109	12	(97)	(89.0%)
Total recurrent grants	9,418	9,694	276	2.9%
Non-recurrent - State Government				
Emergency management	26	-	(26)	(100.0%)
Recreation	101	100	(1)	(1.0%)
Community safety	-	-	-	N/A
Waste management	-	-	-	N/A
Other	705	72	(633)	(89.8%)
Total non-recurrent grants	832	172	(660)	(79.3%)
Total operating grants	10,249	9,866	(383)	(3.7%)
(b) Capital Grants				
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Roads to recovery	1,447	1,755	308	21.3%
Total recurrent grants	1,447	1,755	308	21.3%
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Roads	3,087	-	(3,087)	(100.0%)
Other	(30)	-	30	(100.0%)
Non-recurrent - State Government				
Buildings	2,541	500	(2,041)	(80.3%)
Open space	6,722	2,700	(4,022)	(59.8%)
Transport	-	1,120	1,120	N/A
Recreation	-	250	250	N/A
Roads	633	-	(633)	(100.0%)
Other	2,336	-	(2,336)	(100.0%)
Total non-recurrent grants	15,290	4,570	(10,720)	(70.1%)
Total capital grants	16,737	6,325	(10,412)	(62.2%)
Total Grants	26,986	16,191	(10,795)	(40.0%)

8.1.5 Contributions

	Forecast			
	Actual	Budget	Change	Change
	2025/26	2026/27		
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Monetary	569	1,308	739	129.9%
Total contributions	569	1,308	739	129.9%

8.1.6 Other income

	Forecast			
	Actual	Budget	Change	Change
	2025/26	2026/27		
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Interest	2,108	1,710	(398)	(18.9%)
Dividends	4	4	-	0.0%
Other rent	219	225	6	2.9%
Other	910	697	(213)	(23.4%)
Total other income	3,240	2,636	(604)	(18.6%)

8.1.7 Employee Costs

	Forecast			
	Actual	Budget	Change	Change
	2025/26	2026/27		
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Wages and salaries	30,055	31,182	1,126	3.7%
Annual leave	3,075	3,249	174	5.6%
Long service leave	1,058	897	(161)	(15.2%)
WorkCover	717	957	240	33.5%
Superannuation	4,239	4,397	158	3.7%
Fringe benefits tax	155	90	(65)	(41.9%)
Total employee costs	39,299	40,771	1,472	3.7%

8.1.8 Materials and services

	Forecast			
	Actual	Budget		
	2025/26	2026/27	Change	Change
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Contractor payments	17,089	15,304	(1,785)	(10.4%)
Building maintenance	3	2	(2)	(53.9%)
General maintenance	2,328	2,617	289	12.4%
Utilities	1,159	1,114	(45)	(3.9%)
Office administration	340	364	24	6.9%
Information technology	2,979	3,141	162	5.4%
Insurance	1,159	1,263	104	9.0%
Consultants	3,364	3,489	125	3.7%
Banking and financing Fees	130	135	5	4.2%
Subscriptions and memberships	321	351	31	9.6%
Advertising	380	320	(59)	(15.6%)
Cost of goods sold	185	194	9	4.9%
Consumables	1,192	967	(226)	(18.9%)
Legal and debt recovery	480	507	26	5.4%
Employee development and recruitment	983	968	(14)	(1.5%)
Waste management	9,774	9,761	(13)	(0.1%)
Communications	401	405	4	0.9%
Other	553	493	(60)	(10.8%)
Library services	2,152	2,212	59	2.7%
Property leases	2	5	3	145.1%
Total materials and services	44,974	43,611	(1,363)	(3.0%)

8.1.9 Depreciation

	Forecast			
	Actual	Budget		
	2025/26	2026/27	Change	Change
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Property	6,646	6,858	211	3.2%
Plant & equipment	2,806	3,057	252	9.0%
Infrastructure	19,155	19,373	218	1.1%
Total depreciation	28,607	29,288	682	2.4%

8.1.12 Other expenses

	Forecast		Change \$'000	Change %
	Actual	Budget		
	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000		
Auditors' remuneration - VAGO	69	69	-	0.0%
Auditors' remuneration - Internal	52	58	6	11.5%
Audit services - non financial	57	118		
Councillors' allowances	418	469	51	12.1%
Land management rebate	551	-	(551)	(100.0%)
Fire services levy	150	150	-	0.0%
Landfill levy	1,684	1,792	108	6.4%
Contributions to other organisations	1,365	1,095	(271)	(19.8%)
Stamp duty	37	75	38	101.4%
Fee waiver	29	26	(3)	(11.6%)
Total other expenses	4,413	3,851	(563)	(12.7%)

8.2 Balance Sheet**8.2.1 Borrowings**

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

	Forecast		Projections		
	Actual	Budget	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000	2029/30 \$'000
Amount borrowed as at 30 June of the prior year	29,255	24,117	20,681	16,816	22,172
Amount proposed to be borrowed	2,000	1,340	1,200	7,700	10,750
Amount projected to be redeemed	(7,138)	(4,776)	(5,065)	(2,344)	(3,017)
Amount of borrowings as at 30 June	24,117	20,681	16,816	22,172	29,905

The use of borrowings is subject to outstanding debt remaining below 60% of rates revenue. In the 2026-27 financial year, Council proposes to raise \$1.34 million in new borrowings to fund \$1.34 million of the capital works program for Thompson Reserve Lighting Upgrade.

8.2.2 Leases

Right-of-use assets and lease liabilities have been recognised as outlined in the table below, in accordance with AASB 16 Leases.

	Forecast Actual 2025/26 \$'000	Budget 2026/27 \$'000	Change \$'000	Change %
Right-of-use assets				
Land and buildings	180	1,278	1,098	610.0%
Equipment	582	503	(79)	(13.6%)
Total right-of-use assets	762	1,781	1,019	133.7%
Lease liabilities				
Current lease liabilities				
Land and buildings	189	215	26	13.8%
Equipment	71	76	5	7.0%
Total current lease liabilities	260	291	31	11.9%
Non-current lease liabilities				
Land and buildings		1,067	1,067	0.0%
Equipment	536	457	(79)	(14.7%)
Total non-current lease liabilities	536	1,524	988	184.3%
Total lease liabilities	796	1,815	1,019	128.0%

Where the interest rate applicable to a lease is not expressed in the lease agreement, Council applies the average incremental borrowing rate in the calculation of lease liabilities. The current incremental borrowing rate is 3.9%.

8.2.3 Proposal to Lease Council Land

This section presents a summary of Council's proposals to lease land to external parties in the 2026-27 financial year. Council hereby gives public notice of its intention to lease the property pursuant to Section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Community Engagement Policy.

The properties listed below:

- 22 Pier Road, Grantville
- 2 Edgar Street, Inverloch
- 23 Back Beach Road, San Remo
- 136 White Road, Wonthaggi

8.3 Statement of Changes in Equity**8.3.1 Statement of Investment Reserves**

	Forecast Actual 2025/26 \$'000	Budget 2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	Projections 2028/29 \$'000	2029/30 \$'000
Art in Public Places	102	153	102	156	102
Future Sustainability Fund	350	145	145	145	145
Landfill rehabilitation reserve	2,172	657	-	-	-
Resort & Recreation Interest Reserve	984	1,124	1,250	1,364	1,466
Skate park	261	261	11	11	11
Strategic Land Acquisitions Reserve	500	500	500	500	500
Strategic works	14,774	12,821	7,810	11,022	10,200
Tracks & Trails Reserve	2,353	913	73	-	-
Unallocated surplus	3,071	-	-	-	-
VGC grant received in advance	4,594	4,594	4,594	4,594	4,594
Wonthaggi North East Developer Contribution Plan	606	606	606	606	606
Wonthaggi North East Land Acquisitions Reserve	3,000	3,000	3,500	3,500	4,000
Total Reserves	32,767	24,774	18,591	21,898	21,624

Reserves are in essence a reflection of surpluses from prior years that Council has set aside to allocate for some future activity. These reserves are not necessarily supported by matching cash investments – funding for future obligations may be provided in Council's Balance Sheet (e.g. Landfill Rehabilitation) or in its long term financial plan which is continually reviewed (e.g. LGFV Sinking Fund). The name of each reserve and the purpose of each reserve (why Council has the reserve) is provided below.

Reserve	Description/purpose
Art in Public Places	In accordance with council resolution, funds are specifically allocated for art in public places and where the funds have not been utilised in any given year; the balance is placed into reserve.
Future Sustainability Fund	This reserve contains funding towards specific future expenditures and where they aid in the future financial sustainability of Bass Coast Shire.
Landfill Rehabilitation	This reserve contains funds set aside to rehabilitate Council's old landfill sites. The principle being that as the landfill sites are consumed the users contribute sufficient funds to ensure the full life cycle rehabilitation in complete in the future.
LGFV Sinking Fund	This reserve contains the funds required to repay the LGFV Bonds when and as they come due.
Resort & Recreation	This reserve contains open space contributions from developers. It is a statutory reserve established under the <i>Subdivision Act 1988</i>
Skate Park	This reserve contains funds set aside for future skate park works as determined by the skate park strategy. The funds provided for this reserve arise from a prior Council decision to allocate contract savings to this reserve.
Strategic Land Acquisitions	This reserve contains the funds set aside for future strategic land acquisitions.
Strategic Works	This reserve contains funds set aside for future works that have yet to be clearly identified. This reserve exists to support future opportunities.
Tracks & Trails	This reserve contains funds set aside for future Tracks & Trails works as determined by the Tracks & Trails strategy. The Tracks & Trails strategy is a key pillar of Council's strategic objective Our Places.
Unallocated Surplus	This reserve contains any unallocated funds available for Council use.
VGC grant received in advance	This reserve represents Victorian Grant Commission funding in relation to the next financial year paid in advance.
Wonthaggi North East Developer Contribution Plan	This reserve captures expected interest recognised upon fund received in advance by developers for future specific projects in accordance with planning agreements.
Wonthaggi North East Developer Contributions	To capture funds provided by developers for future specific projects in accordance with planning agreements.

8.4 Capital Works Program

This section presents a listing of the capital works projects that will be undertaken for the 2026-27 year, classified by expenditure type and funding source. Works are also disclosed as current budget or carried forward from prior year.

8.4.1 Capital Works Program Summary

	Forecast 2025/26 \$'000	Budget 2026/27 \$'000	Change \$'000	%
Property	19,242	12,350	(6,892)	(35.82%)
Plant and equipment	4,376	2,248	(2,128)	(48.62%)
Infrastructure	15,662	15,749	87	0.56%
Total	39,280	30,348	(8,932)	(22.74%)

	Asset expenditure types					Summary of Funding Sources			
	Project Cost	New	Renewal	Upgrade	Expansion	Grants	Contrib.	Council cash	Borrowings
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Property	12,350	5,050	4,620	2,680	-	3,450	325	7,235	1,340
Plant and equipment	2,248	-	2,165	83	-	-	-	2,248	-
Infrastructure	15,749	3,610	8,584	2,020	1,535	2,875	761	12,113	-
Total	30,348	8,660	15,369	4,784	1,535	6,325	1,086	21,597	1,340

8.4.2 Detailed list of Capital Works

	Project Cost	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New	Renewal	Upgrade	Expansion	Grants	Contrib.	Council cash	Borrowings
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
PROPERTY									
Land Improvements									
Climate Change Actions	275	275	-	-	-	-	-	275	-
Cowes Activity Centre Plan	3,625	3,625	-	-	-	2,700	-	925	-
Dog Parks	100	100	-	-	-	-	-	100	-
MTB/BMX Implementation	100	100	-	-	-	-	-	100	-
Open Space renewal program	1,448	-	1,448	-	-	-	200	1,248	-
Playspace Renewal and Upgrade (Playspace Strategy)	300	-	300	-	-	-	65	235	-
Recreation Projects Design	60	-	-	60	-	-	-	60	-
Sporting Fields Upgrade & Renewal	720	-	-	720	-	250	-	470	-
San Remo Potters Hill Embankment Stabilization Design	50	50	-	-	-	-	-	50	-
Land Improvements Total	6,678	4,150	1,748	780	-	2,950	265	3,463	-
Buildings									
Aquatics & Leisure Centres	500	500	-	-	-	-	-	500	-
Buildings renewal program	2,847	-	2,847	-	-	-	-	2,847	-
Community Facilities Renewal Program	25	-	25	-	-	-	-	25	-
Disability Action Plan	100	100	-	-	-	-	-	100	-
Old Wonthaggi Secondary College Site Redevelopment	300	300	-	-	-	-	-	300	-
Pavilion Upgrades and Renewals	1,900	-	-	1,900	-	500	60	-	1,340
Buildings Total	5,672	900	2,872	1,900	-	500	60	3,772	1,340
PROPERTY TOTAL	12,350	5,050	4,620	2,680	-	3,450	325	7,235	1,340
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT									
Computers and telecommunications									
Computers and Telecommunications renewal program	672	-	625	47	-	-	-	672	-
Cultural Facilities	60	-	60	-	-	-	-	60	-
Old Post Office - FFE and IT	36	-	-	36	-	-	-	36	-
Computers and telecommunications Total	768	-	685	83	-	-	-	768	-
Plant, machinery and equipment									
Plant, Fleet & Equipment renewal program	1,480	-	1,480	-	-	-	-	1,480	-
Plant, machinery and equipment Total	1,480	-	1,480	-	-	-	-	1,480	-
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT TOTAL	2,248	-	2,165	83	-	-	-	2,248	-

8.4.2 Detailed list of Capital Works (Continued)

Project Cost	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
	New	Renewal	Upgrade	Expansion	Grants	Contrib.	Council cash	Borrowings
\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
INFRASTRUCTURE								
Bridges								
Bridges renewal program	1,760	-	1,760	-	-	-	1,760	-
Bridges Total	1,760	-	1,760	-	-	-	1,760	-
Drainage								
Storm Water renewal program	970	-	970	-	-	-	970	-
Drainage Total	970	-	970	-	-	-	970	-
Footpaths and cycleways								
Footpath gaps program (RAMP)	235	-	-	-	235	-	-	235
Pathways renewal program	262	-	262	-	-	-	-	262
Tracks and Trails Strategy	400	400	-	-	-	200	-	200
Tracks & Trails	2,360	2,360	-	-	-	920	-	1,440
Footpaths and cycleways Total	3,257	2,760	262	-	235	1,120	-	2,137
Roads								
Road and Drainage Improvement Program	1,900	-	-	1,900	-	-	761	1,139
Rural Roads renewal program	1,629	-	1,629	-	-	-	-	1,629
San Remo Structure Plan	50	50	-	-	-	-	-	50
Unsealed Roads renewal program	600	-	600	-	-	-	-	600
Urban roads renewal program	2,639	-	2,639	-	-	1,755	-	884
Roads Total	6,818	50	4,868	1,900	-	1,755	761	4,302
Landfill cells								
Grantville Cell 8A Construction	1,200	-	-	-	1,200	-	-	1,200
Landfill cells Total	1,200	-	-	-	1,200	-	-	1,200
Waste								
Grantville EPA/Licence Compliance	120	-	-	120	-	-	-	120
Grantville Landfill Leachate Storage / Collection Infrastru	100	-	-	-	100	-	-	100
Landfill Gas Collection Infrastructure Expansion	200	200	-	-	-	-	-	200
Waste Renewal and Replacement Program	724	-	724	-	-	-	-	724
Wonthaggi Landfill & Transfer Station Boundary Fence	600	600	-	-	-	-	-	600
Waste Total	1,744	800	724	120	100	-	-	1,744
INFRASTRUCTURE TOTAL	15,749	3,610	8,584	2,020	1,535	2,875	761	12,113
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM	30,348	8,660	15,369	4,784	1,535	6,325	1,086	21,597

8.4.3 Summary of Planned Capital Works Expenditure

For the year ending 30 June 2027

Capital Works Area	Project Cost \$'000	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contrib. \$'000	Council cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
PROPERTY									
Land	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land Improvements	6,678	4,150	1,748	780	-	2,950	265	3,463	-
Total Land	6,678	4,150	1,748	780	-	2,950	265	3,463	-
Buildings	5,672	900	2,872	1,900	-	500	60	3,772	1,340
Total Buildings	5,672	900	2,872	1,900	-	500	60	3,772	1,340
TOTAL PROPERTY	12,350	5,050	4,620	2,680	-	3,450	325	7,235	1,340
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT									
Artworks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computers and telecommunications	768	-	685	83	-	-	-	768	-
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,480	-	1,480	-	-	-	-	1,480	-
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	2,248	-	2,165	83	-	-	-	2,248	-
INFRASTRUCTURE									
Bridges	1,760	-	1,760	-	-	-	-	1,760	-
Drainage	970	-	970	-	-	-	-	970	-
Footpaths and Cycleways	3,257	2,760	262	-	235	1,120	-	2,137	-
Roads	6,818	50	4,868	1,900	-	1,755	761	4,302	-
Landfill cells	1,200	-	-	-	1,200	-	-	1,200	-
Waste	1,744	800	724	120	100	-	-	1,744	-
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	15,749	3,610	8,584	2,020	1,535	2,875	761	12,113	-
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS	30,348	8,660	13,369	4,784	1,535	6,325	1,086	21,597	1,340

8.4.3 Summary of Planned Capital Works Expenditure (continued)

For the year ending 30 June 2028

Capital Works Area	Project Cost \$'000	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contrib. \$'000	Council cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
PROPERTY									
Land	-								
Land Improvements	5,441	2,325	1,381	1,735	-	1,200	825	2,166	1,000
Total Land	5,441	2,325	1,381	1,735	-	1,200	825	2,166	1,000
Buildings	4,999	-	3,774	1,225	-	690	60	4,299	200
Total Buildings	4,999	-	3,774	1,225	-	690	60	4,299	200
TOTAL PROPERTY	10,440	2,325	5,155	2,960	-	1,890	885	6,465	1,200
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT									
Artworks	104	104	-	-	-	-	-	104	-
Computers and telecommunications	660	-	660	-	-	-	-	660	-
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,520	70	1,450	-	-	-	-	1,520	-
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	2,284	174	2,110	-	-	-	-	2,284	-
INFRASTRUCTURE									
Bridges	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000	-
Drainage	1,070	-	1,070	-	-	-	-	1,070	-
Footpaths and cycleways	2,247	1,751	261	-	235	840	-	1,407	-
Landfill cells	497	-	-	-	497	-	-	497	-
Roads	5,859	380	5,219	260	-	1,997	-	3,862	-
Waste management	5,316	3,500	851	-	965	-	-	5,316	-
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	16,989	5,631	9,401	260	1,697	2,837	-	14,152	-
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS	29,713	8,130	16,666	3,220	1,697	4,727	885	22,900	1,200

8.4.3 Summary of Planned Capital Works Expenditure (continued)

For the year ending 30 June 2029

Capital Works Area	Project Cost \$'000	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contrib. \$'000	Council cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
PROPERTY									
Land									
Land Improvements	6,485	3,100	1,365	2,020	-	1,820	310	2,355	2,000
Total Land	6,485	3,100	1,365	2,020	-	1,820	310	2,355	2,000
Buildings	14,334	9,275	3,809	1,250	-	4,250	50	4,334	5,700
Total Buildings	14,334	9,275	3,809	1,250	-	4,250	50	4,334	5,700
TOTAL PROPERTY	20,819	12,375	5,174	3,270	-	6,070	360	6,689	7,700
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT									
Artworks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computers and telecommunications	660	-	660	-	-	-	660	-	-
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,450	-	1,450	-	-	-	-	1,450	-
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	2,110	-	2,110	-	-	-	660	1,450	-
INFRASTRUCTURE									
Bridges	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000	-
Drainage	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Footpaths and cycleways	1,706	1,200	266	-	240	550	-	1,156	-
Landfill cells	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Roads	6,315	400	5,214	701	-	1,947	205	4,163	-
Waste Management	902	-	872	-	30	-	-	902	-
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	11,923	1,600	9,352	701	270	2,497	205	9,221	-
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS	34,852	13,975	16,636	3,971	270	8,567	1,225	17,360	7,700

8.4.3 Summary of Planned Capital Works Expenditure (continued)

For the year ending 30 June 2030

Capital Works Area	Project Cost \$'000	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New \$'000	Renewal \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Expansion \$'000	Grants \$'000	Contrib. \$'000	Council cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
PROPERTY									
Land									
Land Improvements	5,636	3,650	1,716	270	-	925	250	4,461	-
Total Land	5,636	3,650	1,716	270	-	925	250	4,461	-
Buildings	28,284	22,000	4,384	1,900	-	12,650	-	4,884	10,750
Total Buildings	28,284	22,000	4,384	1,900	-	12,650	-	4,884	10,750
TOTAL PROPERTY	33,920	25,650	6,100	2,170	-	13,575	250	9,345	10,750
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT									
Artworks	109	109	-	-	-	-	-	109	-
Computers and telecommunications	660	-	660	-	-	-	-	660	-
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,430	-	1,430	-	-	-	-	1,430	-
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	2,199	109	2,090	-	-	-	-	2,199	-
INFRASTRUCTURE									
Bridges	2,100	-	2,100	-	-	-	-	2,100	-
Drainage	1,270	-	1,270	-	-	-	-	1,270	-
Footpaths and cycleways	636	-	391	-	245	-	-	636	-
Landfill cells	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Roads	6,619	200	5,219	1,200	-	1,947	205	4,467	-
Waste Management	2,278	-	894	-	1,384	-	-	2,278	-
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	12,903	200	9,874	1,200	1,629	1,947	205	10,751	-
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS	49,022	25,959	18,064	3,370	1,629	15,522	455	22,295	10,750

9 Performance and financial indicators

9.1 Targeted Performance Indicators (Council selected)

The following table highlights Council's current and projected performance across eight targeted performance indicators selected by Council from the range of prescribed performance measures contained in the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's intentions and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives.

Results against these indicators and targets will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

Domain / Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26	Target 2026/27	Target Projections			Trend +/-
Community Aquatic facilities	Utilisation of aquatic facilities Number of visits to aquatic facilities/Population	1	3.36	6.25	6.25	6.50	6.50	6.50	o
Community Library services	Library membership Number of registered library members/Population	2	46.88%	46.44%	46.50%	46.55%	46.59%	46.64%	o
Responsiveness Food safety	Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications Critical non-compliance and major non-compliance outcome notifications about food premises that are followed up/Critical non-compliance and major non-compliance outcome notifications about food premises	3	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	o
Financial forecasting Loans and borrowings	Loans and borrowings compared to own source revenue Interest-bearing loans and borrowings/Own-source revenue	4	New in 2026/27	25.79%	21.24%	16.58%	20.99%	27.20%	-

9.1 Targeted Performance Indicators (Council selected) (continued)

Domain / Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26	Target 2026/27	Target Projections			Trend
						2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	+/-
Financial forecasting	Expenses per head of population								
Population	Total expenses/Population	5	\$ 2,616.14	\$ 2,702.55	\$ 2,668.37	\$ 2,712.01	\$ 2,806.12	\$ 2,871.58	-
Financial forecasting	Infrastructure per head of population								
Population	Value of infrastructure/Population	6	\$ 23,886.52	\$ 23,820.16	\$ 23,539.99	\$ 23,191.48	\$ 22,889.61	\$ 22,865.53	-
Financial forecasting	Recurrent grants per head of population								
Revenue and grants	Recurrent grants/Population	7	\$ 343.32	\$ 246.37	\$ 256.41	\$ 263.97	\$ 265.04	\$ 267.27	+
Financial management	Average rate per property assessment								
Expenditure and revenue level	Sum of all general rates and municipal charges/Number of property assessments	8	\$ 1,726.71	\$ 1,777.39	\$ 1,822.22	\$ 1,873.82	\$ 1,920.76	\$ 1,968.88	-

Key to Forecast Trend:

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

9.2 Targeted Performance Indicators (Mandatory)

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 measures and targets will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

Targeted service performance indicators - Mandatory

Domain / Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26	Target 2026/27	Target Projections			Trend +/-
						2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	
Governance	Satisfaction with the opportunities offered by Council to be consulted on or engaged in Council decisions								
Community engagement (Council decisions made and implemented with community input)	Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council	9	51	51	51	51	52	52	o
Environment	Sealed local roads below the intervention level								
Roads (sealed local roads are maintained and renewed to ensure a safe network)	Number of kms of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / kms of sealed local roads	10	93.86%	90.00%	90.00%	90.00%	90.00%	90.00%	o
Responsiveness	Planning applications decided within the relevant required time								
Statutory planning (Councils decide on planning applications and fulfill their legislative duties in a timely manner)	Number of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time / Number of planning application decisions made	11	76.75%	71.64%	72.00%	74.00%	76.00%	78.00%	+
Environment	Kerbside collection waste to landfill per serviced property								
Waste management (waste is minimised and sustainability is promoted)	Waste in tonnage collected from kerbside waste collection services sent to landfill / Number of serviced properties	12	New in 2026/27	0.22	0.22	0.20	0.20	0.20	o

9.2 Targeted Performance Indicators (Mandatory) (continued)

Targeted financial performance indicators - Mandatory

Domain / Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26	Target 2026/27	Target Projections			Trend +/-
						2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	
Financial management									
Liquidity (sufficient working capital and cash is available to cover expenses)	Current assets compared to current liabilities Current assets / current liabilities	13	171.22%	147.75%	132.89%	125.27%	126.91%	124.41%	-
Financial forecasting									
Asset renewal and upgrade (renewal and upgrade of assets is planned and delivered)	Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation Asset renewal and upgrade expenses / Asset depreciation	14	65.86%	83.26%	68.81%	62.35%	58.52%	58.54%	-
Financial management									
Rates concentration (revenue is generated from a range of sources)	Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue Rate revenue / adjusted underlying revenue	15	72.65%	77.03%	77.56%	77.98%	78.28%	78.66%	o
Financial management									
Expenditure and revenue level (resources are used efficiently in the delivery of services)	Expenses per property assessment Total expenses / no. of property assessments	16	\$3,287.11	\$3,416.81	\$3,373.58	\$3,428.79	\$3,547.75	\$3,630.46	+

Key to Forecast Trend:

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

9.3 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 2 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.

Domain / Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26	Budget 2026/27	Projections 2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Trend +/-
Financial forecasting									
Indebtedness (level of long term liabilities is appropriate to the size and nature of a Council's activities)	Non-current liabilities compared to own-source revenue Non-current liabilities / own source revenue	17	38.76%	33.99%	33.11%	30.60%	32.17%	36.96%	-
Loans and borrowings (level of interest bearing loans and borrowings is appropriate to the size and nature of Council's activities)	Loans and borrowings repayments compared to own-source revenue Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / own-source revenue	18	New in 2026/27	8.79%	5.81%	5.74%	2.88%	3.66%	+
Revenue and grants (revenue is generated from a range of sources to fund the delivery of services to the community)	Own-source revenue per head of population Own source revenue / Population	19	\$2,080.12	\$2,120.56	\$ 2,180.19	\$2,243.13	\$2,308.12	\$2,371.76	+

9.3 Financial performance indicators (continued)

Domain / Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26	Budget 2026/27	Projections 2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Trend +/-
Financial management									
Liquidity (sufficient working capital and cash is available to cover expenses)	Cash compared to current liabilities Cash / current liabilities	20	New in 2026/27	54.79%	36.39%	21.23%	26.40%	20.35%	-
Operating position (an adjusted underlying surplus is generated in the ordinary course of business)	Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue	21	-6.33%	-12.88%	-9.12%	-7.96%	-8.84%	-8.60%	o
Rates effort (rating level is set based on the community's capacity to pay)	Rates compared to property value Rate revenue / CIV of rateable properties in the municipal district	22	0.29%	0.31%	0.32%	0.33%	0.33%	0.34%	o
Rates collection (rates and charges are being responsibly collected)	Rates and charges debt Unpaid rates and charges / all rates and charges	23	New in 2026/27	15.03%	15.50%	16.00%	16.00%	16.00%	o

Key to Forecast Trend:

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

Notes to indicators

1. Utilisation of aquatic facilities

Council is not aware of any circumstances which would materially impact the result over the next four years.

2. Library membership

Council is not aware of any circumstances which would materially impact the result over the next four years.

3. Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications

Council is not aware of any circumstances which would materially impact the result over the next four years.

4. Loans and borrowings compared to own source revenue

Borrowings are expected to increase over the next four years to fund intergenerational capital projects.

5. Expenses per head of population

As a large regional shire, Council has a low population density, resulting in larger service delivery and asset management costs.

6. Infrastructure per head of population

Council expects the value of infrastructure per head of population to decrease over the four years, reflective of the asset renewal gap due to increases in depreciation expense.

7. Recurrent grants per head of population

Council expects recurrent grants to increase steadily per head of population.

8. Average rate per property assessment

Council's dependency on rate revenue is linked to the expected rate cap over the term of the projections.

9. Satisfaction with the opportunities offered by Council to be consulted on or engaged in Council decisions

Council is not aware of any circumstances which would materially impact the result over the next four years.

10. Sealed local roads below the intervention level

Target set in line with asset management plans. Council is not aware of any circumstances which would materially impact the result over the next four years.

11. Planning applications decided within the relevant required time

Council is not aware of any circumstances which would materially impact the result over the next four years.

12. Kerbside collection waste to landfill per serviced property

Council is not aware of any circumstances which would materially impact the result over the next four years.

13. Current assets compared to current liabilities (working capital)

This decrease is due to utilisation of council's cash reserves on large multi-year capital projects.

14. Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation

Council utilises an Asset Management Plan to outline renewal and upgrade strategies for optimum efficiencies levels.

15. Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue

Council continues to have a high reliance on rate revenue to fund operations, consistent with other large rural Councils.

16. Expenses per property assessment

Council's expenses are projected to increase at a faster rate than population growth due to impacts of the consumer price index.

17. Non-current liabilities compared to own-source revenue

Councils use of borrowings is within the limitations outlined in Section 9, and is within the range of being low risk over the four year period.

Notes to indicators (continued)

18. Loans and borrowings repayments compared to own-source revenue

The low percentage values projected show Council's exposure to debt, as revenue generated is primarily used to provide services rather than service debt.

19. Own-source revenue per head of population

Council's own source revenue is projected to increase at a greater rate than expected population growth.

20. Cash compared to current liabilities

Cash will decrease relative to current liabilities over the term of the projections due to the investment in capital works.

21. Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)

The underlying result reflects the capacity of Council to generate sufficient own-source revenue to fund operating expenditure and increased depreciation costs as limited by the rate cap environment with costs expected to increase at a greater rate than the rate cap.

22. Rates compared to property value

Council's rates effort is expected to increase steadily over the four years. Revaluation of ratable property capital improved value has decreased in prior years.

23. Rates and charges debt

A low percentage of rates and charges remains outstanding at the end of each rating payment cycle. Council expects this percentage to be steady, noting debt owing on active payment plans due to hardship is not included in this calculation of this measure.

10 Schedule of Fees and Charges

This schedule presents the fees and charges of a statutory/non-statutory nature which will be charged in respect to various goods and services during the financial year 2026/27. Fees and charges are based on information available at the time of publishing and may vary during the financial year subject to any changes in Council's policy or legislation. Statutory fees made in accordance with legislative requirements are updated as of 1 July 2026 and will be reflected on Council's website.

