

Bass Coast Shire Council
Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 16 April 2025

Berninneit

91-97 Thompson Avenue Cowes

Commencing at 1:00 pm

The meeting commenced at 1:01 pm.

Cr. Rochelle Halstead read the Mobile Telephone Reminder and the Statement of Acknowledgement

Cr. Ron Bauer read Councillor Statement.

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1 Present and Apologies

Councillors: Cr Jon Temby, Western Port Ward
Cr Rochelle Halstead, Western Port Ward
Cr Jan Tompson, Western Port Ward
Cr Meg Edwards, Bunurong Ward
Cr Mat Morgan, Bunurong Ward
Cr Tim O'Brien, Island Ward
Cr Ron Bauer, Island Ward
Cr Tracey Bell, Island Ward

Officers: Mr Greg Box, Chief Executive Officer
Ms Donna Taylor, General Manager Governance and Finance
Ms Jodi Kennedy, General Manager Communities and Culture
Mr Damian Prendergast, General Manager Future Places
Mr David Filmalter, Cheif Financial Officer
Ms Kristy Grattan, Coordinator Governance

Apologies: Cr Brett Tessari, Bunurong Ward

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3 Confirmation of Minutes

3.1 Council Meeting 19 March 2025

Council Decision

Moved: Cr. Jon Temby / Seconded: Cr. Tim O'Brien

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19 March 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED

4 Mayor and Councillor Reports

4.1 Cr Rochelle Halstead - Mayoral Report

This report covers the period from 19 March 2025 to 16 April 2025

Acknowledgements

Nil

In brief the Mayoral activities have included the following:

Activities

- MAV Navigating Taxation Law for Councillors
- MAV Victorian Convention of Councillors Welcome and Networking Function
- MAV Victorian Convention of Councillors Gala Dinner
- Rose Lodge Afternoon Tea
- SRO Motorsports Australia Phillip Island activation
- CWA 90th Birthday & 55th Anniversary
- Paul Harris Fellows Awards Night - Phillip Island Rotary
- Wonthaggi & District Probus Club – Guest Speaker

Meetings

- Attended Council Workshops and Briefings
- Chaired Councillor Only Meetings
- Weekly meetings with CEO, Council Support and Communications
- Additional Meetings:
- MAV Board Strategic Planning Session, Cape Schanck
- MAV Convention of Councillors
- Destination Phillip Island 2025 Industry Conference: The Next Wave: Growth, Wellness and the Power of AI
- San Remo Structure Plan Community Session
- Team Bass Coast – Think Tank Meeting
- Maddie Stuchberry, ABC & Bass Coast Communications
- CRRA General Meeting
- CEO Employment Matters Committee Meeting
- MAV Board Meeting
- Community Awards Meeting
- Active Transport & Community Initiatives CEO Bicycle Network
- Airbnb, Susan Wheeldon, Country Manager & Michael Crosby, Head of Public Policy ANZ
- Meet & Greet - South Coast FM

Other

- Media Enquiries/Interviews
- AFL Hawthorn Double Header Launch Photo
- Wonthaggi CFA Photo Shoot
- Triple M Gippsland Interview
- South Coast FM Richard Koch Interview

Phone calls, emails and letters

4.2 Cr Jan Thompson - Councillor Report

13th March 2025 – 14th April 2025

MEETINGS

- Myli meetings – one
- Myli CEO Sub Committee – four plus telephone calls
- Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting – Nil
- Councillor Meetings via zoom – two
- CWA 70th Anniversary Exhibition – opened on behalf of Council.

INTERNAL BRIEFINGS WPW

- Western Port Ward and Officers – one

BRIEFINGS & TRAINING

- Council briefings – three

COUNCIL MEETING

- 19th March 2025

ONGOING

- Dealt with constituent issues and queries
- Preparation for Meetings
- Research

4.3 Cr Ron Bauer - Councillor Report

Councillor report March-April

25-3-25 Island Voice meeting

1-4-25 Meeting with Greg Box (CEO) one on one regarding Ward issues

7-4-25 CEO matters committee meeting

15-4-25 Attended the Rotary Paul Harris fellows dinner

Answered numerous calls regarding the ripping up of the dust suppression on the Island

Answered individual issues of constituents.

