

Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 18 November 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.



The meeting commenced at 1.02pm.

Greg Box read the Mobile Telephone Reminder and Statement of Acknowledgement.
CEO Greg Box read the Temporary Chair Statement, Mobile Telephone Reminder and Statement of Acknowledgement

Temporary Chair Statement

The Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) section 25 states the election of the Mayor must be chaired by the Chief Executive Officer.

Part B, Section 4 of the Governance Rules states that the Chief Executive Officer must facilitate the election of the Mayor in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

The Chief Executive Officer must open the meeting at which the Mayor is to be elected, and invite nominations for the office of Mayor.

Once the Mayor has been elected, they will assume the position of Chair.

Cr. Ron Bauer read the Councillor Statement.

Table of Contents

1 Present and Apologies 5

2 Declarations of Interest 6

3 Confirmation of Minutes 7

3.1 Council Meeting 21 October 2026 7

3.2 Council Meeting 30 October 2026 8

4 Mayor and Councillor Reports 9

4.1 Cr Brett Tessari - Mayoral Report 9

4.2 Cr Tracey Bell - Councillor Report 11

4.5 Reports Requiring Council Decision - Elections 12

4.5.1 Determination of the Period of Office for Mayor and Deputy Mayor 12

4.5.2 Election of Mayor 13

4.5.3 Election of Deputy Mayor 16

5 Public Question Time 18

5.1 Public Questions 18

6 Notices of Motion 32

7 Petitions and Joint Letters 33

8 Reports Requiring Council Decision 33

8.1 2026-2027 Q1 Performance Report 33

8.2 2026 Planning Scheme Review 33

8.3 Murray Street wombat crossing 33

8.4 Council Meeting Schedule 2027 34

8.5 Appointment to Council Audit and Risk Committee 34

8.6 Award of Tender No. 26024 Road and Drainage Renewal Works at Reed Crescent, Wonthaggi 35

9 Statutory Reports 35

9.1 Informal Meeting of Councillors 35

9.2 Planning and Building Statistics - September 2026 36

9.3 Contracts Awarded and or Extended under CEO Delegation for October 2026 36

9.4 Councillor Allowances and Expenses for the Council Term 11 November 2024 to 30 September 2026 36

10 Urgent Business 37

11 Mayoral Announcement of Next Meeting of Council 38

12 Meeting Closed 38

1 Present and Apologies

Councillors: Cr Brett Tessari, Bunurong Ward(Mayor)
Cr Ron Bauer, Island Ward(Deputy Mayor)
Cr Tracey Bell, Island Ward
Cr Meg Edwards, Bunurong Ward
Cr Tim O'Brien, Island Ward
Cr Jon Temby, Western Port Ward
Cr Jan Thompson, Western Port Ward

Officers: Mr Greg Box, Chief Executive Officer
Ms Donna Taylor, General Manager Future Places
Ms Benita Russell, Manager Infrastructure Maintenance
Ms Emma Sorenson, Manager People & Culture
Ms Jade Glen, Manager Governance & Communications

Apologies: Cr Rochelle Halstead on approved leave of absence
Cr Mat Morgan on approved leave of absence

2 Declarations of Interest

Greg Box CEO declared a conflict of Interest in agenda item 5.1 Public Question Time Short Stay Accommodation under section 127 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

3 Confirmation of Minutes

3.1 Council Meeting 21 October 2026

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 October 2026 be confirmed.

Council Decision

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

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 October 2026 be confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3.2 Council Meeting 30 October 2026

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30 October 2026 be confirmed.

Council Decision

Moved: Cr. Tracey Bell / Seconded: Cr. Brett Tessari

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30 October 2026 be confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4 Mayor and Councillor Reports

4.1 Cr Brett Tessari - Mayoral Report

This report covers the period from 21 October 2026 to 18 November 2026

Mayors thank you

As this Mayoral term draws to a close, I would like to take a moment to reflect and say thank you. There has certainly been a lot happening across our community and beyond, and during times of uncertainty it has been a privilege to help guide Council through the challenges and opportunities of the past year.

I sincerely thank my fellow councillors for their support, collaboration and commitment throughout the year. It has been a privilege to work alongside each of you in representing and advocating for our community.