Fee Description	Unit of Measure	Basis of Fee	GST %	2025/2026 Fee per Unit Inc GST	2026/2027 Fee per Unit Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %
Rates Fees							
Rate history search - flat fee portion	Per Search	Council	10%	\$76.00	\$80.00	\$4.00	5.3%
Rate history search - per hour portion	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$76.00	\$80.00	\$4.00	5.3%
Land Information Certificate	Per Certificate	Statutory	N/A	\$30.60	\$30.60	\$0.00	0.0%
Land Information Certificate - 'urgency' fee (i.e. additional to statutory fee)	Per Certificate	Council	10%	\$52.00	\$54.00	\$2.00	3.8%
Refund (Incorrect) Payment fee	Per refund	Council	10%	\$23.00	\$25.00	\$2.00	8.7%
Proof of Ownership Letter - flat fee	Flat Rate	Council	10%	NEW	\$15.00	\$15.00	100.0%
Transaction Listing - flat fee	Flat Rate	Council	10%	NEW	\$20.00	\$20.00	100.0%
Rate notice reprint - current year	Per Notice	Council	10%	\$11.50	\$12.00	\$0.50	4.3%
Rate notice reprint - previous years	Per Notice	Council	10%	\$19.00	\$20.00	\$1.00	5.3%
Dishonoured cheque fee	Flat Rate	Council	10%	\$47.00	\$48.00	\$1.00	2.1%
Freedom of information act fees							
Freedom of Information requests - application fee	Per Request	Statutory	N/A	\$33.60	\$33.60	\$0.00	0.0%
Freedom of Information requests - search time per hour	Per Request	Statutory	N/A	\$25.20	\$25.20	\$0.00	0.0%
Freedom of Information requests - Photocopying per page	Per Request	Statutory	N/A	\$0.20	\$0.20	\$0.00	0.0%
Community Hall fees							
Halls - Group A (Cape Paterson, Corinella, Dalyston, Newhaven, Rhyl)							
Hall Per Hour - Standard	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$21.00	\$22.00	\$1.00	4.8%
Hall Per Hour - Subsidised	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Hall Half Day (- 5 hours) - Subsidised activity support approved	Per Session	Council	10%	\$31.00	\$32.00	\$1.00	3.2%
Hall Full Day (+ 5 hours) - Subsidised activity support approved	Per Session	Council	10%	\$62.00	\$64.00	\$2.00	3.2%
Kitchen - Standard (per day when booked with Hall)	Per Session	Council	10%	\$21.00	\$22.00	\$1.00	4.8%
Kitchen -Subsidised (per day when booked with Hall)	Per Session	Council	10%	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Hall Cleaning Charge - Standard	Per Session	Council	10%	\$312.00	\$321.00	\$9.00	2.9%
Hall Cleaning Charge - Subsidised	Per Session	Council	10%	\$156.00	\$161.00	\$5.00	3.2%
Hall Function Surcharge (30 or more people) - Standard	Per Session	Council	10%	\$109.00	\$112.00	\$3.00	2.8%
Halls - Group B (Krowera, Kernot, Glen Alvie, Coronet Bay)							
Hall Per Hour pro rata - Standard	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$21.00	\$22.00	\$1.00	4.8%
Hall Per Hour pro rata - Subsidised	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Hall Half Day (- 5 hours) - Subsidised activity support approved	Per Session	Council	10%	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$1.00	4.0%
Hall Full Day (+ 5 hours) - Subsidised activity support approved	Per Session	Council	10%	\$50.00	\$52.00	\$2.00	4.0%
Venue Cleaning Charge - Standard	Per Session	Council	10%	\$312.00	\$321.00	\$9.00	2.9%
Venue Cleaning Charge - Subsidised (if not cleaned by hirer)	Per Session	Council	10%	\$156.00	\$161.00	\$5.00	3.2%
Hall Function Surcharge (30 or more people) - Standard	Per Session	Council	10%	\$109.00	\$112.00	\$3.00	2.8%
Advertising package Inverloch Visitor Information Centre Package A	Per Package	Council	10%	\$110.00	110.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Advertising package Inverloch Visitor Information Centre Package B plus DL brochures	Per Package	Council	10%	\$220.00	220.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Newhaven Visitor Information Centre Internal advertising board	Per Year	Council	10%	\$1,800.00	1850.00	\$50.00	2.8%
Newhaven Visitor Information Centre Deck fascia advertising board	Per Year	Council	10%	\$815.00	830.00	\$15.00	1.8%
Road side display board (1.2m x 2.4m) per week (maximum 2 weeks) - business	Per Week	Council	10%	\$135.00	140.00	\$5.00	3.7%
Family activities	Per Booking	Council	10%	\$10.00	\$5.00	-\$5.00	-50.0%
DPI Prospectus Agreement - DL brochure displayed at Newhaven VIC only	Per Booking	Council	10%	\$150.00	\$155.00	\$5.00	3.3%
DPI Prospectus Agreement - DL brochure displayed at VICs & A poster @ Newhaven	Per Package Sold	Council	10%	\$500.00	\$515.00	\$15.00	3.0%
Map distribution for non members (per pad of 200 sheets)	Per Unit	Council	10%	\$50.00	\$52.00	\$2.00	4.0%
DPI Prospectus Agreement with Operators	Per Package Sold	Council	10%	\$85.00	\$88.00	\$3.00	3.5%
Film permit fee - commercial	Per Film	Council	10%	\$128.00	\$132.00	\$4.00	3.1%
Event permit fee - commercial	Per event	Council	10%	\$128.00	\$132.00	\$4.00	3.1%
Grantville Transaction Centre Meeting Room Per hour - Subsidised	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Grantville Transaction Centre Meeting Room Per hour - Standard	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$17.00	\$18.00	\$1.00	5.9%
Wonthaggi Town Hall - Foyer - Subsidised	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Wonthaggi Town Hall - Foyer - Standard	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$17.00	\$18.00	\$1.00	5.9%
Wonthaggi Town Hall - Main Hall - Subsidised	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	0.0%

10 Schedule of Fees and Charges (continued)

Fee Description	Unit of Measure	Basis of Fee	GST %	2025/2026 Fee per Unit Inc GST	2026/2027 Fee per Unit Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %
Community Hall fees (continued)							
Wonthaggi Town Hall - Main Hall - Standard	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$20.00	\$21.00	\$1.00	5.0%
Wonthaggi Town Hall - Main Hall Late cancellation fee - within 7 days	Per Booking	Council	10%	100% of hire fee	100% of hire fee		
Wonthaggi Kitchen - Subsidised (standalone booking)	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Wonthaggi Kitchen - Standard (standalone booking)	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$20.00	\$21.00	\$1.00	5.0%
Wonthaggi Kitchen - Subsidised (when booked with Hall or Foyer)	Per Booking	Council	10%	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Wonthaggi Kitchen - Standard (when booked with Hall or Foyer)	Per Booking	Council	10%	\$20.00	\$21.00	\$1.00	5.0%
Inverloch Community Hub - Community Hall Per hour – Subsidised	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Inverloch Community Hub - Community Hall Per hour – Standard	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$20.00	\$21.00	\$1.00	5.0%
Inverloch Community Hub - Meeting Room Per hour – Subsidised	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Inverloch Community Hub - Meeting Room Per hour – Standard	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$20.00	\$21.00	\$1.00	5.0%
Inverloch Community Hub - Stadium Per hour – Subsidised	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Inverloch Community Hub - Stadium Per hour – Standard	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$20.00	\$21.00	\$1.00	5.0%
Inverloch Community Hub - Stadium Casual Court Hire	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Inverloch Community Hub - Internal Street Per hour – Subsidised	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Inverloch Community Hub - Internal Street Per hour – Standard	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$1.00	4.0%
Inverloch Community Hub - Office Space Per hour – Subsidised	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Inverloch Community Hub - Office Space Per hour – Standard	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$20.00	\$21.00	\$1.00	5.0%
Inverloch Community Hub - Kitchen Per hour - Subsidised	Per hour	Council	10%	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Inverloch Community Hub - Kitchen Per hour - Standard	Per hour	Council	10%	\$20.00	\$21.00	\$1.00	5.0%
Newhaven Visitor Info Centre Meeting Room Per hour – Subsidised	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Newhaven Visitor Info Centre Meeting Room Per hour – Standard	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$20.00	\$21.00	\$1.00	5.0%
Community Hirers Liability Insurance							
Public Liability Insurance Policy Part A	Per Booking	Council	N/A	NEW	\$25.00	\$25.00	100.0%
Public Liability Insurance Gap Claim (excess) Part A	Per Claim	Council	N/A	\$500.00	\$515.00	\$15.00	3.0%
Public Liability Insurance Gap Claim (excess) Part B	Per Claim	Council	N/A	\$1,000.00	\$1,030.00	\$30.00	3.0%
Bass Coast Cultural Venues - Venue Hire							
Cowes - Standard - All Community Rooms	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$60.00	\$62.00	\$2.00	3.3%
Cowes - Standard - Large Community Room	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$38.00	\$39.00	\$1.00	2.6%
Cowes - Standard - Medium Community Room	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$30.00	\$31.00	\$1.00	3.3%
Cowes - Standard - Small Community Room	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$20.00	\$21.00	\$1.00	5.0%
Cowes - Standard - Grand Hall (additional charge)	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$135.00	\$139.00	\$4.00	3.0%
Cowes - Gallery EOI exhibition commission	Percentage	Council	10%	20%	20%		0.0%
Cowes - Commissioned Exhibition Gallery Fee	Percentage	Council	10%	30%	20%		-33.3%
Cowes - Standard - Small Meeting Room	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$12.00	\$13.00	\$1.00	8.3%
Cowes - Standard - Large Meeting Room	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$1.00	6.7%
Cowes - Standard - Co-Working (Per Desk)	Per Day	Council	10%	\$45.00	\$46.00	\$1.00	2.2%
Wonthaggi - Standard - Performance - 5 Hours	Per Day	Council	10%	\$1,072.00	\$1,110.00	\$38.00	3.5%
Cowes - Standard - Performance - 5 Hours	Per Day	Council	10%	\$910.00	\$930.00	\$20.00	2.2%
Conference/Presentation - 5 hours	Per Day	Council	10%	\$900.00	\$910.00	\$10.00	1.1%
Conference/Presentation - 5 hours	Per Day	Council	10%	\$900.00	\$910.00	\$10.00	1.1%
Technical/Rehearsal/Additional Performance - 5 Hours	Per Day	Council	10%	\$550.00	\$560.00	\$10.00	1.8%
Cowes - Standard - Community Room Hire - Accompanying Auditorium Hire	Per Day	Council	10%	\$104.00	\$110.00	\$6.00	5.8%
Standard - Additional Hours	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$175.00	\$180.00	\$5.00	2.9%
Black Out Day/Dark Tenancy	Per Day	Council	10%	\$210.00	\$220.00	\$10.00	4.8%
Venue Restore to Standard Rig	Per Day	Council	10%	\$500.00	\$520.00	\$20.00	4.0%

Discounts Available:

Non-commercial hirers, organisations, and community groups may apply for a discount on non staff charges when making a booking. Venue hire fees are set based on the capacity to pay, with three categories with example hirer types.

Commercial (100% Full Charge) – Applies to businesses, private hirers, large organisations, and touring performances that generate income or charge for their services, and others.

Organisation Rate (70% of Commercial Rate) – Applies to internal bookings, small businesses, creative industries presenting new work, community groups from outside Bass Coast, private schools, sporting clubs, and government agencies, and others

Community Rate (50% of Commercial Rate) – Applies to registered not-for-profits, micro businesses (fewer than 4 staff), community groups within Bass Coast, state-run schools, local traders' associations, and creative industries focused on community engagement, and others.

Fee Description	Unit of Measure	Basis of Fee	GST %	2025/2026	2026/2027	Fee	Fee
				Inc GST	Inc GST	(Decrease) \$	(Decrease) %
Bass Coast Cultural Venues - Other Charges							
Staffing (minimum three hours):							
Technical Staff	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$67.00	\$69.00	\$2.00	3.0%
Front of House Staff	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$56.00	\$59.00	\$3.00	5.4%
Contracted Staffing	Percentage	Council	10%	Cost + 10%	Cost + 10%		
Ticketing:							
Standard - Booking Fee	Per Ticket	Council	10%	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$0.00	0.0%
Standard - Complementary tickets issued	Per Ticket	Council	10%	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Standard - Cancellation Fee	Per Patron Booking	Council	10%	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$0.00	0.0%
Standard - Rescheduling Fee	Per Performance	Council	10%	\$50.00	\$52.00	\$2.00	4.0%
Other Charges:							
Missed Meal Break	Per staff member	Council	10%	\$70.00	\$72.00	\$2.00	2.9%
Rider Ordering/Catering	Percentage	Council	10%	Cost + 20%	Cost + 20%		
Hired or sourced equipment or services	Percentage	Council	10%	Cost + 10%	Cost + 10%		
Planning Fees							
Pre-application (Advanced)	Per Request	Council	10%	NEV	\$500.00	\$500.00	100.0%
Pre-application (Basic)	Per Request	Council	10%	NEV	\$300.00	\$300.00	100.0%
Approval and registration for Section 173 agreements	Per Agreement	Council	10%	\$1,116.00	\$1,149.00	\$33.00	3.0%
Notification	Per Mail out	Council	10%	\$487.00	\$502.00	\$15.00	3.1%
Planning information request	Per Request	Council	10%	\$258.00	\$266.00	\$8.00	3.1%
Copy of planning permit documents (archive file retrieval)	Per file	Council	10%	\$85.00	\$180.00	\$95.00	111.8%
Title Search	Per Request	Council	10%	NEV	\$50.00	\$50.00	100.0%
Public Open Space Valuation	Per Request	Council	10%	NEV	TBA	\$0.00	100.0%
Application or amendment under secondary consent if the estimated cost of any additional development to be permitted by the amendment is:							
\$10 000 or less	Per Amendment	Council	10%	\$346.00	\$400.00	\$54.00	15.6%
More than \$10,000 but not more than \$50,000	Per Amendment	Council	10%	\$520.00	\$536.00	\$16.00	3.1%
More than \$50,000 but not more than \$100,000	Per Amendment	Council	10%	\$728.00	\$750.00	\$22.00	3.0%
More than \$100,000	Per Amendment	Council	10%	\$1,040.00	\$1,071.00	\$31.00	3.0%
Planning permit - extension of time 1st or 2nd request	Per Request	Council	10%	\$416.00	\$428.00	\$12.00	2.9%
Planning permit - extension of time 3rd or 4th request	Per Request	Council	10%	\$624.00	\$643.00	\$19.00	3.0%
Planning permit - extension of time 5th request or more	Per Request	Council	10%	\$780.00	\$803.00	\$23.00	2.9%
Amendment to a permit to change the use of land allowed by the permit or allow a new use of land	Per Amendment	Statutory	N/A	\$1,496.10	\$1,496.10	\$0.00	0.0%
Amendment to a permit to change the statement of what the permit allows or to change any or all of the conditions which apply to the permit	Per Amendment	Statutory	N/A	\$1,496.10	\$1,496.10	\$0.00	0.0%
Application for permit to develop land for a single dwelling per lot or use and develop land for a single dwelling per lot and undertake development ancillary to the use of the land for a single dwelling per lot if the estimated cost of the development is:							
Up to \$10,000	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$226.90	\$226.90	\$0.00	0.0%
\$10,001 to \$100,000	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$714.40	\$714.40	\$0.00	0.0%
\$100,001 to \$500,000	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$1,462.50	\$1,462.50	\$0.00	0.0%
\$500,001 to \$1,000,000	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$1,580.10	\$1,580.10	\$0.00	0.0%
\$1,000,001 to \$2,000,000	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$1,697.80	\$1,697.80	\$0.00	0.0%
VicSmart application fee if the estimated cost of the development is:							
Up to \$10,000	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$226.90	\$226.90	\$0.00	0.0%
More than \$10,000	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$487.50	\$487.50	\$0.00	0.0%
VicSmart Application to subdivide or consolidate land	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$226.90	\$226.90	\$0.00	0.0%

Fee Description	Unit of Measure	Basis of Fee	GST %	2025/2026 Fee per Unit Inc GST	2026/2027 Fee per Unit Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %
Planning Fees (continued)							
Application for permit for all other development of land if the estimated cost of the development is:							
Up to \$100,000	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$1,302.80	\$1,302.80	\$0.00	0.0%
\$100,001 to \$1,000,000	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$1,756.60	\$1,756.60	\$0.00	0.0%
\$1,000,001 to \$5,000,000	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$3,874.70	\$3,874.70	\$0.00	0.0%
\$5,000,001 to \$15,000,000	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$9,875.90	\$9,875.90	\$0.00	0.0%
\$15,000,000 to \$50,000,000	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$29,123.30	\$29,123.30	\$0.00	0.0%
More than \$50,000,000	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$65,458.10	\$65,458.10	\$0.00	0.0%
Application for permit to subdivide an existing building	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$1,496.10	\$1,496.10	\$0.00	0.0%
Application for permit to subdivide land into two lots	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$1,496.10	\$1,496.10	\$0.00	0.0%
Application for permit to effect a realignment of a common boundary between 2 lots or to consolidate 2 or more lots	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$1,496.10	\$1,496.10	\$0.00	0.0%
Application for permit to subdivide land	Per 100 lots created	Statutory	N/A	\$1,496.10	\$1,496.10	\$0.00	0.0%
Application for a permit to:							
Create, vary or remove a restriction within the meaning of the Subdivision Act 1988; or							
Create or move a right of way; or	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$1,496.10	\$1,496.10	\$0.00	0.0%
Create, vary or remove an easement other than a right of way; or							
Vary or remove a condition in the nature of an easement (other than a right of way) in a Crown grant.							
Application for a permit not otherwise provided for in the regulations	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$1,496.10	\$1,496.10	\$0.00	0.0%
An amendment to a permit (other than a permit to develop land for a single dwelling per lot or to use and develop land for a single dwelling per lot or to undertake development ancillary to the use of land for a single dwelling per lot) —to change the statement of what the permit allows;							
—to change any or all of the conditions which apply to the permit.							
An amendment to a class 2, class 3, class 4, class 5 or class 6 permit, if the estimated cost of any additional development to be permitted by the amendment is:							
\$10 000 or less	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$226.90	\$226.90	\$0.00	0.0%
More than \$10,000 but not more than \$100,000	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$714.40	\$714.40	\$0.00	0.0%
More than \$100,000 but not more than \$500,000	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$1,462.50	\$1,462.50	\$0.00	0.0%
More than \$500,000	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$1,580.10	\$1,580.10	\$0.00	0.0%
An amendment to a permit that is the subject of a VicSmart application, if the estimated cost of the additional development is:							
\$10,000 or less	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$226.90	\$226.90	\$0.00	0.0%
More than \$10,000	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$487.50	\$487.50	\$0.00	0.0%
Amendment to a class 9 permit - subdivide or consolidate land	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$226.90	\$226.90	\$0.00	0.0%
Amendment to a class 10 permit (a VicSmart application other than a class 7, 8 or 9 permit)	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$226.90	\$226.90	\$0.00	0.0%
Certificate of Compliance under Section 97N	Per Certificate	Statutory	N/A	\$369.80	\$369.80	\$0.00	0.0%
For a planning certificate application not made electronically	Per Certificate	Statutory	N/A	\$25.20	\$25.20	\$0.00	0.0%
For a planning certificate application made electronically	Per Certificate	Statutory	N/A	\$8.20	\$8.20	\$0.00	0.0%
Agreement to a proposal to amend or end a Section 173 agreement	Per Agreement	Statutory	N/A	\$748.00	\$748.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Satisfaction Matters - Where a planning scheme specifies that a matter must be done to the satisfaction of a responsible authority, Minister, Public Authority or Municipal Council	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$369.80	\$369.80	\$0.00	0.0%
Certification of a plan of subdivision	Per Certification	Statutory	N/A	\$198.40	\$198.40	\$0.00	0.0%
Alteration of plan	Per Alteration	Statutory	N/A	\$126.10	\$126.10	\$0.00	0.0%
Amendment of certified plan	Per Amendment	Statutory	N/A	\$159.70	\$159.70	\$0.00	0.0%
Removal of a Protected Tree	Per tree	Council	10%	\$238.00	\$1,545.00	\$1,307.00	549.2%
Removal of a Significant Tree	Per tree	Council	10%	\$1,500.00	\$1,545.00	\$45.00	3.0%
Lopping / Pruning of a significant or protected tree	Per tree	Council	10%	\$108.00	\$118.00	\$10.00	9.3%
Any works in the Tree Protection Zone of a Protected or Significant Tree	Per tree	Council	10%	\$114.50	\$118.00	\$3.50	3.1%
Re-checking Plans to Comply (2nd and subsequent submissions)	Per Request	Council	10%	NEW	\$356.00	\$356.00	100.0%
Checking of engineering plans (the estimated cost of construction works proposed in the engineering plan - max. fee)	Per Subdivision	Statutory	N/A	0.75%	0.75%		0.0%
Engineering plan prepared by Council - (the estimated cost of works proposed in the engineering plan - max. fee)	Per Subdivision	Statutory	N/A	3.50%	3.50%		0.0%
Supervision of works - (the estimated cost of construction of the works - max. fee)	Per Subdivision	Statutory	N/A	2.50%	2.50%		0.0%

Fee Description	Unit of Measure	Basis of Fee	GST %	2025/2026 Fee per Unit Inc GST	2026/2027 Fee per Unit Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %
Planning Fees (continued)							
Amendments to Planning Schemes:							
Stage 1:							
a) Considering a request to amend a planning scheme amendment; and	Per Scheme	Statutory	N/A	\$3,462.90	\$3,462.90	\$0.00	0.0%
b) Exhibition and notice of the amendment; and							
c) Considering any submissions which do not seek a change to the amendment; and							
d) If applicable, abandoning the amendment							
Stage 2: Considering submissions which seek a change to the amendment, and where necessary referring the submissions to a panel:							
Up to 10 submissions	Per Scheme	Statutory	N/A	\$17,163.00	\$17,163.00	\$0.00	0.0%
11 to 20 submissions	Per Scheme	Statutory	N/A	\$34,292.40	\$34,292.40	\$0.00	0.0%
More than 20 submissions	Per Scheme	Statutory	N/A	\$45,840.90	\$45,840.90	\$0.00	0.0%
Stage 3:							
a) Adopting the amendment or part of an amendment; and	Per Scheme	Statutory	N/A	\$546.30	\$546.30	\$0.00	0.0%
b) Submitting the amendment for approval by the Minister; and							
c) Giving notice of the approval of the amendment							
Stage 4:							
a) Consideration by the Minister of a request to approve an amendment; and	Per Scheme	Statutory	N/A	\$546.30	\$546.30	\$0.00	0.0%
b) Giving notice of approval of an amendment							
Building Fees							
Digital image 3MB @ 300 dpi or part thereof	Per Image	Council	10%	\$63.00	\$65.00	\$2.00	3.2%
Data supply cost - hourly cost (minimum 2 hours)	Per Hour	Council	10%	\$191.00	\$197.00	\$6.00	3.1%
Building Fees Legal Point of Discharge Certificate	Per Report	Statutory	N/A	\$238.20	\$238.20	\$0.00	0.0%
Building Fees Drainage Plans Application Fee	Per Plan	Council	10%	\$88.00	\$101.00	\$13.00	14.8%
Asset protection permit fee	Per Permit	Council	N/A	\$356.00	\$380.00	\$24.00	6.7%
Asset protection bond	Per Permit	Council	N/A	Between \$1,050 and \$5,250	\$0.00		-100.0%
Road Occupation permit fee (all minor works)	Per Permit	Statutory	N/A	\$101.00	\$101.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Road Occupation permit fee (Minor Works - on roadway, pathway or shoulder)	Per Permit	Statutory	N/A	\$156.30	\$156.30	\$0.00	0.0%
Road Occupation permit fee (Works - not on roadway, pathway or shoulder) > 50 km/hr Zone	Per Permit	Statutory	N/A	\$395.00	\$395.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Road Occupation permit fee (Works - on roadway, pathway or shoulder) > 50 km/hr Zone	Per Permit	Statutory	N/A	\$724.50	\$724.50	\$0.00	0.0%
Road Occupation permit fee (Works - not on roadway, pathway or shoulder) = 50 km/hr zone	Per Permit	Statutory	N/A	\$101.00	\$101.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Road Occupation permit fee (Works - on roadway, pathway or shoulder) = 50 km/hr zone	Per Permit	Statutory	N/A	\$395.00	\$395.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Road Occupation Bond	Per Permit	Council	N/A	Between \$1,050 and \$5,250	\$0.00		-100.0%
Administration fees Road Occupation Fee-Every Permit	Per Permit	Council	N/A	\$140.00	\$160.00	\$20.00	14.3%
Report and Consent	Per App	Statutory	N/A	\$461.40	\$461.40	\$0.00	0.0%
Report and Consent - Protection of Public Reg 116.	Per App	Statutory	N/A	\$334.50	\$334.50	\$0.00	0.0%
Property Certificates	Per Property	Statutory	N/A	\$53.60	\$53.60	\$0.00	0.0%
Build over easement	Per App	Statutory	N/A	\$461.40	\$461.40	\$0.00	0.0%
Demolition Consent 29(A)	Per App	Statutory	N/A	\$96.70	\$96.70	\$0.00	0.0%
Lodgement of Swimming pool and spa Certificate of non-compliance	Per Certificate	Statutory	N/A	\$437.10	\$437.10	\$0.00	0.0%
Lodgement of Swimming pool and spa Certificate of compliance	Per Certificate	Statutory	N/A	\$23.20	\$23.20	\$0.00	0.0%
Information search Fee for Swimming Pool/Spa registration	Per Pool/Spa	Statutory	N/A	\$53.60	\$53.60	\$0.00	0.0%
Registration of Swimming Pool/Spa	Per Pool/Spa	Statutory	N/A	\$36.10	\$36.10	\$0.00	0.0%
Lodgement of private building surveyors building permit documentation	Per App	Statutory	N/A	\$138.30	\$138.30	\$0.00	0.0%
Building Permit - Renewal (if permit has lapsed)	Per Renewal	Council	10%	\$650.00	\$670.00	\$20.00	3.1%
Building Permit - Final inspection (if permit has lapsed)	Per Inspection	Council	10%	\$323.00	\$333.00	\$10.00	3.1%
Building Permit - Extension of time (Existing permit)	Per Extension	Council	10%	\$323.00	\$333.00	\$10.00	3.1%
Building Permit - Amendment to plans	Per Amendment	Council	10%	\$487.00	\$502.00	\$15.00	3.1%
Retrieval and copy of building plans	Per Request	Council	10%	\$233.00	\$240.00	\$7.00	3.0%
Siting approval for temporary structure (application fee)	Per Event	Council	10%	\$685.00	\$706.00	\$21.00	3.1%
Amendment to siting application	Per Application	Council	10%	\$208.00	\$214.00	\$6.00	2.9%
Site approval - per structure (i.e. temporary structures at public events)	Per Structure	Council	10%	\$93.00	\$96.00	\$3.00	3.2%

Fee Description	Unit of Measure	Basis of Fee	GST %	2025/2026 Fee per Unit Inc GST	2026/2027 Fee per Unit Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %
Building Fees (continued)							
Place of Public Entertainment Permit (POPE): 500 - 1,000 square metres	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$694.00	\$715.00	\$21.00	3.0%
Place of Public Entertainment Permit (POPE): 1,001 - 5,000 square metres	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$1,385.00	\$1,427.00	\$42.00	3.0%
Place of Public Entertainment Permit (POPE): 5,001 - 10,000 square metres	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$2,079.00	\$2,141.00	\$62.00	3.0%
Place of Public Entertainment Permit (POPE): 10,001 or more square metres	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$2,771.00	\$2,854.00	\$83.00	3.0%
Building Fees - New and Relocated Dwellings Under \$100,000	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$2,001.00	\$2,061.00	\$60.00	3.0%
Building Fees - New and Relocated Dwellings \$100,001 - \$250,000	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$2,659.00	\$2,739.00	\$80.00	3.0%
Building Fees - New and Relocated Dwellings \$250,001 - \$500,000	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$3,331.00	\$3,431.00	\$100.00	3.0%
Building Fees - New and Relocated Dwellings \$500,000 - \$750,000	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$6,650.00	\$6,850.00	\$200.00	3.0%
Building Fees - Additions and Alterations Cost up to \$60,000	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$1,330.00	\$1,370.00	\$40.00	3.0%
Building Fees - Additions and Alterations Cost over \$60,000	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$2,388.00	\$2,460.00	\$72.00	3.0%
Swimming Pool/Spa Certificate of Barrier Compliance	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$460.00	\$474.00	\$14.00	3.0%
Additional Swimming Pool Inspections	Per Inspection	Council	10%	\$126.00	\$130.00	\$4.00	3.2%
Building Fees - Outbuilding, Fences, Swimming Pools and Decking Under \$35,000	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$1,303.00	\$1,342.00	\$39.00	3.0%
Building Fees - Outbuilding, Fences, Swimming Pools and Decking \$35,000 - \$100,000	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$1,730.00	\$1,782.00	\$52.00	3.0%
Building Fees - Outbuilding, Fences, Swimming Pools and Decking \$100,000+	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$2,388.00	\$2,460.00	\$72.00	3.0%
Building Fees - All other classes - Class 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 buildings up to \$20,000	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$1,303.00	\$1,342.00	\$39.00	3.0%
Building Fees - All other classes - Class 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 buildings \$20,001 - \$100,000	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$1,730.00	\$1,782.00	\$52.00	3.0%
Building Fees - All other classes - Class 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 buildings \$100,001 - \$250,000	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$2,659.00	\$2,739.00	\$80.00	3.0%
Building Fees - All other classes - Class 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 buildings \$250,001 - \$500,000	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$3,331.00	\$3,431.00	\$100.00	3.0%
Building Fees - All other classes - Class 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 buildings \$500,000 - \$750,000	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$6,650.00	\$6,850.00	\$200.00	3.0%
Building Fees - All other classes - Class 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 buildings \$750,000 - \$1,000,000	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$9,980.00	\$10,279.00	\$299.00	3.0%
Building Fees - All other classes - Class 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 buildings \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$13,300.00	\$13,699.00	\$399.00	3.0%
Building Fees - All other classes - Class 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 buildings \$5,000,001+	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$19,948.00	\$20,546.00	\$598.00	3.0%
Fire Safety Determination (Small Building under 500sqm & 2 stories)	Per Inspection	Council	10%	\$645.00	\$664.00	\$19.00	2.9%
Fire Safety Determination Medium Building (500-100sqm & 3 stories)	Per inspection	Council	10%	\$1,930.00	\$1,988.00	\$58.00	3.0%
Fire Safety Determination Large Building (more than 100m2 or more than 3 stories)	Per inspection	Council	10%	\$3,219.00	\$3,316.00	\$97.00	3.0%
Sporting fields and Park hire fees							
Sports fields Not for profit within municipality - hourly	Hourly	Council	10%	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$0.50	4.0%
Sports fields Not for profit within municipality - full day (8+ hours)	Per Session	Council	10%	\$100.00	\$103.00	\$3.00	3.0%
Sports fields Commercial hirers - hourly	Hourly	Council	10%	\$40.00	\$41.00	\$1.00	2.5%
Sports fields Commercial hirers - full day (8+ hours)	Per Session	Council	10%	\$320.00	\$330.00	\$10.00	3.1%
Sports fields Not for profit outside municipality - hourly	Hourly	Council	10%	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$1.00	4.0%
Sports fields Not for profit outside municipality - full day (8+ hours)	Per Session	Council	10%	\$200.00	\$206.00	\$6.00	3.0%
Parks and Gardens Not for profit within municipality - full day	Per Session	Council	10%	\$42.00	\$0.00	-\$42.00	-100.0%
Parks and Gardens Not for profit within municipality - half day (up to four hours)	Per Session	Council	10%	\$21.00	\$0.00	-\$21.00	-100.0%
Parks and Gardens Personal Trainers - hourly	Hourly	Council	10%	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$1.00	4.0%
Parks and Gardens Commercial hirers - half day (up to four hours)	Per Session	Council	10%	\$38.00	\$0.00	-\$38.00	-100.0%

Fee Description	Unit of Measure	Basis of Fee	GST %	2025/2026	2026/2027	Fee	Fee
				Fee per Unit Inc GST	Fee per Unit Inc GST	Increase / (Decrease) \$	Increase / (Decrease) %
Waste Fees							
Hard waste at call collection fees	Per Call	Council	10%	\$162.00	\$162.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Transfer station fees green waste up to 120L	Per Load	Council	10%	\$2.50	\$3.00	\$0.50	20.0%
Transfer station fees green waste up to 240L	Per Load	Council	10%	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Green waste per tonne - Grantville ONLY	Per Tonne	Council	10%	\$52.00	\$54.00	\$2.00	3.8%
Transfer station fees green waste car/boot	Per Load	Council	10%	\$7.50	\$8.00	\$0.50	6.7%
Transfer station fees green waste trailers	Per Load	Council	10%	\$14.50 - \$119.50	\$15.00 - \$123.00	\$0.50	0.4% - 3.4%
Transfer station fees green waste per cubic metre	Per Cubic Metre	Council	10%	\$20.00	\$21.00	\$1.00	5.0%
Transfer station fees domestic landfill up to 120L	Per Load	Council	10%	\$11.00	\$12.00	\$1.00	9.1%
Transfer station fees domestic landfill up to 240L	Per Load	Council	10%	\$20.00	\$22.00	\$2.00	10.0%
Transfer station fees domestic landfill car/ boot	Per Load	Council	10%	\$26.00	\$28.00	\$2.00	7.7%
Transfer station fees domestic landfill trailers	Per Load	Council	10%	\$52.00 - \$755.00	\$56.00 - \$815.50	\$4.00 - \$60.50	7.7% - 8.01%
6x4 - Level	Per Load	Council	10%	\$52.00	\$56.00	\$4.00	7.7%
6x4 - Heaped	Per Load	Council	10%	\$120.00	\$130.00	\$10.00	8.3%
6x4 - Caged	Per Load	Council	10%	\$190.00	\$205.00	\$15.00	7.9%
Over 6x4 (8x5) - Levelled	Per Load	Council	10%	\$84.00	\$91.00	\$7.00	8.3%
Over 6x4 (8x5) - Heaped	Per Load	Council	10%	\$195.00	\$211.00	\$16.00	8.2%
Over 6x4 (8x5) - Caged	Per Load	Council	10%	\$315.00	\$340.00	\$25.00	7.9%
Tandem - Levelled	Per Load	Council	10%	\$190.00	\$205.00	\$15.00	7.9%
Tandem - Heaped	Per Load	Council	10%	\$470.00	\$508.00	\$38.00	8.1%
Tandem - Caged	Per Load	Council	10%	\$755.00	\$816.00	\$61.00	8.1%
Municipal waste landfill fees	Per tonne	Council	10%	\$215.50	\$348.00	\$132.50	61.5%
E-waste up to a 40cm-to-a-side cube – excluding TVs, computers/towers, laptops, printers, radios, stereos, DVDs & VCR players, tablets etc.	Per milk crate	Council	10%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
E-waste more than a 40cm-to-a-side cube and/or tv's, computers/towers, printers, radios, stereos, DVDs & VCR players, tablets	Per Item	Council	10%	\$6.50	\$7.00	\$0.50	7.7%
E-waste solar panels - small, portable/RV (not household systems)	Per Item	Council	10%	POA	POA		
Gas cylinders smaller than 12kg	Per Item	Council	10%	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Gas cylinders larger than 12kg	Per Item	Council	10%	\$24.00	\$25.00	\$1.00	4.2%
Fire extinguishers (all sizes)	Per Item	Council	10%	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Mattress (all sizes)	Per Item	Council	10%	\$34.00	\$35.00	\$1.00	2.9%
Soft furniture (Lounges) all sizes	Per item	Council	10%	\$34.00	\$35.00	\$1.00	2.9%
Textiles	Per item	Council	N/A	NEW	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Mobile phone	Per Item	Council	10%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Tyres (maximum 5)	Per Item	Council	10%	POA	POA		
Batteries, car and household	Per Item	Council	10%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Paint (maximum 20 litres)	Per Item	Council	10%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Fluorescent light bulbs and tubes	Per Item	Council	10%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Motor oil (maximum 20 litres)	Per Item	Council	10%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Paper, cardboard, aluminium, glass bottles, jars, aerosol cans, rigid plastic packaging	Per Item	Council	10%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Scrap metal and whitegoods (excl. fridge/freezer, aircon, heat pump hot water systems)	Per Item	Council	10%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Refrigerators, freezers, air-conditioners and heat pump hot water systems	Per Item	Council	10%	\$27.00	\$28.00	\$1.00	3.7%
Commercial/industrial waste as inert (mixed waste)	Per Tonne	Council	10%	\$372.00	\$402.00	\$30.00	8.1%
Asbestos (minimum charge)	Per Item	Council	10%	\$65.00	\$70.00	\$5.00	7.7%
Clean fill < 1m³	Per Tonne	Council	10%	\$270.13	\$292.00	\$21.87	8.1%
Clean fill/certified soil - commercial	Per Tonne	Council	10%	\$556.10	\$573.00	\$16.90	3.0%
Concrete	Per Tonne	Council	10%	\$378.90	\$390.00	\$11.10	2.9%
Polystyrene - 120L bin	Per Load	Council	10%	\$8.50	\$9.00	\$0.50	5.9%
Polystyrene - 240L bin	Per Load	Council	10%	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Polystyrene - 660L bin	Per Load	Council	10%	\$42.00	\$42.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Bricks and concrete (smaller than 300mm in diameter with no reinforcement bars)	Per Tonne	Council	10%	\$98.65	\$107.00	\$8.35	8.5%
Mulch (subject to availability) Grantville only - loading fee per cubic meter	Per Cubic Meter	Council	10%	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Mulch (subject to availability) Grantville only - self load	Per load	Council	10%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%