4.4 Cr Jon Temby - Councillor Report

Report March – April 2025

Attended Bass Coast Shire Council meetings

Attended WPW councillor's meetings and briefings incl:

Stanley Road vegetation removal, Stewart Rd Bridge, Fred Gration reserve

Attended broader councillor only time meetings

Broader community contact / meeting community leaders

Attended meeting with council officers re Burning off near the Grantville landfill

Coordinated visit for Council Proper Officer and others re Pittosporum fire risk mitigation

Attended 100 Women 100 Stories

Attended briefing re Luther College discussions

Guest speaker for Luther College year 12 students re sand mining and environmental issues

Attended Deliberative Engagement Workshop introductory session

Attended Rose Lodge meeting with the CEO etc

Attended San Remo Structure Plan evening

Attended 2nd meeting to discuss implementation strategies and resources for Gardens for Wildlife program

Attended Meetings re Biosphere and Western Port Framework progress

Received additional calls and further discussions re erosion at Silverleaves, Stanley Rd vegetation removal, Climate Change readiness, public open space in San Remo and Nth Wonthaggi, proposed burning off near Adams Estate, threats and harassment in Dalyston, etc

4.5 Cr Tracey Bell - Councillor Report

In the past month, I attended the Australian ProMX Championship at the track in Wonthaggi and the San Remo Structure Plan engagement session. I also attended online forums on gambling reform in community sport and fraud prevention in local government.

The hot topic this month has been the removal of the dust suppressant seals on several roads in the shire. Residents on the affected roads have lobbied hard to council through phone calls, emails and formal petitions, and the Island Ward Councillors have met to discuss the issue a couple of times. We continue to seek clarification and updates on the status of the seal removal from officers, understanding that the majority of residents have called for a pause on the work while they consider their options, particularly under the URDI policy.

It's been good to see works start in Silverleaves with the installation of the rock bags along the foreshore.

4.6 Cr Meg Edwards - Councillor Report

This report covers year to date.

Activities have included:

- Historical Society Summer Talks
- Inverloch Rotary Summer Market
- Participated in the public rallies at
  - Inverloch Beach on 5 January calling on the State Government to protect Inverloch
  - Silverleaves on 6 January
- Bass Coast Agricultural Show
- 100 women choir
- International Women's Day
- Yawa (Long Journey) collaborative art workshop Maree Clarke at Cowes
- ArtSpace Opening
- Constituent meetings
- Chaired Arts and Advistory new Committee meeting
- Observed the initial Deliberative Engagement Workshop
- Was awarded an emerging local government leadership scholarship to the attend the MAV Convention of Councillors
- Rose Lodge tour & afternoon tea with residents, staff and board members
- Council Briefings including at Newhaven and shire wide tour
- Ongoing: Constituent Issues, meeting preparation & research

Coastal Erosion: While pleasing to hear that the State Government is picking up their responsibility for care of Silverleaves, the absence of, promised by state, communications with community while the situation at Inverloch has become critical is causing immense stress in our community. While it is appreciated that the continued work of council providing sacrificial sand on the surf beach is likely the only reason we still have a surf club in existence, it is not the role of rate payers to be funding the state's responsibility.

New Initiatives:

Facilitating a social connection gathering with community groups and members in Wonthaggi and a number of further "coffee with a councillor" events.

4.7 Cr Mat Morgan - Councillor Report

It's been another busy month across the Shire.

I've been out and about talking with locals about their priorities for the budget, I'd like to say a quick thanks to everyone who took the time to have a chat; I know budgets aren't exactly fun but they are certainly where my focus has been this past month.

I'd also like to thank all those who have contacted me with their concerns about the possibility of a nuclear power station being built in Gippsland. I recently joined community members in Traralgon to present a petition to the federal member for Gippsland Darren Chester, calling for this idea to be ruled out.

For the keen readers of the council minutes, I'll take this opportunity to plug that there will be a 'mayday' rally happening at Apex park in Wonthaggi at 12pm on May 1. I'll be speaking and offering my solidarity to the local workers, see you there!

5 Public Question Time

5.1 Shane Dougherty, Planned Rehabilitation of Reid Street Rhyll

Q1. Can Council please assist residents of Reid Street in understanding why McIlwraith Road from Lock Road to Reid Street, and Jansson Road between Lock Road and Reid Street, were permanently asphalt sealed with kerb and channeling (without requiring owner contributions) when they are all classed Urban Access 2 Roads?