I would also like to extend thanks to Greg Box, CEO and Executive Team for their leadership and advice, and to all Council staff for their hard work and dedication in serving our community every day.

A special thank you to Rhonda, Councillor Support, for keeping me organised and on the straight and narrow throughout the year. Your professionalism and support are greatly appreciated.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has contributed to our shared achievements over the past 12 months. It has been a privilege to work alongside you all in service of our community.

In brief the Mayoral activities have included the following:

Activities

- Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix Phillip Island
- BCAS Spring Art Show
- Wonthaggi Remembrance Day Service
- Open Heritage Walk at Community Hub Stadium
- Wonthaggi North Primary School Art Show for 2026
- Cowes Streetscapes Opening - Senator Lisa Darmanin
- Dreamnight at the Zoo 2026
- Landcare Art Show
- 2026 Phillip Island SUP Titles

Meetings

Attended Council Workshops and Briefings

Chaired Councillor Only Meetings

Weekly meetings with CEO, Council Support and Communications

Additional Meetings:

- Peri Urban Councils Victoria Board Meeting
- 2026 SECCCA Leaders Forum: From Risk to Resilience in a changing climate
- CEO Employment Matters Committee meeting (CEO annual review)
- Wonthaggi Remembrance Day Service

Other

Media Enquiries/Interviews

- ABC Gippsland
- ABC Meet the Mayor – Mornings with Raf Epstein
- Peri Urban Councils Victoria Board Meeting
- ABC Radio Sydney - Moto GP Economic Impact/ Bird Flu/ Supercars
- WIN News interview - McDonalds Cowes
- ABC TV - McDonalds
- Win Network Interview
- Surf Parade Inverloch filming

Phone calls, emails and letters

4.2 Cr Tracey Bell - Councillor Report

The past month has provided many opportunities to connect with our community and celebrate the people, events and organisations that make Bass Coast such a special place.

The MotoGP once again brought visitors from across Australia and around the world to Phillip Island. While it was disappointing that Sunday's feature races were cancelled due to weather, the event delivered important benefits for local businesses and the new streetscape precinct in Cowes provided a fitting farewell to an event that has been part of our community for many years.

I was pleased to attend the Women Who Lead Forum, which brought together female councillors and other community leaders from across Gippsland to share experiences and support one another in current and aspiring leadership roles. It was particularly inspiring to see that more than half of the panel were Mayors of their councils.

The Arts Society Phillip Island Region Cup Weekend Exhibition showcased the remarkable talent within our community, with young artists recognised for their creativity and achievement.

The Cowes Remembrance Day Service was a moving occasion, focusing on the families and communities who stayed behind and kept the home fires burning while loved ones served during times of conflict. It was a poignant reminder that sacrifice extends beyond those in uniform.

The Phillip Island Jazz All Day Extravaganza was a wonderful celebration of live music and local culture. Like the Arts Society exhibition, it recognised and encouraged young talent, and it was an honour to present the Youth Encouragement Awards to students from Bass Coast College and Newhaven College.

Finally, I am humbled and honoured to have been elected Deputy Mayor for the coming year. I thank my fellow councillors for their confidence and support and look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with our community to deliver positive outcomes for Bass Coast.

4.5 Reports Requiring Council Decision – Elections

4.5.1 Determination of the Period of Office for Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Council Decision

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

That Council determine the term of office for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as being for one year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.5.2 Election of Mayor

Council Decision

The CEO received one nomination in line with the Governance Rules for the appointment of Mayor.

Cr Brett Tessari was nominated by Cr Tim O'Brien and the nomination was seconded by Cr Ron Bauer.

Cr Brett Tessari was declared duly elected as Mayor.

CEO Greg Box removed themself from the position of Chair at 1:12pm

Cr Brett Tessari assumed the position of Chair at 1:12pm

4.5.3 Election of Deputy Mayor

Council Decision

The CEO received one nomination in line with the Governance Rules for the appointment of Deputy Mayor.

Cr Tracey Bell was nominated by Cr Ron Bauer and the nomination was seconded by Cr Tim O'Brien.

Cr Tracey Bell was declared duly elected as Deputy Mayor.

Meeting Adjourned 1:16pm

Meeting Resumed: 1:26pm

5 Public Question Time

Question 1

Trevor Forge

Topic: Inverloch Shell Museum

Q1. Can Council confirm that it is the owner of the Inverloch Shell Museum shell collection, that the collection is appropriately insured and curated and that Council will continue to act as custodian of the collection on behalf of the Inverloch community?