Fee Description	Unit of Measure	Basis of Fee	GST %	2025/2026 Fee per Unit Inc GST	2026/2027 Fee per Unit Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %
Local Laws General Permits							
Short Stay Rental Accommodation Registration	Per Permit	Council	N/A	\$324.00	\$600.00	\$276.00	85.2%
Short Stay Rental Accommodation Registration - 5+ Bedrooms	Per Permit	Council	N/A	NEW	\$900.00	\$900.00	100.0%
Urgent processing fee (for permit required within 7 days)	Per Permit	Council	10%	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$1.00	2.9%
Abandoned vehicle release fee	Per Vehicle	Council	10%	\$395.00	\$407.00	\$12.00	3.0%
Abandoned vehicle storage (daily)	Per Vehicle	Council	10%	\$26.00	\$27.00	\$1.00	3.8%
Impound fee shopping trolleys	Per Trolley	Council	10%	\$68.00	\$70.00	\$2.00	2.9%
Impound release fee (signs or other items not requiring towing (excl trolleys)	Per Item	Council	10%	\$160.00	\$165.00	\$5.00	3.1%
General local law permit fee (includes general permit fees as outlined in applications)	Per Permit	Council	N/A	\$130.00	\$134.00	\$4.00	3.1%
Camping on private land (12 months from date of issue)	Per Permit	Council	N/A	\$291.00	\$300.00	\$9.00	3.1%
Collecting money (gifts, subscriptions or raffles) Charities	Per Event	Council	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Collecting money (gifts, subscriptions or raffles) Non incorporated organisations	Per Event	Council	N/A	\$139.00	\$143.00	\$4.00	2.9%
Collecting money (gifts, subscriptions or raffles) Incorporated organisations	Per Event	Council	N/A	\$70.00	\$72.00	\$2.00	2.9%
Block clearing administration fee	Per Event	Council	10%	\$176.00	\$181.00	\$5.00	2.8%
Local Laws Trading Permits							
Footpath Trading charges are managed on a monthly, pro-rata basis. A 25% discount on the permit fee is available to all businesses that are members of a Bass Coast tourism or business association. Capped at \$500. Ongoing renewal discount only valid if paid by the due date.							
Footpath trading application fee	Per Application	Council	N/A	\$123.00	\$127.00	\$4.00	3.3%
Displaying goods or services for sale or hire	Per Square Metre	Council	N/A	\$172.00	\$177.00	\$5.00	2.9%
Outdoor eating facility / tables & chairs inc. screens, planter boxes, bins etc.	Per Square Metre	Council	N/A	\$140.00	\$144.00	\$4.00	2.9%
Placing advertising signs (A Frames)	Per Sign	Council	N/A	\$140.00	\$144.00	\$4.00	2.9%
Trading from a roadside or trading from door to door	Per Site	Council	N/A	\$355.00	\$366.00	\$11.00	3.1%
Parklet application fee	Per New Application	Council	N/A	\$123.00	\$127.00	\$4.00	3.3%
Parklet installation/erection for the purposes of outdoor eating	Per car park	Council	N/A	\$1,724.00	\$1,776.00	\$52.00	3.0%
Domestic Animals Act Cat/Dog Registrations							
Animal Registration charges are managed on a monthly, pro-rata basis.							
Animal Registration Fees - Desexed dog or cat; breeding dog or cat; dogs and cats registered with applicable organisations; obedience trained dogs, working farm dogs; cat or dog over 10 years old.	Per Year	Statutory	N/A	\$47.40	\$53.00	\$5.60	11.8%
Animal Registration Fees - Puppy under 6 months old	Per Year	Statutory	N/A	NEW	\$53.00	\$53.00	100.0%
Reduced Animal Registration Fees (Pensioner) -Desexed dog or cat; breeding dog or cat; dogs and cats registered with applicable organisations; obedience trained dogs, working farm dogs; cat or dog over 10 years old.	Per Year	Statutory	N/A	\$23.70	\$26.00	\$2.30	9.7%
Dangerous/menacing/restricted breed dog	Per Year	Statutory	N/A	\$250.10	\$250.10	\$0.00	0.0%
Non desexed cat or dog	Per Year	Statutory	N/A	\$140.00	\$169.00	\$29.00	20.7%
Non desexed cat or dog (pensioner)	Per Year	Statutory	N/A	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Rescue group cat or dog registration for first year	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Guide dogs (seeing/hearing), approved definition assistance dogs and Government Dogs	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Registration reminder notice (late fee)	Per Year	Council	10%	\$19.00	\$20.00	\$1.00	5.3%
Excess animals/Keeping of Animals - application fee and permit fee	Per Application	Council	N/A	\$192.00	\$198.00	\$6.00	3.1%
Pound Release Fees							
Microchip fee/tagging fee - impounded animals	Per Animal	Council	10%	\$70.00	\$72.00	\$2.00	2.9%
Pound release fee - stock (sheep, cattle, goats or pigs etc.)	Per Animal	Council	10%	\$134.00	\$138.00	\$4.00	3.0%
Pound release fee - dogs	Per Animal	Council	10%	\$134.00	\$138.00	\$4.00	3.0%
Pound sustenance charge - dog/livestock (maximum per day)	Per Animal	Council	10%	\$21.00	\$22.00	\$1.00	4.8%
Pound sustenance fee - cats	Per Animal	Council	10%	\$134.00	\$138.00	\$4.00	3.0%
Pound sustenance charge - cats (per day)	Per Animal	Council	10%	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Vet trip (each way)	Per Animal	Council	10%	\$36.00	\$37.00	\$1.00	2.8%
Release fee - dog collected but not in the pound	Per Animal	Council	10%	\$68.00	\$70.00	\$2.00	2.9%

Fee Description	Unit of Measure	Basis of Fee	GST %	2025/2026 Fee per Unit Inc GST	2026/2027 Fee per Unit Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %
Other Animal Management Fees							
Domestic animal business - Application fee - Overnight boarding kennel or cattery, Animal shelter/pound, Pet Shop or Breeding / Rearing establishment	Per Application	Council	N/A	\$348.00	\$358.00	\$10.00	2.9%
Domestic animal business -Application fee - Home Boarding or Training establishment	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$174.00	\$179.00	\$5.00	2.9%
Domestic animal business - Annual registration fee - Overnight boarding kennel or cattery, Animal shelter/pound, Pet Shop	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$348.00	\$358.00	\$10.00	2.9%
Domestic animal business - Annual Registration fee - Home Boarding or Training establishment	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$174.00	\$179.00	\$5.00	2.9%
Domestic animal business - Annual Registration Fee (additional DAB) - boarding, pound, shelter or training establishment excluding breeding/rearing	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$58.00	\$60.00	\$2.00	3.4%
Domestic animal business - Annual Registration Fee - Breeding / Rearing - up to 5 fertile female dogs / cats	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$348.00	\$358.00	\$10.00	2.9%
Domestic animal business - Annual Registration Fee - Breeding - 6 to 10 fertile female dogs / cats	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$698.00	\$719.00	\$21.00	3.0%
Domestic animal business - Annual Registration Fee -Breeding - 11 to 50 fertile female cats	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$907.00	\$934.00	\$27.00	3.0%
Domestic animal business - Annual Registration Fee -Breeding Commercial 11 to 50 fertile female dogs	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$907.00	\$934.00	\$27.00	3.0%
Domestic animal business - Annual Registration Fee -Breeding over 50 fertile female cats	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$1,190.00	\$1,226.00	\$36.00	3.0%
Domestic animal business - Non-compliant re-inspection fee per visit	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$291.00	\$300.00	\$9.00	3.1%
Droving through municipal district /grazing	Per Event	Council	10%	\$291.00	\$300.00	\$9.00	3.1%
Stock on road - call out fee	Per Event	Council	10%	\$668.00	\$688.00	\$20.00	3.0%
Pony Clubs that reside in Bass Coast Shire (maximum 5 riders at time)	Per Year	Council	10%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Pony Clubs that don't reside in Bass Coast Shire (maximum 5 riders at time)	Per Year	Council	10%	\$1,197.00	\$1,233.00	\$36.00	3.0%
Recreational horse riders residing in Bass Coast Shire	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Recreational horse riders not residing in Bass Coast Shire	Per Year	Council	10%	\$89.00	\$92.00	\$3.00	3.4%
Professional horse trainers residing in Bass Coast Shire and registered with Racing Victoria	Per Year	Council	10%	\$598.00	\$616.00	\$18.00	3.0%
Professional horse trainers not residing in Bass Coast and registered with Racing Victoria	Per Year	Council	10%	\$2,991.00	\$3,081.00	\$90.00	3.0%
Environmental Health							
Foreshore & bushland use fees (Charged annually. Minimum fee \$122.26) (reductions to the fee are available on application in accordance with Council's Foreshore & Bushland Reserve Use Policy 2018)	Per Square Metre	Council	10%	\$86.10	\$89.00	\$2.90	3.4%
Electric Vehicle Charging Station - subject to periodic review	Per kWh	Council	10%	\$0.64	\$0.64	\$0.00	0.0%
Septic tanks (additional inspection or alteration)	Per Application	Council	10%	\$134.00	\$138.00	\$4.00	3.0%
Permit to construct, install or alter a system	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$822.60	\$822.60	\$0.00	0.0%
Minor alteration permit	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$627.10	\$627.10	\$0.00	0.0%
Renew a permit	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$140.60	\$140.60	\$0.00	0.0%
Transfer a permit	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$167.20	\$167.20	\$0.00	0.0%
Amend a permit	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$174.60	\$174.60	\$0.00	0.0%
Exemption from a permit	Per Application	Statutory	N/A	\$247.50	\$247.50	\$0.00	0.0%
Report and consent/Consent to use	Per Application	Council	10%	\$636.00	\$655.00	\$19.00	3.0%
Residential Tenancies Act							
Caravan Park registration fee - renewed for a period of up to three years	Per number of sites	Statutory	N/A	\$16.90	\$16.90	\$0.00	0.0%
Caravan Park Transfer fee	Notice of transfer	Statutory	N/A	\$84.10	\$84.10	\$0.00	0.0%
Public Health and Wellbeing Act Registration Fees							
Renewal - Medium Risk - Beauty, waxing, threading, facials, nails, eyelash extensions, tinting	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$302.00	\$311.00	\$9.00	3.0%
Registration - New Medium risk premises	Per Application	Council	N/A	\$451.00	\$465.00	\$14.00	3.1%
Renewal - High Risk - Skin Penetration, tattooing, colonic irrigation	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$323.00	\$333.00	\$10.00	3.1%
Registration- New High risk premises	Per Application	Council	N/A	\$486.00	\$501.00	\$15.00	3.1%
Ongoing registration of low risk premises	Per Application	Council	N/A	\$432.00	\$445.00	\$13.00	3.0%
Bulk flu immunisation	Per Immunisation	Council	N/A	\$28.00	\$29.00	\$1.00	3.6%
Registration – Renewal Category I Aquatic facility	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$597.00	\$615.00	\$18.00	3.0%
Registration – New Application Category I Aquatic facility	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$398.00	\$410.00	\$12.00	3.0%
Registration - each additional pool or spa on the premises	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$171.00	\$176.00	\$5.00	2.9%
Transfer of Health, Rooming House or Aquatic Facility registration (excluding one-off Hairdressers)	Per Application	Council	N/A	50% of renewal fee	50% of renewal fee	\$0.00	0.0%

Fee Description	Unit of Measure	Basis of Fee	GST %	2025/2026 Fee per Unit Inc GST	2026/2027 Fee per Unit Inc GST	Fee Increase / (Decrease) \$	Fee Increase / (Decrease) %
Prescribed Accommodation							
New registration/Renewal Prescribed accommodation - 4-10 client capacity	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$410.00	\$422.00	\$12.00	2.9%
New registration/Renewal Prescribed accommodation - 11-20 client capacity	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$564.00	\$581.00	\$17.00	3.0%
New registration/New registration/Renewal Prescribed accommodation - 21-30 client capacity	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$800.00	\$824.00	\$24.00	3.0%
New registration/Renewal Prescribed accommodation - 31-40 client capacity	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$1,066.00	\$1,098.00	\$32.00	3.0%
New registration/Renewal Prescribed accommodation - 40+ client capacity	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$1,410.00	\$1,452.00	\$42.00	3.0%
Food Act Registration Fees							
Food Act registrations fees and refunds are managed on a quarterly pro-rata basis. Please note: all new registrations (under Food Act and Public Health and Wellbeing Act) will be charged pro-rata per quarter after 1st July. New Food Act Registrations received after 1 Oct will be charged pro-rata up to 15 months, expiring on 31 Dec the following year.							
Temporary food vendors (state wide registration on Stretrader) Class 2 (yearly)	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$201.00	\$207.00	\$6.00	3.0%
Temporary food vendors (state wide registration on Stretrader) Class 3 (yearly)	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$76.00	\$78.00	\$2.00	2.6%
Registration/Renewal Class 2 (fixed, mobile or temporary NFP and community groups)	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$99.00	\$102.00	\$3.00	3.0%
Registration/Renewal Class 3 (fixed, mobile or temporary NFP and community groups)	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$78.00	\$80.00	\$2.00	2.6%
Class 2 Registration - New - Supermarket, large convenience, fast food or manufacture	Per Application	Council	N/A	\$1,493.00	\$1,538.00	\$45.00	3.0%
Class 2 Registration - Renewal - Supermarket, large convenience, fast food or manufacture	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$996.00	\$1,026.00	\$30.00	3.0%
Class 1 Registration - New	Per Application	Council	N/A	\$1,087.00	\$1,120.00	\$33.00	3.0%
Class 1 Registration - Renewal	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$728.00	\$750.00	\$22.00	3.0%
Class 2 Registration - New	Per Application	Council	N/A	\$996.00	\$1,026.00	\$30.00	3.0%
Class 2 Registration - Renewal	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$668.00	\$688.00	\$20.00	3.0%
Class 2 Registration - Mobile	Per Application	Council	N/A	\$668.00	\$688.00	\$20.00	3.0%
Class 2 & 3 Registration (temporary) - New	Per Application	Council	N/A	\$300.00	\$309.00	\$9.00	3.0%
Class 2 & 3 Registration (temporary) - Renewal	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$200.00	\$206.00	\$6.00	3.0%
Class 3 Registration-New	Per Application	Council	N/A	\$575.00	\$592.00	\$17.00	3.0%
Class 3 Registration- Mobile	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$385.00	\$397.00	\$12.00	3.1%
Class 3 (including 3A) Registration- Renewal	Per Year	Council	N/A	\$385.00	\$397.00	\$12.00	3.1%
Fee for inspections pursuant to s. 19UA	Per Hour	Council	N/A	\$133.00	\$137.00	\$4.00	3.0%
Other professional services, audits conducted at request of business, failure to comply or repeated follow up inspections	Per Hour	Council	N/A	\$133.00	\$137.00	\$4.00	3.0%
Other Environmental Health Fees							
Renewal Community group registration 50% discount according to class and type							
Registration refund - upon notice of closure business may apply for pro-rata refund for remaining registration quarters not yet entered.							
Other professional services, audits conducted at request of business	Per Application	Council	10%	\$322.00	\$332.00	\$10.00	3.1%
Refund Processing Fee (All Premises) associated with change in business circumstances	Per Application	Council	N/A	\$32.00	\$33.00	\$1.00	3.1%
Other property fees							
Community Rental Rate Per Annum	Per Annum	Council	10%	NEW	\$440.00	\$440.00	100.0%
Road Discontinuance and Sale Application Fee	Per Application	Council	10%	NEW	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00	100.0%

8.2 Response to Petition Public Open Space and Connectivity Considerations I58 Reed Crescent Wonthaggi

Division

Future Places

Council Plan Strategic Objective

Thriving Places

Facilities and infrastructure meet current and future needs. Growth is sustainable and well planned. Our economy, agriculture, tourism, and industries are resilient. Unique character is preserved.

Declaration

The author has no general or material interests in relation to this report.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide a response to a Petition received by Council at its 18 February 2026 meeting.

The petition was titled, Public Open Space Drainage and Connectivity Considerations I58 Reed Crescent Wonthaggi.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Notes the development can proceed as planned in accordance with the endorsed planning permit PDPLANER-2023/000649**
2. **Resolves to invite the developer of I58 Reed Crescent, Wonthaggi to consider an alternative drainage strategy, including costings**
3. **Investigates the existing Crown Land Reserve abutting I58 Reed Crescent, Wonthaggi is vested in Council as recreational land**
4. **Notes the use of public open space funding contributions from the development at I58 Reed Crescent to apply to the project, subject to the proposal being successful**
5. **Resolves to invite stakeholders to form a working group to progress the alternative drainage strategy, including at a minimum, the head petitioner and a Council staff representative. With the developer to receive an invitation to join the working group.**

Background

At its 18 February meeting, Council received a Petition containing 454 signatures and a total of 531 entries. The petition reads:

We the undersigned are local rate payers who would like the recently approved subdivision at 158 Reed Cr — (PDPLANPER-2023/000649) to have positive outcomes for 'Public Open Space', 'Drainage' and 'Pedestrian/ Cycling Transport Connectivity' in the immediate vicinity of the subdivision, benefiting existing Wonthaggi residents, potential purchasers of the new subdivision and visitors to Bass Coast. The reserve would act as a gateway to those exploring the jewel which is the recently created 'Yallock Bullock Marine and Coastal Park'.

Council's decision at its 18 February meeting was to:

1. Receive the petition, Public Open Space Drainage and Connectivity Considerations 158 Reed Crescent Wonthaggi to lie on the table with a report to be presented no later than the 15 April 2026 Council Meeting.
2. Advise the head petitioner of Council's decision.

The head petitioner was contacted to advise of the Council's decision and this report responds to the first part of Council's decision.

Discussion

The petition received requested that Council consider two key proposals with associated benefits:

1. Request for the creation of a new Recreation Reserve

The petition requests that the 5% developer contribution to open space is allocated solely for the creation of a new public recreation reserve adjacent to the new development.

2. Request for upgraded stormwater treatment in the proposed reserve.

This request is proposed to have multiple benefits including positive environmental outcomes, flood mitigation for adjacent properties, and improved connectivity to Yallock Bullock Marine and Coastal Park.

The Development Area and Proposed Nature Reserve

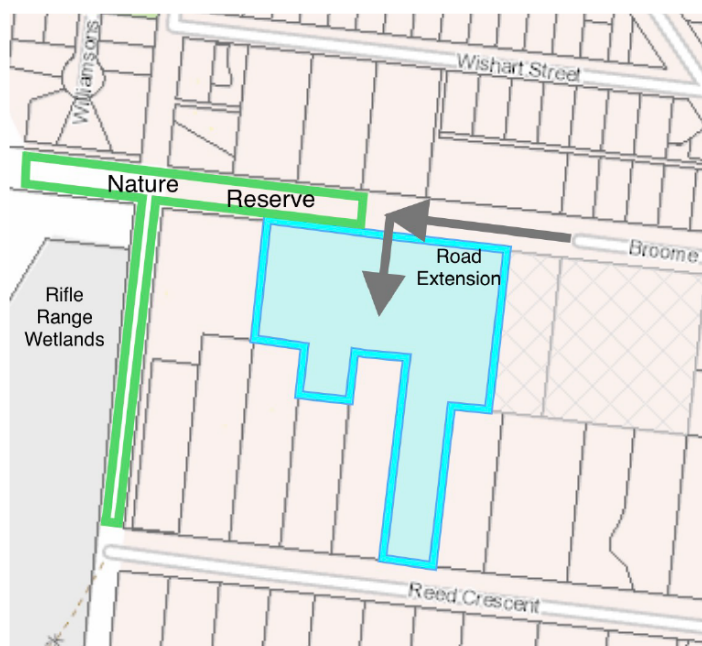


Figure 1

The area shaded in blue in Figure 1 shows the development area between Reed Crescent and Broome Street, Wonthaggi.

The area boxed in green is the unused road reserve that is proposed to be made recreational reserve. Wetland features are proposed to be included in this area by the petition, as an alternative drainage strategy to the approved development plans. This would allow for connecting pathways in the future.

Planning Considerations

In consideration of the proposal, the status of the planning permit needs to be considered. At the time the petition was received, the developer had already obtained a permit and was under no obligation to alter the permit.

Developers are only responsible for ensuring their newly created lots are drained appropriately and that the downstream situation is not worsened. The developer would need to consider implications such as revisiting the approved stormwater management plan and time it takes to have this amended and approved.

Public Open Space Considerations and Strategic Priority

The amounts of public open space contributions are not typically tied to the land adjacent to the development and are used for Council's open space strategic priorities in the locality. These are often matched with grant funding when available and linked to existing public open space for recreational facilities. Council may ultimately decide to optimise planning outcomes with strategic allocations to align with land development. Public open space cannot be used for drainage purposes.

Engineering Considerations

The wetlands and meandering swale are possible but considered to be a more costly solution to stormwater management than what is approved. The developer has included a gross pollutant trap and detention basin with vegetated (grass) swales discharging to the existing wetlands at the end of Reed Crescent. This meets their stormwater quality treatment obligations under the planning scheme.

Flood mitigation is proposed by the developer to be provided by a single detention basin in the Broome Crescent road reserve.

This will ensure that the stormwater is discharged at a flow rate equal to the pre-developed discharge rate required by the planning scheme. Creating a 'chain-of-ponds' wetlands system along the swale would be a more costly asset for Council to maintain than the current proposal.

Pedestrian connections to the west of the site was explored with the developer in initial negotiations, though ultimately deemed unfeasible for this subdivision. Issues with the lack of existing infrastructure to connect to, length of path required, vegetation removal costs and gradient challenges meant it was deemed insufficient nexus. The developer will provide a footpath along the site frontage only. Any path connections west of the site have initially been assessed as an option that would need to be funded by Council.

Based on Planning and Engineering advice, the developer can manage stormwater quality treatment to best practice standards as per industry practice and planning scheme requirements.

With additional cost and timing implications aside, it is noted that the petition proposal, subject to further design, would provide an alternative solution to best practice stormwater treatment and provide improved community amenity and recreation value.

Funding and implementation plan

The amount of funding shortfall for the alternative drainage strategy needs to be understood. A clear scope of works will need to be defined and costed with staged a staged delivery plan. A decision-making framework determining what Council's roles and responsibilities are in terms of permit compliance and discretionary investment is recommended.

Limit of works

Any agreement going forward is recommended to be restricted to the declaration of a recreation reserve and development and delivery of the proposed alternative drainage strategy. This work is critical to put in place initially in conjunction with the development to enable future environmental and recreational enhancements. Further benefits such as creating pathway connections to Yallock Bullock Coastal Marine can then be achieved as separate projects in the future subject to funding and strategic priorities.

Sustainability Implications

The creation of a recreation reserve and wetlands as an alternative to the approved stormwater management plan is considered to have largely positive sustainability benefits.

Economic implications in terms of additional project costs need to be further costed, and these are proposed to be incorporated into an agreement with relevant stakeholders.

Some additional ongoing operational, maintenance, and renewal costs are expected with the upgraded stormwater treatment option.

Social benefits are positive regarding community recreation outcomes, including potential to enhance connectivity from the township to recreational reserves, pathways, and assets.

Environmental benefits are positive and in line with Council's strategic objectives.

Climate change benefits are also positive and in line with Council's strategic objectives.

Finances

The developer of 158 Reed Crescent is funding an approved stormwater treatment solution.

An alternative solution as proposed in the petition is expected to incur additional costs to the approved solution. Subject to agreement with the developer and their willingness to revisit the stormwater management plan and costings, this funding gap can be identified.

Alternative funding sources include the public open space developer contribution reserve and other grants as they become available.

A minimal alternative solution is recommended to be developed with the available funds that can then be staged into future years.

Stakeholders

The Developer of 158 Reed Crescent is a key stakeholder to enable the proposal.

The head petitioner represents many community members and groups. Council staff have been engaging with the representative to assist them in the petition process.

Site meeting with Head Petitioner on 25 March 2026

A site meeting was hosted by the Head Petitioner on 25 March 2016. In attendance were Council representatives, the representative for the developer of 158 Reed Crescent, the Bunurong Land Council representative, and community stakeholders.

The environmental, amenity, and recreational benefits of the proposal were noted by all stakeholders. Council representatives committed to further exploring options to facilitate proposed outcomes in conjunction with the developer, subject to their agreement.

Stakeholder working group

A stakeholder working group with Community members, the Bunurong Land Council and Council representatives is recommended to be established to lead the delivery of the proposal if it is to proceed. The developer is recommended to be invited to be a part of the working group. The responsibilities of the working group would need to be further outlined within an implementation plan and funding strategy.

Conclusion

The value of the proposal via the petition is acknowledged and is in line with Council's strategic objectives related to climate change, the environment, and thriving places. Its success will be dependent on key stakeholders and any implications related to them, such as the developer of 158 Reed Crescent and other approval authorities.

Due to the timing of this proposal, it is recommended that Council resolve to further engage the developer and invite them to consider an alternative drainage strategy.

Further investigation is recommended to and identify the funding shortfall and detail an implementation and funding strategy for the proposal. Due to the recreational value of the proposal, it is also recommended to ensure the reserve is vested in Council as recreational land and that Council authorises the use of public open space funding contributions from the development at 158 Reed Crescent to apply to the project if the proposal is successful.

A stakeholder working group is proposed to be formed to progress this work and include at a minimum the head petitioner, and a Council staff representative.

Governing Documents

- Council Vision
- Council Plan
- Planning and Environment Act

Attachments

- I. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Petition - 158 Reed Crescent [8.2.1 - 7 pages]

8.3 Bass Coast Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2030 Mid-Term Review**Division****Community & Culture****Council Plan Strategic Objective****Naturally Beautiful***Together we build resilience and protect and enhance our natural environment***Declaration**

The author has no general or material interests in relation to this report.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to present the findings from the mid-term review of the Climate Change Action Plan 2020–2030, including the draft Council Priority Actions 2026–2030, which update the Council-led actions in the plan. These updates ensure Council’s efforts remain targeted, effective, and responsive to review findings and community priorities.

Recommendation**That Council:**

- 1. Endorse the draft Council Priority Actions 2026–2030;**
- 2. Note the Council Priority Actions 2026-2030 update the Council-led actions in the Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2030.**

Background

As one of the first regional councils in Australia to declare a Climate Emergency, Bass Coast has a strong legacy of climate leadership and local commitment. The Bass Coast Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2030 was leading for its time in charting a pathway to net zero emissions by 2030 across both Council operations and the wider community. The plan includes:

- 45 Council-led actions
- 15 community actions
- 8 business and organisation actions
- 6 agriculture and farming actions

As committed in the plan, officers undertook a comprehensive mid-term review throughout 2025. The review assessed progress, identified emerging risks and opportunities, and tested community priorities to ensure the plan remains effective and aligned with current science, policy, and local needs.

Key review outputs include:

- Achievements Report – highlighting Council and community progress since 2020 (refer Attachment I)
- Mid-Term Review Report – independent technical assessment of science, policy context, benchmarking, and implementation progress
- Engagement Report – outlining community engagement findings and updated community priorities

These review outputs will be made available on the [Engage Page](#) and [Community Action Portal](#).

Discussion

The review found the plan is driving strong progress toward reducing emissions and improving climate resilience – both across Council’s operations and the entire Bass Coast community. The Achievements Report (Attachment I) highlights some of the key achievements since 2020, including:

- Strong progress across major initiatives. Council has -
 - exceeded its renewable energy targets, installing 310kW of new solar power and 120kWh of battery storage across a range of community facilities
 - strengthened energy resilience at 10 dedicated Community Resilience Hubs
 - expanded public EV charging, adding 4 new 60kW charging stations at Grantville, Inverloch, Newhaven and Wonthaggi
 - progressed asset resilience planning, and
 - continued transitioning Council fleet and equipment to electric and low-emission options
- Nature and environment outcomes –
 - Biolinks partnership has improved connectivity of native vegetation across the rural landscape through 1.5 million native plantings since 2020. These plantings will absorb an estimated 165,000 tonnes of CO₂-e as they mature
 - Bass Coast townships are becoming greener, cooler and more biodiverse. Since adopting the Urban Forest Strategy 2022-2040, Council has planted more than 3,200 new street trees; aiming for 40% canopy cover over all townships by 2040
- Policy improvements - Council has updated its Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) policy, divested from fossil fuels within its Investment Policy, and developed a Circular Economy Framework to support a more regenerative Bass Coast with fewer wasted resources.

Key learnings highlight that climate action is most effective when it is collaborative and integrated across Council operations, supported and scaled through partnerships and external funding, targeted to Councils level of control or influence, and tailored to opportunities important for the Bass Coast community – such as nature restoration.

These insights and learnings from the review and community engagement shaped the development of the Council Priority Actions 2026-2030 update (Attachment 3). These updates ensure Council's efforts remain current, targeted, and responsive to evolving legislative, policy, risk requirements and community priorities. The document consolidates key findings from the entire mid-term review, including progress achieved to date, insights from community engagement, and updated priority areas worthy of increased focus or acceleration.

Actions are organised under key action areas and prioritised for initiatives with the greatest potential to build resilience, reduce emissions, and support the community to do the same over the next four years (Attachment 2 – Plan on a Page, and Attachment 3 - Council Priority Actions 2026-2030).

Key action areas include:

- Adaptation, Risk and Resilience – Strengthen the capacity of both Council and our community to adapt and prepare for current and future climate impacts
- Energy Transition – Optimise and expand local renewable energy and storage, helping cut emissions and cost, supporting a cleaner, more reliable future
- Sustainable Transport – Partner and advocate for holistic, sustainable transport solutions
- Waste and Circular Economy – Work with our community to reduce waste and support a circular, regenerative and resilient economy and food system
- Land, Water and Nature – Strengthen and scale nature-based solutions to draw down carbon while enhancing biodiversity and natural asset protection
- Community, Equity and Climate Justice – Ensure no one is left behind, building on strategic partnerships to support a fair and equitable energy transition
- Leadership and Governance – Support our community to lead solutions, while advocating and partnering across federal, state and local government areas leveraging collective and collaborative action for impact

Community-led, business-led and agriculture-led actions have been reviewed and remain fit for purpose. These continue to serve as important reference points for individuals, households, businesses and farm managers seeking guidance within the broader Climate Change Action Plan 2020–2030.

Sustainability Implications

Although initially developed in response to strong community expectations, the Climate Change Action Plan is now also central to meeting Council's legislative responsibilities. Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, *Climate Change Act 2017* and recent amendments to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, councils are required to give explicit consideration to climate change in decision-making and to actively manage climate risks across all services, assets and functions. The Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2030 and Council Priority Actions 2026–2030 provide the framework that embeds climate considerations into everyday decision-making across Council departments, supporting responsible governance and long-term community resilience.

Finances

Delivery of the Council Priority Actions 2026-2030 can largely be met within existing budgets across various departments. An endorsed and updated Priority Actions plan ensures Council can also continue to attract external funding and leverage strategic partnerships to deliver more, as highlighted in the Achievements Report (Attachment 1). Where partnerships or external funding are essential to the delivery of an action, this is outlined in the priority actions tables (refer Attachment 3).

Stakeholders

Throughout September and October 2025, substantial engagement was carried out both internally across Council teams, and with the Bass Coast community. A broad range of engagement activities were undertaken including:

- Internal interviews with Council staff, workshops and an action-by-action review
- Ongoing dialogue with community groups
- 6 Pop up information sessions across the Shire
- Film screening followed by panel Q&A exploring the role of young voices in climate action
- Dedicated Engage Page with community dialogue and surveys
- A deliberative community engagement workshop
- One school incursion
- Updates and reach through newspaper articles, newsletters and social media
- Review update at the Sustainability Festival

Community engagement gathered a broad range of perspectives, with 85 responses to the youth survey, 73 responses to the community survey and 408 visits to the Engage Page. The deliberative engagement workshop reviewed all actions in the plan and gathered community feedback to understand how Council can best support community ambitions to reduce emissions and build climate resilience.

Community priorities and perspectives gathered over the range of engagement activities were built into the Council Priority Actions 2026-2030 update (Attachment 3). Further information about engagement findings and the review will be provided on the [Community Action Portal](#) and [Engage Page](#).

Conclusion

By delivering the 2026–2030 Council Priority Actions, Council can continue to prepare for climate impacts, cut emissions across Council operations and the Bass Coast community, ensure support reaches those who need it most, and increase the impact of Council's efforts by engaging the community, partnering with others and attracting external funding.

Governing Documents

Bass Coast Climate Change Action Plan 2020 – 2030

Local Government Act 2020

Climate Change Act 2017

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 - Achievements Report [8.3.1 - 14 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - Plan on a Page - Council Priority Actions 2026-2030 [8.3.2 - 1 page]
3. Attachment 3 - Council Priority Actions 2026 2030 [8.3.3 - 26 pages]



Climate Change Action Plan: Outcomes and Achievements 2020–2025



Acknowledgement of Country

Bass Coast Shire Council acknowledges the Bunurong as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and Lore.

Bass Coast Shire Council celebrates the opportunity to embrace and empower the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island Communities in their diversity.

Bass Coast Shire Council will create opportunities for future recognition and respectful partnerships that will honour the Traditional Owners and Custodians, and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

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Diversity and Inclusion

Bass Coast Shire Council celebrates the diversity of our communities. We acknowledge and respect the skills, insights and life experiences of all community members irrespective of gender, ethnicity, ability, religious belief, sexuality or age.

Child Safe Statement

Bass Coast Shire Council is committed to child safety and wellbeing, actively working to prevent abuse by identifying and addressing risks early. This work is underpinned by Council's Child Safe Statement, which guides our commitment to ensuring the safety, inclusion and wellbeing of every child.

Gender Impact Assessment

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been undertaken as part of the mid-term review of the Climate Change Action Plan.

Climate Action in Bass Coast



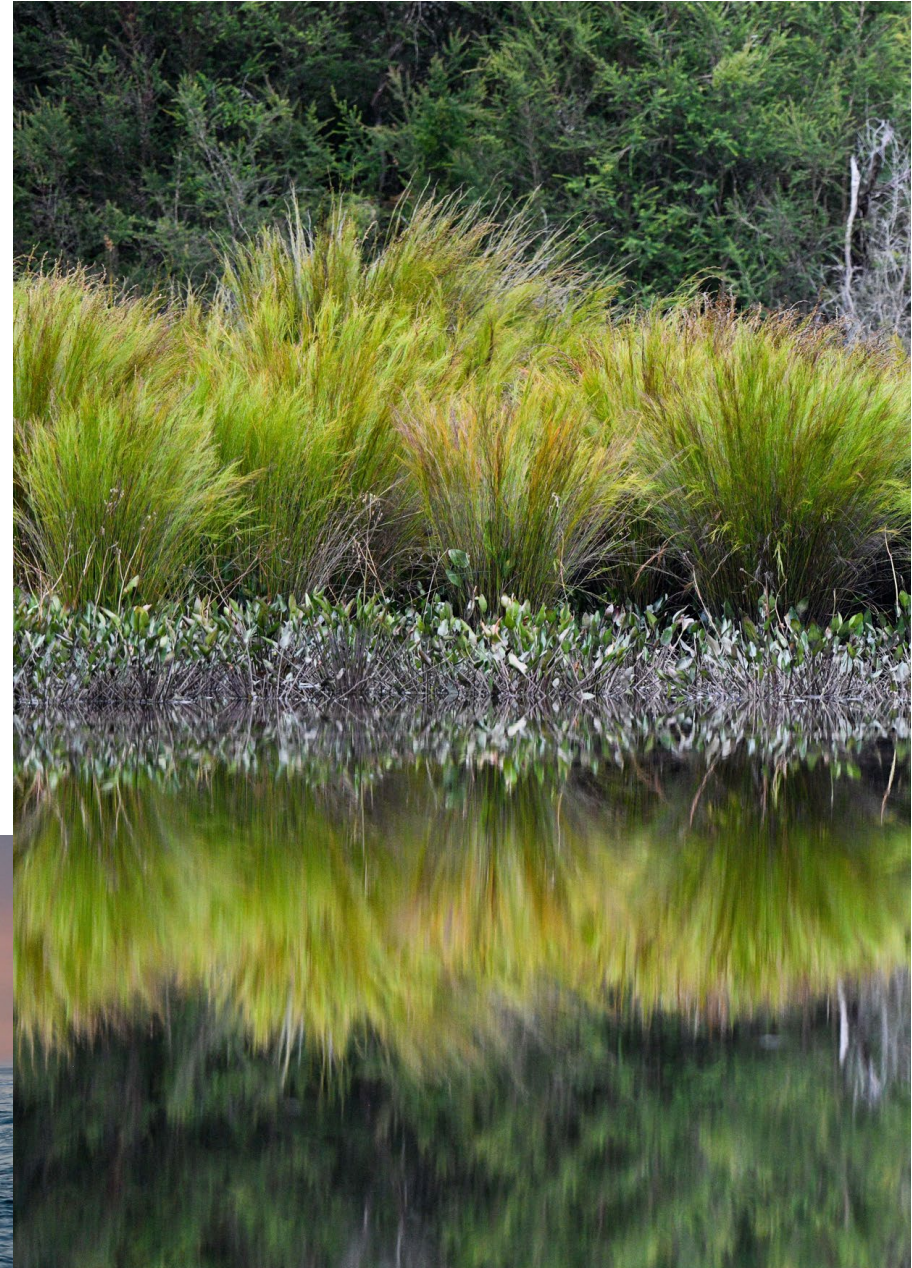
In 2019, Bass Coast Shire Council declared a climate emergency - recognising that climate change presents a very real risk to the safety, wellbeing and prosperity of our community. This marked an important moment for our Council and our community: a collective acknowledgement that we must act with urgency, ambition and care to protect the place, and people, we love.

