



Council Meeting **Minutes**

Wednesday 19
August 2026

Commencing at 7:00pm

Wycheproof Supper Room
367 Broadway, Wycheproof

Daniel McLoughlan
Chief Executive Officer



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Minutes of the Meeting held on 19/08/2026.**CHAIRPERSON:**

Cr Graeme Milne (Mayor)

Mount Jeffcott Ward

COUNCILLORS:

Cr Bernadette Hogan (Deputy Mayor)

Mallee Ward

Cr Alan Getley

Mallee Ward

Cr Stephen Barratt

Lower Avoca Ward

Cr Bruce Stafford

Lower Avoca Ward

Cr Charmaine Delaney

Mount Jeffcott Ward

OFFICERS:

Daniel McLoughlan

Chief Executive Officer

Travis Fitzgibbon

Director Infrastructure and Delivery

Jenna Allan

Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

Sarah Kernohan

Director Community Development

Anthony Smith

Acting Manager Governance

Georgia Brown

Senior Executive Assistant

Kathryn Gerbes

Governance Officer

1 COUNCIL WELCOME AND STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**WELCOME**

The Mayor Cr Graeme Milne welcomed all in attendance.

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Mayor Cr Graeme Milne acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting and pay our respects to their Elders and to the Elders from other communities who may be here today.

2 RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

Nil.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**MOTION**

That Council adopt the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 July and 28 July 2026.

MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt

SECONDED: Cr Alan Getley

CARRIED.

(R/26/49)

4 REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

5 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

6 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Person: Mr. Daryl Warren of Donald

Question:

Current Total Cost of the Sea Lake Subdivision Project

The last publicly reported cost for the Sea Lake subdivision project was \$411,250 in 2025, comprising the State Government's \$300,000 grant and Council's \$111,250 contribution. As the project has continued since that time, what is the current total cost of the project as at August 2026, including all expenditure incurred since the 2025 figure?

Council response:

Current total project spend as at 1 August 2026 is \$511,928.

Person: Mr. Daryl Warren of Donald

Question:

Expected Completion and Release of Titles

Council's documents from 2024 to 2026 indicate that the Sea Lake subdivision is awaiting final sign-off and the appointment of a conveyancer to progress the release of titles. What is the expected completion date for the project, including the final release of land titles and commencement of the sale process?

Council response:

A conveyancer has been appointed to complete the release of title process, which is underway. At this time Council is unable to confirm a timeline for commencement of the sale process until titles are released.

Person: Mr. Daryl Warren of Donald

Question:

Administrative Delays

Council documents from 2021 through to 2026 repeatedly state that the Sea Lake subdivision project is 'awaiting sign-off' or 'underway'. Given this pattern across multiple years, can Council explain why these administrative steps have taken so long to complete, particularly noting that the project involves a straightforward nine-lot subdivision?

Council response:

Delays were experienced attaining certificates of compliance from utility providers due in part to changing minimum authority requirements, including the introduction of NBN services to Sea Lake.

All compliance requirements have now been completed and accepted by the relevant Authorities.

7 PROCEDURAL ITEMS

7.1 GOVERNANCE REPORT - AUGUST 2026

Author's Title: Acting Manager Governance

Directorate: Corporate and Organisational Performance

File No: GO/05/04

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide a single reporting platform for a range of statutory compliance, transparency, and governance matters.

The Governance report is prepared as a monthly report to Council.

The Governance report includes:

- Record of Councillor Assemblies and Meetings held
- Record of Councillor Briefings, at Attachment 7.1.1 and 7.1.2 to this report.
- Chief Executive Officer Activity Report
- The Status of Actions Report for Council resolutions at Attachment 7.1.3 to this report.
- Contracts awarded in accordance with the increased Financial Delegation provided to the Chief Executive Officer.
- The Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Biannual Report at Attachment 7.1.4 to this report.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Notes the Record of Councillor Assemblies and Meetings held.
2. Notes the Record of Councillor Briefings, at Attachment 7.1.1 and 7.1.2 to this report.
3. Notes the Chief Executive Officer Activity Report.
4. Notes the Status of Actions Report for Council resolutions at Attachment 7.1.3 to this report.
5. Notes there were no contracts entered into for this period, in accordance with the increased Financial Delegation provided to the Chief Executive Officer of \$1,500,000 (excluding GST).
6. Receives the Audit and Risk Committee Chair Biannual Report June 2026 at Attachment 7.1.4 to this report.

MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt

SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

CARRIED.

(R/26/50)

KEY POINTS/ISSUES

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

In accordance with best practice principles of good governance practice, and to ensure compliance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*, this report incorporates matters including records

of meetings held, organised or hosted by Council, items relating to the delegation of Council powers and duties, and policy and strategy reporting.

Record of Councillor Assemblies and Meetings held from 2 July 2026 to 5 August 2026

Records of matters discussed at meetings organised or hosted by Buloke Shire Council that involve Councillors and Council officers are kept in accordance with the Governance Rules.

Meeting records must include attendees, including organisations represented by external presenters; the title of matters discussed; and any conflicts of interests disclosed and whether the declarant of a conflict of interest excused themselves from the meeting.

Record of Councillor Assemblies:

Date/Time/Venue	Councillor Attendees	Meeting Type
8 July 2026 11:00am <i>Online</i>	Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney	Councillor Briefing: Planning and Related Matters
9 July 2026 5:30pm <i>Online</i>	Cr Milne, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney	CEO and Councillor Only Time
13 July 2026 4:00pm <i>Online</i>	Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney	Donald Update
15 July 2026 5:30pm <i>Wycheproof Senior Citizens</i>	Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney	Citizenship Ceremony
15 July 2026 7:00pm <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>	Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney	Council Meeting
27 July 2026 1:00pm <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>	Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney	Public Submissions Hearing: Buloke Aquatic Strategy
27 July 2026 3:30pm <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>	Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney	Councillor Briefing
28 July 2026 12:30pm <i>Online</i>	Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney	Additional Council Meeting
4 August 2026 9:00am <i>Warracknabeal</i>	Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney	Mandatory Councillor Training
5 August 2026 9:00am <i>Warracknabeal</i>	Cr Milne, Cr Hogan, Cr Getley, Cr Barratt, Cr Stafford, Cr Delaney	Mandatory Councillor Training

Record of meetings attended by the Chief Executive Officer on behalf of the Buloke Shire Council. Activity record includes the date, activity and location.

Daniel McLoughlan – Chief Executive Officer <i>(2 July 2026 – 5 August 2026)</i>		
Date	Activity	Location
03/07/2026	Resource Ready Strategy - PCG Meeting	Online
06/07/2026	Gold FM Radio	Radio
06/07/2026	Flag Raising Ceremony - NAIDOC Week	Horsham
08/07/2026	Councillor Briefing: Planning and Related Matters	Online
08/07/2026	TORQ Consulting and BSC	Online
08/07/2026	H5 Wildlife briefing - Local Governments (Hume, Grampians and Loddon Mallee)	Online
09/07/2026	WSMDA and BSC	Online
09/07/2026	Greenleaf Renewables and BSC	Wycheproof
09/07/2026	WSMCA Mayor and CEO Meeting	Horsham
09/07/2026	CEO and Councillor Only Time	Online
10/07/2026	Community Support Services Discussion	Online
10/07/2026	Coordinated Community Support Meeting	Online
13/07/2026	Gold FM Radio	Radio
13/07/2026	Coordinated Community Trauma Support Working Group	Online
13/07/2026	Donald Update	Online
14/07/2026	Information session on the WJJWJ People Land Use Activity Agreement - For CEOs and Executives	Online
14/07/2026	Victoria Police and BSC Strategic Coordination Meeting	Online
14/07/2026	Attane and BSC - ERV Meeting	Online
15/07/2026	Coordinated Community Trauma Support Working Group	Online
15/07/2026	Citizenship Ceremony	Wycheproof
15/07/2026	Council Meeting	Wycheproof
16/07/2026	Victoria Police and BSC Community Meeting Workshop	Online
17/07/2026	Coordinated Community Trauma Working Group Meeting	Online
20/07/2026	Gold FM Radio	Radio
20/07/2026	MAV Monday Connect	Online
20/07/2026	Presentation to One Nation - Resource Ready Strategy - Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell MP	Warracknabeal
20/07/2026	Community Meeting	Donald
22/07/2026	MAV Regional Meeting-Loddon Campaspe Mallee	Online
23/07/2026	Council Consultation: Commonwealth Government's Disaster Recovery Funding Framework	Online
24/07/2026	BSC and DEECA Loddon Mallee Catch Up (monthly)	Online
27/07/2026	Public Submissions Hearing: Buloke Aquatic Strategy	Wycheproof
27/07/2026	Councillor Briefing	Online