Q2. How can Council assist with providing the residents of Reid Street a new asphalt primer seal (where necessary) with 50% of property owners accepting upfront payment and 50% accepting the special charge scheme?

Response:

McIllwraith Road and Jansson Road were constructed in the 1980s to the standards required by the Shire of Phillip Island. The road construction may have been funded through developer(s), grants, Council or a private street scheme.

A special charge scheme would be required to facilitate an upgrade based on the current level of support indicated by property owners. Council will consider reprioritising street upgrades on the priority list of the Urban Roads and Drainage Improvement Policy 2024 if there is strong support from property owners to financially contribute. Council officers are available to provide further information.

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5.3 Louise Lyell, Correspondence

Residents and ratepayers send emails and letters to councilors and council staff regularly but often do not receive a reply especially from councillors. Is there a policy document stating time a frame that emails and correspondence should legally be answered.

Response:

Whilst there is no legal requirement, Council's Customer Charter, states that customer requests must be responded to within 10 business days.

Customers can log a request by contacting Council directly through the methods outlined on our website including by email, phone or a customer service centre. These requests are formally recorded and actioned.

5.4 Louise Lyell, Engage Bass Coast

The engage bass coast page is missing vital information on the special charge schemes. Most of the useful documents are USELESS as they cannot be accessed. Will council please check their information prior to submitting errors on the site?

Response:

Council have been able to locate one error where site visitors would not have been able to open a document on a Special Charge Scheme page – The Esplanade (Sunderland Bay Rd to Batman St), Surf Beach. This has now been corrected, and we apologise for any inconvenience. Any website issues can be reported for immediate action by contacting Council and submitting a customer request.

5.5 George Mariotti, Batteries

Q1. Can council please release the exact date of order for the batteries and contractors to install the batteries in several locations around Bass coast.

Q2. Was it prior to the said consultation or after?
Response:

Mondo is installing 7 neighbourhood batteries across Phillip Island, in partnership with the Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) as part of their 100 Neighbourhood Battery program. Responsibility for procurement, installation, ownership and operation of the batteries rests with Mondo. Council is supporting the project by providing leases for the batteries on Council land. More information on the project is available on the Mondo webpage:
https://www.mondo.com.au/projects/phillip-island

5.6 Philip Davy, URDI 2024

The properties adjacent the newly constructed road supposedly receive a special benefit due to the improved property access, improved drainage, less dust and so they pay. If drainage from other streets contributes additional drainage to the upgrade street. Do the other streets also have to contribute costs?

Response:

All projects funded via Special Charge Schemes must comply with special rates and charges provisions in accordance with the Local Government Act. Special benefits relate to land within a scheme area. Properties outside of a special charge scheme area are not required to contribute.

5.7 Graham Jolly, Gap Rd

Would council please disclose the plans (next 4 years) for the Gap Rd property owned by Council when previously a Transfer Station, BMX and Pump Track was spoken of by Council.

Response:

There are currently no funds specifically allocated to the Gap Road land in the draft capital budget for the next 4 years. However, Council will consider adoption of the MTB/BMX/Pump delivery plan at its June Meeting. This plan currently includes Gap Road as a potential site. Revegetation of the site will also continue over the next 4 years.

5.8 Philip Davy, Dunvegan Crescent

The 2014 Sunderland Bay Surf Beach Traffic Management Plan commissioned by BCSC recommended a dedicated right turn bay at Dunvegan Crescent due to safety concerns. Council has ignored this recommendation in the concept plan for Dunvegan Crescent reconstruction. With the increase in traffic volumes is this a wise decision?

Response:

The intersection of Phillip Island Road and Dunvegan Crescent is managed by the Department of Transport and Planning. Council has and will continue to advocate to the Department of Transport and Planning regarding the need to have a safer intersection at Phillip Island Road and Dunvegan Crescent.

5.9 Peter Fogarty, Wildlife Volunteers

Does the Bass Coast Councillor cohort or any individual councillor associate with any person or group that intimidates, or not support or challenge Wildlife Volunteers who are trying to protect native wildlife?
If so,
Q1. who are the councillors or councillor associating with such person(s) or group(s)?
Q2. why does the council cohort or councillor associate with such persons or groups?
Response:

Councillors engage with many individuals and community groups across Bass Coast and are committed to the protection of our native flora and fauna.