Since then, Council and the community have been working together to deliver on the Bass Coast Climate Change Action Plan. Our shared goal is bold: to reach net zero emissions across the whole community by 2030 (this includes Council operations). It's a target that reflects both the scale of the challenge and the passion of our residents, businesses, farmers and local organisations to be part of the solution.

The Plan is grounded in partnership. We cannot achieve net zero alone. That's why it outlines 29 practical actions the community can take - across households, businesses and organisations, and farming and agriculture - to help drive down emissions and build a more resilient region. Alongside this, 45 actions guide the work Council must take directly to embed climate thinking into everything we do, reduce our own corporate emissions, adapt to a changing climate, and better support our community to act.

This Outcomes and Achievements Report reflects on the first 5 years of this journey. It highlights what we've achieved together so far, celebrates the leadership emerging across Bass Coast, and acknowledges the work still ahead. Most importantly, it shows that when we act collectively, meaningful change is possible.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this work. Your ideas, energy and action are shaping a safer, stronger and more climate-resilient Bass Coast for generations to come.



How are we Tracking?

The Climate Change Action Plan sets 2 major targets: achieving net zero emissions for Council operations by 2030, and reaching net zero emissions across the whole community. So, how are we progressing?

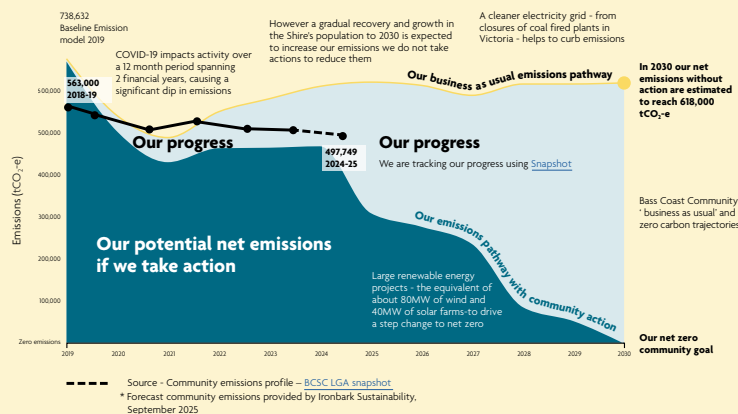
Community

Community emissions

Community emissions are trending down. The chart below illustrates our progress to date, using publicly available [Snapshot](#) community emissions data, compared against the community net zero pathway established in 2020 as part of our plan. By 2024-25, Bass Coast will have achieved a 12% reduction in emissions based on the snapshot data¹ which we are using to track our progress. This has been driven by increased renewable energy uptake, greater energy efficiency, lower vehicle activity, and changes in some agricultural commodities.

Some 30.1% of houses in the municipality now have solar, along with 16.6% of businesses. While we can't track the uptake of electric vehicles specifically in Bass Coast we know that 6.3% of households in Victoria now have an EV (up from 1% 5 years ago).

Net zero pathway – community emissions



¹Snapshot is a free, publicly available data set with community wide emissions that is nationally benchmarked. We use this data set to track our progress.

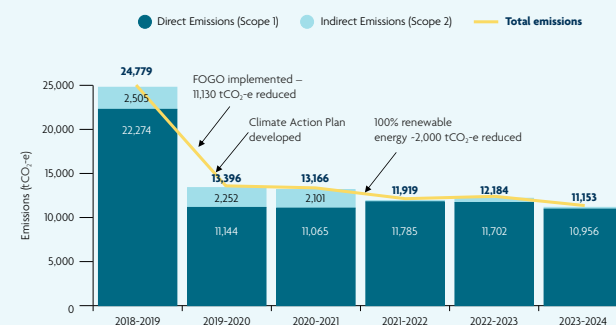
Council

Council emissions

Council's operational emissions saw a substantial reduction just prior to the development of the Climate Change Action Plan, largely due to the introduction of the food organics and garden organics (FOGO) kerbside collection service. By diverting organic material from landfill, this initiative has avoided more than 11,000 tonnes of CO₂-e emissions, as illustrated in the chart below.

Since the plan was developed we have dropped operational emissions by 16% since 2020. This is largely from the 100% renewable energy contract, reducing an approximate 2,000 tonnes CO₂-e. We've seen decreases across almost all emission sources, apart from diesel, this is largely due to improvements in how our data is collected and reported.

Council operational emissions



While this is a solid start, we know we need to accelerate our efforts over the next 5 years and start to tackle emissions that are more difficult to reduce. Our biggest opportunities lie in transitioning our fleet away from diesel and continuing to reduce emissions from the Grantville landfill site.

Despite our collective progress, we've noticed that emissions reduction has started to slow recently — a clear signal that we need to step up our collective efforts.

Together, these results show that meaningful progress is happening, but there's still plenty more to do. With continued community leadership and Council action, we can keep building momentum toward our shared net zero goals.

What we're Most Proud of

At the mid-point of the Climate Change Action Plan, 10 of Council's 45 actions are already complete, with many others well underway (see the [Community Action Portal](#) for progress on each action). For the 29 community-led actions, we've been gathering inspiring stories, data and insights that showcase where momentum is building across our community and where opportunities are emerging to amplify that impact even further.

Throughout this report, we share some of the standout highlights and stories from the past 5 years. But before diving into the detail, here's a snapshot of the achievements we're especially proud of — delivered with our community and partners.

Powering the energy transition

- Council operations are now powered by 100% renewable electricity, reducing emissions by around 2,000 tonnes of CO₂-e every year
- We have exceeded our solar PV targets, installing 310 kW of new solar panels across Council sites
- An additional 120 kWh of battery storage has been delivered to capture clean energy, reduce peak demand and boost resilience during outages
- Resilience hubs at targeted township locations in Bass Coast, equipped with solar and batteries have also been established to support communities during emergencies, contributing to both emissions reduction and local resilience

Leading the way on low-emissions transport

- Council's Integrated Transport Strategy has been endorsed to guide long-term sustainable transport planning across Bass Coast
- Our fleet is steadily transitioning to cleaner vehicles, with 18% electric vehicles and 35% low-emission vehicles
- Major public EV charges were installed in late 2025, helping residents, visitors and businesses make the shift to electric transport

Restoring nature and boosting carbon drawdown

- Since 2020, more than 1.5 million trees and plants have been established through the Biolinks Plan, drawing down an estimated 165,000 tonnes of CO₂-e
- The Biolinks partnership continues to deliver exceptional value, returning around \$22 in environmental and social benefits for every \$1 Council invests
- The Integrated Water Management Plan has been delivered to help secure a sustainable water future for our community and environment
- Developed and implementing our Urban Forest Strategy - supporting greener, cooler and more biodiverse townships

Protecting our coast and advocating for nature

- Coastal protection works have been delivered at Inverloch, Cowes East and Silverleaves helping safeguard key assets and ecosystems
- Council continues to advocate for increased investment in the Western Port Ramsar site to protect critical wetlands that are internationally recognised for their biodiversity, rich birdlife, and role in supporting healthy marine and coastal ecosystems
- The Cape to Cape Resilience Plan has been completed, providing a long-term framework to manage coastal hazards and support adaptation along the coastline of Inverloch and Anderson Inlet

Embedding climate resilience into how we work

- Climate hazards have been mapped into Council's infrastructure risk models, and the AVA Toolkit is now embedded in our systems to support climate-informed decision making
- Climate responsibilities have been added to all position descriptions, ensuring climate considerations are part of everyone's role
- Staff training has been delivered so that teams across Council understand climate risks, opportunities and their role in responding

Building community resilience and preparedness

- Equipped 10 Energy Resilience Hubs at targeted township locations in Bass Coast with solar and batteries to support communities during extreme weather events and power outages
- Local resilience forums have helped build self-reliance, strengthen connections and support communities to plan for climate impacts



Supporting a more circular Bass Coast

- Council with support from Sustainability Victoria provided a tailored Circular Economy Business Accelerator program to support local businesses in the journey towards a more circular and resilient Bass Coast
- Council endorsed a Circular Economy Framework that considers Council leadership, sectors and local business in the transition toward a more circular and resilient Bass Coast

Supporting an active and engaged community

- The Community Action Portal is live, giving residents a central place to learn, act and track our shared progress on climate
- Council has delivered numerous workshops and information sessions, and hosted Sustainability Festivals in 2021, 2023 and 2026, showcasing practical ways to save energy, reduce waste and care for Country
- Council has supported community-led programs to help households reduce bills, improve comfort and address energy hardship — reinforcing our commitment to equity and climate justice

Strengthening governance and driving responsible investment

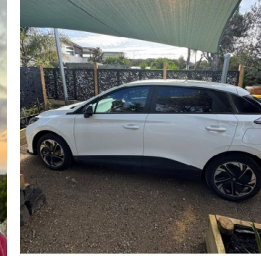
- Council's Procurement Policy has been strengthened to better align with climate and sustainability priorities, supporting a more circular economy by favouring low-waste, low-carbon goods and services
- We have moved to near-total fossil fuel divestment through Council's Investment Policy, ensuring our investments are consistent with a net zero future
- The revised Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy was endorsed in October 2025, setting stronger standards for Council assets and infrastructure across the Shire

These achievements highlight the strong progress being made — and the shared commitment across Bass Coast to a safer, more resilient, and climate-ready future.

For more details refer to the [Climate Change Action Plan - Mid-Term Review Report](#)

Action highlights	Outcomes
 Powering Council operations with 100% renewable electricity	Reducing 2,000 tonnes CO ₂ -e per year
 Exceeded our solar target, plus battery storage	310 kW of new panels and 120 kW battery storage
 Transitioning Council's fleet and equipment to electric	18% EV in fleet 35% low emission vehicles in fleet
 Leveraged partnerships, grants and co-contributions delivering more for less	For every \$1 Council invests in Biolinks, the partnership delivers approximately \$22 in value
 1.5 million trees planted through Biolinks Plan	Approximate carbon drawdown of 165,000 tonnes of CO ₂ -e
 Supporting an active and engaged community	Accessible online tools, festivals and local support to take meaningful action — together

Climate Action in Practice: Stories and Case Studies Across Bass Coast



Energy Transition

Council

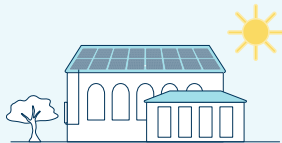
Powering Council operations with 100% renewable energy

Bass Coast Shire Council has made major progress in shifting its own operations to clean energy through Australia's largest local government renewable energy purchasing group – Council now powers all operations with 100% renewable electricity, cutting emissions by around 2,000 tonnes of CO₂-e each year.

Alongside purchasing renewable energy, Council is investing in local energy generation and storage. The Climate Change Action Plan set a target to install 250 kW of new solar, but Council has already exceeded this, reaching 310 kW of rooftop solar across key facilities. This is supported by 120 kWh of battery storage, improving resilience by enabling sites to continue operating during power outages and reducing peak energy demand.

Together, these actions demonstrate meaningful leadership in the energy transition. By combining renewable power purchasing, on-site solar generation and energy storage, Council is reducing emissions, lowering operational costs and building stronger, more resilient community services – one rooftop, one battery and one clean energy decision at a time.

Exceeded the **250 kW** target, reaching **310 kW** rooftop solar, supported by **120 kWh** battery storage



10 Climate Change Action Plan: Outcomes and Achievements 2020–2025

Community

Community story - electrifying at Cape Woolamai – home by the ocean, powered by the sun

Twelve years ago, Laura and Terry moved into their home in Cape Woolamai. Since then, they've gradually transformed it into a comfortable, efficient and fully electric home – one upgrade at a time, at a pace that suited their budget and lifestyle.

Their journey began with a 4.5 kW solar system. Over time they made simple, staged improvements: upgrading to double-glazed windows and doors, replacing their bottled gas stove with an induction cooktop, and eventually switching their 2 petrol cars for electric vehicles – an MG4 named Barry and an MG ZS called Ziggy – saving them a lot of money in maintenance and operation.

In November 2024, they expanded their system to 9.68 kW of solar and added a 9.6 kWh home battery. The results have been remarkable: around \$3,000 saved each quarter, and in February 2025 they even received a \$10 credit on their electricity bill.



Laura and Terry say their home feels better – not just warmer and more efficient, but more aligned with their values. Their advice? Start small, do your research, connect with local groups like Totally Renewable Phillip Island, and upgrade as you can afford to.

Their story shows that electrification is achievable for any household, one step at a time.



Climate Change Action Plan: Outcomes and Achievements 2020–2025 11



Sustainable Transport

Council

Supporting the community to go electric - fast EV charging across Bass Coast

Bass Coast Shire Council is helping residents, businesses and visitors make the shift to cleaner, low-emission transport by delivering a new network of public fast-charging stations across the region. In partnership with the Victorian Government's Destination Charging Across Victoria (DCAV) program, Council secured \$290,000 in funding and contributed a further \$140,000 from its Climate Change Action Plan budget to bring four 50 kW fast chargers to Wonthaggi, Grantville, Inverloch and Newhaven – adding to the fast chargers already available in Cowes.

These chargers provide rapid top-ups — around 100 km of range in just 15 minutes, powered by 100% renewable electricity. For locals, this makes EV ownership far more practical and affordable. For visitors, it removes range anxiety and strengthens Bass Coast as an EV-friendly tourist destination.

For the whole community, it accelerates progress toward the Shire's goal of net zero emissions by 2030, with transport making up nearly 30% of local emissions.

Installed **4** additional **50 kW** fast chargers across key locations in Bass Coast powered with **100%** renewable energy



By investing in public charging, Council is laying essential groundwork for a clean transport future — making it easier for households and businesses to choose electric and benefit from quieter, cleaner and cheaper-to-run vehicles.



12 Climate Change Action Plan: Outcomes and Achievements 2020–2025

Council

Connected pathways to a resilient and healthier Bass Coast

Bass Coast Shire Council's Tracks and Trails Strategy 2022–2032 delivers a transformative vision for a connected, healthy and climate resilient community by providing the blueprint to expand and upgrade a 167 km network of tracks and trails to support sustainable, low emission transport options. The strategy streamlines more than 272 existing trails and identifies 36–40 new trail opportunities, prioritising routes that strengthen township connectivity, enable active transport, and reduce reliance on cars—directly aligning with Council's climate action goals.

By introducing a robust assessment and prioritisation framework, the strategy ensures investment in trails that enhance community wellbeing, increase accessibility, and encourage mode shift toward walking and cycling—key pillars of climate resilient transport systems. With more than \$40 million in potential new projects identified, the strategy positions Bass Coast to reduce transport emissions while supporting healthy lifestyles and fostering nature-connected, sustainable mobility for both residents and visitors.



Climate Change Action Plan: Outcomes and Achievements 2020–2025 13



Waste and a Circular Economy

Council

Sustainable pavement innovation

Bass Coast Shire Council is adopting smarter, low-carbon construction methods to cut waste and emissions. In a recent road renewal project, Council reused 3,181 tonnes of recycled material on site, avoiding the need for 2,558 tonnes of new materials and preventing 2,353 tonnes of potential landfill waste.

This approach also meant far fewer truck movements — reducing travel by 29,400 kilometres and saving around 16,400 litres of diesel.

The result is a stronger road with a much smaller environmental footprint, showcasing how innovative practices can save resources, reduce emissions and deliver better long-term value.



Archies Creek Road renewal where bitumen is used to bind the existing pavement, reducing the use of road materials and associated truck movements.

Leading the way in FOGO

Bass Coast Shire Council has been a long-standing leader in food and garden waste recycling. While only 159 councils in Australia offer kerbside FOGO collection, Bass Coast was among the first to introduce the service in 2017. Today, around 12,000 tonnes of organic waste is collected each year and sent for offsite processing.

By diverting organic material from landfill, the service significantly reduces methane emissions and supports a more circular approach to waste.

FOGO continues to be a key part of Council's climate response, helping households reduce waste while improving environmental outcomes across the region.

Around **12,000** tonnes of organic waste is collected each year



Business and Organisations

Circular Economy Business Accelerator Program

Bass Coast's Circular Economy Business Accelerator Program was a pioneering initiative that helped local businesses shift toward more sustainable and circular ways of operating. Delivered from August to December 2024 with support from Sustainability Victoria's Circular Economy Innovation Fund, the program worked with 12 businesses across the Shire to reduce waste, regenerate resources and strengthen long-term resilience.

Participants included the San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op, Wildlife Coast Cruises, Ecoliv Buildings, Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre, and Genesta House. Each business demonstrated strong commitment to circular principles — both through what they were already doing and the new initiatives they trialled through the program, you can read more detailed case studies on each business [here](#).

While short in duration, the program sparked long-lasting momentum. Many participating businesses are continuing their circular initiatives into 2025 and beyond, laying the groundwork for broader circular action across the region.





Land, Water and Nature

Community

Council

Restoring nature through biolinks

In partnership with Bass Coast Landcare Network, Council has successfully delivered its Biolinks Biodiversity Plan, a flagship initiative improving habitat, water quality and landscape connectivity across Bass Coast. Funded through the Climate Change Action Plan and supported by strong strategic partnerships, the program has planted 1.5 million trees, delivering an estimated 165,000 tonnes of CO₂-e drawdown.

The Biolinks approach is recognised by the Victorian Government for its cost-effective contribution to water quality and alignment with state and local Integrated Water Management Plans. Volunteers, landholders and community groups have played a vital role, helping restore critical habitat across both public and private land.

One of the program's greatest strengths is its value for money: for every \$1 Council invests, the partnership returns around \$22 in environmental and social benefit. With this success, Council is now exploring opportunities to expand the program over the next five years.

1.5 million native trees planted through biolinks, delivering estimated **165,000 tCO₂-e** drawdown



Establishing the Nature Recovery Foundation

Bass Coast Shire Council is the first local government in Australia to establish a Nature Recovery Foundation in partnership with Biodiversity Legacy, with the ability to receive philanthropic donations to accelerate biodiversity restoration. Operating as a not-for-profit organisation, the Foundation's purpose is to reverse biodiversity decline by preserving, enhancing and restoring habitat across public and private land.

The Foundation is progressing through Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) endorsement, which will enable tax-deductible donations and attract long-term philanthropic partners. Uniquely, it has the power to own land in perpetuity and appoint experienced stewardship organisations to manage it.

The Foundation will complement and amplify Council's existing initiatives — including Biolinks — providing a new, sustainable funding stream to scale up nature recovery across Bass Coast. This bold step positions the Shire as a leader in community-driven conservation and long-term habitat protection.

Growing an urban forest

Bass Coast Shire Council is delivering on its Urban Forest Strategy, increasing tree canopy across townships to create cooler, greener and healthier communities. In the 2024–25 financial year, Council planted 1,800 new street trees, supported by a dedicated watering and maintenance program to ensure strong establishment.

A Preferred Urban Tree Species List is due to be launched in 2026, guiding planting decisions based on climate resilience, ecological value and indigenous vegetation classes. Council also maintains a publicly accessible Significant Tree Register, showcasing trees recognised for their ecological, cultural, historic or aesthetic value. These trees are protected under Local Law No. 1 to ensure they are preserved for future generations.

By expanding tree canopy and protecting important specimens, Council is building a more climate-resilient urban environment while enhancing community wellbeing and biodiversity.

Community

Leading change on farms – biofertiliser innovation

Bass Coast Landcare Network is supporting local farmers to adopt innovative, low-cost approaches that improve soil and pasture health and cut emissions. Through the Bioferts Training and Mentoring Program, funded through the Australian Governments Climate-Smart Agriculture Program, farmers are being actively supported to make and apply their own Biofertilisers. The program is also nurturing a 'community of practice' in Bass Coast and beyond.

In June 2025, Bass Coast Landcare Network hosted an "Introduction to BioFerts" field day at John Carney's farm, featuring expert Daniel Hodges. Since 2024, John has been producing and applying his own biofertiliser and mentoring fellow farmers, helping spark growing interest across the region.

By replacing synthetic fertilisers with farm-made alternatives, farmers can reduce emissions from production and transport, support healthier soils, increase pasture productivity and cut operating costs. This initiative is strengthening local farming communities while delivering environmental benefits — a win-win for growers and the climate.

Protecting the Western Port Woodlands

The Western Port Woodlands are one of Bass Coast's most significant ecological assets. A rare, continuous band of remnant coastal forest, community groups understand its importance and have played a vital role in advocating for its long-term protection.

An alliance made up of Save Western Port Woodlands, the South Gippsland Conservation Society and the Victorian National Parks Association presented to the Planning Panel seeking an Environmental Significance Overlay to safeguard the woodlands from further clearing and fragmentation. The alliance presented 8 expert witnesses, supported by many community presenters — with Bass Coast Shire Council also advocating strongly for greater protection.

Their efforts highlight the power of community-led conservation and the importance of preserving the region's most precious natural places. The Woodlands Alliance continues to call for urgent action to protect this "living gem" for future generations.





Community resilience workshop at Cape Patterson Hall



Additional solar PV 25.5 kw and a 2nd EV charging station installed in Werner's home



Adaptation, Risk and Resilience

Council

Energy Resilient Community Hubs

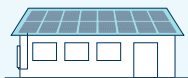
Council has supported the establishment of a [network of 10 Energy Resilient Community Hubs](#), upgrading community halls, neighbourhood houses and key facilities with solar and battery systems. Supported by more than \$200,000 in grant funding, the hubs were prioritised in areas most vulnerable to power outages and isolation during storms and emergencies.

These hubs provide safe places for residents to reconnect, charge devices and access information when the grid goes down — strengthening community response and recovery. The model proved its value during the February 2024 storm, when the Corinella and District Community Centre stayed open throughout the blackout.

The approach is now inspiring others, with several organisations seeking to upgrade their own facilities and joining the growing Waterline Emergency Network across Bass, Coronet Bay, Corinella, Tenby Point, Adams Estate, Grantville, Pioneer Bay and The Gurdies and Jam Jerrup.

10 Energy resilient hubs

installed at key locations supporting community resilience



Digital toolkits for preparedness and resilience

Bass Coast Shire Council is helping households, businesses and community groups build resilience through a growing suite of digital preparedness and efficiency toolkits.

Through a partnership with Myli, residents can borrow [Home Energy and Water Efficiency Kits](#), which include tools such as a Power-Mate Lite, thermal imaging camera, energy-saving thermometer and water-flow measuring cup. These practical devices help households identify inefficiencies, reduce bills and improve comfort year-round.

In addition to these resources, the Bass Coast Emergency Dashboard offers real-time alerts, local hazard information and clear guidance on how to prepare for emergencies.

Through membership of the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) Council has supported the development of two toolkits designed to strengthen local climate action:

- The [Small Business Climate Adaptation Toolkit](#), helping businesses understand climate risks and plan ahead
- The [Enhancing Community Resilience Toolkit](#), providing neighbourhoods and community groups with step-by-step guidance for preparing together

Together, these digital tools empower the Bass Coast community to stay informed, adapt early and build stronger, more resilient households, businesses and neighbourhoods.

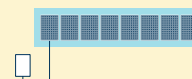
Community

Community story - building a fully electrified, resilient home

Bass Coast local Werner lives in a purpose-built, all-electric home designed for comfort, efficiency and resilience. Housing 3 older residents (one 99 year old and two 70 year olds) the home was built with electrification in mind from the outset, continuing a long-standing family commitment to clean energy.

The house features double glazing, high-performance insulation and LED lighting, with heating and cooling provided by efficient reverse-cycle heat pumps. Solar capacity has been progressively expanded from 12 kW to 25 kW to support two electric vehicles, and a 40 kWh home battery was installed to strengthen energy resilience particularly during the winter months.

These choices proved invaluable during a 3 day power outage in February 2024, when the home remained powered and connected to the internet and phone system via Starlink.





Community, Equity and Climate Justice

Community

Community story - young voices leading the way –Joey and Heidi inspire climate action

Young people continue to be powerful agents for climate justice in Bass Coast. Joey Thompson, a Year 12 student at Newhaven College, has become a recognised youth climate leader — helping organise School Strike 4 Climate events, speaking at the Bass Coast Climate Action Network forum, and even appearing on Channel Ten's The Project to call for urgent action on fossil fuels.

At the Future Council screening and panel event in September 2025, Joey was joined by 9 year old Heidi Schmutter, who spoke passionately about the future she hopes to inherit. Their insights,

alongside contributions from community leaders, highlighted the creativity, urgency and moral clarity young people bring to the climate movement.

Together, these young advocates are shaping the conversation in Bass Coast, reminding us that climate action must protect not only today's community, but the generations who will live with the consequences of the decisions we make now.

Community story - Cosy Homes: community warmth in action

The Cosy Homes project began as a grassroots effort by Wonthaggi locals Jessica Harrison and Aileen Vening, who saw the need to turn climate commitments into real support for residents struggling with cold, inefficient homes. Recognising the impact the program could have, the Energy Innovation Co-operative quickly got behind the idea and secured support through a state government grant. The project focused on people often excluded from mainstream programs—low-income households, renters, older residents, and those facing energy stress. Their aim was simple and equitable: help people make their homes more comfortable using low cost improvements and ensure everyone, regardless of income, could access rebates, concessions, and practical advice.

What made Cosy Homes remarkable was its deep connection to local community networks. Volunteers and partner organisations—from neighbourhood houses to food banks—helped identify residents

who needed support most. Trained local volunteers conducted home assessments and offered peer to peer guidance, creating a trusted, community-led model. This approach not only delivered energy efficiency advice, but also empowered volunteers and residents with new skills, strengthening community resilience.

The project completed retrofits for 30 homes by May 2022, using simple fixes like sealing draughts, installing weather strips, insulating pipes, and adding low-cost curtains or pelmets. These modest changes often made a big difference to comfort and bills. In some cases, volunteers also helped residents switch to fairer energy plans, saving thousands. At its heart, Cosy Homes demonstrated how small, practical actions—guided by neighbours helping neighbours—can lift comfort, cut costs, and support climate adaptation in a way that centres equity and community care.

Community

Business and Organisations

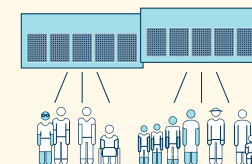
Council

Mycelia Renewables – equity at the heart of local action

Mycelia Renewables is demonstrating what climate justice looks like in practice, embedding equity into every aspect of its work. Supported through Bass Coast's Climate Action Grants and the Partnerships Program, Mycelia delivers workshops, energy assessments and upgrades, designed to include everyone in the energy transition, with specific supports for low-income and renting households.

Local businesses are also stepping up. Mycelia has partnered with the Archies Creek Hotel and The Mill Studio to host solar systems that generate community-owned renewable energy as part of the Mycelia Energy Collective. These partnerships ensure the benefits of local energy generation — lower bills, cleaner power and community resilience — are shared across the community, not just with those who can afford to invest upfront.

Mycelia's work is a powerful example of climate action that is fair, inclusive and community-led.





Leadership and Governance

Council

On ground change starts with the right strategic and policy setting. The Climate Change Action Plan includes a range of actions to ensure Council's policies, strategies and decision-making are aligned to reduce emissions and build a more resilient Bass Coast.

Since 2020, key governance wins include:

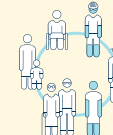
- Divesting from fossil fuels through an updated Investment Policy
- Strengthening the Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy to support greener, healthier and more resilient Council buildings and infrastructure
- Establishing an Urban Forest Strategy and a Circular Economy Framework aligned with Council's Economic Development Framework
- Updating Council's Procurement Policy to prioritise more sustainable goods and services
- Embedding climate leadership and awareness into staff position descriptions and professional development plans

Looking ahead, enabling community leadership will be critical to unlocking the next phase of climate action. One of Bass Coast's greatest strengths is the depth and diversity of local leadership. A full list of the community groups involved in shaping, delivering and reviewing the Climate Change Action Plan is included in this report.



Community

For an up to date listing of our active community groups please refer to our [Community Action Portal](#)



What's next?

Bass Coast's Climate Change Action Plan has just undergone an extensive mid-term review, helping us understand what's working well and where we need to focus our efforts over the next 5 years. The review recommended that the next phase of climate action in Bass Coast will:

- Reduce the number of actions to focus on those with the greatest impact
- Strengthen collaboration and partnership with Traditional Owners
- Elevate and empower young voices in decision-making
- Deepen our focus on adaptation and resilience, alongside mitigation
- Expand support for local businesses and agriculture
- Clarify Council's leadership role in driving community-wide climate action

These recommendations, among others, are being considered as we update the Climate Change Action Plan in first half of 2026.

We look forward to continuing to work together to create a resilient, thriving, net-zero Bass Coast.





Bass Coast Shire Council

Telephone: 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 or
National Relay Service 13 36 77 for people with communication difficulties

Email: basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Website: www.basscoast.vic.gov.au

 [basscoastshire](https://www.instagram.com/basscoastshire)  [BassCoastShire](https://www.facebook.com/BassCoastShire)

Climate Change Action Plan Update: Council Priority Actions 2026–2030

Building a resilient, thriving, net zero Bass Coast

Council commits to achieving net zero emissions across its operations by 2030—and stands with the community of Bass Coast in striving for the same.

While Council has limited control over community-wide emissions, we champion a safe climate and a regenerative, resilient Bass Coast. Cutting emissions today protects the wellbeing of our community, now and for generations to come.

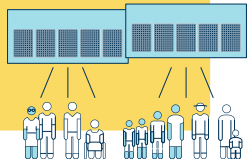
Our key action areas:



- **Energy Transition:**
Optimise and expand local renewable energy and storage, helping cut emissions and cost, supporting a cleaner more reliable future




- **Community, Equity and Climate Justice:**
Ensure no one is left behind, building on strategic partnerships to support a fair and equitable energy transition




- **Leadership and Governance:**
Support our community to lead solutions, while advocating and partnering across federal, state and local government areas leveraging collective and collaborative action for impact



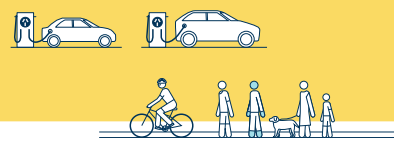

- **Adaptation, Risk and Resilience**
Strengthen the capacity of both Council and our community to adapt to and prepare for current and future climate impacts




- **Land, Water and Nature:**
Strengthen and scale nature-based solutions to draw down carbon while enhancing biodiversity and natural asset protection




- **Sustainable Transport:**
Partner and advocate for holistic, sustainable transport solutions



Council Priority Actions 2026–2030 align effort for impact to support a resilient, thriving, net zero Bass Coast.



- **Waste and Circular Economy:**
Work with our community to reduce waste and support a circular, regenerative and resilient economy and food system





BASS
COAST

Climate Change Action Plan Update: Council Priority Actions 2026–2030

Building a resilient, thriving, net zero Bass Coast

Community Vision 2045

From its flowing hills to its coastal woodlands and wild unspoiled coastlines, the Bass Coast is a source of celebration for all who live in and visit the region.

Our townships are vibrant, rich with culture and full of life, each with its own distinct character. Drawing on our creativity, innovation and resilience we've created a thriving and diverse economy that supports sustainable agriculture and industry.

We live proudly on Bunurong Country, and build on learnings from our First Peoples and their knowledge. We coexist in harmony with our environment and are prepared for future challenges and changes.

We are the people of the Bass Coast. Experience our cultures and history, and contribute to our story.



Acknowledgement of Country

Bass Coast Shire Council acknowledges the Bunurong as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and Lore.

Bass Coast Shire Council celebrates the opportunity to embrace and empower the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island Communities in their diversity.

Bass Coast Shire Council will create opportunities for future recognition and respectful partnerships that will honour the Traditional Owners and Custodians, and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

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Diversity and Inclusion

Bass Coast Shire Council celebrates the diversity of our communities. We acknowledge and respect the skills, insights and life experiences of all community members irrespective of gender, ethnicity, ability, religious belief, sexuality or age.

Child Safe Statement

Bass Coast Shire Council is committed to child safety and wellbeing, actively working to prevent abuse by identifying and addressing risks early. This work is underpinned by Council's Child Safe Statement, which guides our commitment to ensuring the safety, inclusion and wellbeing of every child.

Gender Impact Assessment

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been undertaken when developing this update to our Climate Change Action Plan: Priority Actions 2026–2030

Definitions

Definitions of commonly used terms are provided below.

Net zero emissions	Means balancing the greenhouse gas emissions produced with an equivalent amount of emissions removed from the atmosphere. It does not require eliminating all emissions, but ensuring that no more emissions are added than are taken away. In practice, reaching net zero involves prioritising direct emissions reductions through energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable transport, and low-emissions technologies across an organisations assets and services, and addressing residual emissions through credible carbon removals such as sequestration or certified offset projects, where reductions are not yet technically or economically achievable.
Resilience	Is the capacity of a system to withstand and recover from (or adapt to) shocks and stressors, without undergoing a significant change in its structure or identity. For Bass Coast, it is our community's ability to cope with challenges and bounce back stronger. It means being prepared for shocks and everyday stresses, staying connected and supporting one another, and adapting when things change so we can keep living well. Resilience can apply to many parts of our community — from individuals and households, to local businesses, Council, energy and food systems, transport, supply chains and our social networks. A resilient community can handle disruption without losing what makes it strong, and can continue to grow and thrive into the future.
Climate change adaptation	Is the ongoing process of improving how we make decisions so our community can cope with the impacts of a changing climate. It involves making gradual improvements to the systems and practices we already use — for example, using future climate projections to guide how Council and local organisations plan, build and look after their assets. Adaptation also means preparing for climate risks while taking advantage of new opportunities that may arise. Sometimes, effective adaptation requires bigger shifts too — such as new types of investment, new partnerships and new ways of thinking — so we can create long-term, sustainable changes that help our community thrive in a different climate.
Circular economy	The circular economy is a system where materials never become waste and nature is regenerated. It tackles global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, waste, and pollution and is based on three principles, driven by design: eliminate waste and pollution, circulate products and materials (at their highest value), and regenerate nature.