28/07/2026	Dr Anne Webster MP – Donald Neighbourhood House	Donald
28/07/2026	Additional Council Meeting	Online
28/07/2026	Coordinated Community Trauma and Wellbeing Support Working Group	Online
29/07/2026	Deputy Leader of the Opposition - Nationals MPs and Wimmera Southern Mallee Councils re: Resource Ready	Melbourne
30/07/2026	Loddon Campaspe Councils CEOs	Online
30/07/2026	VNI West Social Value Reference Group Workshop	Charlton
04/08/2026	Councillor Training	Warracknabeal
05/08/2026	MAV Special CEO Briefing x DEECA - H5N1 Avian Bird Flu	Online
05/08/2026	Coordinated Community Trauma and Wellbeing Support Working Group	Online

Status of Action of past Council Meeting Resolutions

To provide Council with a list of the Status of Action of Council resolutions outstanding for completion of action since the last Council Meeting.

Exercise of Delegated Authority

Council delegates powers, duties and functions to the Chief Executive Officer to support the efficient operation and delivery of Council services.

The Chief Executive Officer has been delegated authority by Council to award contracts up to \$300,000 (exclusive of GST) through an Instrument of Delegation made on 29 October 2025 (S5 Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer).

Council at its meeting held Wednesday, 17 December 2025 resolved as follows:

That Council:

- 1) *Increase the Financial delegation provided to the Chief Executive Officer from \$300,000 (excluding GST) to \$1,500,000 (excluding GST).*
- 2) *Authorised the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the increased financial delegation of \$1,500,000 (excluding GST) for the procurement of goods, services and works only when the following conditions are satisfied:*
 - a. *Contracts and works are directly related to projects associated with the 2022 and 2023 flood events, namely:*
 - i. *AGRN 1037 (October 2022 Flooding Event).*
 - ii. *AGRN 1096 (December 2023 Flooding Event).*
 - b. *Council Flood Support Fund Approved Works Schedule (AGRN 1037, AGRN 1096, AGRN 1108).*
 - c. *Funded flood studies and Laser imaging Detection and Ranging projects (funded due to the 2022 and 2023 flood events).*
- 3) *Receive a report at the next available Council Meeting clearly identifying each Contract awarded via exercising of the temporary increased financial delegation.*
- 4) *Authorises the temporary increase of the CEO financial delegation up to 30 June 2027, or earlier by resolution of Council.*

There have been no contracts awarded in the past month.

Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report

In accordance with Part 2, Division 8, clause 54 (5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Audit and Risk Committee presents its biannual audit and risk report that describes the activities of the Audit and Risk Committee.

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter provide that the biannual report will be tabled at the next Council meeting by the Chief Executive Officer and that the Chair may present the report to Councillors at that meeting if desired.

The biannual report is for the period 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026. The report is for the committee meetings held 11 February 2026 and 13 May 2026.

The Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report June 2026 is provided at Attachment 7.1.4.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 7.1.1 - Councillor Briefing - Planning and Related Matters Record - 8 July 2026
2. Attachment 7.1.2 - Councillor Briefing Record - 27 July 2026
3. Attachment 7.1.3 - Council Resolution Action Register - tabled 19 August 2026
4. Attachment 7.1.4 - Audit and Risk Committee Chair Biannual Report June 2026

8 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 POLICY REPORTS

Nil.