Councillors will not engage with those that do not uphold Council's values or condone poor behaviour towards other members in the community.

5.10 John Cantone, Livability

Given that Council exists to serve the ratepayers—not lobby groups or state departments—how will you immediately prioritise livability, lifestyle, and wellbeing outcomes for the 35,000 paying residents, including delivery of temporary pump tracks, reserve upgrades, and accountability reporting, before the community is forced to escalate calls for systemic reform?
Response:

Following election, the Council is required to develop a Community Vision, Council Plan, Long Term Financial Plan, Municipal Health & Wellbeing Plan, Budgets and Action Plans following community consultation. Council also has a Hardship policy to assist those that may be experiencing financial difficulties.

5.11 John Kuzma, Councillors

Are all elected councillors classified as employees of Council covered by Occupational Health and Safety, Work place harassment and Workers compensation. Please explain.
Response:

Victorian local government Councillors are not classified as employees for Occupational Health and Safety purposes.

While they have obligations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004, their obligations are different from those of employees.

They have a duty to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and to avoid causing harm to others.

5.12 Joe Waralow, Carnival land in Cowes

A number of local Real Estate agents have not been able to read details of a land title for a Council owned property known as the Carnival land in Cowes. Would council please explain why the title is not public for reading.

Response:

All titles related to the Carnival land in Cowes are available through Victoria's online land title and property information service, Landata.

5.13 Mario Boffa, Memberships

Would council please provide a listing of all Memberships, Subscriptions, Memorandums and Partnerships with costs to council for the period 1st July 2024 to 31st December 2025.

Response:

This request requires significant resources to respond to. This information will be provided on council website in coming months

5.14 Gina Rosamilia, Climate Emergency

Would council please provide actual expenses details towards the Council declared Climate Emergency 2019 until 31st March 2025 excluding beach erosion works.

Response:

Council has expended $2.68 million on Climate Emergency related projects since September 2019. This includes funding for:

- **Biolinks revegetation – planting over 2.5 million trees in our rural landscapes**
- **Urban Forest implementation – planting 1,400 trees in our townships**
- **Solar power systems on more than 30 community buildings**
- **Programs and initiatives to help households and businesses reduce their emissions and costs**

In this period, Council has reduced its CO2 emissions by over 50% and continues to work towards its target of Net Zero by 2030.

5.15 Fred Morris, Capital Projects

Council's half year report ending 31st December 2024 shows 16 Capital Projects with over expenditure of $906,435. If the Councillors, the CEO and Senior Staff approved the overspend please explain further details as to why.

Response:

Unforeseen issues can arise once projects are underway, often due to site conditions. Resulting changes in scope can impact the project budget. Council has clear governance rules about managing and monitoring budgets, with approvals for any additional spending aligning with the Procurement Policy financial delegation. While some projects have shown over expenditure, others are under, and the total program is forecast to be within the overall budget.

5.16 Terry Parkin, Hilton Chadwick Reserve

Recently Council reported the detailed design for the new safety turning lane and cross overs had been submitted to the Transport Authority for a permit.
Has Council applied for multiple permits for services to authorities needed for Hilton Chadwick Reserve and the Carnival Land.

Response:

To apply for permits with relevant authorities for the Hilton Chadwick Reserve and Carnival Land, detailed designs are required. At this stage, Council has only completed detailed design work for the safety turning lane into the site. As detailed designs are completed for the remainder of the site Council will continue to apply for the relevant permits as required.

5.17 Ernie Westergard, Speed Reductions

A Senior Council Officer mentioned in speaking at the San Remo community information session that the Victoria Government had advised and recommended speed limit reductions to roads across the Bass Coast Shire. Would Council please explain further and why has Council agreed to changes.

Response:

The Victorian Government have not recommended a speed limit reduction across Bass Coast Shire Council. Speed limit reviews are conducted regularly and assessed on a case-by-case basis.

5.18 Bill Wilson, Phillip Island Recreation Reserve Master Plan

Councils Phillip Island Recreation Reserve Master Plan 2023 shows new sporting ovals. When will the detailed designs for new ovals and the Safety traffic turning lane be provided to the public for comment.

Response:

Detailed designs for sporting ovals have not commenced. Council have completed draft detail designs for the turning lane, which are currently with the road authority for review. The turning lane designs will be published on Council's Engage Bass Coast Project page once finalised.