Introduction

The Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2030, is an ambitious plan developed by local community, experts and Council staff following the declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019. The plan holds key actions across Council and community to reach net zero emissions by 2030, including 45 Council-led actions to reduce Council's operational emissions, as well as support community to reduce community-wide emissions and build resilience and adapt to impacts from climate change. The plan also includes 15 targeted community actions, 8 business and organisation actions and 6 actions for farming community/agriculture.

In accordance with the commitment made in the Climate Change Action Plan, Council completed a comprehensive mid-term review over 2025. The review provided an update on what's changed since the plan was developed - including policy updates, assessment of Councils progress on implementing the plan, staff interviews, an action-by-action review, as well engagement to re-test community priorities for climate action - ensuring the plan remains effective and impactful.

For more information on our engagement, refer to our [Engage Page](#) you can also find more information about the review and its findings in the [Mid Term Review Report](#) provided on our engage page. An action-by-action listing, along with the revised action descriptions or opportunities and ideas developed during our community workshop is also provided in our [Community Action Portal](#) – with a summary tracking original actions in Appendix 1.

Building on Strong Foundations

Bass Coast has a strong legacy of climate leadership and local commitment. As one of the first regional councils in Australia to declare a Climate Emergency, Council adopted a Climate Change Action Plan that was leading for its time in charting a pathway to net zero emissions across both Council operations and the wider community.



This **Priority Council Actions 2026–2030** document highlights the achievements to date from implementing the Climate Change Action Plan 2020–2030, how we engaged and what we heard from our community, while bringing together key findings from the mid-term review, providing clear, refreshed priority actions organised under key action areas. It provides an update to the Council-led actions in the Climate Change Action Plan, ensuring Councils actions continue to deliver impact, including how Council can best support the community in its ambition to reduce emissions and build resilience to climate impacts. It does not provide an update to community-led, business-led and agriculture-led actions - we consider these actions in the plan to remain a reference point for action.

We have refreshed our key indicators to ensure our measures are meaningful, and how and when we will report on our progress. We further share a listing of our progress on the original actions in our plan in Appendix 1, highlighting actions that are complete, closed, or adapted into new priority actions from our original plan. There are also new actions that emerged as opportunities during community engagement, technical review, or staff interviews.

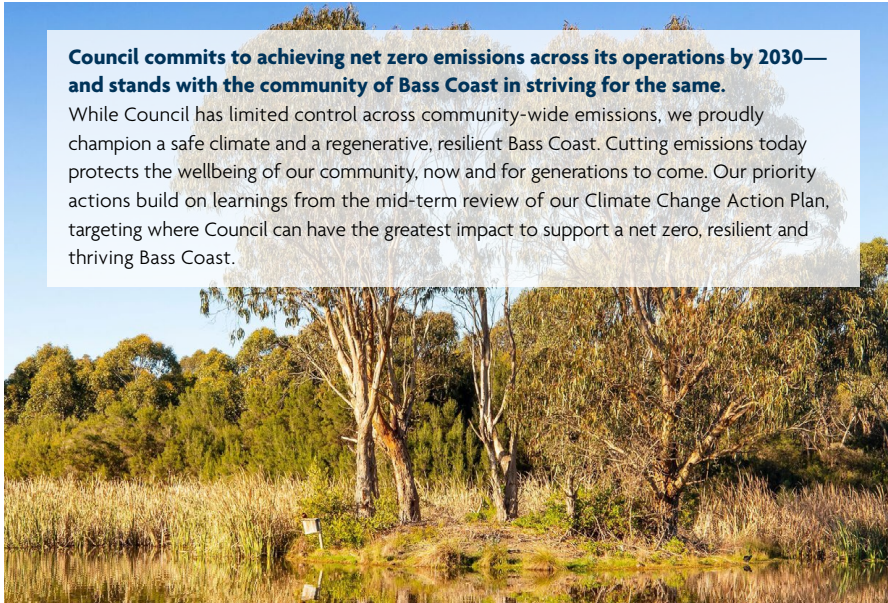
We suggest reading this document in conjunction with our mid-term review reports, which include and can be found on our [Engage Page](#) and through our [Community Action Portal](#)

- **Mid Term Review Report** – a technical review highlighting changes in science, policy, along with assessment of Council and community progress in implementing the plan to date and recommendations
- **Achievements Report** – sharing Council and community achievements and stories of progress since 2020
- **Engagement Report** – Highlighting how we engaged with our community and what we heard over the review, including community priorities for climate action



Council commits to achieving net zero emissions across its operations by 2030—and stands with the community of Bass Coast in striving for the same.

While Council has limited control across community-wide emissions, we proudly champion a safe climate and a regenerative, resilient Bass Coast. Cutting emissions today protects the wellbeing of our community, now and for generations to come. Our priority actions build on learnings from the mid-term review of our Climate Change Action Plan, targeting where Council can have the greatest impact to support a net zero, resilient and thriving Bass Coast.



Alignment with Community Vision 2045

The refreshed priority actions support the Community Vision 2045 by helping protect the natural beauty, character and wellbeing of Bass Coast. They reflect our shared commitment to live in harmony with the environment, walk alongside First Peoples, and strengthen the resilience of our townships, communities and local economy.

By focusing on clean energy, sustainable transport, healthy ecosystems, circular regenerative economy, climate preparedness and fairness for all, these priorities help ensure Bass Coast remains a thriving, inclusive and climate ready place for current and future generations.

How the Climate Change Action Plan Supports Council's Responsibilities

Although initially developed in response to strong community expectations, the Climate Change Action Plan is now central to meeting Council's legal responsibilities. The *Local Government Act 2020* requires councils to promote environmental sustainability and plan for climate risks as part of good governance. The *Climate Change Act 2017* requires climate impacts to be considered in decisions affecting communities, and recent updates to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* reinforce the need to factor emissions reduction and climate resilience into land use planning.

Together, these Acts create a clear expectation that councils manage climate risks across services, assets and planning. The Climate Change Action Plan and Priority Council Actions 2026–2030 provide the framework that embeds climate considerations into everyday decisions, supporting responsible governance and long term community resilience.

Climate Change Action Plan Update: Council Priority Actions 2026–2030 9

Our Key Action Areas and Alignment with our Council Plan 2025–2029

Our Priority Council Actions 2026-2030 provide an update to Council-led actions in the Climate Change Action Plan- our lead strategy, delivering on the strategic objective:

- **Naturally Beautiful** – Together we build resilience and protect and enhance our natural environment

However, our climate response and key action areas extend across all parts of Council's work, supporting delivery of the full range of strategic objectives in the Council Plan 2025–2029.

Their alignment with these objectives and priorities is outlined below.

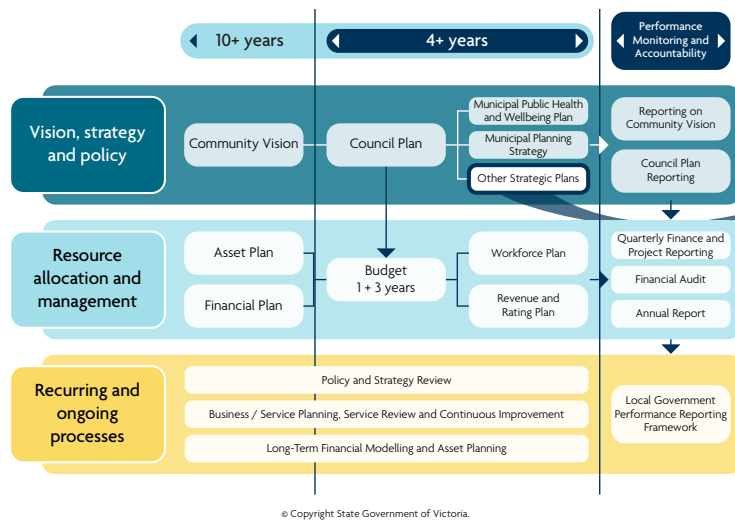
Strategic Objective	 Naturally Beautiful	 Thriving Places	 Vibrant Communities	 Visionary Leadership
Aspirations What we want to achieve long term	Together we build resilience and protect and enhance our natural environment	Facilities and infrastructure meet current and future needs. Growth is sustainable and well-planned. Our economy, agriculture, tourism and industries are resilient. Unique character is preserved.	Communities are healthy, inclusive, safe and socially connected. Communities celebrate opportunity, recreation, diversity, heritage and reconciliation.	Our communities flourish through leadership that is open and responsible, ensuring decisions serve the communities best interests, and comply with legislative obligations
Climate Action Areas Delivering on Strategic Priorities				
 Adaptation, Risk and Resilience: Strengthen the capacity of both Council and community to adapt to and prepare for current and future climate impacts	Increasing energy, disaster and climate resilience	- Delivering well planned townships - Facilitating sustainable development	- Promoting healthy, active, safe and inclusive communities - Strengthening community connection and resilience	
 Energy Transition: Continue to enhance and expand local renewable energy and storage where it is cost effective and boosts community resilience, helping cut emissions and support a cleaner, more reliable future	Increasing energy, disaster and climate resilience	- Supporting local industry, business and agriculture - Enhancing Eco Tourism		
 Sustainable Transport: Partner and advocate for holistic, sustainable transport solutions			- Delivering well planned townships - Facilitating sustainable development - Providing fit for purpose assets and facilities	Promoting healthy, active, safe and inclusive communities
 Waste and Circular Economy: Work with our community to reduce waste and support a circular, regenerative and resilient economy and food system			- Supporting local industry, business and agriculture - Enhancing Eco Tourism	
 Land, Water and Nature: Strengthen and scale nature-based solutions to draw down carbon while enhancing biodiversity and natural asset protection	- Enhancing biodiversity and natural asset protection - Optimising water management			
 Community, Equity and Climate Justice: Ensure no one is left behind, building on strategic partnerships to support a fair and equitable transition			- Promoting healthy, active, safe and inclusive communities - Strengthening community connection and resilience - Support young people to live, learn, play and connect locally - Walking alongside our First Nations communities on the path to reconciliation	
 Leadership and Governance: Support our community to lead solutions, while advocating and partnering across federal, state and local government areas leveraging collective and collaborative action for impact				- Optimising partnerships - Strong advocacy - Driving innovation
	Foundations of strong leadership and governance enable delivery of all action priorities			

Where Our Climate Change Action Plan and the Priority Actions 2026–2030 Sits in Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

The Climate Change Action Plan remains central to delivering Council's sustainability commitments and the Naturally Beautiful objective. It also provides a coordinated framework that integrates climate considerations across planning, operations, asset management, service delivery and community resilience.

The updated Priority Council Actions 2026–2030 focus Council's efforts where they can have the greatest impact. They reflect insights from the Plan's mid-term review and community engagement, ensuring our climate response remains targeted, effective and aligned with what matters most to Bass Coast.

Bass Coast Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework



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Naturally Beautiful

Aspirations

What we want to achieve long term

Together we build resilience and protect and enhance our natural environment.

Priorities

What we will focus on for the next 4 years

- Enhancing biodiversity and natural asset protection
- Increasing energy, disaster and climate resilience
- Optimising water management
- Strengthening waste management
- Supporting circular economy

Strategies

How we will deliver these objectives

Lead Strategy

- Climate Change Action Plan

Key Supporting Strategies and Plans

- Circular Economy Framework
- Integrated Water Management Plan Strategy Document
- Natural Environment Strategy
- Urban Forest Strategy
- Waste Management Strategy

How are we Tracking?

The Climate Change Action Plan sets 2 major targets: achieving net zero emissions for Council operations by 2030, and reaching net zero emissions across the whole community. So, how are we progressing?

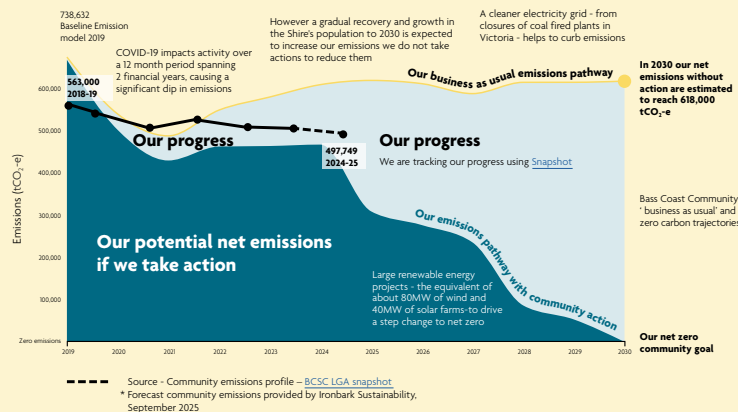
Community

Community emissions

Community emissions are trending down. The chart below illustrates our progress to date, using publicly available [Snapshot](#) community emissions data, compared against the community net zero pathway established in 2020 as part of our plan. By 2024-25, Bass Coast will have achieved a 12% reduction in emissions based on the snapshot data¹ which we are using to track our progress. This has been driven by increased renewable energy uptake, greater energy efficiency, lower vehicle activity, and changes in some agricultural commodities.

Some 30.1% of houses in the municipality now have solar, along with 16.6% of businesses. While we can't track the uptake of electric vehicles specifically in Bass Coast we know that 6.3% of households in Victoria now have an EV (up from 1% 5 years ago).

Net zero pathway – community emissions



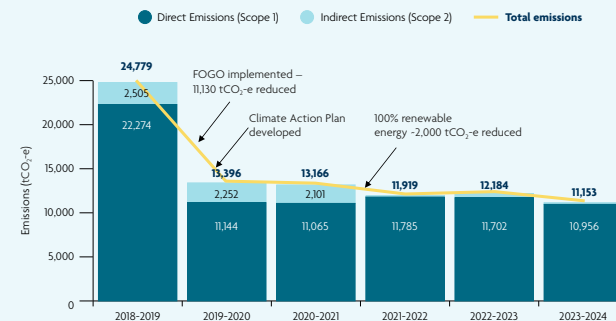
Council

Council emissions

Council's operational emissions saw a substantial reduction just prior to the development of the Climate Change Action Plan, largely due to the introduction of the food organics and garden organics (FOGO) kerbside collection service. By diverting organic material from landfill, this initiative has avoided more than 11,000 tonnes of CO₂-e emissions, as illustrated in the chart below.

Since the plan was developed, we have dropped operational emissions by 16% since 2020. This is largely from the 100% renewable energy contract, reducing an approximate 2,000 tonnes CO₂-e. We've seen decreases across almost all emission sources, apart from diesel, this is largely due to improvements in how our data is collected and reported.

Bass Coast Shire Council emissions



While this is a solid start, we know we need to accelerate our efforts over the next 5 years and start to tackle emissions that are more difficult to reduce. Our biggest opportunities lie in transitioning our fleet away from diesel and continuing to reduce emissions from the Grantville landfill site.

Despite our collective progress, we've noticed that emissions reduction has started to slow recently — a clear signal that we need to step up our collective efforts.

Together, these results show that meaningful progress is happening, but there's still plenty more to do. With continued community leadership and Council action, we can keep building momentum toward our shared net zero goals.

¹ [Snapshot](#) is a free, publicly available data set with community wide emissions that is nationally benchmarked. We use this data set to track our progress.

Our Achievements

At the mid point of the Climate Change Action Plan, 10 of Council's 45 actions are already complete, with many others well underway (see the Community Action Portal for progress on each action). For the 29 community led actions, you can find inspiring stories showcased in our Achievements Report and more information in the Mid-Term Review Report - available through our [Community Action Portal: Community Action Portal | The Cap](#) and through our [Mid-Term Review Engage Page](#).

Powering the energy transition

- Council operations are now powered by 100% renewable electricity, reducing emissions by around 2,000 tonnes of CO₂-e every year
- We have exceeded our solar PV targets, installing 310 kW of new solar panels across Council sites
- An additional 120 kWh of battery storage has been delivered to capture clean energy, reduce peak demand and boost resilience during outages
- Resilience hubs at targeted township locations in Bass Coast, equipped with solar and batteries have also been established to support communities during emergencies, contributing to both emissions reduction and local resilience

Leading the way on low-emissions transport

- Council's Integrated Transport Strategy has been endorsed to guide long-term sustainable transport planning across Bass Coast
- Our fleet is steadily transitioning to cleaner vehicles, with 18% electric vehicles and 35% low-emission vehicles
- Major public EV charges were installed in late 2025, helping residents, visitors and businesses make the shift to electric transport

Restoring nature and boosting carbon drawdown

- Since 2020, more than 1.5 million trees and plants have been established through the Biolinks Plan, drawing down an estimated 165,000 tonnes of CO₂-e
- The Biolinks partnership continues to deliver exceptional value, returning around \$22 in environmental and social benefits for every \$1 Council invests
- The Integrated Water Management Plan has been delivered to help secure a sustainable water future for our community and environment
- Developed and implementing our Urban Forest Strategy - supporting greener, cooler and more biodiverse townships

Protecting our coast and advocating for nature

- Coastal protection works have been delivered at Inverloch, Cowes East and Silverleaves helping safeguard key assets and ecosystems
- Council continues to advocate for increased investment in the Western Port Ramsar site to protect critical wetlands that are internationally recognised for their biodiversity, rich birdlife, and role in supporting healthy marine and coastal ecosystems
- The Cape to Cape Resilience Plan has been completed, providing a long-term framework to manage coastal hazards and support adaptation along the coastline of Inverloch and Anderson Inlet

Embedding climate resilience into how we work

- Climate hazards have been mapped into Council's infrastructure risk models, and the Asset Vulnerability Assessment (AVA) Toolkit is now embedded in our systems to support climate-informed decision making
- Climate responsibilities have been added to all staff position descriptions, ensuring climate considerations are part of everyone's role
- Staff training has been delivered so that teams across Council understand climate risks, opportunities and their role in responding

Building community resilience and preparedness

- Resilience hubs at targeted township locations in Bass Coast are equipped with solar and batteries have been established to support communities during extreme weather events and power outages
- Local resilience forums have helped build self-reliance, strengthen connections and support communities to plan for climate impacts

Supporting a more circular Bass Coast

- Council with support from Sustainability Victoria provided a tailored Circular Economy Business Accelerator program to support local businesses in the journey towards a more circular and resilient Bass Coast
- Council endorsed Circular Economy Framework that considers Council leadership, sectors and local business in the transition toward a more circular and resilient Bass Coast

Supporting an active and engaged community

- The Community Action Portal is live, giving residents a central place to learn, act and track our shared progress on climate
- Council has delivered numerous workshops and information sessions, and hosted Sustainability Festivals in 2021, 2023 and 2026, showcasing practical ways to save energy, reduce waste and care for Country (refer to page 8 of our [Mid Term Review Report](#) for more details on progress with community engagement)
- Council has supported community-led programs to help households reduce bills, improve comfort and address energy hardship — reinforcing our commitment to equity and climate justice

Strengthening governance and driving responsible investment

- Council's Procurement Policy has been strengthened to better align with climate and sustainability priorities, supporting a more circular economy by favouring low-waste, low-carbon goods and services
- We have moved to near-total fossil fuel divestment through Councils Investment Policy, ensuring our investments are consistent with a net zero future
- The revised Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy was endorsed in October 2025, setting stronger standards



Action highlights	Outcomes
 Powering Council operations with 100% renewable electricity	Reducing 2,000 tonnes CO ₂ -e per year
 Exceeded our solar target, plus battery storage	310 kW of new panels and 120 kW battery storage
 Transitioning Council's fleet and equipment to electric	18% EV in fleet 35% low emission vehicles in fleet
 Leveraged partnerships, grants and co-contributions delivering more for less	For every \$1 Council invests in Biolinks, the partnership delivers approximately \$22 in value
 1.5 million trees planted through Biolinks Plan	Approximate carbon drawdown of 165,000 tonnes of CO ₂ -e
 Supporting an active and engaged community	Accessible online tools, festivals and local support to take meaningful action — together

Mid-Term Review Findings

A comprehensive review of progress in implementing the Plan was completed in 2025. It combined internal interviews and an action by action assessment with an external review that examined updated science and data, state and federal policy changes, community engagement insights, and best practice benchmarking.

Summary of key internal learnings (in house interviews and action review)

Our internal review identified where Council has been most effective since adopting the Climate Change Action Plan:

- Leveraging partnerships and funding**
Working with partners and securing external funding has enabled significant progress—from EV charging and resilience hubs to expanded Biolinks plantings and catchment focused projects delivered through Landcare and Integrated Water Management partnerships
- Strengthening collaboration on climate risk**
Collaborative work, such as the SECCA Asset Vulnerability Assessment, has improved our understanding of local climate risks and demonstrated the value of shared approaches across councils
- Embedding climate action across teams**
Integrating climate considerations into departmental strategies has opened new opportunities, including the award winning Circular Economy Business Accelerator Program, which informed the development of Council's Circular Economy Framework
- Prioritising nature based solutions**
Nature restoration continues to deliver high impact outcomes—improving biodiversity, catchment health and resilience. Biolinks, catchment focused planting programs, and the establishment of the Nature Recovery Foundation all demonstrate the benefits of this approach and its alignment with community priorities in Council Plan

Summary of key findings from the mid term review (external review)

The review confirms that Council has made substantial progress in delivering the current Plan and that the operating context, community expectations and climate science have evolved significantly. Key recommendations that emerged include:

- Streamline and focus the action plan**
Retire or revise completed or outdated actions to create a clearer and more achievable program of work
- Build on established strengths**
Expand high impact areas such as Biolinks, conservation initiatives and the Nature Recovery Foundation
- Improve structure and clarity**
Group actions into clearer thematic streams—such as Nature and Water, Adaptation and Resilience, Transport and Energy—to support accessibility and alignment
- Strengthen resilience and adaptation**
Place greater emphasis on preparing for the impacts of climate change, alongside reducing emissions
- Prioritise real emissions reductions**
Resource key operational opportunities such as fleet transition and landfill emissions management, minimising reliance on offsets
- Maintain transparent reporting and community engagement**
Continue to report on operational emissions to build trust and demonstrate progress, support community led climate action, enhance the Community Action Portal, and explore new ways to mobilise local businesses and community groups

How These Findings Shaped the Priority Council Actions 2026–2030

The insights from both the internal review and the independent mid term review directly informed the Priority Council Actions 2026–2030.

Together, they guided where Council can have the greatest impact, highlighted where efforts should be streamlined or strengthened, and ensured the updated actions are focused, evidence based, community aligned and responsive to emerging climate risks. The Mid-Term Review Report can be accessed via the [Community Action Portal here](#).

Overall we found:

Council delivers the strongest outcomes when climate action is collaborative, integrated across teams, and supported through partnerships and external funding, and tailored to opportunities important to the Bass Coast community – such as nature restoration.



Our Consultation

Community groups and local organisations were central to developing Council's initial Climate Change Action Plan in 2020, and they remain critical as we move into the next phase.

As part of the mid-term review, community members were invited to hear about Council's progress to date in implementing the plan, and share their own progress on climate action, priorities and preferences on emerging opportunities.

The aim was to understand what's working, what's not, and where Council can do better—especially when it comes to supporting community and business-led climate actions.

Engagement Activities and Promotion

Council used a variety of activities and channels for its engagement, including online and in-person.

- **73** responses to online survey
- **85** responses to youth survey
- **408** visitors to the Engage Bass Coast project site
- **10** social media posts with total reach of **17,943** and **42,434** views across all platforms
- **2** media releases resulting in **3** newspaper articles
- **6** 'pop up' drop-in sessions held across the Shire, with average of **7** attendees per session
- **6** community presentations
- **3** Coastell Newsletters sent to **1,110**, **1,159** and **1,147** email addresses
- **90** tickets sold to Future Council Event
- **11** attendees at a Deliberative Engagement Workshop at Berninnet
- **1** school incursion to Newhaven College



Key Findings

- Consensus on the importance of addressing the cost-of-living crisis alongside the climate crisis and the need to engage those not yet aligned with these priorities
- The importance of targeted assistance for vulnerable households so they are not left behind in the energy transition
- Strong support from community for establishment of a Community Reference Group or similar
- Support for work Council is doing to electrify, improve energy efficiency, and power Council operations with renewable energy
- General agreement that Council resources would be better directed toward supporting adaptation and resilience over investing heavily in carbon neutrality (in the form of consultants, Climate Active certification and carbon offsets)
- Emphasised importance of having a clear narrative about community net zero targets - recognising that while the community wants to keep aiming for zero emissions by 2030, Council's role is to support the ambition, not to take responsibility for targets beyond its direct areas of control and influence
- Acknowledgment of the limits of Council's influence while maintaining ambition and transparency
- Participants supported the idea of continuing to invest in, and grow investment in, Biolinks and other nature-based solutions that deliver multiple benefits for climate, biodiversity, and community wellbeing
- Suggestions to explore more opportunities to contract services (like energy auditing) and renewable energy generation locally to keep skills and money in the local community
- Continuing need to increase the rates of solar on all municipal buildings (including solar car parks if/where viable)
- Mixed feelings around Council's role in supporting public EV charging infrastructure with some people being highly supportive and others feeling this should fall to the private sector
- The need to advocate for increased funding from state government for town buses (smaller, electric buses with more flexibility)
- A desire for Council to plan for full electrification of Council's fleet including graders and garbage trucks
- Grantville Landfill is the largest source of Council's emissions. While public waste generation is outside Council's direct control, it was recommended Council focus on opportunities to expand material recovery, raise public awareness, and explore additional waste streams for local processing
- Council should consider the use of fines or other measures (incentives or disincentives within Council's remit) to reduce contamination in household waste streams
- Council should build stronger relationships with local farmers to support regenerative farming/agriculture
- Increase awareness and accessibility of the Community Action Portal (The CAP), for example it should be easy to find from Council's main website
- Increase focus on resilience and adaptation, not just mitigation
- Strengthening the partnership with Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC) and increasing the opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to be involved
- Stronger support for hearing from young voices and youth-led climate initiatives



Our Council Priority Actions 2026–2030



Priority Area 1 - Adaptation, Risk and Resilience:

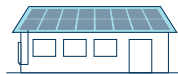
Strengthen the capacity of both Council and our community to adapt to and prepare for current and future climate impacts.

Across Australia, local governments are playing a critical role in preparing communities for a changing climate. Bass Coast is no different, and while strong foundations have been set, climate impacts such as coastal erosion, storms, flooding and heatwaves are becoming more frequent and costly. These pressures are already affecting Council's operating budget, infrastructure planning and service delivery, and the need for proactive, coordinated adaptation is only increasing.

Bass Coast has begun important work to build resilience, including integrating climate considerations into asset management, strengthening coastal protection partnerships, and embedding climate risk principles across key projects. However, climate risks have not yet been assessed comprehensively across all Council services, and current work focuses primarily on Council assets rather than the interconnected risks that also affect vulnerable communities, local businesses and essential services.

To strengthen its capacity to adapt, Bass Coast has joined the Victorian Climate Resilient Councils (VCRC) program, which provides a structured, step by step process for identifying local climate risks and improving resilience across operations, assets and communities. This program will help Council build capability, improve decision-making and ensure that climate resilience planning becomes an ongoing cycle of learning, monitoring and improvement—not a one off exercise.

There is also increasing need for leadership in areas such as long term coastal adaptation, climate aware planning decisions, and supporting community preparedness. While many planning levers sit with the State Government, Council can still play a strong advocacy and community support role.



Priority actions moving forward:

No. #	Adaptation, Risk and Resilience	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
1.1	Undertake a holistic climate risk assessment supported through the Victorian Climate Resilient Councils (VCRC) program, considering risks across all Council services—not only assets—to support risk based and evidence based decisions	Sustainable Environment, supported by Governance and Communication	Shared control - requires collaboration or co-investment	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	2026 - ongoing	Completion of climate risk assessment in 2026-27 Improved scores on the VCRC Adaptive Capacity Rapid Scan after 2 years of participation, showing strengthened organisational capability Climate risk results are being used to inform work priorities and initiatives

No. #	Adaptation, Risk and Resilience	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
1.2	Enhance asset vulnerability assessments to prioritise Bass Coast's key climate hazards, strengthen criticality and vulnerability measures, and assess cascading impacts across interdependent public and private infrastructure networks	Asset Management Team, supported by Sustainable Environment and Community, Safety and Resilience	Shared control - requires collaboration or co-investment	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	2026 - ongoing	Participation in the SECCCA 'Financing Flood Resilient Infrastructure' project delivers applied tools, insights, and financial models that advance Council's Asset Plan objectives to adapt, upgrade, or re-build more climate-resilient infrastructure Case studies and business cases demonstrate the interdependencies between assets and identify practical adaptation opportunities, strengthening Council's ability to prioritise resilient infrastructure investments
1.3	Support the promotion and maintenance of the 10 existing Energy Resilient Hubs that can be utilised during power outages and identify opportunities to expand the network of existing Energy Resilient Community hubs	Community, Safety and Resilience supported by Sustainable Environment	Direct control – Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Maintain or increase the number of resilience hubs with battery backup systems, supporting community safety and continuity Community workshop/ feedback / surveys
1.4	Strengthen and expand guidance on how households, businesses and community organisations can adapt to climate change and build disaster resilience in the Community Action Portal	Sustainable Environment, and Community, Safety and Resilience	Direct control – Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Community Action Portal (CAP) is expanded to include more guidance on how households, businesses and community can adapt and build resilience, as well as link to other emergency management information and services Increase reach of the CAP through profile on updated Council website, building newsletters and linking across Council digital spaces
1.5	Continue to advocate to state and federal government for planning controls and proactive support for at risk coastal communities	Governance and Communication, supported by Sustainable Environment	Influence only – Council advocates or influences external decisions	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Collaborations with other Councils for impact, leverage peak bodies like MAV to highlight issues Proactive planning and support for coastal communities is reflected in Council Advocacy Priorities, including sharing community stories to highlight impacts

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Priority Area 2 - Energy Transition:

Optimise and expand local renewable energy and storage, helping cut emissions and cost, supporting a cleaner more reliable future.

We have exceeded the target in our Climate Change Action Plan (the Plan) to install 250 kW of new solar, reaching 310 kW of rooftop solar across key facilities. This is supported by 120 kWh of battery storage, improving resilience by enabling sites to continue operating during power outages and reducing peak energy demand. We now want to focus on ensuring we are getting the most out of our renewable energy investments to reduce operational costs, build resilience in our sites and for our community, through load shifting and energy sharing arrangements.

We will continue to expand local renewable energy and storage, where it provides clear benefits that are cost-effective, improving resilience of our buildings and supporting community wellbeing. We have made progress in partnership with AusNet to transition our streetlighting to LED, where we prioritise a tailored and smart transition to LED lighting, aiming to reduce impacts to biodiversity and light pollution, while balancing the needs for adequate lighting to support community safety.



Priority actions moving forward:

No. #	Energy Transition	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource	When	Measure of success
2.1	Optimise generation, storage and efficient use of renewable energy across Council-managed sites; helping cut emissions and cost, supporting a cleaner, more reliable future	Asset Management, supported by Sustainable Environment	Direct control - Council can deliver independently	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	Ongoing	Priority Council sites are equipped with monitoring data to optimise energy use Maintain or increase local renewable energy contribution (%) of electricity supplied by locally installed solar and batteries across Council sites from baseline established 2025/26 Estimated annual cost savings achieved from increased Local Renewable Utilisation (%), calculated using avoided electricity costs - from 2026-27 Total kW of solar installed, kWh battery storage - (cumulative since 2020)

No. #	Energy Transition	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource	When	Measure of success
2.2	Support a tailored and smart transition to LED streetlighting by 2030, reducing impacts to biodiversity and light pollution, while balancing increased lighting to support community safety where needed	Sustainable Environment, supported by Asset Management	Shared control - requires collaboration or co-investment	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	2026-ongoing	Options paper presented to Council highlighting costs and benefits for differing levels of Council involvement in Ausnet LED streetlighting rollout, particularly ways Council can support a tailored rollout to reduce impacts on biodiversity and of light pollution, combined with meeting lighting needs to support community safety
2.3	Support local businesses by connecting them with specialist advice and programs that help reduce emissions and cut energy costs, with a focus on organisations with high energy use	Economic Development, supported by Sustainable Environment	Shared control - requires collaboration or co-investment	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Renewable energy contract implemented with certificates showing evidence of renewable energy supplied (large scale generation certificates) LGCs, with associated emissions reduction estimated – tCO₂-e Prepare for the next renewable energy contract
2.4	Continue to power 100% of electricity across Council operations with renewable energy sources	Sustainable Environment, Procurement, and Infrastructure Maintenance	Direct control - Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Renewable energy contract implemented with certificates showing evidence of renewable energy supplied (large scale generation certificates) LGCs Emissions reduction estimated – tCO₂-e





Priority Area 3 - Sustainable Transport:

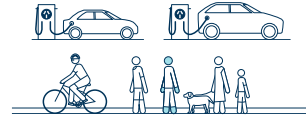
Partner and advocate for holistic, sustainable transport solutions.

Transport is a major contributor to community wide emissions, and its share is expected to increase as electricity related emissions decline through the shift to renewable energy. In response, Council has taken significant steps to support cleaner, low emissions travel across Bass Coast. This has included expanding the public EV charging network with four new 50 kW fast chargers in Wonthaggi, Grantville, Inverloch and Newhaven—building on the existing chargers in Cowes. These upgrades have helped make electric vehicle use more practical for residents, businesses and visitors, supporting quieter, cleaner and cheaper transport options. Council has also made progress in the transition of its fleet - with 18% now electric and 35% low emission vehicles.

Council has also strengthened sustainable and active transport planning by progressing the Tracks and Trails Strategy 2022–2032 and completing the Integrated Transport Study 2025–2045. Together, these works provide a clear pathway toward a safer, more connected and more sustainable transport network that encourages walking, cycling and reduced reliance on private cars.

Building on this foundation, Council's efforts will now focus on further advocating for and working with partners for continued expansion of EV charging infrastructure, continue to transition Council fleet and plant equipment, continue to improve active transport safety and connectivity, and strengthening advocacy for a more effective public transport network. These priorities are essential to reducing emissions, easing congestion, improving community health and wellbeing, while easing cost of living pressures.

These priorities support the goals of the Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS) to create a safer, low emissions, healthy and accessible transport system. They focus on accelerating the shift to electric and active transport, enhancing public and active transport access and safety, while ensuring inclusive, well integrated mobility for all residents and visitors.



