

Merri-bek
City Council

PROPOSED
Minutes of the Council Meeting

Held in Bunjil (Council Chamber), Merri-bek Civic Centre,
90 Bell Street, Coburg
on Wednesday 10 June 2026

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The Mayor opened the meeting at 6.33 pm and stated the Council meeting is being held on the traditional country of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people and acknowledged them as Traditional Owners. The Mayor paid respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and the Elders from other communities who may be here today.

Present	Time In	Time Out
Cr Nat Abboud, Mayor	6.33 pm	8.52 pm
Cr Helen Davidson, Deputy Mayor	6.33 pm	8.52 pm
Cr Sue Bolton	6.33 pm	8.52 pm
Cr Liz Irvin	6.33 pm	8.52 pm
Cr Dr Jay Iwasaki	6.33 pm	8.52 pm
Cr Chris Miles	6.33 pm	8.52 pm
Cr Helen Politis	Apology	
Cr Adam Pulford	6.33 pm	8.52 pm
Cr Ella Svensson	6.33 pm	8.52 pm
Cr Katerine Theodosis	6.33 pm	8.52 pm
Cr Oscar Yildiz JP	6.33 pm	8.52 pm

OFFICERS

Acting Chief Executive Officer – Sue Vujcevic
 Acting Director Business Transformation – Yvonne Callanan
 Acting Director City Infrastructure – Greg Rodwell
 Director Place and Environment – Pene Winslade
 Director Community – Eamonn Fennessy
 Acting Manager Governance and Strategy – Sophie Barison
 Acting Unit Manager Governance and Risk – Glen Moore

APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Politis was an apology for the meeting.

DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

MINUTE CONFIRMATION

Resolution

Cr Davidson moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13 May 2026 be confirmed.

Carried

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Cr Theodosia

Formally advised Council of her intention to stand as a candidate in the upcoming state election in November for the seat of Essendon. Confirmed that the Acting Chief Executive Officer has been notified and that, upon formal nomination with the Electoral Commission, Cr Theodosia will apply for a leave of absence from Council.

Cr Bolton

- Acknowledged Council workers seeking fair pay and wished them success.
- Attended a meeting with the Mayor and the Friends of John Fawceter College, which is a group of local residents and parents working to strengthen and promote John Fawceter College as a preferred school of choice. They met with the College Principal and the local member Kathleen Matthews-Ward MP, to discuss opportunities for Council collaboration, including upgrading an unused soccer pitch for shared school and community use and improving links between the school, library and surrounding area.
- Attended the Ballerit Mooroop open day; noted the significant milestone of the State Government agreeing to transfer the title of the former aboriginal school to the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people following long term community advocacy.
- Acknowledged the Fawceter Neighbourhood House is delivering workshops supporting community members, particularly multicultural and older residents to better understand how to advocate to Council and State Government.
- Noted the upcoming Environment Day for Multicultural Communities at the Fawceter Sports Hall this Saturday.

Mayor, Cr Abboud

- Attended the Vicky Cleary day match at Coburg Football Club.
- Acknowledged her attendance along with Acting Chief Executive Officer, Sue Vujcevic to lay a wreath on behalf of Council at the Victorian aboriginal remembrance service held at the Shrine of Remembrance.
- Acknowledged the Lizards with Bikes sausage sizzle and community planting day will be held this Sunday from 10 am at Richards Reserve, Coburg.

PETITIONS

5.1 PETITION - OPPOSE MERRI-BEK COUNCIL'S FORTNIGHTLY RUBBISH PICKUP PLAN

A petition (D26/248624) has been received with 534 signatories opposing Merri-bek Council's fortnightly rubbish pick up plan.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receives the petition opposing Council's fortnightly rubbish pick up plan.
2. Refers the petition opposing Council's fortnightly rubbish pick up plan to the Director Place and Environment and the Director City Infrastructure for consideration and response.

Resolution

Cr Miles moved, Cr Davidson seconded -

That Council:

1. **Receives the petition opposing Council's fortnightly rubbish pick up plan.**
2. **Refers the petition opposing Council's fortnightly rubbish pick up plan to the Director Place and Environment and the Director City Infrastructure for consideration and response.**

Carried

5.2 PETITION - SHAFTSBURY STREET, COBURG TRAFFIC

A petition has been received with 61 signatories requesting Council includes Shaftsbury Street, Coburg in this year's budget (2026-2027) to progress next steps in ensuring traffic volumes will be reduced on the street.

Resolution

Cr Irvin moved, Cr Miles seconded –

That Council:

1. **Receives the petition requesting Council includes Shaftsbury Street, Coburg in this year's budget (2026-2027) to progress next steps in ensuring traffic volumes will be reduced on the street.**
2. **Refers the petition requesting Council includes Shaftsbury Street, Coburg in this year's budget (2026-2027) to progress next steps in ensuring traffic volumes will be reduced on the street to the Director Place and Environment for consideration and response.**

Carried

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A summary of questions and the responses provided, and items for which community statements were made is provided below. Questions submitted in writing and not asked are taken On Notice.

Public Question Time commenced at 6.57 pm.

Report 7.1 Kerbside Waste Reform - Fortnightly Rubbish

Council received five statements, they were presented to Council. Council received one question, it was taken on notice.

Statement 1

Pauline Carmichael made the following statement:

I want to address the arguments likely to be made in support of fortnightly rubbish collection. Councillors may argue this change has to happen now because it has been years in the making, because Merri-bek cannot flounder in the mid-50s percentile for waste diversion, and because landfill capacity is under pressure.

I urge Councillors to think about if it is the right time to vote on such a massive change to a core Council service.

- Council's own waste workers are here tonight because of unresolved industrial action. Residents in the north have just experienced what reduced collection feels like in practice — and that is more credible evidence than any online survey.
- The officer report incorrectly states that Council resolved on 10 April 2019 to move to alternate fortnightly general rubbish and recycling collections. No such resolution on fortnightly rubbish was made. So there is no obligation on Councillors to treat this as the inevitable next step of an earlier decision.
- Yes, Council has been working towards this for years — but a long-term plan is not, by itself, a reason to proceed. Plans should respond to evidence, changing conditions and community confidence — not be pushed through simply because they were once labelled the “end state.”
- The recent Southern Collection Area tender was deliberately structured to allow for either weekly or fortnightly collection. There is no procurement deadline forcing this decision tonight.
- The wider waste system is unstable. Other councils are pushing back on elements of the four-bin framework. The State Government still has not finalised household waste standards or its long-term waste treatment plan. At the same time, there is growing opposition to incineration and offshore waste processing. This is the wrong moment to lock in a major local service cut while the whole system is still shifting.
- Merri-bek is already performing above the Port Phillip regional average and above all neighbouring councils on waste diversion from landfill. Those neighbouring councils are not responding by cutting weekly rubbish collection. So why is Merri-bek rushing to do so amid so much uncertainty?
- And finally, a State Election is just months away, with several Councillors running. The community deserves confidence that a decision of this scale is being made on evidence and public interest alone — not in the shadow of broader political pressures.

Councillors may point to the trial as proof this model works. But the trial had only run for six months when it was assessed, participation in the feedback was very low, and the trial material itself says longer monitoring is needed.

The reported increase in food waste diversion to FOGO is also hard to rely on, because the trial area started from a much higher baseline than the municipal average — 76 per cent higher in fact.

Councillors may say Council has listened to feedback. But the biggest barrier raised for years has been the ban on compostable FOGO bags, and that will not be resolved until at least April 2027, when the Veolia contract expires or is retendered.