5.19 Joe Waralow, Golden Cypress Trees

Would council please direct residents and visitors to Council's Golden Cypress Trees Management Strategy document for the entrance Heritage trees leading into Cowes on Phillip Island.

Response:

The 'Maintenance and Replacement Strategy for Golden Cypress', adopted by Council in June 1999, sets out a 30-year program for the replacement of these iconic trees. The Golden Cypress along Thompson Avenue are listed on both the Bass Coast Significant Tree Register and the National Heritage Trust register, highlighting their environmental and cultural value.

Council will replace the Golden Cypress in front of the Podiatry House within the next two months, aligning with the planting season. Council currently has five established Golden Cypress trees at a depot site ready for future planting and is planning further tissue cultivation to ensure the ongoing health and succession of the Avenue.

Council continues to work closely with the Friends of the Golden Cypress Group to manage and protect the trees and their legacy.

5.20 Marnie Chadwick, Golden Cypress Trees

The council has yet to plant the promised Golden Cypress tree in front of the Podiatry House on Thompson Avenue, despite assurances to the Friends of the Thompson Avenue Golden Cypress Tree committee and the community. Instead, a tree was planted in an undesired park location. Why is this?

Response:

The 'Maintenance and Replacement Strategy for Golden Cypress', adopted by Council in June 1999, sets out a 30-year program for the replacement of these iconic trees. The Golden Cypress along Thompson Avenue are listed on both the Bass Coast Significant Tree Register and the National Heritage Trust register, highlighting their environmental and cultural value.

Council will replace the Golden Cypress in front of the Podiatry House within the next two months, aligning with the planting season. Council currently has five established Golden Cypress trees at a depot site ready for future planting and is planning further tissue cultivation to ensure the ongoing health and succession of the Avenue.

Council continues to work closely with the Friends of the Golden Cypress Group to manage and protect the trees and their legacy.

5.21 John Kuzma, Shared Fencing

Would council explain Council's responsibility to abutting land of which council owns or manages for shared fencing costs across to adjoining properties.

Response:

As set out within the *Fences Amendment Act 2014*, Council is exempt from costs associated with fencing for the following, but not limited to:

- **Boundary fencing between private land holders.**
- **Fencing abutting Public land, including public parks, recreational reserves, road reserves and linear reserves.**

Consequently, the owner of the land would be responsible for all costs associated with the construction, installation, repair or replacement of the fence.

5.22 Mario Boffa, Carbon Offsets

Would council please advise in numbers and cost how many Carbon Offsets it has purchased after council declared a Climate Emergency.

Response:

Council has not purchased carbon offsets at any time since the Climate Emergency Declaration was adopted at the September 2019 meeting of Council.

5.23 Gina Rosamilia, Advocacy Projects

Would council please provide the new Advocacy Project listing for Capital Works and Operational projects for the year 2025/2026.

Response:

Council is currently developing a new 4-year Council Plan alongside the annual Budget. As part of this process, we are also reviewing and updating our advocacy priorities to reflect community needs and strategic opportunities. Our current advocacy priorities are available on Council's website. A refreshed list of State and Federal Advocacy Priorities will be publicly released in July 2025.

5.24 Sue Chadwick, Historical Board

The original storyboard for the Historical Avenue of Golden Cypress Trees was displayed outside the old Cultural Centre but was thrown away when Berninneit was built. The Avenue is recognized by the National Trust of Australia and the Bass Coast Council. When will this historical board be replaced?

Response:

There are currently no plans to replace the Avenue of Golden Cypress Trees storyboard. Council will reach out to the Friends of the Golden Cypress Group to discuss options going forward.

5.25 Sue Chadwick, Overpopulation

Bass Coast Shire's unchecked suburban development poses a serious threat to our small Island's future. We simply don't have the space, infrastructure, or cohesive planning to support it. Our cherished nature tourism relies on a safe and thriving environment. Will the Councillors step up to tackle our urgent overpopulation crisis?

Response:

All regions of Victoria are experiencing the pressures of increasing population, and as a desirable place to live, work and retire Bass Coast is no different. These pressures are also felt by Council in delivering amenity, infrastructure and services at pace with population growth.

The State Government's Distinctive Areas and Landscapes program will ultimately strengthen planning policy to protect our valued nature and tourism sectors, containing suburban development to within protected township boundaries.