Priority actions moving forward:

No. #	Sustainable Transport	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
3.1	Continue to plan for and transition Council's fleet, plant and equipment to electric and low emission equipment and vehicles	Innovation and Engagement, Supported by Sustainable Environment	Direct control - Council can deliver independently	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	Ongoing	Updated Council fleet transition plan, reflecting technology and market developments Incremental increase of EV and low emission vehicles in Council fleet Increase in Council electric plant and equipment Reduction in fuel consumption across Council operations and associated avoided emissions
3.2	Support staff uptake of electric vehicles and explore low-cost charging options for staff use at Council sites	Innovation and Engagement, Supported by Sustainable Environment	Direct control - Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Increased uptake of electric vehicles in staff novated leases from baseline 2025 Explore opportunity for increased charging options for staff use at Council sites

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No. #	Sustainable Transport	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
3.3	In line with the Integrated Transport Study (ITS), undertake promotional activities to support increase in EV charging infrastructure and vehicles across Bass Coast	Sustainable transport, supported by Sustainable Environment, Economic Development	Influence only – Council advocates or influences external decisions	Low - minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff support	Ongoing	Distribution of information about benefits of EV charging to tourism and business Share benefits from Council installed public chargers including the estimated avoided emissions from electric vehicle charging at these EV charging sites EV charging installed at San Remo by RACV
3.4	Continue to improve active transport safety and connectivity, in line with Tracks and Trails strategy	Sustainable Transport	Direct control - Council can deliver independently	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	Ongoing	Delivery of key projects in Tracks and Trails Strategy, such as Inverloch-Wonthaggi path, Cowes-Ventnor shared path and Cowes-Rhyll path over the next 4 years
3.5	Strengthen advocacy to improve public transport service level across with Shire	Sustainable Transport	Influence only – Council advocates or influences external decisions	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	2026 - ongoing	Advocacy campaign to the Department of Transport and Public Transport Victoria for improved public transport in Bass Coast to meet current and future demands
3.6	Continue to advocate for improved mobility across the shire in line with the ITS, including sustainable transport pilot trials that reduce congestion and car use, while improving connectivity and safety in the community	Sustainable Transport	Influence only – Council advocates or influences external decisions	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Support through advocacy, grant funding applications, partnerships, in line with goals of ITS to pilot and trial private transport models that reduce congestion and emissions





Priority Area 4 - Waste and Circular Economy:

Work with our community to reduce waste and support a circular, regenerative and resilient economy and food system

Supporting the transition toward a circular economy is essential for reaching net zero emissions and building a more resilient and regenerative local economy. Waste remains a significant challenge for Bass Coast, with emissions from the Grantville Landfill continuing to be Council's largest operational emissions source. Council has strengthened its planning and community education around recycling, food organics and garden organics (FOGO), and waste reduction, helping households and businesses make better use of existing systems.

Council has an important opportunity to shape a long-term vision for a circular economy—treating waste as a resource that can be recovered, repaired and reused locally. This shift supports both environmental outcomes and new economic opportunities, but will require early planning, strong partnerships and investment to prepare the community for a post landfill future.



Priority actions moving forward:

No. #	Waste and Circular Economy	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
4.1	Implement Council's Circular Economy Framework, clearly communicating the environmental, economic and emissions reduction benefits of circular practices	Sustainable Environment	Direct control - Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Strengthened community awareness (workshops delivered – e.g. Living Lightly Circular Economy feedback and evaluation) and foundational support for its implementation across Council's operations Establishment of governance structure to support Council departments in embedding circular economy principles in line with the framework, including development of appropriate measures to track progress
4.2	Support the delivery of a program that builds capability for local businesses, industry and/or agriculture to build knowledge of circular models and practice	Economic Development, supported by Sustainable Environment	Shared control - requires collaboration or co-investment	Low - minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	2027 - ongoing	Workshop delivered in 2027 by Economic Development, supporting capability uplift in circular principles and applications Stronger partnerships with businesses and industry demonstrating circular practices in action (grant funding grant support may be required) Progress shared through case studies on the Community Action Portal and Business Newsletters

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No. #	Waste and Circular Economy	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
4.3	Increase resource recovery across the Shire by improving waste stream separation, reducing disposable organic material to landfill, aiming to 'close the loop' where recovered materials are processed or reused locally	Sustainable Environment	Direct control - Council can deliver independently	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	Ongoing	From 2027-28 strengthened reporting on resource recovery and contamination levels in kerbside collection service, informing awareness campaigns Maintain or increase % of comingled, FOGO and glass in kerbside collection Maintain or increase the total tonnes and categories of materials recovered at Council transfer stations from baseline established 2025-26, – refer to indicator table for more details
4.4	Continue to manage emissions at Grantville Landfill in accordance with EPA Guidelines and best practice	Sustainable Environment	Direct control - Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Compliance with EPA Licence and guidelines is maintained. Operational emissions reduced from landfill site (tCO ₂ -e). Landfill emissions are modelled to 2035 to support abatement planning





Priority Area 5 - Land, Water and Nature:

Strengthen and scale nature-based solutions to draw down carbon while enhancing biodiversity and natural asset protection

Bass Coast is well positioned to lead nature recovery and regeneration, with its unique landscapes, strong Landcare partnerships and growing community interest in protecting biodiversity. Council has already made meaningful progress through initiatives such as the Biolinks Biodiversity Plan, the Urban Forest Strategy and the Integrated Water Management (IWM) Plan. These programs have helped restore habitat, expand ecological connections across the landscape, and support healthier waterways and greener urban spaces.

Bass Coast is also the first local government in Australia to establish a Nature Recovery Foundation in partnership with Biodiversity Legacy. This not for profit foundation is able to receive philanthropic investment to accelerate biodiversity restoration across public and private land. With transparent, science based pathways for investment, the Foundation positions Bass Coast as a regional leader in large scale ecosystem recovery and offers opportunities for co investment from neighbouring councils, community groups and external partners.

Local innovation is also emerging in agriculture. Through Bass Coast Landcare Network's Soil Health and Biofertiliser Program, farmers are adopting low cost, microbe rich organic fertilisers that reduce emissions, improve soil health and strengthen farm resilience. This program shows the potential for nature positive practices to deliver both environmental and economic benefits.

To build on this progress, Council now has an opportunity to strengthen leadership in biodiversity protection, expand restoration efforts, and ensure nature based solutions remain integral to the climate response.



Priority actions moving forward:

No. #	Land, Water and Nature	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
5.1	Develop and implement a Nature Positive Strategy to guide protection and restoration of nature across Bass Coast	Sustainable Environment, supported by Strategic Planning	Direct control - Council can deliver independently	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	2027 - ongoing	Strategy outlining most effective measures for protecting nature, including the Westernport Woodlands, and targets and methods to guide effective restoration of nature across Bass Coast
5.2	Partner with organisations to scale up nature recovery efforts and connect regional biodiversity corridors	Sustainable Environment	Shared control - requires collaboration or co-investment	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Partnership models driving increased investment in nature in Bass Coast - Sinvestment/partner contributions

No. #	Land, Water and Nature	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
5.3	Advocate and support agricultural programs—that strengthen on farm resilience, local food systems and draw down carbon and/or reduce or avoid emissions	Sustainable Environment, supported by Economic Development	Shared control - requires collaboration or co-investment	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	2026 – ongoing funding dependent	Increased number of farms adopting regenerative and low emissions practices
5.4	Implement and expand the Urban Forest Strategy to create greener, cooler and more biodiverse towns	Sustainable Environment	Direct control - Council can deliver independently	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	Ongoing	Annual street tree plantings of at least 1,500 trees is consistently achieved Increased canopy cover across townships, on track to reaching 40% canopy cover by 2040 target Increase in diversity of plantings across townships, aiming to deliver more for nature, while providing a cooler urban microclimate
5.5	Improve and deliver the Biolinks Biodiversity Plan, strengthening habitat connectivity across the region	Sustainable Environment	Shared control - requires collaboration or co-investment	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	Ongoing	Increased area of habitat restored and connected across Bass Coast, reported through annual number of native plantings
5.6	Implement the Integrated Water Management Plan to enhance water quality, restore and protect catchment health, increase green and blue spaces, reduce flood improving community health, wellbeing and amenity	Asset Management, supported by Sustainable Environment	Shared control - requires collaboration or co-investment	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	Ongoing	Projects delivered and partnerships developed that deliver on IWM Plan objectives across the Shire Estimated reduction in nutrients, improving catchment health, reduced flood risk, improved amenity





Priority Area 6 - Community, Equity and Climate Justice:

Ensure no one is left behind, building on strategic partnerships to support a fair and equitable transition

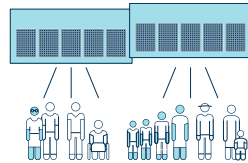
The climate crisis and cost of living pressures are placing growing stress on Bass Coast households, especially those least able to adapt. Rising energy bills, extreme weather and housing pressures highlight the need for a people centred approach to climate action—one that reduces household costs now while helping the community prepare for future impacts.

Council has supported community led climate initiatives through grants, partnerships and neighbourhood projects, and there is an opportunity to deepen this work by collaborating more closely with organisations that support vulnerable households. Scaling practical solutions—such as energy efficiency upgrades, local resilience initiatives and community run workshops—can help reduce bills, build preparedness and ensure the benefits of clean energy are shared fairly across Bass Coast.

A just transition also means ensuring young people and First Peoples have meaningful roles in shaping climate decisions. Community feedback strongly supported youth-led climate initiatives and strengthening collaboration with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and local First Nations people.

As heatwaves, storms and power disruptions become more common, the need for safe, accessible community spaces is growing. Council can play a stronger enabling role by using resilience hubs, Council facilities and community events to support vulnerable residents during climate related emergencies and build everyday resilience.

Council will also strengthen and expand its Living Lightly workshop series and the Community Action Portal, tools for informing, motivating and connecting the community. By sharing practical guidance on adaptation and resilience, showcasing local stories and highlighting community events, the Portal and regular workshops can help bring people together and inspire action across the Shire.



Priority actions moving forward:

No. #	Community, Equity and Climate Justice	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
6.1	Strengthen strategic partnerships to support households that are vulnerable to climate hazards through energy assessments and targeted support services	Sustainable Environment	Shared control – requires collaboration or co-investment	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	Ongoing	Program evaluation, partnership reach and impact assessment
6.2	Strengthen the climate change partnership with Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Torres Strait Islander Communities	Sustainable Environment, supported by Connected Communities	Shared control – requires collaboration or co-investment	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	Ongoing	Maintain support for the Strong Country and Sea Country Teams through in-kind contributions and Natural Resource Management (NRM) activities that care for Land and Sea Country, and align with Council initiatives and Bunurong priorities Delivery of the Environmental Partnerships Program that supports Indigenous cultural burning practices that promote the regeneration of native grasslands and enhance biodiversity
6.3	Support youth-led climate justice / action initiatives (New action from Community workshop feedback)	Connected Communities, supported by Sustainable Environment	Shared control – requires collaboration or co-investment	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Continued participation of young people in local climate and sustainability initiatives Delivery of a targeted youth climate / environment program Program evaluations inform future initiatives
6.4	Continue to Empower community action through tailored funding (Climate Action Grants) and/or in-kind support	Connected Communities, supported by Sustainable Environment	Direct control – Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Program evaluations, community stories, impact criteria – emissions reductions and/or resilience strengthened
6.5	Continue to connect community, celebrate success and share stories, information, financial incentives, and support services	Sustainable Environment	Shared control – requires collaboration or co-investment	Medium – moderate funding or shared resources	Ongoing	Workshop surveys and evaluations, engagement reach of Community Action Portal (page view, visitors, followers, downloads), event, program attendance and evaluations



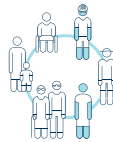
Priority Area 7 - Leadership and Governance:

Support our community to lead solutions, while advocating and partnering across federal, state and local government areas leveraging collective and collaborative action for impact.

Over the past several years, Council has built strong foundations for climate action through clear governance, strategic policies and programs that protect and restore the environment. This includes long standing community valued efforts such as Biolinks, conservation programs and the Nature Recovery Foundation, alongside strengthened policies in areas such as sustainable design, procurement, investment and the urban forest. These steps have helped ensure that Council's day to day decisions, operations and investments meaningfully support emissions reduction, nature protection and resilience across Bass Coast.

As we look toward 2030, the priority now shifts to tackling the harder-to-abate emissions and enabling stronger community leadership in climate action.

This next phase focuses on developing a transparent policy for how Council will meet its net zero target, and supporting programs that empower local leadership and environmental stewardship, and establishing the most effective way for the community to guide and influence the implementation of community actions in the Climate Change Action Plan. This reflects what we heard from our community—particularly the desire for inclusive representation, including nature, First Nations peoples and young people—and recognises that long term climate solutions will only succeed when shaped and led by the people of Bass Coast.



Priority actions moving forward:

No. #	Leadership and Governance	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
7.1	Develop a clear policy position on achieving Council's net zero target to manage Councils residual emissions, in line with community expectations for transparency and local impact	Sustainable Environment	Direct control – Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	2028	Clear and publicly available policy direction for achieving Council's net zero commitment
7.2	Explore and implement the most effective ways for Council to support community aspirations for emissions reduction and resilience building, informed by strong engagement interest in a community reference or advisory group, collective forum, or similar collaborative model.	Sustainable Environment	Shared control – requires collaboration or co-investment	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	2026 - ongoing	Community leadership mechanism established and actively supporting progress on community-wide emissions reduction actions (measured through participation, initiatives supported, and actions progressed)

No. #	Leadership and Governance	Action lead/s and support	Control level	Resource level	When	Measure of success
7.3	Strengthen transparent and meaningful reporting of progress in implementing this plan and reaching net zero and resilience goals across Council's operations and community	Sustainable Environment	Direct control – Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	2026 - ongoing	Transparent reporting of key indicators identified in this document Continuous improvement of reporting on emission sources within Councils operational control, in line with government expectations
7.4	Continue to deliver climate awareness training for all staff and embed climate considerations in roles, responsibilities and performance planning Support leadership to assist their staff to understand tangible climate action steps they can take and contribute toward	People and Culture, supported by Sustainable Environment	Direct control – Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Development of on-demand training package by 2028, that includes an induction program with 2-yearly compliance refresh requirement for all staff, ensuring all staff continue to be supported to understand how their role intersects with climate
7.5	Continue to align strategies, policies, plans and initiatives with objectives to reduce emissions and build resilience to impacts from climate change in Bass Coast	Relevant Council team lead, supported by Sustainable Environment	Direct control – Council can deliver independently	Low – minimal cost, mostly in-kind staff effort	Ongoing	Council strategic policies, plans and initiatives consider climate impacts and embed circular economy and sustainability principles Obtain Ecotourism destination certification, supporting sustainable business practice across Bass Coast Continue to improve the integration of climate risk into corporate processes, planning and decision-making Council policies and plans commit to minimise environmental impacts associated with AI and data storage



Refreshed Reporting Indicators

An update to the indicators for our Climate Change Action Plan is provided below. There are additional indicators to support measures of resilience, which we heard is important from our community, along with emissions reduction in the plan. We will update our progress against these indicators with data collected over the financial year.

	Indicator	Target (by 2030)	Baseline 2020-21	2024-25	Comments
Council	Council emissions (tCO ₂ -e)	0	13,165	11,153	On track, delivery of Priority Action No. 71 will transparently outline how Council will reduce hard to abate emissions
	% renewable energy	100%	0	100%	Target achieved – ongoing VECO contract
	% renewable energy sourced locally			Establish baseline 2025-26	Local renewable energy contribution (%) -% of electricity supplied by locally installed solar and batteries across Council sites from baseline established 2025-26 Estimated annual cost savings achieved from increased Local Renewable Utilisation (%), calculated using avoided electricity costs- from 2025-26
	kW solar installed	250 kW	0	310.8 kW	Target achieved, continue installations where three are clear benefits and optimise renewable energy installations – see Priority Action No. 21
	KWh battery installed		0	120.2 kWh	
	No. Energy resilience hubs with back-up power supply		0	10	No. Council facilities equipped with back-up power supply
	% EV in fleet	90%		18%	
	No. EV in Council fleet		2	13	Trending below target for EV in fleet, based on lack of suitable heavy vehicles in market. Deliver phased increase to EV fleet at end of lease, responding to market opportunities and plan for suitable charging infrastructure
	% low emission vehicles		-	34%	
	No. of Council staff with EV in novated lease arrangements			5	Total of 10 low emissions vehicles of total 14 novated leases, representing 71% of novated lease arrangements
	No. of Council staff with low emission vehicles in novated lease arrangements			5	
	% LED streetlighting	100%	-	40%	On track – AusNet streetlighting program delivered by 2030, see Priority Action No.2.2
Community	Community Emissions (tCO ₂ -e)	0	532,000	497,749*	*Emissions estimated, data updated in Snapshot in October, for the financial year prior. Mid-point results were commissioned early for Mid-Term Review
	% households with solar	60%	25%	30.1%	Increasing trend, but slow uptake to reach target - See residential in Australian PV Institute – Data not yet available on household battery
	% households with battery	-	-	-	
	% business with solar	25%	-	16.6%	See commercial (calculated as capacity % of total kW installed, not No. business installations) in Australian PV Institute - Data not yet available on commercial battery
	% households with EV ownership	80%	1%	6.3%	% EV ownership by state provided by Electric Vehicle Index
	Public EV charger use - Gigawatts per year	Maintain or increase			
	Public EV charger use - tCO ₂ -e avoided per year	Maintain or increase		0	Public charge use is calculated from Council installed Chargefox chargers – data available following installations December 2025

	Indicator	Target (by 2030)	Baseline 2020-21	2024-25	Comments
Community	% of comingled, FOGO, and glass diverted from kerbside general waste (% of kerbside material diverted from landfill)	Maintain or increase		72.17%	Local Government Performance Reporting Framework
	Contamination levels in kerbside waste collection – general waste in landfill (%), recycling (%) and organics bins (%)	Maintain or reduce		Baseline established 2027-28 under new waste contract	Poor data availability to meaningfully report, see Priority Action No. 4.3
	Category description of recoverable waste streams offered at Council transfer sites	Maintain or increase	Data not available	Data not available – build baseline 2025-26	Provide details for categories of recoverable waste offered at Council transfer sites
	Total tonnes of recovered waste from Council transfer sites (tonnes)	Maintain or increase			Data to monitor Council's progress of resource recovery from transfer stations will be improved from 2024-25 when the baseline levels will be established, with progress reported annually moving forward
	Tonnes of mulch applied on Council rehabilitation projects	Maintain or increase			
	% of material processed or reused locally from above measures	Maintain or increase			
	Increase native vegetation across the Shire	360,000 plants annually	0	1.5 million (cumulative) 165,000 tCO ₂ -e drawdown	No. natives planted to improve connectivity across the rural landscape through Biolinks Plan Associated estimated emissions drawdown over 25 year period
	Urban Forest Strategy – Increase No. of trees within Shire townships	Annual plantings of at least 1,500 street trees	0	1,810	Progressive tree plantings established, working toward target of 40% canopy cover by 2040



Reporting on our Progress

We will report on our progress of implementing these priority actions in Council's Quarterly Performance Reports. We will provide a more in-depth annual summary on our progress in Council's Annual Report, which will include an update on Council's corporate emissions and community-wide emissions. We note, due to data availability, emissions data provided in reports will be for the financial year prior. These reports are available on Council's website.

We commit to continuous improvement of reporting on material emission sources that Council has a level of influence over in line with government expectations, and to manage risks and support the transition toward a low carbon economy. These emissions sources can be indirect, generated from the supply chain and business activities, such as embodied carbon in projects. We note, that as we improve our emissions reporting processes, overall emissions reported as a result may increase. We will be transparent with our community as we continue to improve the measurement and management of our emission sources.

We will also report annually on our key indicators (refer Indicator Table above), which will be made available through the [Community Action Portal](#). Evaluation measures established for priority actions will be assessed as actions progress for continuous learning and improvement and considered in the development of the next Climate strategic document.

Appendix 1 – Councils Refreshed Priority Actions

The original 45 actions listed in the Climate Change Action Plan are provided below, highlighting refreshed action descriptions, new priority numbers for tracking and transparency purposes, as well as actions that are complete or discontinued. For more information about the actions please refer to the Community Action Portal where we share further details through our full actions listing, as well as community and review updates. Any priority action numbers that are not listed here are new actions that have emerged from community feedback, or opportunities identified through the review process.

Action No.	Original Action Title - Climate Change Action Plan	Status	Priority Action No.	Refreshed action update or rationale for action completion
1	Expand the Future Farms, Homes and Festivals	Combine or adapt	6.6	Continue to connect community, celebrate success and share stories, information, financial incentives, and support services
2	Develop a climate change community portal	Complete or implementation ongoing	1.4, 6.6	1.4 Strengthen and expand guidance on how households, businesses and community organisations can adapt to climate change and build disaster resilience in the Community Action Portal 6.6 Continue to connect community, celebrate success and share stories, information, financial incentives, and support services
3	Support the development of a local Climate Resilience Centre or hubs	Complete or implementation ongoing	1.3	Support the promotion and maintenance of the 9 existing Energy Resilient Hubs that can be utilised during power outages and identify opportunities to expand the network of existing Energy Resilient Community hubs
4	Deliver a climate resilience toolkit and campaign	Complete or implementation ongoing	1.4	Strengthen and expand guidance on how households, businesses and community organisations can adapt to climate change and build disaster resilience in the Community Action Portal
5	Promote financial solutions and incentives	Complete or implementation ongoing	6.6	Continue to connect community, celebrate success and share stories, information, financial incentives, and support services
6	Climate emergency community funds	Complete or implementation ongoing	6.5	Continue to empower community action through tailored funding (Climate Action Grants) and/or in-kind support
7	Expand the Climate Governance and Leadership Program	Combine or adapt	7.2	Explore and implement the most effective ways for Council to support community aspirations for emissions reduction and resilience building, informed by strong engagement interest in a community reference or advisory group, collective forum, or similar collaborative model.
8	Advocate for stronger climate action by State and Federal Governments	Complete or implementation ongoing	7.5	Success measure - continue to advocate for stronger climate action by State and Federal Governments
9	Essential infrastructure working groups	Combine or adapt	1.1	Will be carried out as part of the climate risk assessment process - 1.1. Undertake a holistic climate risk assessment supported through the VCRC program, considering risks across all Council services—not only assets—to support risk based and evidence based decisions
10	Refresh the Economic Development Strategy	Complete or implementation ongoing	7.5	Continue to align strategies, policies, plans and initiatives with objectives to reduce emissions and build resilience to impacts from climate change in Bass Coast
11	Refresh the Visitor Economy Strategy	Complete - close		Action complete - remove this action - as the Visitor Economy Strategy is no longer developed by Council - it now sits with Destination Phillip Island
12	Refresh the Waste Management Strategy with a circular economy lens	Combine or adapt	4.1, 4.3	4.1 Implement Council's Circular Economy Framework, clearly communicating the environmental, economic and emissions reduction benefits of circular practices 4.3 Increase resource recovery across the shire, improve separation of waste streams and continue to drive down disposable organic material that ends up in landfill
13	Partner to deliver a whole municipality coastal management plan	Combine or adapt	1.5	Refreshed action update - Continue to support collaborative coastal resilience: partnering across state and federal governments, community and traditional custodians for long-term adaptation and stewardship; however given Councils' level of control this is best captured as an advocacy action - see Priority Action No. 1.5 Continue to advocate to state and federal government for planning controls and proactive support for at risk coastal communities
14	Contribute to Inverloch Foreshore Erosion response	Complete - close		This is BAU - Continue support for short-term coastal protection aligned with Victoria's coastal management principles - partnering with DEECA and the community to deliver evidence-based responses to coastal erosion

Action No.	Original Action Title - Climate Change Action Plan	Status	Priority Action No.	Refreshed action update or rationale for action completion
15	Contribute to Cowes East Foreshore Erosion protection works	Complete - close		Action is complete and is covered in updated Action No. 14
16	Participate in Regional Climate Adaptation Planning	Complete - close		Complete - Council participated in development of Gippsland Regional Adaptation Plan initiated by state government, action is BAU for future regional adaptation planning updates
17	Collaborate to deliver climate resilient transport infrastructure	Combine or adapt	1.1, 1.2	1.1 Undertake a holistic climate risk assessment supported through the VCRC program, considering risks across all Council services—not only assets—to support risk based and evidence based decisions 1.2 Build on existing asset vulnerability assessments to understand larger interrelated systems of private and public infrastructure, rather than just focusing on individual assets
18	Review the critical communications partnership	Complete - close		Complete - see Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2023 - 2026, implementation ongoing and ongoing update / improvement captured in future reviews
19	Establish a Bunurong climate change partnership	Complete or implementation ongoing	6.2	Strengthen the climate change partnership with Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
20	Optimise multi-stakeholder waterway health management	Complete - close		This is delivered through establishment of IWM Forums and existing partnership arrangements with catchment managers and considered BAU
21	Finalise the Integrated Water Management Plan	Complete or implementation ongoing	5.6	Implement the Integrated Water Management Plan to enhance water quality, restore and protect catchment health, increase green and blue spaces, reduce flood improving community health, wellbeing and amenity
22	Update the climate resilient species list	Complete - close		This has been delivered see: www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/services/environment/tree-vegetation-lists ; will be managed and updated as part of implementing the Urban Forest Strategy
23	Improve vegetation cover in urban centres	Complete or implementation ongoing	5.4	Fully implement the Urban Forest Strategy to create greener, cooler and more biodiverse towns
24	Strengthen planning policy and practice	Combine or adapt	7.5	Continue to align strategies, policies, plans and initiatives with objectives to reduce emissions and build resilience to impacts from climate change in Bass Coast
25	Township adaptation plans	Combine or adapt	1.5	Continue to advocate to state and federal government for planning controls and proactive support for at risk coastal communities
26	Deliver targeted assistance for vulnerable households	Complete or implementation ongoing	6.1	Strengthen strategic partnerships to support households that are vulnerable to climate hazards through energy assessments and targeted support services
27	Support businesses to build a circular economy	Continue - refreshed action	4.2	Support the delivery of a program that builds capability for local businesses, industry and/or agriculture to build knowledge of circular models
28	Support a shift to climate resilient transport for Bass Coast Community	Combine or adapt	3.4, 3.5, 3.6	3.4 Continue to improve active transport safety and connectivity, in line with Tracks and Trails strategy 3.5 Continue to advocate for improved public transport services across the Shire 3.6 Continue to advocate for improved mobility across the shire in line with the ITS, including sustainable transport pilot trials that reduce congestion and car use, while improving connectivity and safety in the community
29	Support local electric vehicle charging infrastructure and usage	Continue - refreshed action	3.3	In line with the Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS), undertake promotional activities to support increase in EV charging infrastructure and vehicles across Bass Coast
30	Deliver the Biolinks project	Complete or implementation ongoing	5.5	Continue to implement the Biolinks Biodiversity Plan
31	Deliver climate emergency staff training and awareness training	Complete or implementation ongoing	7.4	Continue to deliver climate awareness training for all staff and embed climate considerations in roles, responsibilities and performance planning Support leadership to assist their staff to understand tangible climate action steps they can take and contribute toward
32	Embed the Climate Emergency into all staff roles and responsibilities, and performance planning	Complete - close		Complete - ongoing implementation captured in Action 7.4 above
33	Integrate and address climate risks in corporate processes	Complete or implementation ongoing	7.5	Success measure - Continually review and improve the integration and management of climate risks in corporate processes in Action 7.5

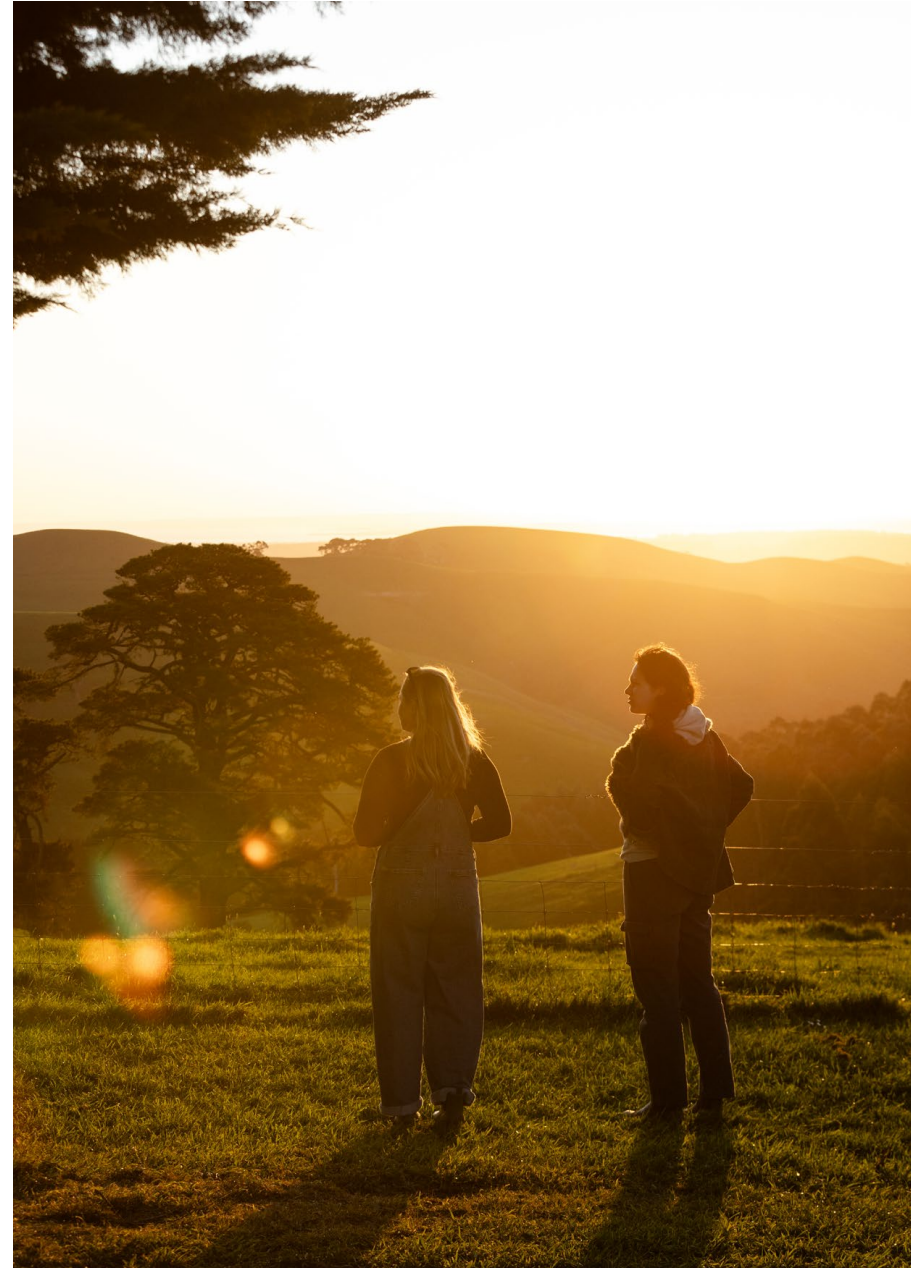
Action No.	Original Action Title - Climate Change Action Plan	Status	Priority Action No.	Refreshed action update or rationale for action completion
34	Integrate climate risk into financial decision making	Combine or adapt	1.1	Continued implementation will be supported by climate risk assessment - see Action 1.1 success measure - climate risk results are being implemented into work flows
35	Increase fossil fuel divestment	Complete - close	7.5	Investment Policy updated - continued implementation covered in existing policy reviews and captured in Action 7.5
36	Update the Procurement Policy and procedures	Complete or implementation ongoing	7.5	Continue to align strategies, policies, plans and initiatives with objectives to reduce emissions and build resilience to impacts from climate change in Bass Coast
37	Integrate climate emergency into Council reporting processes	Combine or adapt	7.3	Strengthen transparent and meaningful reporting of progress in implementing this plan and reaching net zero and resilience goals across Council's operations and community
38	Review Council's zero net emissions target	Combine or adapt	7.1	Develop a clear policy position and methodology for achieving Council's net zero target, in line with community expectations for transparency and local impact
39	Asset vulnerability assessment project	Complete or implementation ongoing	1.4	Enhance asset vulnerability assessments to prioritise Bass Coast's key climate hazards, strengthen criticality and vulnerability measures, and assess cascading impacts across interdependent public and private infrastructure networks
40	Update Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy for Council Buildings (2017)	Complete - close	7.5	ESD policy update complete- implementation ongoing, covered by Action 7.5
41	Power Council with 100% renewable energy	Complete or implementation ongoing	2.4	Continue to power 100% of electricity across Council operations with renewable energy sources
42	Transition to electric vehicles	Continue - refreshed action	3.1	Continue to plan for and transition Council's fleet, plant and equipment to electric and low emission equipment and vehicles
43	Improve energy efficiency	Discontinue		We have built efficiency considerations as part of delivery for Priority Action No. 2.1 - other supporting policies like the updated ESD policy also assist in energy efficiency considerations
44	Accelerate the implementation of municipal solar	Complete or implementation ongoing	2.1	Action complete- exceeded our target for solar, action adapted to Optimise generation, storage and efficient use of renewable energy across Council-managed sites; helping cut emissions and cost, supporting a cleaner, more reliable future
45	Transition all street lighting to energy efficient LED lighting	Combine or adapt	2.2	AusNet led project to complete by 2030. Support a tailored and smart transition to LED streetlighting by 2030, reducing impacts to biodiversity and light pollution, while balancing increased lighting to support community safety where needed

Appendix 2 – Achievements Report

Appendix 3 – Mid-Term Review Report

Appendix 4 – Engagement Report

These appendices are available through the [Community Action Portal](#)





Bass Coast Shire Council

Telephone: 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 or
National Relay Service 13 36 77 for people with communication difficulties

Email: basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Website: www.basscoast.vic.gov.au

 [basscoastshire](https://www.instagram.com/basscoastshire)  [BassCoastShire](https://www.facebook.com/BassCoastShire)

8.4 Dogs in Public Places Guidelines

Division

Community & Culture

Council Plan Strategic Objective

Vibrant Communities

Communities are healthy, inclusive, safe and socially connected. Communities celebrate opportunity, recreation, diversity, heritage and reconciliation.

Declaration

The author has no general or material interests in relation to this report.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the Draft Dogs in Public Places Guidelines for community consultation. Development and delivery of the Dogs in Public Places Guidelines is a key year one action for the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 (DAMP 2026-2029), and meets a significant community need identified through the DAMP 2026-2029 consultation.

The Draft Dogs in Public Places Guidelines provide a consistent approach to assess the suitability and design of designated leash free and dog prohibited areas on Council managed land.

The Draft Dogs in Public Places Guidelines have been developed in consultation with the Dogs Off Leash Working Group and through extensive sector best practice benchmarking and research. The Draft Dogs in Public Places Guidelines provide a comprehensive and consistent framework for decision making and funding attraction to support community wellbeing and environmental conservation benefits in the planning and delivery of open space projects.

Recommendation

That Council endorse the Draft Dogs in Public Places Guidelines for a 4-week period of community consultation

Background

The DAMP 2026-2029 outlines Council's strategic approach to domestic animal management and addresses a range of community priorities including responsible pet ownership, compliance, dogs in public places and protection of the natural environment, meeting Council's requirements under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* and establishing a future-ready framework for animal management across the Shire.

The DAMP 2026-2029 is guided by the following vision, bringing together a focus on the health and wellbeing benefits of responsible pet ownership and the importance of environmental stewardship and conservations:

To support a thriving, healthy community where responsible pet ownership and environmental stewardship go hand in hand—ensuring safe, shared spaces that protect biodiversity while enriching the lives of people and their animals.