On top of that, the community has had only six days to read and respond to a materially different proposal to what was trialled before tonight. For a change with consequences this significant, that is not enough time for proper scrutiny.

Councillors may say the community supports this change. Council's own engagement says otherwise. It found strong negative sentiment — 77 per cent — especially from larger households, households with children in nappies, and residents concerned about hygiene, smell, pets and shared bins.

Councillors may say concessions will protect households that struggle. But concessions do not prove the model works. They show many households cannot manage it without extra capacity or special treatment.

And that raises a practical question: how will it make sense for apartment blocks with 20 or more households to keep weekly collection, while single households, townhouses and medium-density homes are pushed to fortnightly collection? Every concession adds 33 per cent more capacity — so what does that do to the claimed waste reduction and diversion figures?

Councillors may argue the financial case stacks up. But ratepayers are being asked to accept a reduced service without the full financial and environmental picture — including transition costs, administration, concessions, implementation, and the detail behind the claimed environmental benefits.

Councillors may point to other councils as evidence this will work in Merri-bek. But those results reflect different housing density, demographics, contamination rates, service settings and supports. Government data (if you read the detail) shows councils doing better than Merri-bek are also benefiting from factors like the CDS and more garden waste recovery — not just fortnightly rubbish collection and a reduction in capacity.

If this model cannot be justified on Merri-bek's own facts, then the case has not been made.

So the responsible decision tonight is not to rush into a reduced service. It is to keep weekly collection, fix the practical barriers first, and build the full financial and environmental case before asking residents to accept a major change.

Thank you for listening.

Statement 2

Ian Mack – Warden of the Anglican Parish of Will Will Rook made the following statement:

As a Warden of the Anglican Parish of Will Will Rook, I ask how having been in consultation with the community since 2012 on this issue, the fortnightly schedule has not been adopted?

This is incontestably both a financially prudent and environmentally sustainable change.

We all know landfill is problematic.

The real answer to the waste stream issue is to do like our forebears and stop looking at it as rubbish and recall it is a resource. We acknowledge this will require state and federal action.

However, this simple kerbside collection change is an overdue Municipal response.

7.13 pm Cr Miles left the meeting.

7.14 pm Cr Miles returned to the meeting.

Statement 3

Annitta Siliato made the following statement:

I am speaking as a resident of Pascoe Vale hoping that the decision to move to fortnightly bin collections be rejected with the view of inspiring new and innovative measures to educate people about the importance of landfill and waste management and better use of the FOGO bins instead.

At this stage it is far better to at least defer and my points below will be raised.

Rubbish collection is a core service provided by the council and as you represent rate-payers this needs to be highly considered when such decisions are made.

Many residents are already not happy with the council's approaches to many decisions so why not take a different stance and actually support the majority and find ways for all of us to work together to make this a wonderful and unique community that solves issues such as waste management as a cohort rather than take an unfavorable approach.

I believe you need to give the community a chance to prove itself before making a decision that will affect the wellbeing of many residents.

We are a very special group of residents from various cultural backgrounds and skillsets, and I am sure that we can formulate new strategies to address this issue rather than force people to order bigger bins(which in some ways does not address the issue at hand).

Alternative Approaches

Instead some new exciting initiatives could be:

Opt In for fortnightly Collections

Optional fortnightly collections with cost savings for those who would like to make this move. This will be a huge cost saving for the council as there will be no need to purchase new bins and replace old bins. It will also enable reliable data has to how many residents are ready for the fortnightly changes.

Aussie council's bold bin move as controversy over fortnightly pickups intensifies: 'Important decision' - Yahoo News Australia

Weekly bins stay as council backs a flexible model amid rising community concern

Merri-Bek School Campaign

These savings could be spent on a massive school campaign educating children on the importance of FOGO bins and waste management. We could provide special fun stickers for the bins and children could then encourage parents to make better decisions. We could even ask children to make special food scrap bins as a project to take home amongst many other activities.

Community and Business Campaign

This campaign could extend to resident groups, businesses and community organisations. This wonderful initiative would have more impact for real change rather than providing larger bins for most. It will also enhance the collaboration between all members of MerriBek in a positive manner and that would make for a wonderful story in our community.

Merri-Bek Waste Management Community Group

A waste management working group bringing members of the community together to assist with the above initiatives and advocate for change.

I feel these initiatives would be well received and would certainly make our community a wonderful place to live.

Below is a summary of concerns as to why moving to fortnightly collections is not feasible, desirable or viable at this time. I do hope that some consideration is given to the ideas above when deciding on your position. Your vote really does make a difference to the

wellbeing of many and my comments below may resonate or spark your own ideas about this important issue.

Overview of Concerns

Affect on employment for waste management staff(in an already difficult climate),

Illegal dumping,

The introduction of the 24 hour cat curfew at the same time (so more stress for residents),

Impact on elderly people and their inability to lift larger bins,

Division in the community and effect on equal opportunity for all.

Statement 4

Pauline Gavlin on behalf of Maggie Cowling, convenor of Climate Action Merri-bek, and resident of Coburg North made the following statement:

Thank you to the petitioners who have spoken up about their concerns, which helps us all understand what the needs and issues are. At CAM we share the petitioners' desire to find a way that works for everyone to divert as much waste from landfill as we can. As the council report notes, the benefits to all of us are environmental and financial.

CAM members have noticed a strong interest in solutions we posted online and we applaud the council officers' solutions-based report (item 7.1). The report's Option 1 shows Council has been listening to the needs and concerns of some residents due to their particular circumstances. For these cases, they have suggested some practical and compassionate exceptions to the standard fortnightly introduction. (Including bigger bins, maintaining weekly collection for larger apartment buildings, pensioner concessions, additional "ad hoc" collections where necessary due to household size or special events, and capacity for a case-by-case response in exceptional circumstances.) This is how we can help each other and achieve the targets for diverting waste from landfill. A third of Victoria's councils have already made the conversion and they're smashing their landfill diversion targets.

In addition to the Report's recommendations, perhaps as part of the implementation process, council could look into maintaining a permanent community outreach officer to ensure householders are well-informed about how to use their bins. This might involve an app, such as Whittlesea and other councils use, telling people what to put in which bin and when to put it out. We could also be investigating nappy recycling services (City of Greater Shepparton offers a free nappy recycling service – disposable nappies are collected and recycled into kitty litter), and non-disposable nappy washing services and concessions for their use. Nappies contribute to 13.5 per cent of landfill – it's a topic worth exploring, and we're all likely to need absorbent hygiene products at some point in our lives.

As the report mentions, reticence to use the weekly FOGO bin is in part due to misunderstandings around whether or not compostable bags or paper bags are acceptable. Some people don't want to put food waste directly into their bins, or don't have room in the fridge or freezer to store it until they're ready, etc., and want a form of bag to contain leaky food scraps. The lack of a really clear communication on this point is due to a long wait for State government standards and a complexity with the current FOGO contract. At this point, we can at least reassure people they can line the bottom of their FOGO bin with paper towelling if they don't have grass clippings/weeds etc to do the job. Again, an outreach role would help with this.

Question Time Extension

Resolution

Cr Miles moved, Cr Bolton seconded -

That question time be extended by 30 minutes at 6.21 pm.

Carried

Statement 5

Stephen Schembri made the following statement:

Regarding the fortnightly rubbish collection some Councillors have already made up their minds, while others have not, and some remain undecided. My comments are directed particularly to those who are undecided.