8.2 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

8.2.1 COMMUNITY GRANTS GUIDELINES AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT POLICY REVIEW

Author's Title: Manager Community Partnerships

Directorate: Community Development

File No: GS/09/42

Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029

Strategic Vibrant and connected communities

Objective: Strengthen community activity and connections

Empower and support organisations to make a difference in their communities

PURPOSE

To seek Council adoption of the Community Grants Program Guidelines 2026 and Community Support Policy 2026, which establish a revised Community Grants Program that consolidates existing Community Grants and Community Sustainability Grants into a single funding program.

SUMMARY

The Community Grants Program and Community Sustainability Grants Program have been reviewed following ongoing underutilisation of the Community Sustainability Grants Program and the exhaustion of Community Grants Program funding during the 2025/26 financial year.

The proposed changes consolidate the two existing grant programs into a single Community Grants Program which incorporates sustainability considerations into all applications through a dedicated assessment criterion.

The revised program aims to:

- simplify community access to Council funding opportunities;
- improve equity across funding allocations;
- embed sustainability considerations into all funded projects;
- provide greater certainty through two annual funding rounds;
- improve transparency regarding program funding sources; and
- maximise utilisation of available grant funding.

The new Community Grants Program will continue Council's commitment to supporting sustainability outcomes while providing a simplified and more accessible grant framework for community organisations.

MOTION

That Council adopt the Community Grants Guidelines 2026 and Community Support Policy 2026 as attached.

MOVED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

SECONDED: Cr Stephen Barratt

CARRIED.

(R/26/51)

DISCUSSION

The current Community Support Policy provides for both a Community Grants Program and a Community Sustainability Grants Program.

Under the current arrangements:

- Community Grants receive an annual budget allocation of \$20,000.
- Community Sustainability Grants receive an annual budget allocation of \$50,000.
- Both programs remain open throughout the year until available funding is exhausted.

At the December 2025 Council Meeting, Councillors requested a future report regarding the future of the Community Grants Program after available funding had been exhausted and the program placed on hold.

Review of the existing programs identified that the Community Sustainability Grants Program has been consistently underspent, while demand for Community Grants has exceeded available funding.

The proposed Community Grants Program addresses this issue by replacing the multiple grant categories with a single grant stream offering funding up to \$5,000 per application. The revised model introduces:

- one streamlined grant category;
- simplified eligibility requirements;
- simplified application processes;
- contemporary outcome-based assessment criteria;
- sustainability assessment criteria across all applications; and
- two annual funding rounds.

Applications will be assessed against community need, participation outcomes, community benefit, financial capacity and sustainability outcomes. Additional consideration will be given to accessibility, inclusion, public safety and efficient use of resources.

The revised program will operate through two funding rounds each year:

Round 1

Opens 1 August

Closes 12 September

Notifications by 30 October

Round 2

Opens 1 February

Closes 14 March

Notifications by 30 April

The Community Grants Program Guidelines have been updated to bring together a number of previous grant categories into a single grants program. This change makes the process simpler for applicants, removing the need to determine which funding category best suits their project and making it easier to access available funding opportunities.

Eligibility and funding requirements have also been streamlined, allowing community organisations to quickly determine whether they are eligible before investing significant time in preparing an application. The assessment framework has been updated to place a stronger focus on community outcomes and to align with current grant assessment practices.

The introduction of two funding rounds each year will provide greater certainty for community groups and organisations. Knowing when funding opportunities will be available will help applicants plan projects, obtain quotes, secure support, and prepare stronger applications. It is proposed that funding rounds open on 1 August and 1 February each year. Due to the timing of the guideline review, the first funding round

under the new guidelines will open following Council's adoption of the 2026 Community Grants Program Guidelines.

While the standalone Sponsorship Program is no longer included within the Community Grants Program Guidelines, Council will continue to support small community sponsorship opportunities through a simplified online application process. Sponsorship requests of up to \$200, including school awards, student recognition programs and similar community initiatives, will be able to be submitted through an online form, providing a quick and accessible way to seek support for low-value sponsorship requests.

To support the revised Community Grants Program, the Community Support Policy has been amended to remove reference to the Community Sustainability Grants, as they would no longer exist under the new model.

RELEVANT LAW

This report has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and supports Council's role in promoting the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the municipal district.