The DAMP 2026-2029 was developed through extensive community consultation, with over 900 community members providing input through a two-stage engagement process via digital, in-person, and written feedback. Fenced Dog Parks and Off-Leash Areas were key areas of community priority from the consultation, with strong support for a consistent, Shire-wide framework to support strategic decision-making and uplift of inland fenced dog parks. Objective 10 of the DAMP 2026-2029 identifies the development of the Dogs in Public Places Guidelines as a priority short-term action, and Council is well-progressed in early delivery on this and other key 2026 actions, including delivery of mainland fenced dog park in Inverloch, signage audits at priority sites, enhanced patrols and engagement at beaches across the Shire, and communications campaigns targeting visitors to our region with key information .

Discussion

The Draft Dogs in Public Place Guidelines outline Council's position on the provision, distribution and management of dog facilities in public open spaces and will guide decisions on the planning for all dog off-leash and dog-free areas. Development of the guidelines is part of a broader effort to ensure a positive experience for all users of public open spaces, and support consistent and holistic decision-making guided by sector best practice to achieve the balanced objectives of the DAMP 2026-2029.

The Dogs in Public Places Guidelines have been developed in consultation with the Dogs Off Leash Working Group, through a workshop in January and consultation on the draft document informing this consultation draft over March. The Dogs Off Leash Working Group is comprised of key stakeholders representing land managers, conservation and wildlife groups, dog associations, dog trainers and Council. The Guidelines are a key focus for the Dogs Off Leash Working Group in 2026 and reflect the contribution of Working Group members.

The Dogs in Public Places Guidelines are guided by the following key considerations in establishing criteria for the assessment of:

- Leash free areas – inland reserves
- Leash free areas – beaches
- Dog prohibited areas
- On leash areas

Consideration for all users	Balance the needs of dog owners with the needs of other residents and visitors, including those who may not be comfortable with dogs.
Demand analysis	Consider the demand for off-leash areas in different parts of Bass Coast as part of Council's broader open space planning processes.
Site analysis	Establish criteria for assessing the suitability of different locations for off-leash areas, considering factors such as size, access, safety, environmental and cultural sensitivities, and potential impacts on other users.
Restrictions	Address existing restrictions, such as those related to playgrounds and beaches.
Fenced dog spaces	Support development of additional fenced dog off-leash areas.
Dog-free spaces	Support identification and designation of dog-free public open spaces.

The Dogs in Public Places Guidelines establish a traffic light system for impact assessment, with demand analysis supporting consistent and holistic assessment across the Shire.



Low impact

An area where dogs may have a minimal impact on the community or surrounding residents, community infrastructure, environment, access and amenity.



Medium impact

An area where dogs may have a moderate impact on the community or surrounding residents, community infrastructure, environment, access and amenity.



High impact

An area where dogs may have a significant impact on the community or surrounding residents, community infrastructure, environment, access and amenity.

The Dogs in Public Places Guidelines establish the framework for site assessment across leash-free areas (inland reserves and beaches), dog prohibited areas and on-leash areas, signage requirements and procedures for amending dog control regulations.

A key focus of the Guidelines is uplift in the planning and delivery of inland fenced dog parks, which provide space for active recreation for pet owners and their pets, while mitigating environmental impact. The Dogs in Public Places Guidelines set out a tiered framework, identifying mandatory and optional inclusions for each tier. This framework further positions Council to access grant funding opportunities, with a shovel-ready set of criteria for Local, Township and Regional-scale dog parks.

The three-tiered system for identification and delivery of facilities and features will guide scoping of future inland fenced dog parks:

Facility / Feature	Local	Township	Regional
Indicative minimum size (where feasible) *	Up to 0.3ha	0.3ha to 0.5ha	0.5 to 1.0ha
Clear boundary and regulatory signage	✓	✓	✓
Waste disposal bins	✓	✓	✓
Dog drinking water access	Optional	✓	✓
Informal seating	✓	✓	✓
Shelter structures	Optional	Optional	✓
Dog agility or enrichment features	Optional	✓	✓
Public toilets nearby	Optional	Optional	✓
Perimeter fencing (site dependent)	Optional	✓	✓
Gated entry points	Optional	✓	✓
Internal separation fencing (if required)	Optional	Optional	✓
Pathway and access connections	✓	✓	✓
Natural shade provision	Optional	✓	✓
Built shade structures	Optional	Optional	✓
On-street parking availability	Optional	Optional	✓
Designated accessible parking bays	Optional	✓	✓
Accessible for people with mobility needs	Optional	✓	✓
Access for servicing and ongoing maintenance	✓	✓	✓

Sustainability Implications

The Draft Dogs in Public Places Guidelines are a key deliverable of the DAMP 2026-2029, which also supports the objectives of the Council Plan and Healthy, Safe and Resilient Bass Coast Plan and as such contributes to the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of Bass Coast Shire. The Draft Dogs in Public Places Guidelines identify specific measures and frameworks for the protection of natural assets and environmental sustainability.

Finances

The Draft Dogs in Public Places Guidelines establish a consistent and strategically aligned framework for assessing, planning and delivering leash-free areas (inland reserves and beaches), leash-free areas, and on-leash areas. Project delivery will be considered and administered through Council's established budget processes.

The Draft Dogs in Public Places Guidelines position Council to access external funding opportunities to enhance delivery of inland fenced dog parks.

Stakeholders

- Bass Coast Shire Communities
- Dogs Off Leash Working Group
- Dog Associations and Community Groups
- Conservation societies
- Land managers
- Councillors
- Council Officers

Conclusion

Development and delivery of the Dogs in Public Places Guidelines is a key 2026 deliverable for the DAMP 2026-2029, and a strong community priority established through the two-phase consultation process. Council is well progressed with expedited delivery of major 2026 DAMP actions, including these Guidelines, as well as mainland fenced dog park in Inverloch, signage audits at priority sites, enhanced patrols and engagement at beaches across the Shire, and communications campaigns targeting visitors to our region with key information.

The Draft Dogs in Public Places Guidelines provide Council and community with a holistic, strategically-aligned and evidence-driven framework for decision making, with a focus on uplift of inland fenced dog parks and delivering simple and communicable regulations that support responsible pet ownership, the health and wellbeing benefits of exercising dogs in open spaces and protection of natural assets.

Governing Documents

Domestic Animals Act 1994

Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029

Council Plan 2025-2029

Health, Safe and Resilient Bass Coast Plan 2025-2029

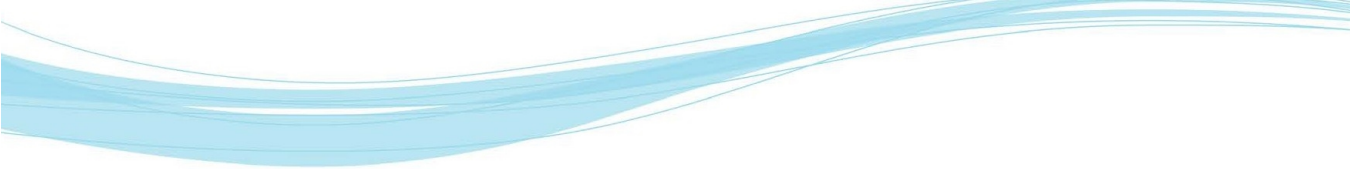
Attachments

- I. Bass Coast Draft Dogs in Public Places Guidelines [8.4.1 - 15 pages]



Dogs in Public Places Guidelines 2026-2029

DRAFT



Acknowledgement of Country

Bass Coast Shire Council acknowledges the Bunurong as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and Lore.

Bass Coast Shire Council celebrates the opportunity to embrace and empower the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island Communities in their diversity.

Bass Coast Shire Council will create opportunities for future recognition and respectful partnerships that will honour the Traditional Owners and Custodians, and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Mayor and Councillors Message

TBC

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Bass Coast Shire Council Dogs in Public Places Guidelines 2026-2029

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Diversity and Inclusion

Bass Coast Shire Council celebrates the diversity of our communities. We acknowledge and respect the skills, insights and life experiences of all community members irrespective of gender, ethnicity, ability, religious belief, sexuality or age.

Child Safe Statement

Bass Coast Shire Council is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and has a Child Safe Statement ([Child-Safety-Statement-signed.pdf](#))

Gender Impact Assessment

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment has been undertaken when developing the Dogs in Public Places Guidelines 2026-2029.

I. Introduction

Purpose

Bass Coast is a community in which responsible pet ownership is a core value, and the health and wellbeing benefits of animal ownership go alongside the enjoyment and protection of the natural environment.

The Dogs in Public Places Guidelines (Guidelines) provide a consistent approach to assess the suitability and design of designated leash free and dog prohibited areas on Council managed land including inland fenced dog parks, and is a key supporting document for the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 (DAMP).

The DAMP sets out Council's priorities in promoting responsible pet ownership, ensuring compliance with the *Domestic Animal Management Act 1994* and other relevant legislation, maintaining community amenity, protecting our natural environment and supporting the health and wellbeing benefits of pet ownership across the Shire. The DAMP is an endorsed major initiative in the Bass Coast Shire Council Plan and the Health, Safe and Resilient Bass Coast Plan.

The DAMP is supported by the following Vision:

"To support a thriving, healthy community where responsible pet ownership and environmental stewardship go hand in hand—ensuring safe, shared spaces that protect biodiversity while enriching the lives of people and their animals."

Access to ample, appropriate spaces for dog owners to exercise their pets supports community wellbeing and safety across the Shire, and is a cornerstone of achieving the Vision and Objectives of the DAMP. Likewise, holistic planning for on and off-leash areas ensures that key environmental and biodiversity assets are preserved while continuing to support the pet owners and their pets to thrive in the municipality.

Objective 10 of the DAMP outlines strategies and actions to develop a strategic and consistent approach to leash free and dog prohibited areas. An action of the DAMP under Objective 10 is to develop the Guidelines, alongside delivery of inland fenced dog parks on mainland and Phillip Island sites, signage audit and ongoing partnership with the Dogs Off Leash Working Group.

The Guidelines outline Council's position on the provision, distribution and management of dog facilities in public open spaces. The Guidelines will guide decisions on the planning for all dog off-leash and dog-free areas and ensure that the provision of open space for community objectives aligned to the DAMP is included in future strategic and precinct planning. The Guidelines are part of a broader effort to ensure a positive experience for all users of public open spaces.

Key aspects of the Guidelines

Key aspects of the Dogs in Public Places Guidelines

Consideration for all users	Balance the needs of dog owners with the needs of other residents and visitors, including those who may not be comfortable with dogs.
Demand analysis	Consider the demand for off-leash areas in different parts of Bass Coast as part of Council's broader open space planning processes.

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Bass Coast Shire Council Dogs in Public Places Guidelines 2026-2029

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Key aspects of the Dogs in Public Places Guidelines

Site analysis	Establish criteria for assessing the suitability of different locations for off-leash areas, considering factors such as size, access, safety, environmental and cultural sensitivities, and potential impacts on other users.
Restrictions	Address existing restrictions, such as those related to playgrounds and beaches.
Fenced dog spaces	Support development of additional fenced dog off-leash areas.
Dog-free spaces	Support identification and designation of dog-free public open spaces.

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Bass Coast Shire Council Dogs in Public Places Guidelines 2026-2029

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2. About Bass Coast Shire

Bass Coast Shire is located on the traditional lands of the Bunurong people. A predominantly coastal municipality, Bass Coast boasts a stunning and diverse natural environment—from rugged coastlines and iconic beaches to rich farmland and bushland.

Home to over 43,000 permanent residents, the population increases significantly during holiday periods. Bass Coast continues to grow as a place where people come to live, work, invest and visit—attracted by its lifestyle, natural beauty, strong community spirit, and future-focused approach.

Bass Coast's population is forecast to grow to 47,408 by 2036.¹ Increased resident population and visitors to Bass Coast has a flow on effect on the number dogs in the Shire and being walked in public open spaces.

Proactive patrols are undertaken, including increased patrols during the busy peak summer period, however Council relies on community education and voluntary observance of signage and regulations for animal management compliance.

The Shire has several designated beaches and reserves where dog owners can exercise their dogs off leash. Some of these areas are season and time dependent. There are also a number of dog-prohibited areas.

The Guidelines seek to support the health and wellbeing benefits of responsible pet ownership, enhance compliance and environmental protection and balance community and stakeholder needs.

¹ ABS population forecast.

3. Dog controls in Bass Coast

These Guidelines establish a consistent and holistic framework for assessing the suitability and design of designated leash free and dog prohibited areas on Council managed land. Implementation of these Guidelines supports the broader objectives of the DAMP, which outline dog controls and considerations for responsible pet ownership.

Dogs on / off leash

In Bass Coast, Dogs must always be on leash in public places, unless otherwise signed in a designated 'off leash area'.

Council Orders provide for designated off leash areas such as, inland reserves and beaches.

In designated off-leash areas (including select beaches and inland reserves) dogs are required to be under effective voice control.

Designated off-leash areas are subject to location-specific, seasonal, and time-based restrictions, as indicated by signage.

Additional restrictions apply in high-use, environmentally sensitive, and shared path areas to manage safety, amenity, and environmental impacts.

Dogs must be registered, microchipped, and wear identification when in public.

Owners are responsible for ensuring dogs are securely contained on private property and do not wander.

Collection and appropriate disposal of dog waste is mandatory in all public spaces.

Compliance is supported through active ranger patrols and enforcement, with penalties applying for leash breaches, nuisance behaviour, and waste offences.

Non-Council managed land

Land tenure across the municipality is managed across Council, Parks Victoria, Phillip Island Nature Parks, DEECA and Committees of Management. These Guidelines support collaboration and enhanced alignment across partner agencies for a consistent approach to enforcement of regulations across the Shire.

4. Our consultation

Previous Consultation

Consultation to support development of the Guidelines was done in tandem with the DAMP consultation process, where we heard from more than 900 people.

There was significant support for the development of the Dogs in Public Places Guidelines - to set a consistent future-focussed framework for establishing new inland dog parks and setting beach regulations to achieve a balance between recreational dog use and wildlife protection.

Dog Off Leash Working Group

The Dogs Off Leash Working Group were engaged to support development of Dogs in Public Places Guidelines for Bass Coast Shire, with a focus on compliance, off-leash provision, wildlife protection, signage, and community expectations. This group brings together Council officers, dog organisations, conservation groups, land managers and community representatives.

The group emphasised the importance on delivering visible, timely outcomes to meet community needs, strengthen alignment across community groups around the Vision of the DAMP, improve compliance, and balance community use with environmental protection.

Process to Develop the Guidelines

These Guidelines were developed and informed by community consultation, research and benchmarking, and in consultation with relevant Council departments and the Dog Off Leash Working Group.

Consultation on these Guidelines

TBC

5. Guidelines

Key considerations for identifying leash free and dog prohibited areas

The following principles guide the development of criteria for planning, designing and managing dog access across public open space. These considerations help balance the needs of dog owners, the wider community, and the natural environment:

- Alignment with relevant site-specific management plans, Council strategies, and policy directions.
- Community demand, land availability and overall suitability of potential sites.
- Evidence-based assessment of potential impacts of dogs on the natural environment and wildlife.
- Impacts on other open space users, including shared recreational use.
- Public safety, risk management and amenity outcomes.



Low impact

An area where dogs may have a minimal impact on the community or surrounding residents, community infrastructure, environment, access and amenity.



Medium impact

An area where dogs may have a moderate impact on the community or surrounding residents, community infrastructure, environment, access and amenity.



High impact

An area where dogs may have a significant impact on the community or surrounding residents, community infrastructure, environment, access and amenity.

Community need and demand

Council will work towards a fair and well-distributed network of dog off-leash areas throughout the municipality. Planning will be informed by both current usage patterns and anticipated future demand, as part of Council's broader open space planning processes.

Off-leash areas should be located in places that are appropriate for the expected level of activity and that support positive outcomes for dogs, while minimising impacts on surrounding environments and other visitors.

Site assessment will consider factors such as:

- The amount of accessible public open space available in the local area.
- Existing dog off-leash reserves and beach areas nearby.
- Current and projected growth in both residential and dog populations.
- Planned urban development and changing community needs.
- Environmental suitability based on available wildlife data and evidence-informed impact assessments.

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Leash free areas – inland reserves

Council will use the following criteria when identifying and assessing suitable inland reserves for leash free access:

- a) A recommended minimum size of 0.3 hectares, where feasible.
- b) Compatibility with surrounding activities and other park users to minimise conflict, site damage and safety risks.
- c) A minimum 20-metre separation from playgrounds, barbecue facilities and picnic areas.
- d) Leash free areas will not be supported at reserves containing playgrounds unless fencing or adequate separation is provided.
- e) Safe access from roads, avoiding high-traffic locations unless fencing is in place.
- f) Accessible design that supports inclusion for people with mobility needs.
- g) Capacity for ongoing servicing and maintenance, including waste management.
- h) Leash free areas will not be located next to dog prohibited areas unless securely fenced.
- i) Appropriate buffers from conservation zones and sensitive habitat areas.
- j) Consideration of spacing and proximity to other leash free locations.
- k) Consideration given to amenity of residential areas with regards to noise/barking.

Leash free areas – beaches

The following criteria will guide assessment of suitable leash free beach areas:

- a) Preference for locations connected to formal beach access paths.
- b) Ability to support maintenance activities such as waste collection and site servicing.
- c) Leash free access applies only to the sanded beach area only (i.e. from the edge of the dunes to the water), not in the dunes or vegetation.
- d) Adequate separation from environmentally sensitive areas, including species habitat and roosting and nesting habitat for migratory and resident shorebirds. Site suitability will be assessed with input from relevant specialists.
- e) Consideration of accessibility and proximity to other designated leash free beaches.

Dog prohibited areas

Dog prohibited areas may be established in locations where evidence-based assessments identify significant safety, environmental or cultural impacts. Criteria include:

- a) Protecting the safety and enjoyment of other open space users and preventing damage to sensitive sites.
- b) Restricting dogs in conservation, environmentally protected or culturally significant areas unless supported through consultation with the land manager.
- c) Priority will be given to protecting sites of recognised cultural heritage value.

On leash areas

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Dogs must be kept on a leash in all public open space areas unless the site is designated as leash free.

Consistent timings for dog control regulations

Council will collaborate with the Dogs Off Leash Working Group to achieve greater consistency in the timings of seasonal restrictions on Council-managed land. This will improve the experience of all open space users, and increase understanding and communicability of regulations.

Signage requirements

Dog control signage will be applied consistently across all Shire-owned and managed land. Signage will clearly identify whether dogs are permitted on leash, allowed off-leash, or prohibited within each area.

Signage will:

- Be highly visible and positioned at key entry points and prominent locations throughout the site.
- Clearly communicate user responsibilities and reinforce expected behaviours.
- Use a consistent design and format across all Shire-managed public open space.
- Where appropriate, include additional information such as conditions of use, interpretive messages, or other regulatory requirements.
- Where an area is not clearly signed as leash free or dog prohibited, dogs must be kept on leash at all times.

Procedure

Prescribing new or amending existing dog control regulations

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* allows for Council to make Orders that prescribe Shire owned or managed land as leash free or dog prohibited.

To prescribe new or amend existing dog control regulations at a site, the Shire will:

- When new leash free or dog prohibited areas are to be implemented as per development plans or site master plans, assess these as required.
- Consult with all relevant Shire teams, external stakeholders, and the community.
- Work collaboratively to reach agreement on the prescribed leash free or dog prohibited area.
- Introduce and gazette relevant Council orders.

Implementing new or amending existing dog control regulations

Once a new or amended dog control regulation has been prescribed at a site, the Shire will:

- Ensure appropriate communications to affected stakeholders and the public.

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- Provide signage clearly identifying the area and regulations in place.
- Identify the prescribed area on the Shire's leash free and dog prohibited area maps.
- Provide other appropriate support, information, or resources.

Enforcement

Once a new or amended dog control regulation has been prescribed at a site, the Shire will focus on educating and raising awareness, as well as undertaking regular patrols and enforcement activities.

Transition period

The Shire will undertake targeted and carefully planned community engagement to support any proposed changes to dog control regulations. The scope, methods and approach to engagement will be determined on a site-by-site basis and will be consistent with the Community Engagement Policy.

In addition, the Shire will establish separate, longer-term transition processes for individual sites. These may include staged implementation of regulatory changes and, where relevant, the development of supporting capital works or site improvement plans.

Exemptions

Dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs

Dogs that have been declared as dangerous, menacing or restricted breed must be muzzled and always remain on leash, even when present in leash free areas (as per provisions of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*).

Greyhounds

Greyhounds must always remain on leash, even when present in leash free areas (as per provisions of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*).

Assistance dogs

Assistance dogs are permitted to be present in dog prohibited areas but must always remain on leash.

Dogs on the playing surface of sporting grounds while in programmed use

No dogs will be permitted on the playing surface of sporting grounds whilst organised sport or training is taking place.

6. Leash free area categories and facility standards

Bass Coast Shire provides a range of leash free areas to meet different community needs. Sites are grouped into three categories based on their scale, location, and level of supporting infrastructure.

Local	Local leash free areas designed to support nearby residents with simple facilities for everyday dog exercise and social interaction.
Township	Larger leash free spaces that serve multiple neighbourhoods, offering improved amenities and catering for higher visitation.
Regional	Major destination leash-free areas providing a broader range of facilities and drawing users from across the Shire. These sites are typically larger and more highly developed.

Facility and Feature Guidelines for Inland Dog Parks

The following table outlines typical infrastructure expectations for each leash free area category.

Facility / Feature	Local	Township	Regional
Indicative minimum size (where feasible) *	Up to 0.3ha	0.3ha to 0.5ha	0.5 to 1.0ha
Clear boundary and regulatory signage	✓	✓	✓
Waste disposal bins	✓	✓	✓
Dog drinking water access	Optional	✓	✓
Informal seating	✓	✓	✓
Shelter structures	Optional	Optional	✓
Dog agility or enrichment features	Optional	✓	✓
Public toilets nearby	Optional	Optional	✓
Perimeter fencing (site dependent)	Optional	✓	✓
Gated entry points	Optional	✓	✓
Internal separation fencing (if required)	Optional	Optional	✓
Pathway and access connections	✓	✓	✓
Natural shade provision	Optional	✓	✓
Built shade structures	Optional	Optional	✓
On-street parking availability	Optional	Optional	✓
Designated accessible parking bays	Optional	✓	✓
Accessible for people with mobility needs	Optional	✓	✓
Access for servicing and ongoing maintenance	✓	✓	✓

*Site size recommendations may vary depending on land constraints, environmental sensitivity and local demand.

7. Review

Review of these Guidelines

These Guidelines will be reviewed every four years.

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 this document, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a Shire department, the change to an existing policy or document referred to in this policy, and minor updates to legislation and the like which does not have a material impact. However, any change or update which materially alters the document must be by resolution of Council.

8.5 Appointment of Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee

Division

Innovation & Engagement

Council Plan Strategic Objective

Leading for our Community

Demonstrating leadership through good governance, transparency and accountability

Declaration

The author has no general or material interests in relation to this report.

Summary

This report recommends the appointment of the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee for a period of 12 months.

Recommendation

That Council appoint Janelle Howell the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee from 1 June 2026 to 31 May 2027.

Background

Council's Audit and Risk Committee Charter requires Council to appoint the Chairperson of the committee. The Chairperson must be an independent member.

Discussion

Council resolved to appoint Goran Mitrevski and Janelle Howell independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee on 17 May 2023. Mr Mitrevski was appointed Chair at the same meeting.

Mr Mitrevski's tenure as Chair was extended for further 12-month terms at the 17 July 2024 and 21 May 2025 Council Meetings.

The committee met on 18 March to discuss the position of Chair. The committee recommends to Council that Janelle Howell be appointed Chair for a 12-month term, from 1 June 2026 to 31 May 2027.

Sustainability Implications

There are no sustainability implications associated with this report.

Finances

Independent members are paid an all-inclusive sitting fee of \$1000 per meeting, and the Chair is paid a fee of \$1500 per meeting. This is included in operational budgets.

Stakeholders

- Councillors
- Council officers
- Mr Goran Mitrevski, Ms Janelle Howell and Ms Leanne Mulcahy
- Internal and External Auditors

Conclusion

It is recommended that Council appoint Ms Janelle Howell as the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee for a period of 12 months.

Governing Documents

Audit and Risk Charter

Local Government Act 2020

Attachments

Nil

8.6 CEO Employment & Remuneration Policy

Division

Innovation & Engagement

Council Plan Strategic Objective

Visionary Leadership

Our communities flourish through leadership that is open and responsible, ensuring decisions serve the communities best interests, and comply with legislative obligations.

Declaration

The author has no general or material interests in relation to this report.

Summary

This report presents two reviewed documents for Council's consideration:

- The CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy which governs the management by Council of the CEO Employment lifecycle, performance management, contract renewal and recruitment, and
- The CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter, which governs the management of the CEO Employment Matters Committee.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Adopt the revised CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy as presented in Attachment 1; and**
 2. **Adopt the revised CEO Employment Committee Charter as presented in Attachment 2.**
-

Background

Council is required by the *Local Government Act 2020 (the Act)* to maintain a CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy.

Bass Coast Shire's current policy and associated CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter were adopted on 15 December 2021 and are due for renewal.

Discussion

Section 45 of the Act requires Council to keep in force a CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy (Policy) that must:

- (a) *provide for the Council to obtain independent professional advice in relation to the matters dealt with in the Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy; and*
- (b) *provide for the following—*
 - (i) *the recruitment and appointment process;*
 - (ii) *provisions to be included in the contract of employment;*
 - (iii) *performance monitoring;*
 - (iv) *an annual review; and*
- (c) *include any other matters prescribed by the regulations.*

The CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy was first developed in 2021 utilising a template that was consistently adopted across the sector.

Minor changes have been proposed to the policy:

- Updated position titles to reflect current organisational structure
- An additional section referencing the confidentiality requirements of the Act when dealing with personnel matters.

Minor changes have been proposed to the charter:

- Updated position titles to reflect current organisational structure
- Updated fees information to ensure the Independent Chairpersons fee is consistent with the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee.

The policy and the charter have been reviewed with input from the Independent Chairperson of the Chief Executive Employment Matters Committee.

Sustainability Implications

There are no sustainability implications associated with this report.

Finances

The CEO Employment Matters Committee is to be chaired by an independent member who is a full member of the Committee and is entitled to be remunerated for their advisory role. The current rate of remuneration is \$1500 per meeting.

Stakeholders

- CEO
- Councillors
- Council officers
- CEO Employment Matters Committee Chairperson

Conclusion

The Act requires Council to maintain a CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy. It is recommended that Council adopt the renewed policy and charter.

Governing Documents

Local Government Act 2020

Attachments

1. CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy [**8.6.1** - 5 pages]
2. CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter [**8.6.2** - 4 pages]

CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy



Document Information

Type	Council Policy
Mayor	
Date Adopted	
Responsible Officer	Manager Governance & Communications
Review Period	At least once every 4 years
Version Number	2

1. Purpose

This Policy sets out the way in which Council will manage the recruitment and appointment of its CEO and establishes a fair, transparent and consistent framework for all matters relating to employment, performance planning and management, professional development and remuneration of the CEO in accordance with the requirements of section 45 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

2. Policy Statement

This Policy provides for the following matters:

- Establishment of the CEO Employment Matters Committee
- The recruitment and appointment of the CEO
- Monitoring of the CEOs performance and professional development
- Expiry of the CEO contract
- Appointment of an Acting or Interim CEO

3. Establishment of the CEO Employment Matters Committee

Council will establish a CEO Employment Matters Committee (Committee). The Committee will be an advisory committee to Council. Its Terms of Reference are set out in the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter.

The Committee is to be chaired by the independent member who is a full member of the Committee and is entitled to be remunerated for their advisory role.

The Committee may obtain additional independent professional advice to help it discharge its obligations in respect of any matter dealt with in this Policy.

CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy

Support to the Committee will be provided by the Chief Executive Office's delegate and include:

- Coordinating meetings of the Committee
- Preparing relevant documentation including reports to Council and contractual documents
- Seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified persons to undertake the role of independent Chair for the Committee's consideration
- Procuring independent legal advice on contractual or employment matters at the request of the Committee
- Maintaining appropriate records regarding performance reviews

4. Recruitment and Appointment of the Chief Executive Officer

Council will engage an independent and suitably qualified recruitment firm to support it in the recruitment and appointment of a CEO. The Committee will make recommendations to the Council when appointing a recruitment firm, determining the CEO selection criteria and developing the CEO contract.

The appointment of the CEO must be made by Council resolution.

4.1. Contract of Employment

The Contract of Employment will, at a minimum, outline the following:

- The employment term which must not exceed 5 years under Section 44(2) of the Act;
- The responsibilities and duties of the position including compliance with the Act and the Code of Conduct;
- The conflict of interest management requirements;
- The CEO's remuneration package and other entitlements;
- Any legislative and contractual obligations, including those during and continuing after appointment;
- The CEO's leave entitlements;
- Dispute resolution procedures;
- Processes for managing unsatisfactory performance;
- Processes for early termination, including notice of termination provisions, with notice of termination by the Council being a period of six (6) months;
- Any other matters required to be contained in the Contract of Employment by the Regulations.

The Contract of Employment may only be varied by a resolution of the Council and if accepted by the CEO, recorded in a deed of variation.

4.2. Remuneration and Expenses

Remuneration

The total remuneration package provided to the CEO will be subject to the review of the Committee. The remuneration package will be consistent with the principles of the Victorian

CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy

Government Public Entity Executive Remuneration Policy, which stipulate that remuneration should:

- Be fair and reasonable;
- Consider entity performance as well as Victorian fiscal and economic conditions;
- Be set at a competitive level for the relevant market and sector, to attract and retain talented people;
- Reflect the non-financial benefits of local government employment; and
- Be based on decisions that are robust, transparent, consistent and understandable to both the CEO and the public.

The total remuneration package will be inclusive of salary, superannuation and other employment benefits, including associated Fringe Benefits Tax.

No performance bonus arrangements will apply.

The CEO Employment Matters Committee will review remuneration annually in accordance with the terms of the contract.

Expenses

Council will meet reasonable expenses incurred by the CEO including:

- Membership and subscription fees payable to professional associations which are reasonably necessary or desirable in the performance of duties.
- Reasonable costs incurred where attending conferences, seminars or undertaking study.
- Reasonable costs incurred in performance of duties.

The CEO may be provided a corporate credit card to use in transactions related to their role. Corporate credit card expenditure will be reviewed and approved by the Mayor and the Manager Financial Services.

The independent Audit & Risk Committee can, at any time, ask to receive a report on all CEO corporate credit card transactions.

5. Monitoring of the CEOs performance and professional development

The Council will adopt an annual performance plan for the CEO. The performance plan will be developed in conjunction with the CEO and the CEO Employment Matters Committee.

The performance plan will document agreed objectives and outcomes to be delivered over a twelve-month period, including any agreed professional development.

The CEO will provide progress reports to the Committee at each review meeting.

Following the initial three months of a new CEO's term, a workshop with Councillors, the CEO and the independent chair of the Committee should be coordinated so that:

- The CEO can prepare and present an overview of findings during the early months, and highlight any projections or forecasts of relevance to the Council during their tenure;

CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy

- The Councillors can provide feedback to the CEO on their perspective of the CEO's performance during the initial period; and
- The Council and CEO can agree to projects and priorities for inclusion in the CEO's Performance Plan and KPIs.

6. Contract Expiry

Six months prior to the expiry of the current CEO's Contract of Employment, the Committee will provide a recommendation to Council on whether to reappoint the CEO under a new contract of employment or cease the employment of the CEO due to the expiry of the contract.

If the Committee recommendation is to reappoint the CEO, the recommendation should also include the proposed provisions of the further Contract of Employment.

Any reappointment of the current CEO must be made by a resolution of the Council.

7. Acting or Interim CEO Appointment

The Council must appoint an Acting CEO when there is a vacancy in the office of the CEO of greater than 28 days or the CEO is unable to perform the duties of the office of Chief Executive Officer.

The appointment of the Acting CEO must be made by a resolution of the Council unless the Acting CEO is appointed for a period not exceeding 28 days, in which case the CEO may appoint an Acting CEO under delegation from Council in accordance with Section 11(3) of the Act.

The Committee must advise the Council on the selection and appointment of an Acting CEO for periods exceeding 28 days.

8. Integrity Processes

All information relating to the recruitment, selection and review processes in the Chief Executive Officer must be kept confidential.

Councillors, the Independent Chair and advisors and staff involved in the recruitment and selection processes will be required to declare any conflicts of interest to Council and take all reasonable steps to maintain confidentiality and respect the privacy of all persons involved.

Any failure to keep information relating to recruitment, selection or review processes may constitute a breach of the Act, the Model Councillor Code of Conduct and/or the Employee Code of Conduct.

CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy

Related Legislation, Associated Information and Resources

Local Government Act 2020

Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020.

Model Councillor Code of Conduct

Review process

Council will review this Policy every four years within a period of 12 months following the general election.

Revision History

Date	Version	Revision Description	Administered
	2	Administrative updates of Council positions to reflect new organisation structure. Addition of Section 8, Integrity Processes	Council



Chief Executive Officer Employment Matters Committee Charter

1. Purpose

The CEO Employment Matters Committee (the Committee) is an independent advisory committee to Council. The Committee does not have any delegated powers, including executive powers, management functions or delegated responsibility.

The Committee's role is to oversee matters relating to the employment, management and remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and ensure the application of good governance, transparency and fairness.

2. Policy statement

The CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter (the Charter) sets out the role of the Committee, along with its objectives, authority, membership and tenure, roles and responsibilities and the administrative arrangements.

3. Composition

The Committee will be constituted by an independent chairperson and at least two Councillors, one of whom will be the Mayor. Council may appoint more than two Councillors on the Committee if it wishes to, however, must not appoint other persons on the Committee who are not Councillors.

A quorum of three members will be necessary to transact business of the Committee. One of the three members must be the independent chairperson.

4. Independent Chairperson

Qualifications and Criteria

The independent chairperson must possess and demonstrate the following key competencies:

- Strong leadership and communication skills
- Skills, expertise and experience in one or more of the following:
 - human resources management (including executive recruitment, remuneration and talent management)
 - senior business or government (including local government) experience
 - experience with and understanding of employment law
 - demonstrated ability in performance management and development of Executive level staff

Chief Executive Officer Employment Matters Committee Charter

- Understanding of good governance and previous experience working with Governance bodies or Boards
- Ability to work effectively with Councillors and the CEO
- Knowledge and understanding of the issues affecting Bass Coast Shire.

Appointment Process

The Manager Governance and Communications will call for Expressions of Interest from interested persons to be the independent chairperson of the Committee where there is a vacancy or an impending vacancy.

The Councillor members of the Committee will prepare a shortlist, conduct interviews and make a recommendation to Council on the appointment of the independent chairperson.

The list of all Expressions of Interest considered by the Committee will be provided to Council.

The independent chairperson is to be appointed for a two-year term with an option for a further two, one-year term extensions by mutual consent with Council.