I have concerns about the amount of vermin proliferating. If households do not have enough bin space, residents may place additional rubbish in plastic bags outside their homes in the hope it will be collected. Birds and vermin may attack these bags, causing litter to spread and potentially block drains.

I asked that Councillors give further consideration to these issues before making a decision.

Item 7.2 Central Coburg updated framework plan and Site A1 Expressions of Interest process

Council received one question, it was presented to Council.

Raf McDonald asked Council:

Will council commit to finding Schoolhouse an equivalent space to mitigate the impact of this development on Coburg's community?

At the request of the Mayor, Director Place and Environment – Pene Winslade responded:

Council values Schoolhouse Studios and wants to see it continue to thrive.

The current rental arrangement with Coles is on an interim basis, with no equivalent supermarket premises or similar building presently available.

Council wants to help in any way we can, whether that's helping you to find other premises with other owners or finding what might be possible within Council's own facilities.

7.04 pm Cr Bolton left the meeting.

7.05 pm Cr Bolton returned to the meeting.

Item 7.3 Places for People Plan 2026

Council received one statement, it was presented to Council.

Statement

Alicia Liley made the following statement:

I have looked at the Council's Places for People Plan 2026.

While I know I have told Council before, I just remind you that as well as being active in our Community, I am a long term disabled person. Going all the way back to 1988 when my accident occurred on the 19th August and I died three times on the way to hospital in the ambulance. I live with constant pain. Permanent deafness in one ear that is sadly getting worse in my good ear plus I have a permanent, serious acquired brain injury.

So I have spent a lot of time with disabled people. We get told that we will be shown the proper respect that we deserve whilst we wait for the actions to occur. Just look at how buses and trams still do not have real disabled access - this is years after we were promised such accessibility!

For your Places for People 2026 plan to be achieved, the community needs to know the key metrics to measure outcomes and that accessibility is evident. I am exhausted of Council implementing a lot of consultation but not a lot of implementation. Or that Council has already made up their mind so that 'consultation' is just a facade. This is how I feel that the Hosken Reserve was handled.

For the Places for People Plan 2026, ten years is a long time frame for things to get lost in and actions to be maintained with differing Councillors.

Notice of Motion 8.1 Glenroy Pascoe Vale Road Activity Centre Community Safety and Revitalisation

Council received two questions, they were presented to Council.

Question 1

Andrea Bunting, convenor of Walk on Merri-bek asked Council:

Could you please advise what was the outcome of the review of the street lighting at that pedestrian crossing?

At the request of the Mayor, Director Place and Environment – Pene Winslade responded:

Pascoe Vale Road is a State road so the lighting is State infrastructure.

In actioning this Notice of Motion in 2023, we confirmed that the lighting did comply with Council's public lighting policy standards, and we wrote to the Department of Transport and Planning requesting their confirmation that it also meets the State's standards. After receiving your question today, we haven't been able to find a response to that request on file – the staff member who would know is away this week.

We'll come back to you on that, and if we haven't had the Department of Transport and Planning's response we'll follow it up again.

Question 2

Andrea Bunting, convenor of Walk on Merri-bek asked Council:

Can Council please update us on plans to improve pedestrian safety at the Belair Avenue T-intersection?

At the request of the Mayor, Director Place and Environment – Pene Winslade responded:

Funding has been sought but not at this time granted to council for a formal pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Bel Air Avenue and Pascoe Vale Road. Council continues to advocate for road safety improvements in Glenroy including addressing concerns at the pedestrian signals on Pascoe Vale Road near Post Office Place.

While the intersection crossing point is not being upgraded, works are being progressed on Bel Air Avenue on the approach to the Pascoe Vale Road intersection. This includes the installation of trees and garden beds in the road space that will improve pedestrian safety and amenity on the street. These works will be undertaken in the coming months. Further improvements to road safety in the precinct will be considered during the development of Council's Road Safety Plan which will be developed over the coming financial year.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS - QUESTIONS

Council received three questions, they were presented to Council:

Industrial action

Question 1

Jessie Rye asked Council:

Mayor and councillors, will you join me in standing up for your workers?

Mayor, Cr Abboud responded:

Some Councillors may not want to make a personal commitment either way. I no longer attend rallies but that doesn't stop me supporting the idea of people protesting and raising their voices and having their say.

At the invitation of the Mayor:

Councillors Bolton, Svensson, Iwasaki, Theodosis and Pulford, confirmed their support of workers and their attendance at the rally.

7.30 pm *Cr Bolton left the meeting.*

O'Hea Street, Coburg

Romeo Delorenzis asked Council:

Question 2

What evaluation was done by Council safety engineering regarding the viewing distance of the vehicles approaching O'Hea street from the east after stopping at the intersection as the current viewing is reduced and obstructed from plant or buildings for both the bike riders and motor vehicles?

Question 3

Why hasn't Council installed signs warning bicycle riders on the footpath to slow down when approaching the intersections. Shouldn't the safety onus and accountability be on both the motor vehicle driver and the bicycle riders?

7.32 pm *Cr Bolton returned to the meeting.*

At the request of the Mayor, Director Place and Environment – Pene Winslade responded:

Before any major works Council will always do engineering, traffic and safety assessments, and undertake road safety audits approved by the State Government. A team member from Transport Planning will contact you with further information regarding this incidence.

7.33 pm *Cr Yildiz left the meeting.*

Public Question Time concluded at 7.33 pm.

COUNCIL REPORTS

7.1 KERBSIDE WASTE REFORM - FORTNIGHTLY RUBBISH

Executive summary

Council has committed to reform its kerbside waste service in stages to progress strategic goals to reduce waste to landfill, minimise greenhouse gas emissions, and provide a cost effective and equitable service for ratepayers that aligns with State Government policy. Council recovers the cost of providing kerbside waste services through the cost recovery model of a waste charge paid by ratepayers.

In 2021, after three stages of extensive community consultation, Council adopted its Kerbside Waste Service and Charge Policy (the Policy). This included three significant stages of reform, two of which have already been delivered: booked hard waste and the four-bin kerbside service, including FOGO and glass. The final stage is transitioning to a fortnightly general rubbish collection service – subject to implementation and evaluation of a trial, education programs and evaluation of waste patterns (as outlined in Previous Council Decisions).

Council's adopted long-term goal is to divert 80 per cent of kerbside waste from landfill by 2030. This aligns with the Victorian Government's broader target to divert 80 per cent of all waste from landfill by 2030. Council's kerbside target is intended to be achieved through both reducing waste generation overall and improving diversion to recycling and organics streams. The main reasons for this goal are:

1. To reduce the significant environmental impact of landfill – through the land it impacts directly and through the very high methane emissions that occur when organic waste (food and garden waste) breaks down in landfill.
2. To reduce costs to the ratepayer – landfill is by far the most expensive waste stream to process, exacerbated by the rapid increase in State Government levies to disincentivise rubbish going to landfill.
3. To reduce impact on landfill capacity – the capacity of Melbourne's existing landfills will progressively run out over the next 15 years.

While the introduction of weekly food and garden organics (FOGO) collections for all households in 2023 has significantly increased the amount of food waste diverted for composting, Merri-bek's overall diversion rate sits at 52 per cent (up from 48 per cent in 2022). This means Council remains a long way from achieving its goal of 80 per cent diversion by 2030. Evidence from Merri-bek's trial and from other Victorian councils indicates that a fortnightly rubbish service, supported by weekly FOGO, can significantly improve landfill diversion (see Figure 1 on page 6).