The Community Support Policy and Community Grants Guidelines provide the governance framework for the allocation of Council funding to eligible organisations.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

- Adoption of the Community Support Policy on 12 April 2023.
- Council resolution of 9 August 2017 regarding allocation of funds received from the Coonoor Bridge Wind Farm Payment in Lieu of Rates. Those allocations included:
 - Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance membership;
 - \$50,000 annually for sustainability-focused community projects; and
 - seed funding for regional sustainability projects.
- Council adoption of the Community and Sustainability Reserve Grant Guidelines 9 August 2017, which provided for an annual allocation of \$50,000 with unspent funds accumulating in the Sustainability Fund Reserve.
- The December 2025 Council Meeting resolution requesting a future report regarding the Community Grants Program.

OPTIONS

- A. Adopt the Community Grants Guidelines 2026 and Community Support Policy 2026.
- B. Request further amendments prior to adoption.
- C. Retain the existing Community Grants and Community Sustainability Grants arrangements.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The proposed model strengthens Council's commitment to sustainability by embedding sustainability assessment criteria across all grant applications. This ensures all funded projects consider environmental and sustainable community outcomes regardless of project type.

The revised approach continues to support the original intent of sustainability funding while broadening access to community-led projects that contribute to sustainable communities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Councillors were provided with the proposed changes during briefing sessions and feedback has informed the development of the final Guidelines and Policy.

The revised framework has been designed to better meet community needs by improving accessibility, clarity and transparency.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The revised grants program introduces:

- simplified application processes;
- structured funding rounds; and
- improved administrative efficiency.

These changes support continuous improvement in grant administration and community access.

COLLABORATION

The Guidelines have been reviewed against grant programs operated by neighbouring councils and developed through internal collaboration across relevant Council departments.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The Community Grants Program is funded through Council's annual budget process from general revenue, which includes revenue received from the Coonooer Bridge Wind Farm Payment in Lieu of Rates (PILOR).

Council receives approximately \$146,000 per annum in Payment in Lieu of Rates (PILOR) revenue from the Coonooer Bridge Wind Farm, subject to annual energy production.

Council currently allocates:

- \$20,000 annually to the Community Grants Program; and
- \$50,000 annually to the Community Sustainability Grants Program.

The proposed changes do not increase Council's financial commitment and do not redirect funds from their intended purpose. The revised model simply consolidates the existing funding into a single Community Grants Program while maintaining sustainability outcomes through the assessment framework.

Council will continue to maintain a Sustainability Fund Reserve under the Discretionary Financial Reserves Policy. Surplus funds from the grant program will continue to be retained in the Sustainability Fund Reserve

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The proposed Community Grants Program supports community resilience, sustainability and local capacity-building objectives consistent with broader Victorian local government and sustainability priorities.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

This report aligns with:

- Council Budget;
- Discretionary Financial Reserves Policy; and
- Council's strategic objectives relating to community wellbeing and sustainability.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The revised Guidelines improve transparency by clearly identifying the funding source for the Community Grants Program.

The inclusion of specific reference to funding derived through Council's general revenue, including the Coonooer Bridge Wind Farm Payment in Lieu of Rates (PILOR), provides greater accountability and public understanding of how these funds are being reinvested into local communities.

The assessment criteria, application process and funding rounds have also been simplified and clearly documented to support equitable access and transparent decision-making.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has declared a conflict of interest.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 8.2.1.1 - DRAFT Community Grants Program Guidelines 2026
2. Attachment 8.2.1.2 - Community Support Policy 2026

8.2.2 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE INDEPENDENT MEMBER APPOINTMENT

Author's Title: Manager Financial Strategy

Directorate: Corporate and Organisational Performance

File No: FM/02/10

Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029

Strategic Council leadership and engagement

Objective: Responsible leadership and decision making

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council's formal appointment of Andrew Johnson and Ben Vale as the preferred candidates to the vacant Audit and Risk Committee Independent Member position in accordance with the Audit and Risk Committee Charter. The Audit and Risk Committee Charter will also be amended to include the appointment of two independent members to increase the overall membership to six members.