Q2. Given the outstanding scientific quality of the collection and its proven capacity as a visitor attraction, what plans does Council have for the ongoing management and curation of the Inverloch Shell Museum and do they include a Community Asset Committee to help Council manage its future?

Response:

The Bunurong Environment Centre, where the shells are housed, is leased to the South Gippsland Conservation Society, with the group managing the museum and collection. The collection is not currently insured by Council.

Council is not currently considering establishing a Community Asset Committee, but will continue to work collaboratively with community stakeholders and user groups to support the ongoing preservation, interpretation, and public display of the important collection.

Question 2

Joanna Johnson

Topic: Bank Refunds

Q1. Will Council update its refund policy to align with Information Privacy Principle 1 of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014, by accepting a bank-issued Proof of Account rather than requiring bank statements that disclose balances and transactions unnecessary to process a refund?

Q2. Given Information Privacy Principle 4 requires Council to protect personal information from misuse, will Council provide a secure online portal for payees to submit bank details, rather than requiring financial documents to be sent by email?

Response:

Through the Mayor, Council's refund processes are designed to verify banking details and ensure refunds are paid to the correct recipient. Council recognises the importance of protecting personal information and takes all reasonable steps to safeguard information provided by customers.

Council continues to investigate opportunities to improve digital service delivery.

Question 3

Philip Davy

Topic: Dunvegan Cres

Construction of Dunvegan Crescent is ~~eminent~~ (imminent) and council is stating that a dedicated right turn bay on Phillip Island Road is not Council's problem, but Council is in constant contact with Vicroads. Will council provide copies of meeting minutes with VicRoads where discussions regarding this intersection were discussed?

Response:

Through the Mayor, at its 21 October meeting, Council resolved its intention to declare a special charge scheme at Dunvegan Crescent, Surf Beach. A statutory process has now commenced with submissions open until 16 December. Council is anticipated to make a decision on the proposed special charge scheme in 2027.

Minutes from meetings of Bass Coast Shire and VicRoads are not available.

Question 4

Nicole Grigg

Topic: Tree risk assessment

Recently, a 20 metre tree fell 30 metres in front of my car across both lanes. If I was travelling a few kms faster I may be dead.

Hundreds of trees on Phillip Island appear dead. How much money is allocated in the budget for urgently needed Tree risk assessment?

Response:

Through the Mayor, Council manages roadside trees under its Roadside Management Plan 2022, undertaking risk assessments in response to reported hazards and through proactive inspections on Council-managed land. The Department of Transport and Planning manages trees on roads under its responsibility.

Tree risk management is funded through operational budgets and contractor expenditure rather than a specific budget line. Residents are encouraged to report any trees of concern so they can be assessed promptly.

Questions 5

Nicole Grigg

Topic: Hard Waste

Council has allocated over 3 million dollars to waste projects. Why has residential hard waste collection not been factored into the budget as this would directly benefit rate payers?

Response:

Through the Mayor, residential hard waste collections are available to all properties in the kerbside collection zone on a user pay basis. The cost of the hard waste collection service is recovered directly from user fees, rather than from the Waste Service charge.

Questions 6, 7 and 8 have been grouped together for a single response under Governance Rule 53.13

Questions 6

Frances and Ferdinando Panozzo

Topic: Aquatic and Leisure Project

As parents of a disabled daughter, access to a pool means the difference between being bed ridden and being able to walk in water and exercise which gives her a much better quality of life.

Why has the pool been scrapped? Please provide a direct, open, detailed and honest answer.

Questions 7

Esme Murray-White

Topic: Aquatic and Leisure Project

Please explain in detail how and why the planned Aquatic and Leisure at the carnival site was scrapped.

Question 8

Leanne Panozzo

Topic: Carnival Site

Please explain the precise reasons why the shire bought back the carnival site for an Aquatic and Leisure centre, and this has now been scrapped?

Response:

Through the Mayor, Council purchased the land known as the carnival site to develop the Phillip Island Sporting Precinct, which includes a future aquatic centre. The project has been a key advocacy priority of Council for many years.