A six-month trial of fortnightly rubbish collections commenced in July 2025. The trial included areas of Brunswick, Brunswick West and Hadfield. It was designed to test the anticipated benefits of fortnightly rubbish, the impact of potential unintended consequences (e.g. dumped rubbish, contamination), and behavioural change.

Trial evaluation results to December 2025 indicate that the fortnightly service achieved a 19 per cent reduction in waste sent to landfill across all trial areas and a near doubling of food waste diverted from rubbish bins to the FOGO bins. During the trial period, there was no evidence of significant change in contamination, illegal dumping, or household waste deposited in public litter bins.

The trial also included a simple process for households to access concessions, enabling eligible households to receive a larger rubbish bin at no additional cost where they had young children in nappies, significant medical needs, or other relevant circumstances. Uptake of concessions was approximately four to five per cent of households.

On this basis, the trial demonstrated that fortnightly rubbish collections are feasible in Merri-bek and can contribute to reduced landfill, increased food waste diversion, cost savings, and emissions reduction. This could deliver approximately \$16 million in savings to ratepayers, reduce waste sent to landfill by approximately 35,000 tonnes and save over 15,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions over 10 years.

In response to trial learnings and community feedback, it is recommended that a municipality-wide roll-out of fortnightly rubbish collections be modified to include a 140-litre standard size rubbish bin, rather than the 120 litres used in the trial, and continue easy access to concessions for eligible households.

The final round of community engagement on fortnightly rubbish took place in March and April 2026. The transition to fortnightly rubbish collections represents a significant service change for the community. As expected, feedback included opposition and uncertainty from some residents, as well as support or acceptance from others.

While fortnightly rubbish collections would represent a substantial change for many residents, council officers have considered the potential financial and environmental benefits alongside the trial outcomes, community feedback, and proposed service adjustments. The trial results, experience from other Victorian councils, and changes proposed in response to community feedback are relevant considerations in determining whether to proceed with a municipal-wide roll-out from July 2027.

This report puts forward two options.

Option 1 would proceed with a modified fortnightly rubbish change – increasing the volume and offering more supports to the community. On balance, Option 1 would deliver stronger financial and environmental outcomes, including reduced landfill, increased food waste recovery, lower emissions and lower long-term costs to ratepayers. However, it requires a significant service change and careful mitigation of practical impacts for households, particularly larger households, households with nappies, medical needs, pet waste, limited bin storage or shared bin arrangements.

Option 2 would retain a weekly rubbish service in Merri-bek. It would better preserve current service expectations and respond to community concern but would mean Council does not realise the forecast financial savings or progress towards its adopted landfill diversion targets to the same extent. Should Council choose to proceed with Option 2, it is recommended that fortnightly rubbish collections in the trial areas cease. The trial and engagement costs have provided Council with local evidence to inform its decision. If Option 2 is selected, the forecast longer-term benefits of fortnightly rubbish would not be realised.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes that the proposed introduction of a fortnightly rubbish collection service is the last stage of Council's major kerbside waste reform program adopted by Council in 2021, following previous implementation of booked hard waste and the four-bin kerbside service.
2. Notes that a fortnightly rubbish service would save ratepayers at least \$16 million over the next decade when compared to a weekly rubbish service.
3. Thanks the 3,000 households and businesses in parts of Hadfield and Brunswick/Brunswick West that took part in the trial of fortnightly rubbish.
4. Notes the evaluation findings from the fortnightly rubbish Trial during July–December 2025, which reduced waste sent to landfill by 19 per cent and almost doubled the amount of food waste recovered via food and garden organics (FOGO) bins.
5. Thanks the community for almost 2,000 contributions received during eight weeks of community engagement about fortnightly rubbish (detailed at Attachment 1).

6. Having considered the trial findings, community feedback, Council's adopted policy settings, financial implications, environmental outcomes, equity impacts and implementation requirements, resolves to endorse one of the following options:
 - a) Option 1: endorses the transition to a municipality-wide fortnightly rubbish service as standard from July 2027, including the policy adjustments, concessions, implementation supports and operational measures outlined in this report.
or
 - b) Option 2: Resolves to retain weekly general rubbish collections as Council's standard service and discontinue the fortnightly rubbish Trial arrangements in the current Trial areas.
7. If having resolved Option 1 in point (6) above, authorises the Chief Executive Officer to update and release Council's *Kerbside Waste Service and Charge Policy* to reflect Council's decision and the service adjustments outlined in this report as follows, together with any necessary administrative amendments:
 - a) Increase the standard rubbish bin to 140 litres (instead of 120 litres);
 - b) Increase the maximum volume for rubbish to 480 litres per fortnight (instead of 360 litres in the Trial), with an associated increase in the waste charge multiplier;
 - c) Provide ad hoc rubbish collections for a fee on an as-needed basis (instead of an annual fee option for ongoing weekly rubbish collections);
 - d) Rename the Financial Hardship concession to a Pensioner Concession, applicable to rubbish and FOGO bins, and streamline eligibility to align with the Municipal Rates Concession;
 - e) Provide weekly rubbish collection service, with adjusted charge, for large apartment buildings (e.g. 20+ households) where Council deems that fortnightly rubbish is not viable; and
 - f) Provide operational discretion for delegated Officers to make manageable service adjustments for case-by-case exceptional circumstances, including on compassionate grounds.
8. If having resolved Option 2 in point (6) above, authorises the Chief Executive Officer to update and release Council's *Kerbside Waste Service and Charge Policy* to reflect Council's decision and remove the section relating to the fortnightly service and the fortnightly Trial.

Resolution

Cr Bolton moved, Cr Irvin seconded -

That Council:

- 1. Notes that the proposed introduction of a fortnightly rubbish collection service is the last stage of Council's major kerbside waste reform program adopted by Council in 2021, following previous implementation of booked hard waste and the four-bin kerbside service.**
- 2. Notes that a fortnightly rubbish service would save ratepayers at least \$16 million over the next decade when compared to a weekly rubbish service.**
- 3. Thanks the 3,000 households and businesses in parts of Hadfield and Brunswick/Brunswick West that took part in the trial of fortnightly rubbish.**

4. **Notes the evaluation findings from the fortnightly rubbish Trial during July–December 2025, which reduced waste sent to landfill by 19 per cent and almost doubled the amount of food waste recovered via food and garden organics (FOGO) bins.**
5. **Thanks the community for almost 2,000 contributions received during eight weeks of community engagement about fortnightly rubbish (detailed at Attachment 1).**
6. **Having considered the trial findings, community feedback, Council’s adopted policy settings, financial implications, environmental outcomes, equity impacts and implementation requirements, resolves to endorse the transition to a municipality-wide fortnightly rubbish service as standard from July 2027 or as soon as practicable after this date (no later than October 2027), including the policy adjustments, concessions, implementation supports and operational measures outlined in this report. Contacts residents about bin size preferences in early 2027.**
7. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to update and release Council’s Kerbside Waste Service and Charge Policy to reflect Council’s decision and the service adjustments outlined in this report as follows, together with any necessary administrative amendments:**
 - a) **Increase the standard rubbish bin to 140 litres (instead of 120 litres);**
 - b) **Increase the maximum volume for rubbish to 480 litres per fortnight (instead of 360 litres in the Trial), with an associated increase in the waste charge multiplier;**
 - c) **Provide ad hoc rubbish collections for a fee on an as-needed basis (instead of an annual fee option for ongoing weekly rubbish collections);**
 - d) **Rename the Financial Hardship concession to a Pensioner Concession, applicable to rubbish and FOGO bins, and streamline eligibility to align with the Municipal Rates Concession;**
 - e) **Provide weekly rubbish collection service, with adjusted charge, for large apartment buildings (e.g. 20+ households) where Council deems that fortnightly rubbish is not viable; and**
 - f) **Provide operational discretion for delegated Officers to make manageable service adjustments for case-by-case exceptional circumstances, including on compassionate grounds.**
8. **Further to point 7 above, introduces additional measures to make fortnightly waste collection easier for households, including:**
 - a) **Expanding the large family concession to be a “larger household” concession, with any households with six or more residents eligible for a free upsize.**
 - b) **Introducing a concession for households that foster multiple animals on an ongoing basis (three or more animals).**
9. **Requests Council officers to contact Merri-be real estate agents to encourage them to distribute information to renters about the kerbside service in Merri-bek, including:**
 - i) **Circumstances when renters are able to order free larger bins without needing their landlord’s permission (if they are eligible for a concession).**
 - ii) **Circumstances where renters will need the property owner’s permission to change a bin size or service level.**