SUMMARY

The Audit and Risk Committee is a formally appointed independent advisory committee to Council, with the purpose of assisting Council in the effective conduct of responsibilities for financial reporting, management of risk and maintaining a reliable system of internal controls.

The Committee consists of five members comprising three independent members, the Mayor and one other Councillor. The Committee Charter provides for the appointment of the independent members for up to three years which, after expiry, may be extended to a limit of two further terms.

Following the receipt of a resignation of an Independent Member in January 2026, a vacancy is required to be filled.

MOTION

That Council:

1. Appoint Andrew Johnson and Ben Vale as Independent Members of the Buloke Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee for a period of three years commencing 9 September 2026.
2. Amend the Audit and Risk Committee Charter to include the Committee membership of up to six members comprising four independent members, the Mayor and one other Councillor.
3. Notes that the Audit and Risk Committee will further review the Audit and Risk Committee Charter and recommend any changes back to Council for consideration.

MOVED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

CARRIED.

(R/26/52)

DISCUSSION

The Audit and Risk Committee currently have two Independent Members:

- Mr. Dean Sleigh, and

- Mr. Stephen Gardner.

A vacancy arose on the Audit and Risk Committee for an Independent Member following the resignation of Mr. Bernard Young as Independent Member in January 2026. A public notice seeking applications for the subsequent vacancy was placed in local and regional media. Twenty-nine (29) applications were received.

Following a review of applications, a short list of four applicants were interviewed in an online meeting, using selection criteria in the information package and an assessment of each of the individual applicant's qualifications and experience was carefully assessed in relation to the skill set of the current Audit and Risk Committee.

The evaluation panel comprised: the Audit and Risk Committee Chair, the Mayor, the Acting Director Corporate and Organisational Performance and the Acting Manager Governance. The four applicants interviewed were of exceptional quality, with Andrew Johnson and Ben Vale being recommended to Council for appointment to fill the current vacancy.

Andrew Johnson currently serves on the Audit and Risk Committees of two other councils and brings extensive experience in governance, audit and risk oversight. His demonstrated understanding of local government governance makes him a strong addition to the Committee.

Ben Vale brings significant expertise in insurance and enterprise risk management. While relatively new to the local government sector, his specialist knowledge will complement the existing skills of the Committee and strengthen its oversight of Council's risk management framework.

Referee checks for both candidates were completed and satisfactory. Referees consistently described both candidates as highly professional, experienced in their respective fields, and well suited to serving on Council's Audit and Risk Committee.

RELEVANT LAW

Section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council to establish an Audit and Risk Committee which must consist of a majority of members who are not Councillors and cannot include a member of Council staff.

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter provide for the Committee membership in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*. Membership will comprise three independent members, the Mayor, and one other Councillor appointed by Council.

The Council can appoint one or more members to the Committee. In doing so, Council will formally update the Audit and Risk Committee Charter to reflect on the new membership.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Committee was established by Council on 12 August 2020, and the Charter adopted 9 November 2022.

OPTIONS

The Council can appoint one or more members to the Committee. In doing so, Council will formally update the Audit and Risk Committee Charter to reflect on the new membership.

Council may decide not to appoint one or more members to the Committee as independent members, which would result in Council needing to again begin the process of seeking expressions of interest to recruit an independent member.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Fees are paid to independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee on a per meeting basis in accordance with section 53(6) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. Payment of fees for independent members is provided for in the 2026/27 Annual Budget.

An increase in independent members from three to four will incur additional expenditure of approximately \$2,400.00 annually.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

Not applicable.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Charter is available on Council's website; minutes from Committee Meetings are made available to the public through adoption of the minutes by Council, other than those matters considered confidential.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer preparing this report has a conflict of interest.

Attachments: Nil

8.2.3 MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA - QUARTERLY DELEGATE UPDATE

Author's Title: Acting Manager Governance

Directorate: Corporate and Organisational Performance

File No: GR/09/03

Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029

Strategic Council leadership and engagement

Objective: Advocacy and partnering to deliver priorities

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a quarterly summary of the work of the Municipal Association of Victoria for the period of April to June 2026.