Council's endorsed Aquatics Strategy prioritizes redevelopment of the Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre as it is more than 50 years old and requires significant investment to remain open.

Once funding for that project is secured, Council's advocacy efforts will solely focus on seeking State and Federal Government investment to develop the Phillip Island Aquatic Centre.

Question 9

France and Ferdinando Panozzo

Topic: Thompson avenue upgrade

Last meeting I asked about accessibility, the question was not answered.

The upgrade has one accessible side, the other has steps, failing to meet the needs of aging and disabled people.

Why wasn't the 9 million dollar Thompson avenue upgrade made 100% accessible for people using walking aids and wheelchairs?

Response:

Through the Mayor, the project provides a continuous DDA-compliant pedestrian route on one side of Thompson Avenue. Due to site constraints including limited road reserve, level changes, drainage requirements and property access needs, full accessibility on both sides was not feasible. The upgrade nevertheless delivers a significant improvement in accessibility over the previous conditions.

Questions 10

Esme Murray-White

Topic: Pump Track

With an aging community on Phillip Island, how many people does council estimate will use and benefit from a $400,00 pump track?

Response:

Through the Mayor, a community petition supporting a pump track at Cape Woolamai attracted 800 signatures in 2022. Since then, the community has worked closely with Council to help develop the Bass Coast Mountain Bike/BMX/Pump Strategy and secure State Government funding for the project. Council expects the pump track to be enjoyed by people of all ages.

Question 11

Graham Jolly

Topic: Hilton Chadwick Reserve

Council resubmitted a revised construction design plans to the Transport and Planning Authority as reported recently. Please provide a copy of the revised plans for the new traffic turning lane into the Carnival land and Hilton Chadwick Reserve.

Response:

Through the Mayor, Functional Layout Plans have been submitted to the Department of Transport and Planning for review and comment. As the design is still under assessment and subject to change, it would be premature to release the drawings at this stage.

Questions 12

Bill Bunivious

Topic: Capital Projects

Q1. In 2023/24 to 2025/26, 53 capital projects entries were reported "Completed" yet still carried money forward, for example project 100494 in 2024/25. Is the status wrong or the carryover wrong, and which figures may Councillors rely on?

Q2. In 42 capital projects entries, $3,603,167 of available money was neither spent nor carried forward again, for example $1,589,934 on project 100851. Was it returned, reallocated or lapsed, and where is that recorded?

Response:

Q1. Through the Mayor, neither the status nor the carryover is incorrect. Projects marked as "complete" mean that the planned works for the year were completed. Where projects are completed over multiple years, the remaining budget is carried forward to complete in a subsequent year.

Q2. Unspent money from capital projects are either reallocated to other projects, under delegation, or returned to Council finances for future priorities. This is recorded as part of Council's annual audited financial accounts.

Question 13

Bill Wilson

Topic: Project 100942

Project 100942 carried forward $150,000 from a $100,000 budget. In 38 entries, the carryover exceeded the money available or unspent. Where did the extra money come from?

Response:

Through the Mayor, Project 100942 is Inverloch Landfill Rehabilitation. The budget was $100,000 and the project was delivered for $100,450.91. The $150,000 carry over number is an administrative error.

Question 14

Bill Wilson

Topic: Annual Report

The Annual Report says Cell 8A (102070, $450,000) and leachate storage (102071, $351,000) continue into 2026/27, yet both are reported "Completed", omitted from the carryover list, and listed again in the 2026/27 Budget. Is the money carried, rebudgeted, or both?

Response:

Through the Mayor, the budget for both projects has been brought forward as these projects will take several years to complete.

Question 15

Mal Pinkerton

Topic: Transfer Station

What year is council going to construct a new transfer station at the Gap Road council property?

Response:

Through the Mayor, Council has not set a construction date for a new transfer station at Gap Road. While a detailed design was completed in 2023–24, updated EPA separation distance guidelines released in August 2024 require the proposal to be reassessed. Funding has been allocated in 2026 to review the Gap Road site and prepare options that meet future service needs and regulatory requirements.

Question 16

Mal Pinkerton

Topic: Historic Museum

When will council establish an historic museum in the old closed kindergarten in Cowes?

Response:

Through the Mayor, thank you for your suggestion. Council is currently investigating future use options for the former kindergarten site in Cowes. At this stage, no decision has been made regarding the establishment of a historical museum.