10. **By September 2026, receives a briefing on further measures that could make fortnightly waste collection easier for households, including:**
 - a) **The provision of free paper bags for kitchen caddies.**
 - b) **Further incentives to reduce nappies in landfill, including exploring expanding existing reuseable nappy subsidies, and a subsidised nappy recycling program.**
11. **Develop and implement an evidence-based program to encourage greater use of FOGO. This would include:**
 - a) **Analysis of current FOGO use (bin lift rates, household types not using FOGO and the reasons why not).**
 - b) **Extensive promotion of the use of the FOGO bin – including information about the need to reduce landfill (landfill capacity), and the environmental and cost benefits of removing FOGO from the landfill bin.**

7.34 pm *Cr Yildiz returned to the meeting during the debate.*

7.54 pm *Cr Pulford left the meeting.*

7.57 pm *Cr Pulford returned to the meeting.*

Carried

8.07 pm *Cr Miles left the meeting.*

7.2 CENTRAL COBURG UPDATED FRAMEWORK PLAN AND SITE A1 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST PROCESS

Executive summary

Council has been working with the Merri-bek community for almost two decades to realise a vision for Central Coburg as a vibrant civic, cultural and economic heart. This vision has consistently focused on supporting local jobs and businesses, delivering diverse housing close to transport and services, creating high-quality community spaces, and establishing a green and inviting public realm.

Important foundations have been established to revitalise the precinct. The level crossing has been removed, the planning permit has been issued for the Coburg Health Hub to commence construction later this year, and Council has committed to a new library and piazza in the heart of Coburg for construction in 2028. Together, these developments create momentum for the full precinct to be delivered over the next decade.

In October 2025, Council endorsed the draft Central Coburg Framework ('Coburg is here') for community engagement. A comprehensive six-week engagement program was undertaken, including targeted engagement with key stakeholders, local traders and community groups. Feedback was received from a broad cross-section of the community and reported to Council in March 2026.

The updated Central Coburg Framework (Framework) presented in this report responds directly to that feedback. It includes design and built form refinements to reduce impacts on surrounding community assets, including increased setbacks and reduced scale for the building at the southern end of 28 Victoria Street, adjacent to the library and opposite the church precinct, and a desire to deliver community and creative uses to activate that site. It also includes further consideration of access, movement and car parking, as well as increased opportunities for affordable commercial and creative spaces within the precinct.

These updates strengthen the Framework and deliver on Council's long-standing objectives to:

- Create more jobs and a thriving economy in central Coburg.

- Deliver great design and built form with a vibrant, aesthetically appealing streetscape and identity for Coburg.
- Create beautiful and inviting new parks and open spaces for the community.
- Improve and redistribute public car parks, roads, and pedestrian access to make sure central Coburg is convenient and accessible.
- Provide diverse housing choices for families and other future Coburg residents, and contribute to closing Merri-bek’s social housing gap.

This updated Framework represents a significant milestone in the revitalisation of Central Coburg. It reflects Council’s commitment to listening to the community and refining its approach to achieve better outcomes.

Should Council endorse the updated Framework, the next phase of work will focus on developing a precinct business case, with further consideration of feasibility, staging and delivery arrangements. If the Framework is endorsed, Council will make progressive decisions about scope, funding, staging, procurement and delivery for each stage of the program. The immediate next decisions would relate to a precinct business case and procurement and delivery approach for a first stage of the program.

If this report recommendations are endorsed, officers will also release an open EOI seeking ideas from community organisations with an active presence in Coburg for the community services and benefit they could deliver if they purchased and developed the site known in the Framework as ‘A1’, in the Southern portion of 28 Victoria Street, Coburg. Pending outcomes from the EOI, Council would make a subsequent decision about scope, focus and a potential second Request for Information process leading to a sale. Controls are proposed on Site A1 which address community feedback.

Other decisions over the course of the next 12-18 months would potentially include endorsement a procurement approach and contract for the next stage of the Central Coburg program.

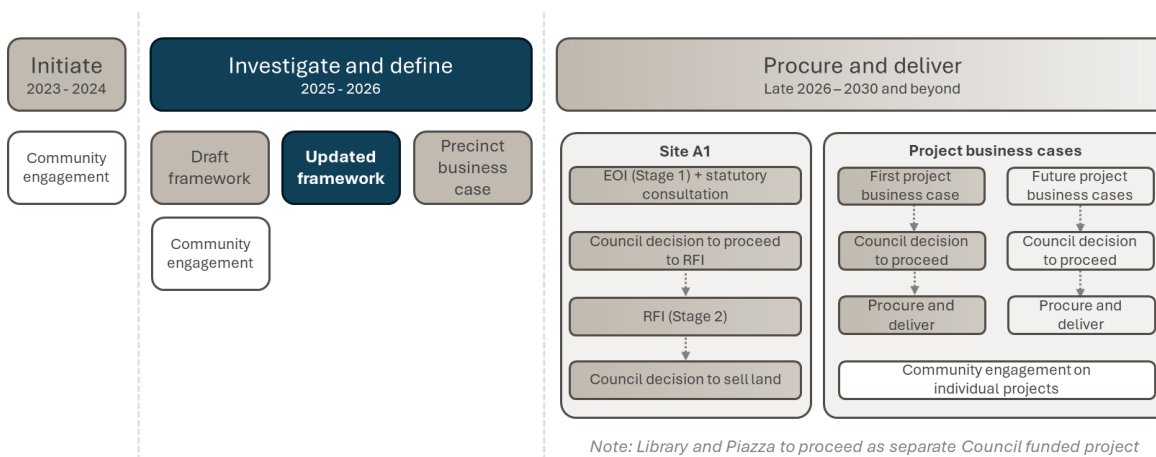


Figure 1: Central Coburg Program project lifecycle

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorses the updated Central Coburg framework (Attachment 1) and development standards (Attachment 2).
2. Notes how the feedback provided during the engagement has been reflected in the updated Central Coburg framework (Attachment 1) and informed the development standards (Attachment 2).
3. Publishes the updated Central Coburg framework (Attachment 1) and development standards (Attachment 2) Council’s Conversations Merri-bek page.