SUMMARY

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is the peak body representing Victoria's 79 local councils. It plays a central role in supporting, advocating for, and strengthening the local government sector across the state. MAV works to influence other levels of government, coordinate sector-wide priorities, and build council capability to respond to current and emerging challenges.

MOTION

That Council notes the Municipal Association of Victoria Quarterly Delegates Report for the period of April to June 2026.

MOVED: Cr Alan Getley

SECONDED: Cr Charmaine Delaney

CARRIED.

(R/26/53)

DISCUSSION

MAV Delegate Engagement

The MAV Delegate Engagement Framework ensures delegates are equipped to represent their councils, participate in State Council, contribute to shaping MAV policy directions, and have regard for the MAV protocols. In the April – June quarter the following delegate engagement events occurred to further support delegates in their role:

- MAV May State Council
- MAV Delegate Connect Session
- MAV National General Assembly Session
- ALGA National General Assembly

State Council

State Council is the MAV's overarching governing body, comprising all appointed delegates from participating member councils. It meets twice each calendar year, bringing together delegates from

member councils across metropolitan, regional and rural Victoria to debate and vote on motions that set up the sector's collective advocacy and policy priorities.

The May 2026 meeting was delivered against the backdrop of an upcoming November State Election, which heightened interest in several of the motions before the forum. To form the policy direction of the MAV, which is set in alignment with the MAV Strategic Plan (2024-2027).

The May State Council again demonstrated the strength of the sector when it united to advance shared priorities ahead of the 2026 State Election. This saw 170+ event attendees, 84 motions considered, and 83 resolutions passed. State of the Sector, the MAV report at the May 2026 State Council, highlights key resolutions that shape the advocacy agenda for MAV on behalf of the sector.

Many priorities raised at our May 2026 State Council directly align with the MAV's The Future is Local 2026 State Election Campaign and its five key pillars: Connected Housing, Safe and Cohesive Communities, Safer Roads and Local Transport Connections, Energy Transition through Community Legacy Benefit Sharing, and Securing the Future of Local Government.

These priorities, together with the resolutions of this State Council, provide a clear roadmap for the next State Government to partner with councils in delivering local solutions to statewide challenges.

National General Assembly

The MAV is continuing to strengthen how Victoria engages at the national level through ALGA and the National General Assembly, held from the 22nd – 26th June. This is ensuring Victorian priorities are not only represented, but strategically aligned with our broader Federal advocacy platform, *Make Good Happen*.

The alignment of motions, advocacy priorities and engagement activities resulted in a more coordinated and influential Victorian voice nationally.

Victoria is at the forefront of national conversations and that we as a state are already spearheading the conversations as a sector nationally. Of the submissions received and approved for ALGA Board debate, Victoria contributed:

- 93 of 388 single motions, representing 24.0% of all single motions nationally.
- 41 of 144 combined motions, representing 28.5% of all combined motions nationally.
- 134 of 532 total motions, accounting for 25.2% of all motions nationally.

Whilst in Canberra for the National General Assembly, Victorian Delegates also participated in MAV hosted events such as the MAVLab Welcome Delegation, 2026 National Coastal Advocacy Roundtable and Back Your Neighbour Campaign.

MAV Regional Meetings

Regional Meetings will be held across the 10 MAV regions in July, bringing together Mayors, MAV Delegates and CEOs. These meetings provide a forum to strengthen regional collaboration, discuss shared challenges and priorities, and coordinate advocacy positions, including the development of State Council motions.

MAV Advocacy Initiatives

The Future Is Local: MAV 2026 State Election Campaign

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) has launched its 2026 State Election Campaign with a clear message to MPs and candidates: The future is local. The time is now.

Victorian communities are facing rapid and complex change, and councils are on the frontline of both responding now and preparing for the future. They are first responders in times of crisis; and they are long-term partners in community recovery, resilience, and innovation.

Communities are feeling the pressure of climate impacts, rising costs, digital disruption, and demographic shifts. And when these pressures intensify, people turn to their local council.

Councils are the level of government they experience every day, through footpaths, libraries, maternal and child health services, open spaces, planning decisions, and community programs.

The future is local. The time is now.

