



Merri-bek
City Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting

Held in Bunjil (Council Chamber), Merri-bek Civic
Centre, 90 Bell Street, Coburg
on Wednesday 10 September 2025

Consultation has been undertaken consistent with the requirements of the Local Government Act. Notice of Council's proposal to name part of the laneway between 217-219 Elizabeth Street Coburg North 'Kastoria Lane' was published on Council's Conversations Merri-bek website from 2 June 2025 until 4 July 2025.

Respondents were invited to provide a submission of support or objection to this name. Five (5) submissions were received, four (4) in support and one (1) seeking further details about the process. No objections were received.

Having considered community feedback, officers recommend that Council endorses the name Kastoria Lane for that part of the laneway between 217-219 Elizabeth Street Coburg North.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the feedback received from the community on the proposed name, 'Kastoria Lane', for the part of the laneway at the rear of 217-219 Elizabeth Street Coburg North.
2. Submits the name 'Kastoria Lane' to Geographic Names Victoria for registration and gazettal.
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to do all other things necessary to formalise the name 'Kastoria Lane', once registered by Geographic Names Victoria.

Resolution

Cr Politis moved, Cr Abboud seconded -

That Council:

1. **Notes the feedback received from the community on the proposed name, 'Kastoria Lane', for the part of the laneway at the rear of 217-219 Elizabeth Street Coburg North.**
2. **Submits the name 'Kastoria Lane' to Geographic Names Victoria for registration and gazettal.**
3. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to do all other things necessary to formalise the name 'Kastoria Lane', once registered by Geographic Names Victoria.**

Carried unanimously

7.7 C233MBEK - FIX UP AMENDMENT - GATEWAY 1 - AUTHORISATION AND EXHIBITION

Executive Summary

The Merri-bek Planning Scheme (Scheme) sets out the policies and provisions that guide how land is used and developed across the municipality. To maintain its effectiveness in providing direction and supporting decision-making, Council periodically undertakes "fix-up" amendments to correct errors, update references, resolve mapping anomalies, implement recommendations and improve accuracy.

As part of its four-yearly review under the *Planning and Environment Act 1984*, Council adopted the *Planning Scheme Review 2022*, which recommended improvements to the Merri-bek Planning Scheme. The *Heritage Action Plan Implementation Plan 2022–2025* also identifies actions to address specific heritage issues. This has identified a need for a range of minor or administrative changes, including:

- **Zoning/Overlays anomalies and updates:** Remove outdated overlays from 384 properties; rezone some parkland to the Public Park and Recreation Zone.
- **Heritage updates:** Update planning permit exemptions, revise statements of significance, improve Heritage Overlay schedules, correct mapping, remove incorrect overlays, and update design/demolition guidance.
- **General corrections:** Fix grammatical and spelling errors, formatting issues, and mapping errors; update strategy, policy, and reference documents.

Amendment C233mbek is needed to resolve these anomalies and improve the clarity, accuracy, and effectiveness of the planning scheme, while supporting Council's preparation for the next Planning Scheme Review in 2026.

Council officers recommend that Council resolves to request the Minister for Planning authorise Amendment C233mbek. Public exhibition of the amendment would follow the Minister's authorisation.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. As the planning authority, apply to the Minister for Planning (Minister) under section 8A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Vic) (Act), for authorisation to prepare Amendment C233mbek to the Merri-bek Planning Scheme (Amendment).
2. Prepares the Amendment if authority is received under section 8A of the Act, or if 10 business days have passed since the Minister received the application without notifying Council of a decision:
 - a) As the planning authority, prepares the Amendment in accordance with section 8A(2) or section 8A(7) of the Act as relevant.
 - b) Authorises the Director Place and Environment to make minor changes to the draft Amendment documentation at Attachments 1-6 as required prior to exhibition of the Amendment, to correct any administrative errors, and to meet any conditions the Minister imposes through authorisation.
 - c) Endorses, for the purpose of exhibition, the draft Amendment documentation at Attachments 1-6, subject to any changes required under (2)(b) above.
 - d) Exhibits the Amendment in accordance with sections 17, 18 and 19 of the Act.

Resolution

Cr Svensson moved, Cr Irvin seconded -

That Council:

1. **As the planning authority, apply to the Minister for Planning (Minister) under section 8A of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic) (Act), for authorisation to prepare Amendment C233mbek to the Merri-bek Planning Scheme (Amendment).**
2. **Prepares the Amendment if authority is received under section 8A of the Act, or if 10 business days have passed since the Minister received the application without notifying Council of a decision:**

- a) **As the planning authority, prepares the Amendment in accordance with section 8A(2) or section 8A(7) of the Act as relevant.**
- b) **Authorises the Director Place and Environment to make minor changes to the draft Amendment documentation at Attachments 1-6 as required prior to exhibition of the Amendment, to correct any administrative errors, and to meet any conditions the Minister imposes through authorisation.**
- c) **Endorses, for the purpose of exhibition, the draft Amendment documentation at Attachments 1-6, subject to any changes required under (2)(b) above.**
- d) **Exhibits the Amendment in accordance with sections 17, 18 and 19 of the Act.**

Carried

7.8 SUMMER SPORTING ALLOCATIONS 2025/26

Executive Summary

Council is committed to providing the community with sporting and recreational facilities and opportunities to encourage physical activity and improve community health and wellbeing outcomes. Council's Allocation and Use of Sporting Facilities, Grounds and Pavilions Policy 2025 (the Policy) provides a framework for the annual and seasonal allocation of sporting grounds and pavilions to clubs through a tenancy agreement.

In line with the Policy, facilities are allocated to clubs with sound governance structures, open membership for men, women and juniors, and a demonstrated commitment to social responsibility, including participation in club development programs. Thirteen (13) summer seasonal tenancy applications were received from clubs and all requests can be accommodated. This report also provides an update on progress of each club's junior and female participation levels. Several clubs are still in the process of submitting their compliance documentation which is required prior to receiving their summer 2025/2026 sports ground seasonal allocation.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Allocates sports grounds and pavilions for the 2025/2026 summer season to the clubs shown in Attachment 1 to this report.
2. Authorises the Director Community to make any necessary changes to the allocation of facilities for the 2025/2026 summer season if required and to inform Council of any changes.
3. Notes any club owing ground and pavilion fees from previous seasons, or owing any other debt to Council, will be informed that no ground allocation will be granted until payment is made, or a payment plan has been agreed to.
4. Notes current junior and female participation levels at sports clubs contained within this 2025/2026 Summer Sports Ground Tenancy Allocations Report.

Resolution

Cr Miles moved, Cr Bolton seconded -

That Council:

1. **Allocates sports grounds and pavilions for the 2025/2026 summer season to the clubs shown in Attachment 1 to this report.**