5.26 Bill Wilson, SECCCA

Council has been a paid member of South East Councils Climate Change Alliance for some 5 years in during which a council employee has been President. How much money has council paid SECCCA during that time of 5 years.

Response:

Council contributions to SECCCA over the last 5 years total $357,980; being membership fees of $195,180 and funding for joint projects and advocacy provided by SECCCA of $162,800.

5.27 Ernie Westergard, Waste Collection

Council's waste collection is a 3 bin system. For each bin would council please provide the disposal tonnage each month for the period 2023/24 to 2024/25, being 21 months.

Response:

A table will be provided in the minutes outlining the tonnes of material collected for each stream of Council's kerbside collection, for the period July 2023 to February 2025 (inclusive).

This data is also available online, as annual totals, for every municipality via the Victorian Local Government Waste Data Dashboard.

Victorian local government waste data dashboard | vic.gov.au

Kerbside Tonnage by Stream 2023-24													
Waste Stream	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	TOTAL
FOGO	700.12	886.76	1054.6	1094.94	1223.04	1292.3	1597.56	1038.84	866.52	1019.06	972.44	761.38	**12507.56**
Recycling	328.2	346.62	367.8	400.56	404	407.14	634.84	305.3	322.34	370.78	313.4	265.2	**4466.18**
Landfill	433.24	462.98	447.32	487.34	491.16	540.56	739.14	553.86	447	518.82	488.86	412.56	**6022.84**

Kerbside Tonnage by Stream (Year to Date) 2024-25													
Waste Stream	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	TOTAL
FOGO	708.64	882.68	990.14	1328.38	1134.38	1289.58	1204.24	864.36					**8402.4**
Recycling	322.68	299.72	300.4	370.11	324.56	433.02	566.06	325.64					**2942.19**
Landfill	457.1	448.86	445.4	536.54	526.31	548.93	726.81	472.58					**4162.53**

5.28 Terry Parkin, Council Image

Since the Mayor was elected, the Mayor has been working extremely hard to continually improve the image of Council. However, over a long period managers of council have continually upset residents and continue to do so. Why?

Response:

We do not agree with characterisation of managers in the question, Council Officers are guided by the strategic direction of Council and implement the decisions made by Council.

5.29 Fiona Coletta, Traffic Signs

Is Bass Coast Shire going to look at putting stop or give way signs on the woolamai west side of woolamai beach road? As people don't realise, they have to stop and give way and they speed out of the side streets without consideration for the traffic on woolamai beach road. It's a major problem for the residents of Cape Woolamai.

Response:

Council will go out and make an assessment, however, all the intersections along this section of road are T intersections. In Victoria, T-intersections, can be managed as uncontrolled intersections. Typically, these intersections do not require specific signage to indicate right-of-way. The general road rules, the physical geometry and threshold treatments at these intersections control who has the right-of-way.

5.30 Fred Morris, Hire Income

The Cowes Cultural Centre has multiple rooms upstairs for hire at a cost. How much money has council received as income for the hire of the upstairs rooms from the time of opening the building

Response:

The rooms available for hire upstairs at Berninneit have been booked for a total of 688 hours. Of that there has been 127 hours booked for community use. The remainder of the usage has been primarily for Council business. The income received for the community use in line with the fees and charges has been $1648.

5.31 Marnie Chadwick, Phillip Island Property

The 80-acre treed reserve on Phillip Island, sold by Commissioners in 1995 against public objection, must be rezoned for perpetuity. This land was re-purchased by the community, and its potential resale for funds by BCCouncil poses a risk. Why does BCC hesitate to secure its future?

Response:

Rezoning of the site is not required for progress to occur.

Rezoning is a medium-term action in the adopted Phillip Island Recreation Master Plan. It is anticipated that this process will occur in approximately 10 years.

5.32 Pauline Taylor, Parking

On Phillip Island parking is at a premium most of the time, not just in holiday times.

It is therefore unbelievable that Council is still wavering car parking requirements, the

Isle of Wight is an example of this. All parking MUST be on site.

When will Council stop this practice?

Response:

The ability to apply for parking reductions is a feature across the Victorian planning system. The planning scheme provides a nominal requirement for parking based on the proposed use of land.