Question 17

Johnny Cantone

Topic: Lord's Prayer

Q1. Why does Council believe a councillor vote alone is enough to remove the Lord's Prayer, without asking residents? That is power over the people, not people power. Will Council consult the community on reinstating it?

Q2. Karen Thorpe of Grace Chapel, Archies Creek, led a 191-signature petition and received a heavy-handed response, with no chance to reply to a councillor's unfounded remarks. Will Council apologise to her, the 191 signatories, their families and the congregations, and commit to kinder, fairer responses to petitioners

Response:

Through the Mayor, Council regularly makes decisions on behalf of its community. There are no plans to reinstate the Lord's Prayer. Council welcomes petitions as part of a healthy democracy, and petitions are handled in accordance with the Governance Rules. If the head petitioner has any concerns, Council encourages them to contact officers.

Questions 18

Erran Paxton

Topic: Zebra Crossing

Can Council install a zebra crossing outside the BWS bottle shop at Surf Beach? Many high school students cross this busy road each morning to catch the bus. The heavy traffic and lack of a safe crossing point create a significant safety risk for children and other pedestrians.

Response:

Through the Mayor, thank you for your suggestion. Phillip Island Road is managed by the Department of Transport and Planning. Council has passed this feedback to them for consideration.

Question 19

Erran Paxton

Topic: Pesticides

Due to Phillip Island being an environmental area with protected wildlife zone, can't council make Phillip Island a pesticide / herbicide free zone in line with the environmental goals?

Response:

Through the Mayor, Council uses only herbicides and pesticides registered for use in public open space and conservation areas, including streamside reserves, applied by staff who hold a Victorian Agricultural Chemical Users Permit under strict state and federal regulation and Council policy.

Treatments are targeted to specific weed species and carefully timed around weather conditions. A 'no-spray register' protects highly sensitive vegetation and areas of concern, so that we protect Phillip Island's environmental values while still controlling the invasive weeds that threaten native habitat.

Question 20

Ernie Westergard

Topic: Project Updates

Project 100833 ($138,601) and 100857 ($31,140) were carried out of 2022/23, then shown "Removed/Amalgamated" with nil amounts. Where is that $169,741 now, and who approves changes to project numbers?

Response:

Through the Mayor, the $169,741 was spent as planned on the proposed projects. Both projects, which are an expansion of the Wonthaggi Primary School kindergarten and the design of the Pioneer Bay toilets, were completed in 2022/23.

Question 21

Ernie Westergard

Topic: Waste Services

Why is "Kerbside Transition Planning Waste Services" carried at $95,000 at all five year-ends from 2022 to 2026, what has been delivered, who is accountable, when will it be spent or returned?

Response:

Through the Mayor, this project is a grant from the Victorian Government to help Council implement the state's Household Waste and Recycling Services by 1 July 2027.

The $95,000 has been carried forward each year while Council waits for the State to release its final guidelines and kerbside service standards.

Council is accountable for managing the grant in line with the funding agreement, and will use the funds to support compliance with the updated State standards, when they are known, ahead of the 1 July 2027 deadline set by the State Government.

Questions 22 and 23 have been grouped together for a single response under Governance Rule 53.13

Question 22

Mario Boffa

Topic: Carryover List

Q1. The 2025/26 carryover list (gross $11.092 million) disagrees with the spreadsheet in the same report (carryover $7.297 million) with six carrying projects totalling $1,789,1189 missing from the list?

Q2. $840,000 of carryovers (Rhyll Seawall $570,000, Smiths Beach $154,000, Baillieu Street $116,000) listed without a spreadsheet row in the year carried, which project number held that money?

Question 23

Fred Morris

Topic: Carryover List

Q2. The spreadsheet 4th Quarter 2025/26 reports carry overs to NY $7,297,471 and the first quarter spreadsheet show Prior Year Carryover $11,092,489. Where did the additional $3,785,018 come from with project numbers.

Response:

Through the Mayor, the $11.092M is the correct total carryover amount reported for the 2025/26 financial year.

On Mr Boffa's second question, officers are unsure what source document is being referenced. Officers have contacted Mr Boffa directly so that they can best address these questions.

Question 24

Fred Morris

Topic: Project Numbers

Q1. Why do operating carryovers ($1.057 million) at 30 June 2026 carry no project numbers, where can residents see, read a register showing what each carried amount was spent on.