The independent chairperson cannot be a Councillor or member of Council staff. Former Councillors or Council officers must have at least five-years separation from Bass Coast Shire Council to be considered for appointment.

The independent chairperson is entitled to vote on recommendations put before the Committee.

5. Meetings

The CEO Employment Matters Committee will meet at least two times a year, with authority to convene additional meetings, as circumstances require.

Meeting agendas will be prepared and provided at least five days in advance to members, along with appropriate briefing materials.

Minutes will be prepared and distributed to the CEO Employment Matters Committee following the meeting.

A record of the CEO Employment Matters Committee meeting will be presented to a closed Council meeting following circulation of the minutes.

6. Responsibilities

Clear roles and responsibilities provide clarity on the expectations of those involved in the CEO employment and remuneration process, including the role of the CEO Employment Matters Committee.

Committee Members:

Committee members are responsible for:

- Attending Committee meetings
- Undertaking the duties of the Committee as set out in the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy, the *Local Government Act 2020*, any relevant Regulations and this Charter including:

Chief Executive Officer Employment Matters Committee Charter

- Developing and recommending performance criteria and undertaking the annual review of the CEO.
- Identifying and recommending appropriate development opportunities for the CEO.
- Making recommendations on the CEO's Total Remuneration Package and remuneration reviews.
- Ensuring that the Committee adheres to statutory obligations and Council's policies and procedures, including equity and fairness.
- Seeking independent expert advice as required to facilitate the duties as set out in the CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy.
- Making recommendations to Council when appointing a recruitment firm, determining CEO selection criteria and developing the CEO contract.
- Making a recommendation to Council on the CEO's contract expiry.
- Making a recommendation to Council on the selection and appointment of an Acting CEO for periods exceeding 28 days.
- Advising of any conflicts of interest.

Independent Member

In addition to their responsibilities as a Committee member, the independent member must:

- Chair the meetings
- Set the agenda for the Committee meetings in consultation with other members.
- Oversee a feedback process for Councillor input on CEO performance reviews.

Chief Executive Officer

- Attending Committee meetings as required
- Participating in regular performance reviews
- Providing relevant information to the Committee in a timely manner
- Advising the Council in instances where an Acting CEO is to be appointed under delegation during the temporary absence of the CEO, in accordance with approved delegations.

Councillors

- Providing feedback as requested on CEO performance reviews.

Chief Executive Officer Employment Matters Committee Charter

7. Fees

Council will pay a set fee per meeting to the independent chairperson. The amount of the fee has regard to the specific roles and responsibilities the chairperson will undertake and will be consistent with the fee paid to the chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee.

The chairperson fee will be paid to the chairperson of the CEO Employment Matters Committee immediately following the scheduled committee meetings, upon receipt of an invoice from the chairperson. This amount is inclusive of all out of pocket expenses.

An agreed additional fee will be paid to the independent chairperson for every meeting attended that exceeds the required two meetings in any one year.

8. Support

To facilitate the operation of the CEO Employment Matters Committee, the Chief Executive Officer's delegate has responsibility to provide:

- Information and any necessary training for members in relation to their responsibilities under the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- Officer advice in respect of matters before the CEO Employment Matters Committee.
- Secretariat and logistical support to the CEO Employment Matters Committee, including preparation of Council reports as required.

Reference to other documents

The Local Government Act 2020

The Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy.

Review process

Council will review this Charter every four years within a period of 12 months following the general election.

Approval

Adopted by Council at its meeting held on

8.7 Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation

Division

Innovation & Engagement

Council Plan Strategic Objective

Leading for our Community

Demonstrating leadership through good governance, transparency and accountability

Declaration

The author has no general or material interests in relation to this report.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to recommend that Council resolve to revoke authorisation to officers that no longer require it under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation are appointed to people, not positions.

Recommendation

That Council in the exercise of the powers conferred by s 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, resolves to revoke the instrument of Appointment and Authorisation under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to:

- **Emily Boyce**
- **Nicholas D'Angelo**
- **Kevin Kwon**
- **Jacob Maher**
- **Carlos Munoz Gutierrez**

Background

Council currently exercises its powers to appoint Authorised Officers.

Discussion

Authorisation facilitates the achievement of good governance for the community by empowering appropriate members of staff to make decisions.

Sustainability Implications

There are no sustainability implications associated with this report.

Finances

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Stakeholders

Council – ensuring they can focus on high level strategic and Council planning.

Staff – ensuring the ability to undertake their roles.

Community – knowledge that appropriate delegations and authorisations are in place to allow for the effective and efficient running of Council.

Conclusion

It is recommended that Council revoke authorisation to officers that no longer require it under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Governing Documents

- Section 313 Proceedings of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- Section 188 Planning authorities and responsible authorities may delegate powers of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Attachments

Nil

Statutory Reports

9 Statutory Reports

9.1 Informal Meeting of Councillors

Division	{custom-field-division}
Council Plan Strategic Objective	{custom-field-strategic-objectives}

Declaration

The author has no general or material interests in relation to this report.

Summary

The *Bass Coast Shire Council Governance Rules 2025*, requires all Informal Meetings of Councillors records to be reported at the next practicable Council Meeting and to be recorded in the minutes of that meeting. The purpose of this report is to meet this requirement.

Recommendation

That Council receive the attached Informal Meeting of Councillors records.

Introduction

Chapter 6 of the *Bass Coast Shire Council Governance Rules 2025* defines an Informal Meeting of Councillors as a meeting of Councillors that:

- 1.1 is scheduled or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors and contains three or more Councillors;
- 1.2 is a meeting of a Council Committee that a Councillor is appointed to;
- 1.3 is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
- 1.4 is not a Council meeting, Delegated Committee meeting or Community Asset Committee meeting.

the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a summary of the matters discussed at the meeting are:

- (a) tabled at the next convenient Council meeting; and
- (b) recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting.

Governing Documents

Local Government Act 2020

Governance Rules

Attachments

1. IMOC 18 February 2026 [**9.1.1** - 1 page]
2. IMOC 25 February 2026 [**9.1.2** - 2 pages]
3. IMOC 04 March 2026 [**9.1.3** - 3 pages]
4. IMOC 11 March 2026 [**9.1.4** - 2 pages]
5. IMOC 12 March 2026 [**9.1.5** - 2 pages]
6. IMOC 18 March 2026 [**9.1.6** - 2 pages]
7. IMOC 25 March 2026 [**9.1.7** - 2 pages]
8. IMOC 25 March 2026 - Offsite [**9.1.8** - 2 pages]

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Required pursuant to the Bass Coast Shire Council Governance Rules 2025 chapter 6 and the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) sections 130 and 131.

Details of Informal Meetings of Councillors

Title of Meeting	Council Agenda Run Through		
Time commenced:	10.30am	Time concluded:	11.15am
Location:	Wonthaggi Civic Centre		
Division:	All	Date: 18/02/2026	

Attendees

Cr R Halstead (Mayor)	Cr B Tessari (Deputy Mayor)
Cr M Edwards *remote	Cr T O'Brien
Cr M Morgan	Cr T Bell
Cr J Temby	Cr J Thompson
Cr R Bauer	

Matters discussed	Attendees
Council Agenda Run Through	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Patrick Dillon, Jade Glen, Kristy Grattan, Nicholas Felstead, Nicola Glassey, Alice Anderson

Conflict of interest disclosures: General s127 or Material s128 of the Act

Nil

Form completed by:	Kristy Grattan	
Signature: 	Date: 27/02/2026	
Received CEO's Office: 	Date: 30 March 2026	

Governance Rules 2025

Chapter 6 – Miscellaneous

1. Informal Meetings of Councillors

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Required pursuant to the Bass Coast Shire Council Governance Rules 2025 chapter 6 and the *Local Government Act 2020 (the Act)* sections 130 and 131.

Details of Informal Meetings of Councillors

Title of Meeting	Councillor Briefings		
Time commenced:	10.56am	Time concluded:	4.00pm
Location:	Wonthaggi Civic Centre		
Division:	All	Date: 25/02/2026	

Attendees

Cr R Halstead (Mayor)	Cr R Bauer
Cr M Edwards (*remote) (left at 2.39pm)	Cr T O'Brien
Cr M Morgan	Cr T Bell
Cr J Temby	Cr J Thompson

Matters discussed	Attendees
Draft Fees and Charges	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Patrick Dillon, Jade Glen, Joseph Kay, Peter Mason
Property Matters – Adams Estate Restructure Allotments & Dalyston Units	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Patrick Dillon, Jade Glen, Susie Nogie, Andrew Teasdale
Complaint Handling Policy	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Patrick Dillon, Jade Glen, Kristy Grattan
Draft Dust Suppression Management Plan (pre consultation briefing)	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Patrick Dillon, Jade Glen, Angus Cameron, Luke Bryant, Jennifer Anderson, Heath Kolac
Renewal of Kerbside Collection Contract	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Patrick Dillon, Jade Glen, Joseph Kay, Simon Woodland, Aaron Ferrell
San Remo IGA Redevelopment	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Patrick Dillon, Jade Glen, Nicholas Felstead, Austin Cram External - Luke Mooney, Property Planning Partners Matt Synan, San Remo IGA

Docusign Envelope ID: B1A0FF7A-9F02-48C4-AFC7-591ECAEFAEE1

Conflict of interest disclosures: General s127 or Material s128 of the Act**Greg Box declared a Conflict of Interest and left the room from 11.18am to 11.20am.**

Form completed by:	Jade Glen		
Signature:		Date:	28 March 2026
Received CEO's Office:		Date:	30 March 2026

Governance Rules 2025**Chapter 6 – Miscellaneous****I. Informal Meetings of Councillors**

If there is a meeting of Councillors that:

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- I.3 is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
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Required pursuant to the Bass Coast Shire Council Governance Rules 2025 chapter 6 and the *Local Government Act 2020 (the Act)* sections 130 and 131.

Details of Informal Meetings of Councillors

Title of Meeting	Councillor Briefings		
Time commenced:	10.00am	Time concluded:	4.25pm
Location:	Wonthaggi Civic Centre		
Division:	All	Date: 04/03/2026	

Attendees

Cr R Halstead (Mayor)	Cr B Tessari (Deputy Mayor)
Cr M Edwards	Cr T O'Brien
Cr M Morgan	Cr T Bell
Cr J Temby	Cr J Thompson
Cr R Bauer	

Matters discussed	Attendees
Council Agenda Run Through	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Patrick Dillon, Jade Glen, Kristy Grattan,
Capital Works Program and Budget Metrics	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Patrick Dillon, Jade Glen, Joseph Kay, Daniel Fokkens, Erin Smrk, Simon Harris, Peter Mason
Waste Charge Calculation	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Patrick Dillon, Jade Glen, Simon Woodland, Joseph Kay, Peter Mason
Technology One Update	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Patrick Dillon, Jade Glen, Keith Ludowyk
Bass Coast Landcare	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Patrick Dillon, Jade Glen, Simon Woodland, Diana Whittington Externals – Dave Bateman, Executive General Manager Bass Coast Landcare

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	Jye Anderson, Biodiversity Coordinator Bass Coast Landcare Lauren Effenberg, NRM Project Officer Bass Coast Landcare Aaron Stephens, Invasive Species Coordinator Bass Coast Landcare
Visitor Economy Partnerships	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Patrick Dillon, Jade Glen, Shannan Little
Phillip Island Football Club Presentation	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Patrick Dillon, Jade Glen, Angus Cameron Externals – Chris Ross – President, Phillip Island Football Netball Club Glenn Plymin – Secretary, Phillip Island Football Netball Club
Wonthaggi Transfer Station Site Visit	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Patrick Dillon, Simon Woodland, Aaron Ferrell

Conflict of interest disclosures: General s127 or Material s128 of the Act

Nil

Form completed by:	Jade Glen
Signature: 	Date: 28 March 2026
Received CEO's Office: 	Date: 30 March 2026

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Required pursuant to the Bass Coast Shire Council Governance Rules 2025 chapter 6 and the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) sections 130 and 131.

Details of Informal Meetings of Councillors

Title of Meeting	Councillor Strategic Offsite		
Time commenced:	9.30am	Time concluded:	3.27pm
Location:	Inverloch RACV		
Division:	All	Date:	11/03/2026

Attendees

Cr R Halstead (Mayor)	Cr B Tessari (Deputy Mayor)
Cr M Edwards	Cr T O'Brien
Cr M Morgan	Cr T Bell
Cr J Temby	Cr J Thompson
Cr R Bauer	

Matters discussed	Attendees
Councillor Professional Development	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Patrick Dillon, Emma Sorenson, Keith Ludowyk, Jade Glen, Daniel Fokkens, Shannan Little, Susie Nogie, Angus Camerson, Nicholas Felstead, Simon Woodland, Colette McMahon Externals: Mia Shaw and Darrin Ray

Conflict of interest disclosures: General s127 or Material s128 of the Act

Nil

Form completed by:	Jade Glen		
Signature:	<i>Jade Glen</i>	Date:	28 March 2026
Received CEO's Office:	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date:	30 March 2026

Governance Rules 2025

Chapter 6 – Miscellaneous

Docusign Envelope ID: B1A0FF7A-9F02-48C4-AFC7-591ECAEFAEE1

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Required pursuant to the Bass Coast Shire Council Governance Rules 2025 chapter 6 and the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) sections 130 and 131.

Details of Informal Meetings of Councillors

Title of Meeting	Councillor Strategic Offsite		
Time commenced:	9am	Time concluded:	3.00pm
Location:	Inverloch RACV		
Division:	All	Date: 12/03/2026	

Attendees

Cr R Halstead (Mayor)	Cr B Tessari (Deputy Mayor)
Cr J Temby	Cr R Bauer
Cr T O' Brien	Cr T Bell
Cr M Edwards	Cr J Thompson

Matters discussed	Attendees
Councillor Professional Development	Greg Box, Jodi Kennedy, Patrick Dillon, Simon Woodland, Rebecca Taylor, Colette McMahon, Peter Mason, Emma Sorenson, Jade Glen, Keith Ludowyk, Nicholas Felstead, Shannan Little, Angus Cameron, Daniel Fokkens, Susie Nogie
Department Plans and New Initiatives	Greg Box, Jodi Kennedy, Patrick Dillon, Simon Woodland, Rebecca Taylor, Colette McMahon, Peter Mason, Emma Sorenson, Jade Glen, Keith Ludowyk, Nicholas Felstead, Shannan Little, Angus Cameron, Daniel Fokkens, Susie Nogie
26-27 Budget Development	Greg Box, Jodi Kennedy, Patrick Dillon, Daniel Fokkens

Conflict of interest disclosures: General s127 or Material s128 of the Act

Nil

Form completed by:	Jade Glen
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Signature: 	Date: 28 March 2026
Received CEO's Office: 	Date: 30 March 2026

Governance Rules 2025**Chapter 6 – Miscellaneous****I. Informal Meetings of Councillors**

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Required pursuant to the Bass Coast Shire Council Governance Rules 2025 chapter 6 and the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) sections 130 and 131.

Details of Informal Meetings of Councillors

Title of Meeting	Council Agenda Run Through		
Time commenced:	10.30am	Time concluded:	11.35am
Location:	Berninneit, Cowes		
Division:	All	Date: 18/03/2026	

Attendees

Cr R Halstead (Mayor)	Cr B Tessari (Deputy Mayor)
Cr M Edwards (Virtual)	Cr T O'Brien
Cr M Morgan	Cr T Bell
Cr J Temby	Cr J Thompson
Cr R Bauer	

Matters discussed	Attendees
Council Agenda Run Through	Greg Box, Jodi Kennedy, Patrick Dillon, Donna Taylor, Jade Glen, Kristy Grattan, Nicholas Felstead (virtual), Simon Woodland (virtual).

Conflict of interest disclosures: General s127 or Material s128 of the Act

Nil

Form completed by:	Kristy Grattan		
Signature:		Date: 18/03/2026	
Received CEO's Office:		Date: 30 March 2026	

Governance Rules 2025

Chapter 6 – Miscellaneous

1. Informal Meetings of Councillors

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Required pursuant to the Bass Coast Shire Council Governance Rules 2025 chapter 6 and the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) sections 130 and 131.

Details of Informal Meetings of Councillors

Title of Meeting	Councillor Briefing		
Time commenced:	10.47am	Time concluded:	3.48pm
Location:	Wonthaggi Civic Centre		
Division:	All	Date: 25/03/2026	

Attendees

Cr R Halstead (Mayor)	Cr B Tessari (Deputy Mayor)
Cr M Edwards (remote)	Cr T O'Brien
Cr M Morgan	Cr T Bell (remote)
Cr J Temby	Cr J Thompson

Matters discussed	Attendees
2026-27 Budget Big Picture	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Patrick Dillon, Jade Glen, Joseph Kay, Peter Mason, Kristy Stephens, Kathy Pompetti, Kiara Tonello, Daniel Fokkens, Keith Ludowyk, Nicola Glassey
Surf Parade Traffic Model	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Jade Glen, Angus Cameron, Luke Bryant, Joel Dickson, Nicola Glassey External – Jack Sandell, Traffic Modelling Consultant – BG&E Engineering (Associate)
Stanley Rd Panel Hearing	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Jade Glen, Nicholas Felstead External – David Vorchheimer, Principal Russell Kennedy
Western Port Biosphere	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Jade Glen, Simon Woodland, Diana Whittington

Docusign Envelope ID: B1A0FF7A-9F02-48C4-AFC7-591ECAEFAEE1

	External – Mel Barker, CEO Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation
Climate Change Action Plan Mid Term Review	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Jade Glen, Simon Woodland, Mag Humprys
Aquatics Update	Greg Box, Donna Taylor, Jodi Kennedy, Jade Glen, Susie Nogie, Andrew Cashin

Conflict of interest disclosures: General s127 or Material s128 of the Act

Nil

Form completed by:	Jade Glen
Signature: 	Date: 28 March 2026
Received CEO's Office: 	Date: 30 March 2026

Governance Rules 2025**Chapter 6 – Miscellaneous****I. Informal Meetings of Councillors**

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- (b) recorded in the minutes of that *Council meeting*.



Required pursuant to the Bass Coast Shire Council Governance Rules 2020 chapter 6 and the *Local Government Act 2020 (the Act)* sections 130 and 131.

Details of Informal Meetings of Councillors

Title of Meeting	SITE VISIT Petition - 158 Reed Cres, Wonthaggi		
Time commenced:	9.30am	Time concluded:	10.00am
Location:	23 Old Rifle Range Road, Wonthaggi.		
Division:	Future Places	Date:	Wed 25 March 2026

Attendees

Cr R Halstead - Mayor	Cr B Tessari – Deputy Mayor
Cr J Temby	
Cr M Morgan	

Matters discussed	Attendees
1. Public Open Space Drainage and Connectivity considerations of proposed development at 158 Reed Cres, Wonthaggi – also referred to as Broome St Petition	Angus Cameron, Daniel Fokkens, Nicholas Felstead, Cr Halstead, Cr Tessari, Cr Temby, Cr Morgan
2. Petition details from Council Meeting Minutes dated 18 Feb 2026 below	Angus Cameron, Daniel Fokkens, Nicholas Felstead, Cr Halstead, Cr Tessari, Cr Temby, Cr Morgan

Conflict of interest disclosures: General s127 or Material s128 of the Act

Councillor/Officer	General or Material	Item no	Left the room during the discussion ✓ (note time)	Form completed ✓

Form completed by:	Katherine Mazza for Donna Taylor (GM Future Places)		
Signature: VIA EMAIL			Date: 30 March 2026
Received CEO's Office: 			Date: 31 March 2026

ED20/145106 as at 16/12/2020

Governance Rules 2020

Chapter 6 – Miscellaneous

I. Informal Meetings of Councillors

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the *Chief Executive Officer* must ensure that a summary of the matters discussed at the meeting are:

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9.2 Planning and Building Statistics - February 2026**Division****Future Places****Council Plan Strategic Objective****Thriving Places**

Facilities and infrastructure meet current and future needs. Growth is sustainable and well planned. Our economy, agriculture, tourism, and industries are resilient. Unique character is preserved.

Declaration

The author has no general or material interests in relation to this report.

Summary

The below provides a list of all Planning Permit, Amendment and VicSmart applications (i.e. both under delegation and by Council) refused or approved for this month.

PLANNING PERMITS, AMENDMENTS AND VICSMARTS REFUSED:

Application Number	Address	Proposal
PDPLANPER-2025/000316	122-124 Shetland Heights Rd, San Remo	Two lot subdivision in the Low-Density Residential Zone (LDRZ) and variation of restrictive covenant PS509910X (SPEAR: S247298S)
PDPLANPER-2025/000680	Hickey Rd, West Creek	Use and Development of the land for a dwelling in the Farming Zone (FZ)

PLANNING PERMITS, AMENDMENTS AND VICSMARTS ISSUED:**Island Ward**

Application Number	Address	Proposal
PDPLANVIC-2026/000028	26 Yarramundi Way, Cowes	Removal of one tree within the Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO2) and Clause 52.37
PDPLANPER-2025/000335	4 Cottosloe Av, Cape Woolamai	Buildings and works associated with a dwelling in a Design and Development Overlay (DDOI)

		and Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO1)
PDPLANPER-2025-001169	11 Ocean Reach, Cape Woolamai	Removal of vegetation in the Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO2)
PDPLANPER-2025/000972	12 Bridgeview Dr, Cape Woolamai	Removal of two trees in the Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO2) and a boundary canopy tree under Clause 52.37 Canopy Trees
PDPLANVIC-2026/000114	174 Smiths Beach Rd, Smiths Beach	Remove one boundary canopy tree

Western Port Ward

Application Number	Address	Proposal
PDPLANVIC-2025/001174	9 Mariners Ct, Corinella	Construction or carry out works in the Heritage Overlay (HO28)
PDPLANPER-2025/000795	40 Perrett Rd, Lance Creek	Two lot subdivision in a Farming Zone (FZ1) and Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) - (SPEAR REF S254812P)
220450	200 Grantville-Glen Alvie Rd Grantville	Buildings and works associated with Group Accommodation in a Farming Zone (FZ), Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) and Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO1) and removal of native vegetation
PDPLANVIC-2025/001158	200 Jones Rd, Almurta	Buildings and works associated with the construction of a shed in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ), Erosion Management Overlay (EMO1), and Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO1)
PDPLANPER-2025/000229	Craig Rd, Ryanston	Use and development of land for a dwelling and removal of two trees in the Farming Zone (FZ1), Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO1), and Erosion Management Overlay (EMO1)

PDPERAMD-230045-1	545 Densley Rd, Woolamai	Amendment to preamble and permit Conditions 2 & 3
PDPLANPER-2026/000008	20 Tulloch St, Dalyston	Buildings and works associated with and Open Sports Ground in the Public Parks and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)
PDPLANVIC-2026/000115	14-16 Palmer St, Corinella	Remove one boundary canopy tree (Myrtaceous Eucalyptus)
PDPERAMD/15 0177-3	35 Smythe St, Corinella	Amend the description of what the permit allows; and amend the conditions of the planning permit; and to amend the endorsed plans

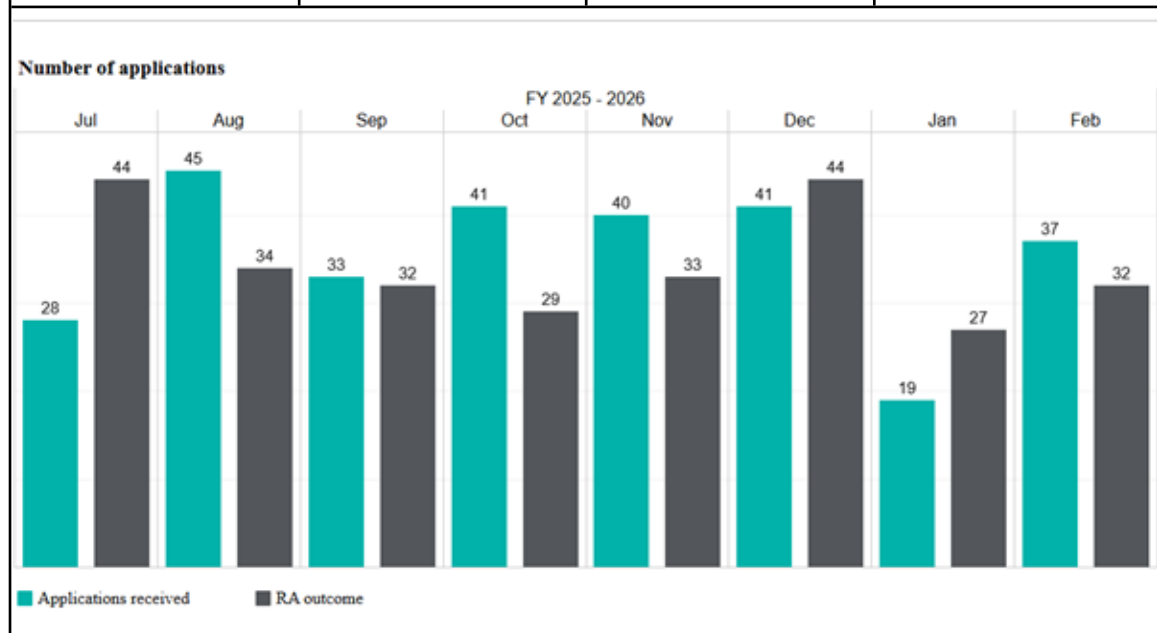
Bunurong Ward

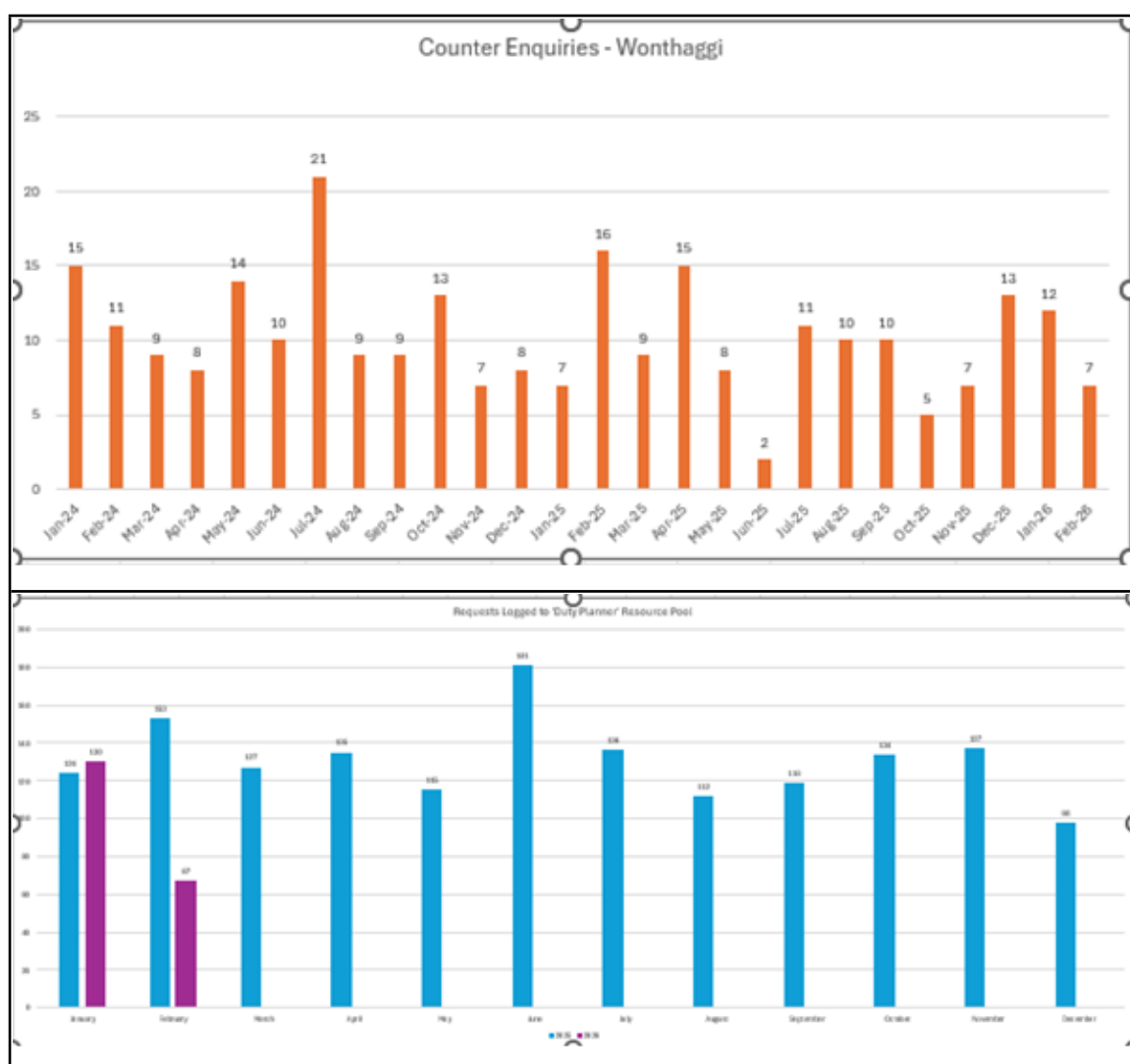
Application Number	Address	Proposal
PDPLANPER-2025/000948	18 Citadel Way, Inverloch	Development of the land for a dwelling in the Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO)
PDPLANVIC-2025/001188	29 Lavington St, Inverloch	Construction of an outbuilding associated with an existing dwelling in the Design and Development Overlay (DDO9)
PDPLANPER-2025/001024	84 Surf Pde, Inverloch	Extension to a dwelling in the Design and Development Overlay (DDO9)
PDPLANPER-2025/001154	52 Treadwells Rd, Inverloch	Construction of an outbuilding in the Farming Zone (FZ), Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO5), and Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO1)

PLANNING AND BUILDING ACTIVITY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2026

Statutory Planning	This month (February)	Last month	Year to date (financial year)
% of applications determined within statutory timeframe	56.25%	67.86%	71.64%
Average Gross Days (Average processing	169.8	84.64	126.1

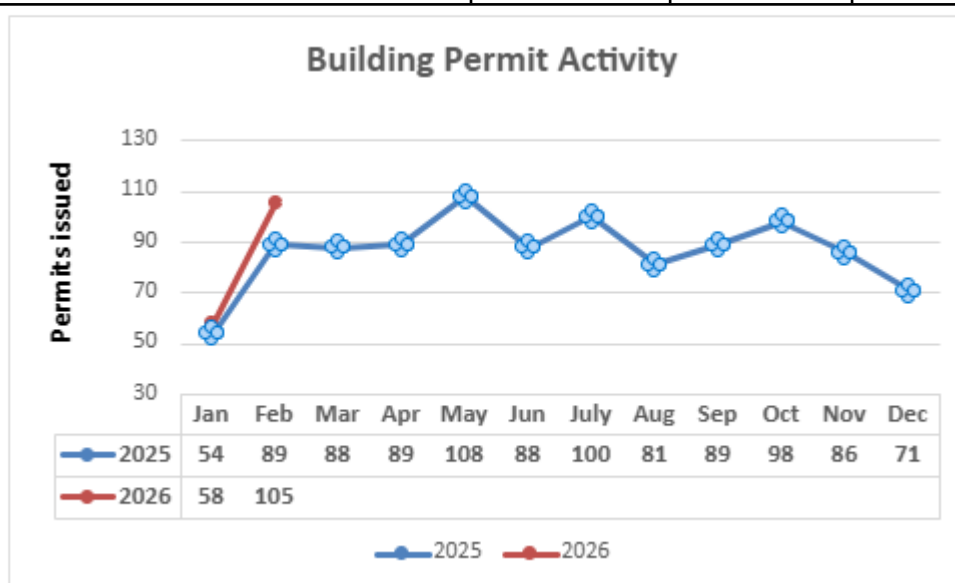
days to RA Outcome)			
Average Gross Days to final outcome (Average processing days to final outcome)	175.9	73.12	122.4
Number of live applications (Planning Permit, s72 Amendments, VicSmarts)	159	154	N/A
Number of applications received for the month (Planning Permit, Amendments, VicSmarts)	37	18	284
Number of Responsible Authority outcomes (Planning Permit, Amendments, VicSmarts)	32	28	275





Municipal Building Services & Enforcement	This month (February)	Last month	Year to date (financial year)
Essential Safety Measure inspections	2	2	4
Report & Consent applications			
• Siting	20	10	156
• Build Over Easement	2	0	14
• Demolitions	15	11	100
POPE and Siting consents issued for temporary structures	0	1	7
Complaints received requiring investigation	1	0	32
New building enforcement cases	1	1	9

Number of open building enforcement cases	40	39	n/a
Building permits issued by Council	0	0	0



Planning Enforcement	This month (February)	Last month	Year to date (financial year)
New complaints/case files opened	19	11	86
Complaints/case files closed	3	7	76
Current open complaints/case files	24	8	24

STATUTORY PLANNING DEFINITION:

Statutory days: In accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, a Council is permitted 60 statutory days to determine a planning application. The 60 statutory days includes weekends, public holidays and commences when the application is lodged. The legislation allows for the 60-day statutory clock to be stopped (e.g., when further information is requested) and re-started in certain circumstances (when further information or amended plans are received).

Gross days: The total number of days to determine a planning application inclusive of weekends and public holidays.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the Planning Permits issued under delegation report for February 2026; and**
 - 2. Receives and notes the Planning and Building Activity Report for February 2026.**
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Attachments

Nil

10 Urgent Business

11 Mayoral Announcement of Next Meeting of Council

The next Council Meeting will be held on 20 May 2026 in the Bass Coast Civic Centre Council Chamber, Baillieu Street East, Wonthaggi commencing at 1.00pm.

That the meeting be closed to members of the public pursuant to Section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, to consider an item/s as they deal with:

- (d) law enforcement information, being 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;

Meeting adjourned

That the meeting be adjourned

Meeting resumed

That the meeting be resumed

Items Closed to the Public

Excerpt of Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020.

- (5) If a Council or delegated committee determines that a meeting is to be closed to the public to consider confidential information, the Council or delegated committee must record in the minutes of the meeting that are available for public inspection—
- (a) the ground or grounds for determining to close the meeting to the public by reference to the grounds specified in the definition of **confidential information** in section 3(1); and
 - (b) an explanation of why the specified ground or grounds applied.

confidential information means the following information—

- (a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released;
- (b) security information, being information that if released is likely to endanger the security of Council property or the safety of any person;
- (c) land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values;
- (d) law enforcement information, being 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;
- (e) legal privileged information, being information to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies;
- (f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs;
- (g) 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;
- (h) confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a);
- (i) internal arbitration information, being information specified in section 145;
- (j) Councillor Conduct Panel confidential information, being information specified in section 169;
- (k) information prescribed by the regulations to be confidential information for the purposes of this definition;
- (l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the **Local Government Act 1989**;

12 Confirmation of Closed Minutes

12.1 Closed Council Meeting held on 18 March 2026

13 Reports Requiring Council Decision Closed to the Public

13.1 Stanley Road - Standing Advisory Committee Hearing

It is recommended that the report be closed to members of the public pursuant to Section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, to consider this item for the following reason/s:

- (d) law enforcement information, being 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;

14 Meeting Closed

That the meeting be closed.