Car parking waivers are assessed against other criteria. A case-by-case assessment based on each individual site, its location and physical constraints is outlined in the decision guidelines for all car parking assessments and used to determine whether a reduction is appropriate.

The Isle of Wight redevelopment was approved through the State Government's Development Facilitation Program.

5.33 Pauline Taylor, Zoo Application

Recent Advertiser report on proposed 100 acre Zoo.

Concerns

Will exacerbate an already overstretched traffic situation.

Loss of farmland - Council should be protecting precious farmland.

Ecotourism is not the same as a "Zoo experience".

More appropriate for uncongested mainland.

Will Council take on board these issues when application is lodged?

Response:

Council is aware that the Victorian Government has provided funding through the Enabling Tourism Fund to Reptile Encounters to support the development of plans for a new state-of-the-art zoo based in the region.

No planning application has been lodged with Council at this time. Should an application be submitted in the future, it will be subject to the usual planning assessment process, including opportunities for community consultation.

5.34 Rachael Ferguson, Accessibility

Why hasn't Council considered accessibility in their decision to "rehabilitate" Scenic Drive and other roads across the Shire?

Response:

Roads are managed in accordance with the Road Management Plan with their primary purpose being for vehicular traffic.

Council has considered various aspects in the decision to rehabilitate several roads treated with a dust suppressant seal, including accessibility.

Opportunities for the community to have a road upgrade, which includes installing safer concrete footpaths adjacent to the road are available through the Urban Roads and Drainage Improvement Policy 2024, through community initiated project.

5.35 Rachael Ferguson, Roads

What are the ongoing cost savings in "rehabilitating" the roads. Was this a major factor in decision making? Cost savings is the key reason mentioned when talking to Officers.

Response:

The maintenance costs for a dust seal at end of life is up to six times more costly than an unsealed road.

5.36 Thomas Nixon, Scenic Drive

Q1. Has Council conducted an accessibility and gender impact assessment, as required under the Disability Discrimination Act and Gender Equality Act, before deciding to revert Scenic Drive to gravel? If so, will the assessment and its findings be made publicly available?

Q2. How does the proposed downgrade of Scenic Drive align with Council's strategic commitments to safety, sustainability, and accessibility, as outlined in the Council Plan, Urban Roads and Drainage Policy, and Access, Equity and Inclusion Plan?

Response:

Q1 – Under the guidelines of the Gender Equality Act 2020 a Gender assessment has not been undertaken as this is a road maintenance activity. Council's Road Management Plan 2022 is currently under review and a Gender Impact Assessment will be included in the review process.

Q2 – The rehabilitation of Scenic Drive and several other streets, having dust suppressant seals removed is being carried out in accordance with the long-term management strategy of dust suppression roads adopted by Council in 2013. The long-term management strategy was and still is in accordance with Council's Plan and strategic objectives.

5.37 Graham Jolly, Income and Expenditure

On a previous occasion during question time Councillor Halstead indicated council should report Income and Expenditure Operational costs particularly for the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre.

What progress has our Councillors taken towards reporting Operational details the community is seeking.

Response:

Council consolidates its arts and cultural services operations and does not separately account for the revenue and expenditure of Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre and Berninneit. This approach is supported by the centralisation of utilities and other shared overhead costs, including management and staff who work across both facilities.

Reporting to the community on overall performance including venue hire, performance data and audience attendance for both WUCAC and Berninneit separately is under development and will be included in the Quarterly Performance Reporting.

6 Notices of Motion

6.1 257/25 - Emergency Services Volunteer Fund

Council Decision

Moved: Cr. Jan Thompson / Seconded: Cr. Ron Bauer

Motion

That Council:

1. **Requests a report be presented to the May Council meeting that includes:**
   a. **the total amount of additional revenue the state will receive from the increased tax.**
   b. **the impacts on the Organisation from the administrative responsibilities transferred to local government.**
   c. **details on how the state government is notifying our community of the increase in the charge.**
   d. **the amount of revenue received through this charge that will be reinvested in our community.**
   e. **details of processes the state government is putting in place for those who may not be able to pay the charge given the current cost of living crisis.**
2. **Continues to support representations made by the Municipal Association of Victoria on this issue**.