4. Authorises the Director Place and Environment to make any minor refinements to the updated Central Coburg framework and development standards.
5. Receives a report in August 2026 with a business case for the Central Coburg precinct.
6. Commences an open Expression of Interest ('EOI') process to invite organisations with a local connection to put forward ideas for potential community uses they might develop and deliver on the southern portion of the Council-owned site at 28 Victoria Street, Coburg, with dimensions approximately 26.9m x 45.4m ('Site A1').
7. Following the EOI, receives a report confirming next steps for this site, including optimal uses, and a recommended shortlist (subject to suitable EOI(s) being received), that may progress to a potential Request for Information (RFI) process to submit proposals to purchase the site from Council and use it to deliver community services and outcomes.
8. In accordance with section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, authorises public notice be posted on Council's website and feedback sought on Council's intention to sell the site to a successful respondent pending Council decisions on the EOI and RFI processes.

Resolution

Cr Irvin moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -

That Council:

1. **Endorses the updated Central Coburg framework (Attachment 1) and development standards (Attachment 2).**
2. **Notes how the feedback provided during the engagement has been reflected in the updated Central Coburg framework (Attachment 1) and informed the development standards (Attachment 2).**
3. **Publishes the updated Central Coburg framework (Attachment 1) and development standards (Attachment 2) Council's Conversations Merri-bek page.**
4. **Authorises the Director Place and Environment to make any minor refinements to the updated Central Coburg framework and development standards.**
5. **Receives a report at a future council meeting on accessibility measures and considerations for the Central Coburg plan, and that an accessibility consideration be made at different stages of the project to ensure that no changes get made which make the precinct inaccessible, and authorises the Director Place and Environment to reflect this into the Framework Plan and Design Principles. The accessible assessment needs to consider a wide range of disabilities including but not limited to mobility disabilities, vision impairment, hearing impairment and other disabilities.**
6. **Commences an open Expression of Interest ('EOI') process to invite organisations with a local connection to put forward ideas for potential community uses they might develop and deliver on the southern portion of the Council-owned site at 28 Victoria Street, Coburg, with dimensions approximately 26.9m x 45.4m ('Site A1').**
7. **Following the EOI, receives a report confirming next steps for this site, including optimal uses, and a recommended shortlist (subject to suitable EOI(s) being received), that may progress to a potential Request for Information (RFI) process to submit proposals to purchase the site from Council and use it to deliver community services and outcomes.**

8. In accordance with section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, authorises public notice be posted on Council's website and feedback sought on Council's intention to sell the site to a successful respondent pending Council decisions on the EOI and RFI processes.

8.07 pm Cr Bolton left the meeting during the debate.
8.07 pm Cr Yildiz left the meeting during the debate.
8.08pm Cr Bolton returned to the meeting during the debate.
8.08 pm Cr Yildiz returned to the meeting during the debate.
8.08 pm Cr Miles returned to the meeting during the debate.
8.09 pm Cr Theodosis left the meeting during the debate.
8.10 pm Cr Theodosis returned to the meeting during the debate.

Carried

Cr Bolton voted against the motion.

7.3 PLACES FOR PEOPLE PLAN 2026

Executive summary

Places for People (the Plan) is Council's long-term strategy to deliver high-quality public spaces that support the vibrancy, sustainability and liveability of Merri-bek's shopping strips and activity centres.

The Plan sets out Council's approach to improving public spaces and prioritising projects. It will guide future investment in the public realm by identifying opportunities for improvement, addressing key challenges, and maximising the benefits of public space. It also establishes principles to guide and measure the impact of future public realm projects in activity centres and shopping strips.

Places for People sits alongside and complements Council's two other significant public realm plans: *Streets for People* which focuses on Merri-bek's streets and transport infrastructure; and the *Open Space Strategy* which sets out how we plan, deliver and maintain open spaces in Merri-bek.

Council endorsed a draft *Places for People* plan community engagement in December 2025. Community engagement was undertaken for five weeks from Thursday 12 February to Wednesday 18 March 2026. The engagement sought feedback to understand the community's perspective on challenges and opportunities in their local public spaces. There was general community support for the plan with key feedback points including:

- Equity in public space provision
- Greening, shade and climate comfort
- Safety, accessibility and movement
- Balancing different needs in our activity centres
- Connecting to Country

Places for People frames existing budget allocations for activity centre upgrades in Council's long term capital works program. This plan will provide strategic direction and a framework for prioritising projects in activity centres and shopping strips.

Officer recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the findings of the community engagement on the draft *Places for People Plan*.
2. Adopts *Places for People* (Attachment 1) for implementation.

3. Revokes the Shopping Strip Renewal Policy 2015–2025 and notes that it is superseded by and incorporated into *Places for People*.
4. Authorises the Director Place and Environment to make minor changes to the policy document for publication, as required.

Resolution

Cr Davidson moved, Cr Yildiz seconded -

That Council:

1. **Notes the findings of the community engagement on the draft Places for People Plan.**
2. **Adopts Places for People (Attachment 1) for implementation.**
3. **Changes page 27 of the Places for People (Attachment 1) to identify the Pascoe Vale Road opportunity as a high priority project and provides a report back to council by December 2026 with recommendations for public realm improvements to the pedestrian areas of Pascoe Vale Road.**
4. **Revokes the Shopping Strip Renewal Policy 2015–2025 and notes that it is superseded by and incorporated into Places for People Plan.**
5. **Authorises the Director Place and Environment to make minor changes to the policy document for publication, as required.**

Carried unanimously

7.4 CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES STRATEGY (2026-2029)

Executive Summary

Children and families are at the heart of Merri-bek. Their voices, ideas and lived experiences help shape a vibrant, caring and connected community. By listening deeply and acting with purpose, Council, our partners and the wider community demonstrate that children and families are valued, celebrated and central to our city's future. The Children, Young People and Families Strategy 2026–2029 (Attachment 1) sets out an inspiring shared vision for how agencies, governments, families, and the community will work together to create opportunities, strengthen wellbeing, and support every child and family to thrive in Merri-bek.

It identifies three key priority areas: Health and Wellbeing; Connection and Inclusion; Learning and Thriving. A series of strategic objectives are planned under each of these priority areas that will form the basis of a two-year Implementation Plan, incorporating detailed actions, time frames and resourcing requirements. The strategy informs Council's existing operations, as well as identified collaboration and partnering opportunities with external organisations and the community to deliver on the key strategies.

The strategy was developed through a process of research and data analysis along with a comprehensive stakeholder and community engagement process. Over 4,000 individual comments and pieces of feedback were collected from approximately 1,400 participants through a wide range of methods. A detailed Implementation Plan that outlines specific actions, timelines and responsibilities is being developed to support the delivery of the strategy.

Officer Recommendation

That Council adopts the Children, Young People and Families Strategy 2026-2029.

Resolution

Cr Svensson moved, Cr Iwasaki seconded -

That Council adopts the Children, Young People and Families Strategy 2026-2029.

8.26 pm Cr Davidson left the meeting before the vote.

Carried unanimously

7.5 LIBRARY SERVICES STRATEGY

Executive Summary

Extensive community consultation, staff engagement, benchmarking and research was undertaken to inform the development of the Library Services Strategy 2026-2031.

The strategy has four overarching aims that align with community expectations and will form the basis of annual operational plans for the library service from July 2026:

- Welcoming places: Merri-bek Libraries are welcoming, flexible and inclusive places for everyone in the community.
- Inspiring collections: Our collections inform, inspire and entertain, evolving to meet the changing needs and interests of the community.
- Community connections: Programs and services provide more opportunities to create, celebrate, learn and connect at the library.
- Contemporary library service: Library staff reflect our diverse community, and are trained to provide an excellent, tailored service to the Merri-bek community.