Response:

Through the Mayor, operating carryovers are recorded and tracked within Council's financial system, separate from the capital works project register. These amounts are subject to independent audit by Victoria's Auditor-General. Council does not maintain a public project register for operating carryovers.

Question 25

Graham Jolly

Topic: Council reported, 2025/26 Annual Report adjusted underlying deficit $19.2 million, a serious deficit, ratepayers money. The first quarter adjusted underlying is $9.293 million deficit, page 36. What is the plan for the remainder of the year 2026/27 to bring the deficits results back to a surplus.

Response:

Through the Mayor, Council is continually working to improve its financial sustainability through expenditure management, identifying operational efficiencies and reviewing revenue opportunities, with a focus on reducing the underlying deficit, which is forecast at $9.293 million as of 30 June 2027, and achieving a sustainable surplus over the medium term.

Question 26

Melissa Dagg

Topic: Wonthaggi landfill

The recapping of the Wonthaggi landfill site cost has exceeded $12 million heading to $15 million. The contract is $8.3 million. Why is there a cost escalation.

Response:

Through the Mayor, the Wonthaggi Landfill Capping is being delivered under contract and on track for completion this financial year. The project is still within budget as approved by Council.

Early estimates during project scoping suggested a budget of $12 million would be required, using conventional landfill capping methods. The innovative capping technique that Council has instead applied will save several million dollars and reduce ongoing maintenance requirements.

Question 27

Melissa Dagg

Topic: Hook truck

Council's budget 2025/26 project 100866 is for the purchase of a Hook truck of which $398,247 was expensed in 2026/27. Please explain the reason/use of this late purchase.

Response:

Through the Mayor, Council has carried over the budget for this truck because of the long lead times between ordering and delivery. Suppliers often need to import the vehicle, build the truck body and ensure the finished vehicle meets Council's specifications, which means the purchase can span more than one financial year even though the order has been placed. The funds remain committed to the purchase and are carried over so the truck can be paid for and delivered once the supplier completes the build.

Question 28

Lindsay Krumins

Topic: McDonald's development

Is Bass Coast Shire Council's formal Notice of Refusal for the proposed McDonald's development in Cowes publicly available, including the specific planning grounds for refusal? If so, where can the public access this document? If not, why has it not been made publicly available?

Response:

Through the Mayor, please refer to item 8.1 of the 21 October Council Meeting minutes to read the grounds for refusal in full.

Greg Box left at 1:50pm

Question 29

Sue Breeden

Topic: SSRA

Q1. Why does Council include waste management in SSRA fee make up, when permanent, holiday home owners and day-trippers also generate more waste particularly in high season , and lack's equity given the ratio of $1.00 managing SSRA waste returns around $45 in tourism value into the local economy?

Q2. Why has Council still failed to provide full transparency regarding the construction of SSRA fees despite repeated requests, or is the reality that Council does not actually possess the complete, detailed documentation required to justify these specific charges in the first place?

Response:

Through the Mayor, waste management forms part of Council's broader SSRA education and amenity management activities, rather than a separate waste charge. All properties registered under the 2026/27 SSRA program received a waste education pack.

Registration fees support administration, monitoring and compliance, informed by benchmarking and service delivery costs. Fees are reviewed annually and adopted through Council's public Budget process, which includes opportunities for community feedback.

Question 30

Lisa Christensen

Topic: SSRA

Q1. As this question was not answered at the question time in October, I am still seeking a response. Which department(s), person(s) or team(s) were responsible for proposing and approving the disproportionate SSRA registration fees that were introduced in July 2026?

Q2. There is still no resolution for concerned ratepayers regarding transparency and roll-out of new SSRA registration fees. Will any councillor here today support or propose an alternative motion to review transparency, development and implementation of these fees and if not, why?

Response:

Through the Mayor, Council will not identify individual officers. Council adopts fees and charges each year as part of its annual budget process.

On Question 2, a Notice of Motion was raised at the September 2026 Council Meeting, and ultimately not supported by Council.

Greg Box returned at 1:53pm

6 Notices of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

7 Petitions and Joint Letters

There were no Petitions and Joint Letters.