CARRIED

7 Petitions and Joint Letters

7.1 Planned Rehabilitation of Reid Street Rhyll

Council Decision

Moved: Cr. Tracey Bell / Seconded: Cr. Ron Bauer

That Council:

1. receive the petition, Reid Street Planned Rehabilitation to lie on the table with a report to be presented no later than the May 2025 Council Meeting.

2. advise the head petitioner of the Council's decision.

CARRIED

8 Reports Requiring Council Decision

8.1 Draft 2025/26 Budget

Council Decision

Moved: Cr. Jan Thompson / Seconded: Cr. Jon Temby

That Council:

1. Approve the release of the draft 2025-26 Budget and SRP and the draft 2025-26 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 Key Initiatives 2025-26 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 2025-26 Budget and SRP including the draft 2025-26 Fees and Charges.
    b. make available for public inspection a copy of the draft 2025-26 Budget.
    c. call for written submissions on the proposals contained in the draft 2025-26 Budget to be received up to 5.00 pm Wednesday 14 May 2025.
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, 28 May 2025 either at the Bass Coast Civic Centre, or virtually.

CARRIED

Cr. Ron Bauer called for a division

For: Cr. Mat Morgan, Cr. Meg Edwards, Cr. Rochelle Halstead and Cr. Tracey Bell

Against: Cr. Ron Bauer and Cr. Tim O'Brien

8.2 Revenue and Rating Plan

Council Decision

Moved: Cr. Jon Temby / Seconded: Cr. Jan Thompson

That Council:

Release the draft Revenue and rating Plan over a 28-day period from Thursday 17 April 2025 until Wednesday 14 May 2025 for public comment and feedback.

CARRIED

8.3 Award of Tender 24020 Wonthaggi Landfill Rehabilitation Works

Council Decision

Moved: Cr. Jon Temby / Seconded: Cr. Mat Morgan

That Council:

1. accept the tender from EcoProjects Australia and award Contract No 24020 Wonthaggi Landfill Rehabilitation Works for the contract sum of $6,944,101 plus GST of $694,410.10
2. authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute Contract 24020 between Council and EcoProjects Australia.

CARRIED

8.4 Appointments to Council Committees and External Committees

Council Decision

Moved: Cr. Jan Thompson / Seconded: Cr. Ron Bauer

That Council appoints Cr Brett Tessari as a substitute to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) committee.

CARRIED

9 Statutory Reports

Council Decision

Moved: Cr. Ron Bauer / Seconded: Cr. Jon Temby

That agenda items 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4 and 9.5 be considered as a block.

CARRIED

9.1 Informal Meeting of Councillors

That Council receive the attached Informal Meeting of Councillors records.

9.2 Contracts Awarded & Extended under CEO Delegation

That Council notes that the above contracts were awarded and or extended under the delegated authorities in accordance with the Procurement Policy during February 2025.

9.3 Planning and Building Statistics - February 2025

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Planning Permits issued under delegation report for February 2025; and
2. Receives and notes the Planning and Building Activity Report for February 2025.

9.4 Audit & Risk Committee Charter Annual Assessment

That Council receive the attached Audit and Risk Committee Charter annual assessment for 2023/2024

9.5 Receipt of Audit and Risk Committee Minutes - 25 September 2024

That the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 25 September 2024 be received and the recommendations therein adopted.

9.6 Receipt of Audit and Risk Committee Minutes - 27 November 2024

That the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 27 November 2024 be received and the recommendations therein adopted**.**

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Ron Bauer / Seconded: Jan Thompson

That the recommendations attached to agenda items 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4 and 9.5 be adopted.

CARRIED

10 Urgent Business

There was no Urgent Business.

11 Mayoral Announcement of Next Meeting of Council

The next Council Meeting will be held on 21 May 2025 in the Bass Coast Civic Centre Council Chamber, Baillieu Street East, Wonthaggi commencing at 1.00pm.

Council Decision

Moved: Cr. Tracey Bell / Seconded: Cr. Jon Temby

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:

(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;

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned

That the meeting be adjourned at 2.25pm

Meeting resumed

That the meeting be resumed at 2.49pm

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 19 March 2025

13 Reports Requiring Council Decision Closed to the Public

13.1 PDPLANPER-2023/000851 - 1, 2 & 3/63 McKenzie St WONTHAGGI, 65 & 67 McKenzie St WONTHAGGI - VCAT Consent Order

It is recommended that the meeting 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:

(g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that— (ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage;

14 Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 2.56pm