At the March Meeting, Council approved the draft Library Services Strategy for exhibition with some adjusted wording. The draft Library Services Strategy was subsequently updated and released for public exhibition from 20 April – 10 May 2026. Eight submissions were received.

A final version of the Library Services Strategy is at Attachment 1 to this report.

Officer Recommendation

That Council adopts the Library Services Strategy 2026-2031.

Resolution

Cr Irvin moved, Cr Bolton seconded -

That Council adopts the Library Services Strategy 2026-2031.

8.29 pm Cr Pulford left the meeting during the debate.

8.30 pm Cr Davidson returned to the meeting during the debate.

8.30 pm Cr Pulford returned to the meeting during the debate.

Carried unanimously

7.6 CARBON OFFSETS UPDATE

Executive summary

In 2008, Council set its ambition to be carbon neutral as an organisation by 2012. This was achieved and Council was certified as carbon neutral in 2012 by the Federal Government's Climate Active program (previously NCOS), the third Local Government Area in Australia to do so and the second in Victoria.

Council has adopted an ambitious corporate carbon target, of 80-100 per cent reduction by 2030, against a 2011-12 baseline. This excludes offsets. This target was reiterated in the Climate Emergency Action Plan endorsed in 2025.

Council spent \$65,000 on offsets (on 6,600 tons offset) in 2024. If we had not reduced our emissions so significantly over the past decade, we would have needed to spend significantly more on offsets to achieve our certified carbon neutral status.

Since 2012, Council has purchased carbon offsets each year to address residual emissions and maintain Climate Active carbon neutral certification. In recent years, Council's Carbon Offsets Policy has guided the approach and criteria for the purchase of carbon offsets. In July 2025, Council resolved to pause its Carbon Offsets Policy for up to 12 months and investigate viable local offset options for Council's residual emissions, including through work with neighbouring councils and the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action. Council is therefore no longer certified carbon neutral but continues to work towards its 80 to 100 per cent reduction in corporate emissions by 2030, excluding offsets.

A review of options for local offsets, in collaboration with neighbouring councils and Northern Alliance of Greenhouse Action (NAGA) has not identified local offset options that are currently available, credible and affordable at the scale required. Officers therefore recommend that Council continue to pause offset purchasing and redirect the available offsets budget to direct emissions reduction projects within Council operations.

This approach prioritises actual emissions reductions over the purchase of offsets, while maintaining transparency through annual corporate carbon reporting and independent external verification. The funds previously allocated to offsets would be redirected to corporate carbon reduction initiatives (with a small amount reserved for biannual independent verification of Council's corporate carbon reporting).

Officer recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes that a comprehensive review of local high-quality carbon offset options (including work continuing through Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action or NAGA) has not identified viable or affordable new alternatives.
2. Continues to pause the Carbon Offsets Policy and associated offset purchasing until local, high quality and affordable offset options become available, or Council considers its post-2030 corporate emissions target.
3. Notes that the organisation is continuing to reduce corporate carbon emissions with the goal of meeting the adopted 2030 target of an 80-100 per cent reduction.
4. Continues to undertake annual corporate carbon reporting, with biannual independent external verification (at a cost of no more than \$10,000 biannually, reserved from offset savings), to maintain public transparency and accountability.
5. Redirects the balance of the offsets budget, estimated at \$60,000 per year after independent verification costs, to Council's Corporate Carbon Reduction budget to support direct emissions reduction projects.

Resolution

Cr Iwasaki moved, Cr Miles seconded -

That Council:

1. **Notes that a comprehensive review of local high-quality carbon offset options (including work continuing through Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action or NAGA) has not identified viable or affordable new alternatives.**
2. **Continues to pause the Carbon Offsets Policy and associated offset purchasing until local, high quality and affordable offset options become available, or Council considers its post-2030 corporate emissions target.**
3. **Notes that the organisation is continuing to reduce corporate carbon emissions with the goal of meeting the adopted 2030 target of an 80-100 per cent reduction.**
4. **Continues to undertake annual corporate carbon reporting, with biannual independent external verification (at a cost of no more than \$10,000 biannually, reserved from offset savings), to maintain public transparency and accountability.**
5. **Redirects the balance of the offsets budget, estimated at \$60,000 per year after independent verification costs, to Council's Corporate Carbon Reduction budget to support direct emissions reduction projects.**

Carried unanimously

7.7 RATES HARDSHIP POLICY

Executive Summary

Council's draft updated Rates Hardship Policy was presented to Council at its meeting on 8 April 2026, Council endorsed the Draft Rates Hardship Policy for community consultation, ahead of receiving the final policy for adoption at the June meeting. On advice from officers, the consultation period was extended from the original proposed period (5 May – 19 May) to commence earlier, on the 28 April via Conversations Merri-bek and other channels.

The Draft Rates Hardship Policy was comprehensively revised to ensure alignment with the *Ministerial Guidelines Relating to the Payment of Rates and Charges* issued in late 2025, and to reflect contemporary best practice. The review resulted in several substantial changes, including:

- The removal of all non-rates hardship provisions from this policy, with those matters to be addressed through a separate standalone policy.
- Structural and procedural changes to ensure consistency with the Ministerial Guidelines and the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- Minor administrative and operational updates to improve clarity, consistency and application.

At the close of the submission period, one submission was received. A summary of the submission received, together with Council Officer response is provided in the issues section of this report. This report is recommending minor administrative changes to the Draft Hardship Policy as a result of the community consultation process. These are further discussed in the issues section of this report.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopts the revised Rates Hardship Policy, at Attachment 1 to this report;
2. Writes to the submitter to thank them for their submission and advise them of the outcomes of Council's decision, including as it relates to their specific submission.

Resolution

Cr Irvin moved, Cr Svensson seconded -

That Council:

1. **Adopts the revised Rates Hardship Policy, at Attachment 1 to this report;**
2. **Writes to the submitter to thank them for their submission and advise them of the outcomes of Council's decision, including as it relates to their specific submission.**

Carried unanimously

7.8 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 APRIL 2026

This report presents the Financial Management Report for the financial year to date period ending 30 April 2026. A detailed financial review was undertaken across the organisation at the end of February 2026. The results of this review are included in this report as the Annual Forecast.

For the ten months ended 30 April 2026 an operating surplus of \$57.8 million was achieved, which is \$0.3 million (0%) lower than the year-to-date (YTD) budget of \$58.0 million. As set out in the issues section of this report, operating surplus funds do not convert to immediately available cash to Council. The accounting surplus includes items such as non-cash contributions, capital grants and is used to fund items such as loan repayments, the rates funded capital works program and transfers (savings) via reserves.

Council has spent \$43.6 million on capital expenditure, which is tracking below the YTD budget of \$65.1 million. After the detailed review of the program undertaken at the end of February, a total program of \$68.9 million is forecast, with \$25.3 million remaining.

Officer Recommendation

That Council notes the Financial Management Report for the period ending 30 April 2026 included as Attachment 1 to this report.

Resolution

Cr Irvin moved, Cr Svensson seconded -

That Council notes the Financial Management Report for the period ending 30 April 2026 included as Attachment 1 to this report.

Carried unanimously

7.9 GOVERNANCE REPORT - JUNE 2026 - CYCLICAL REPORT

Executive Summary

The Governance report is prepared as a monthly standing report to Council which provides a single reporting platform for a range of statutory compliance, transparency, and governance related matters.