8 Reports Requiring Council Decision

8.1 2026-2027 Q1 Performance Report

Council Decision

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

That Council receives the September 2026 Quarterly Performance Report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.2 2026 Planning Scheme Review

Council Decision

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

That Council:

1. **Adopt the 2026 Bass Coast Planning Scheme Review, as required under section 12B (1) of the *Planning & Environment Act 1987; and***
2. **Forward the review to the Minister for Planning as required by Section 12B (5) of the Planning & Environment Act 1987.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.3 Murray Street wombat crossing

Council Decision

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

That Council deliver the Murray Street pedestrian crossing project in accordance with the signed funding agreement between Council and the Transport Accident Commission (TAC).

LOST

Cr. Bauer moved a deferral

Moved: Cr. Ron Bauer / Seconded: Cr. Tim O'Brien

That Council defer a decision to deliver the Murray Street pedestrian crossing project in accordance with the signed funding agreement between Council and the Transport Accident Commission (TAC), to the meeting of 9 December 2026.

CARRIED

8.4 Council Meeting Schedule 2027

Council Decision

Moved: Cr. Jan Thompson / Seconded: Cr. Tracey Bell

That Council adopt the meeting schedule for 2027 as follows:

Date	Venue	Time
17 February 2027	Wonthaggi, Civic Centre Chamber	1.00pm
17 March 2027	Cowes, Berninneit Large Meeting Room	1.00pm
21 April 2027	Wonthaggi, Civic Centre Chamber	1.00pm
19 May 2027	Wonthaggi, Civic Centre Chamber	1.00pm
16 June 2027	Wonthaggi, Civic Centre Chamber	1.00pm
21 July 2027	Cowes, Berninneit Large Meeting Room	1.00pm
18 August 2027	Wonthaggi, Civic Centre Chamber	1.00pm
15 September 2027	Wonthaggi, Civic Centre Chamber	1.00pm
6 October 2027	Wonthaggi, Civic Centre Chamber	1.00pm
27 October 2027	Cowes, Berninneit Large Meeting Room	1.00pm
17 November 2027	Wonthaggi, Civic Centre Chamber	1.00pm
8 December 2027	Wonthaggi, Civic Centre Chamber	1.00pm

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.5 Appointment to Council Audit and Risk Committee

Motion

That Council appoints Councillor representatives to the following Council committees for a period of 1 year:

Audit and Risk Committee	**Mayor & One Councillor**

Cr. Ron Bauer moved an Alternative

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

That Council appoints Councillor representatives to the following Council committees for a period of 1 year:

Audit and Risk Committee	**Mayor & Deputy Mayor**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.6 Award of Tender No. 26024 Road and Drainage Renewal Works at Reed Crescent, Wonthaggi

Council Decision

Moved: Cr. Jon Temby / Seconded: Cr. Meg Edwards

That Council:

1. **Accept the tender from Bass Coast Civil & Excavations Pty Ltd and award Contract No 26024 Road and Drainage Renewal Works at Reed Crescent, Wonthaggi for the contract sum of $1,131,521.72 plus GST of $113,152.17 which includes lump sum and provisional amounts; and**
2. **Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute Contract 26024 between Council and Bass Coast Civil & Excavations Pty Ltd.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9 Statutory Reports

9.1 Informal Meeting of Councillors

Council Decision

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

That Council receive the attached Informal Meeting of Councillors records.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.2 Planning and Building Statistics - September 2026

Council Decision
Moved: {mover} / Seconded: {seconder}

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Planning Permits issued under delegation report for September 2026; and

2. Receives and notes the Planning and Building Activity Report for September 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.3 Contracts Awarded and or Extended under CEO Delegation for October 2026

Council Decision

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

That Council notes the above contracts were awarded and or extended under the delegated authorities in accordance with the Procurement Policy during October 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4 Councillor Allowances and Expenses for the Council Term 11 November 2024 to 30 September 2026

Council Decision

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

That Council receive the report on Councillor Allowances and Expenditure for the Council term between 11 November 2024 and 30 September2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10 Urgent Business

There was no Urgent Business.

11 Mayoral Announcement of Next Meeting of Council

The next Council Meeting will be held on 9 December 2026 in the Bass Coast Civic Centre Council Chamber, Baillieu Street East, Wonthaggi commencing at 1.00pm.

12 Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 2.37pm