This Governance report includes:

- A summary of the minutes of Advisory Committees and Groups.
- The Arts Advisory Committee's recommendation to purchase the artwork as listed in the officer recommendation.
- Records of Meetings, with a recommendation that Council notes the records.
- Responses to Public Question Time items taken on notice at the 11 March and 8 April 2026 Council meetings, with a recommendation that Council notes the responses.
- A recommendation to adopt the Councillor Support, Expenses and Resources Policy, as reviewed.
- A report on Tyre Dumping in response to the Notice of Motion (September 2025 resolution).

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the summary of minutes from Advisory Committees to Council, at Attachment 1 to this report:
 - a) Arts Advisory Committee held 19 May 2026.
2. Endorses the recommendation of the Arts Advisory Committee meeting held 19 May 2026 and in accordance with the *Art Acquisition and Collection Development Policy*, and approves the following artwork donations and purchases for the Merri-bek Art Collection:
 - a) Mai Ei, *Where is a Place for Me to Sleep in Peace*, 2021, photographic print (\$6,000)
 - b) Safa El Samad, *Textiles in Gaza*, 2025, calico and polyester thread (\$5,000)
 - c) Judy Kuo, *Labour of Love*, 2026, felt tip marker on paper (\$60)
 - d) Judy Kuo, *Create Together*, 2026, felt tip marker on paper (\$60)
 - e) Monica Oppen & Peter Lyssiotis, *War Against War/War or Peace*, 2025, digital and print book (donation from the artists)
 - f) Noel Counihan, 5 paintings, 2 drawings, 7 prints (donation from the Malcolm Macmillan Collection)
 - g) Chris Bond, *Painting after Michelle's brain surgery*, 2007, oil on linen on MDF (donation from Olivia Poloni, storage housing costs \$7,000).
3. Notes the Records of Meetings, at Attachment 2 to this report.
4. Notes responses to questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at the 11 March and 8 April 2026 Council meetings, provided as Attachment 3 to this report.
5. Adopts the Councillor Support, Expenses and Resources Policy at Attachment 4 to this report.
6. Notes the report on Tyre Dumping in response to the Notice of Motion (September

2025 resolution).

Resolution

Cr Svensson moved, Cr Miles seconded -

That Council:

- 1. Notes the summary of minutes from Advisory Committees to Council, at Attachment 1 to this report:**
 - a) Arts Advisory Committee held 19 May 2026.**
- 2. Endorses the recommendation of the Arts Advisory Committee meeting held 19 May 2026 and in accordance with the Art Acquisition and Collection Development Policy, and approves the following artwork donations and purchases for the Merri-bek Art Collection:**
 - a) Mai Ei, Where is a Place for Me to Sleep in Peace, 2021, photographic print (\$6,000)**
 - b) Safa El Samad, Textiles in Gaza, 2025, calico and polyester thread (\$5,000)**
 - c) Judy Kuo, Labour of Love, 2026, felt tip marker on paper (\$60)**
 - d) Judy Kuo, Create Together, 2026, felt tip marker on paper (\$60)**
 - e) Monica Oppen & Peter Lyssiotis, War Against War/War or Peace, 2025, digital and print book (donation from the artists)**
 - f) Noel Counihan, 5 paintings, 2 drawings, 7 prints (donation from the Malcolm Macmillan Collection)**
 - g) Chris Bond, Painting after Michelle's brain surgery, 2007, oil on linen on MDF (donation from Olivia Poloni, storage housing costs \$7,000).**
- 3. Notes the Records of Meetings, at Attachment 2 to this report.**
- 4. Notes responses to questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at the 11 March and 8 April 2026 Council meetings, provided as Attachment 3 to this report.**
- 5. Adopts the Councillor Support, Expenses and Resources Policy at Attachment 4 to this report.**
- 6. Notes the report on Tyre Dumping in response to the Notice of Motion (September 2025 resolution).**

8.43 pm Cr Theodosia left the meeting before the vote.

Carried unanimously

NOTICES OF MOTION

8.1 GLENROY PASCOE VALE ROAD ACTIVITY CENTRE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND REVITALISATION

Motion

That Council:

- 1. Recognises the importance of revitalising and beautifying Pascoe Vale Road (a State Road) within the Glenroy Activity Centre to improve visual appeal, public amenity, strengthen community pride, increase perceptions of safety and support local economic growth.**
- 2. Recognises ongoing community and trader concerns regarding safety, amenity, and cleanliness throughout the precinct, and acknowledges the necessity for collaborative, multi-stakeholder approaches to revitalisation between Council, State**

Government, traders, property owners, and key stakeholders.

3. Requests officers undertake an audit of the Glenroy Pascoe Vale Road Activity Centre to identify priority maintenance, beautification, safety and activation works, including opportunities for Tricky Spot tree plantings, damaged bollards and pedestrian railings, graffiti removal and pressure cleaning requirements, and report back to Council by November 2026 outlining the findings, proposed priority actions and recommendations for further improvements.
4. Requests officers incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in all future design and delivery works within the activity centre, with a view to improving community safety and fostering a welcoming, pedestrian-friendly environment.
5. Continues to engage with traders and landlords and property owners to address concerns related to shopfront cleanliness and presentation, and support activation of shopfronts to create a more vibrant and inviting streetscape.
6. The Mayor writes to Coles (and the relevant state MP), seeking their collaboration in improving the amenity and safety of their carpark, including enhanced landscaping, lighting, maintenance, and a more attractive community environment.
7. The Mayor writes to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety and the local State Member advocating for streetscape and infrastructure improvements along Pascoe Vale Road as a key activity centre.

Resolution

Cr Davidson moved, Cr Miles seconded -

That Council:

1. **Recognises the importance of revitalising and beautifying Pascoe Vale Road (a State Road) within the Glenroy Activity Centre to improve visual appeal, public amenity, strengthen community pride, increase perceptions of safety and support local economic growth.**
2. **Recognises ongoing community and trader concerns regarding safety, amenity, and cleanliness throughout the precinct, and acknowledges the necessity for collaborative, multi-stakeholder approaches to revitalisation between Council, State Government, traders, property owners, and key stakeholders.**
3. **Requests officers undertake an audit of the Glenroy Pascoe Vale Road Activity Centre to identify priority maintenance, beautification, safety and activation works, including opportunities for Tricky Spot tree plantings, damaged bollards and pedestrian railings, graffiti removal and pressure cleaning requirements, and report back to Council by November 2026 outlining the findings, proposed priority actions and recommendations for further improvements.**
4. **Requests officers incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in all future design and delivery works within the activity centre, with a view to improving community safety and fostering a welcoming, pedestrian-friendly environment.**
5. **Continues to engage with traders and landlords and property owners to address concerns related to shopfront cleanliness and presentation, and support activation of shopfronts to create a more vibrant and inviting streetscape.**
6. **The Mayor writes to Coles (and the relevant state MP), seeking their collaboration in improving the amenity and safety of their carpark, including enhanced landscaping, lighting, maintenance, and a more attractive**

community environment.

7. **The Mayor writes to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety and the local State Member advocating for streetscape and infrastructure improvements along Pascoe Vale Road as a key activity centre.**

8.47 pm *Cr Theodosis returned to the meeting during the debate.*

Carried unanimously

NOTICE OF RESCISSION

Nil.

FORESHADOWED ITEMS

Nil.

URGENT BUSINESS REPORTS

Nil.

The Council meeting closed at 8.52 pm.

Confirmed

Cr Nat Abboud
MAYOR