All 79 Victorian councils have come together to identify the five statewide priorities communities say matter most:

- **Growing Futures:** Connected Housing
- **Local Futures:** Safe and Cohesive Communities
- **Productive Futures:** Safer Roads and Local Transport Connections
- **Regenerative Futures:** Community Legacy Benefit Sharing
- **Transformative Futures:** Securing the Future of Local Government.

These priorities form a blueprint for a stronger, fairer, and more resilient Victoria.

Councils are ready to work with the next State Government to deliver local solutions to global challenges.

Sector Submissions

The MAV advocates on behalf of the local government sector by participating in consultations and contributing to strategy development, discussion papers, and proposed changes to legislation. In the April to June Quarter, the MAV represented the views of the local government sector via the following sector submissions.

- Productivity Commission Inquiry into Housing Supply Regulation
- National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Securing the NDIS for Future Generations) Bill 2026
- Inquiry into Racism, Hate and Violence directed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People
- Inquiry into anti-LGBTIQ+ Hate Crimes in Victoria
- Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2026 Summer Fires across Victoria

Measuring MAV Progress and Performance

Strategic Plan Implementation

MAV's work is framed by its strategic plan Shaping Our Future (2024-2027), which identifies ten key strategic directions reflecting what matters most to Victorian communities. The plan focuses on enabling councils to create sustainable, resilient futures through evidence-based research, strong collaboration, and -sector wide- leadership. It reflects the MAV's commitment to lead and strengthen councils as they navigate emerging challenges and seize opportunities to shape the future for generations to come.

To measure progress, MAV supports transparent reporting on strategic actions, 95% of which are either completed or underway with an 84% confidence level for completion at the end of financial year and 16% carry over into 2026/27.

Progress of State Council Motions

The MAV has introduced the State Council Resolution Dashboard which has been developed to strengthen MAV's monitoring and reporting of the implementation of State Council resolutions. The Dashboard provides councils with clear visibility of which resolutions have been actioned, and which are currently in progress. This dashboard improves visibility of the status of the 144 State Council motions, 50% of which are currently completed and 50% in progress. Motions from the 29 May 2026 State Council will be included in the Dashboard from July with progress updated quarterly.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council appointed the Mayor as Council's delegate to the Municipal Association of Victoria at its meeting held Wednesday, 19 November 2025 for the 2025/26 mayoral term.

OPTIONS

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no related sustainability implications which are applicable to the preparation of this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There are no community engagements requirements which are applicable to the preparation of this report.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

There are no innovation or continuous improvement implications which are applicable to the preparation of this report.

COLLABORATION

There are no collaboration requirements which are applicable to the preparation of this report.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Council is a member of the Municipal Association of Victoria with the membership fee included in the 2026/27 Budget.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

There are no related Regional, State, and National plans or policies which are applicable to the preparation of this report.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

There are no related council plans or policies which are applicable to the preparation of this report.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

There are no related transparency of council decisions which are applicable to the preparation of this report.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer involved in preparing this report has a conflict of interest.

Attachments: Nil

8.3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Nil.

8.4 ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

8.4.1 MAV STATE COUNCIL OCTOBER 2026 MOTIONS

Author's Title: Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

Directorate: Office of the CEO

File No: GO/09/01

Relevance to Council Plan 2025 - 2029

Strategic Services supporting our communities to thrive

Objective: Active advocacy and participation in service networks

Council leadership and engagement

Advocacy and partnering to deliver priorities

PURPOSE

To seek Councils endorsement of motions to be submitted to the Municipal Association of Victoria's State Council to be held on 23 October 2026.

SUMMARY

- The MAV State Council will be held on 23 October 2026.
- Councils can submit motions for consideration by the State Council, however motions must first be adopted by a submitting council.
- This report provides information on recent MAV and ALGA motions and outlines the requirements for submitting motions to the MAV State Council.
- Attached are four motions that are of particular interest to Buloke Shire Council but are also considered of strategic importance for the State and in particular rural and regional areas of Victoria.
- This report seeks Council's adoption of the motions so they can be lodged with the MAV for consideration at the October State Council meeting.
- Motion submissions to the MAV close on 24 August 2026. (midnight)

MOTION

That Council:

1. Advocates to the Victorian Government through the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), in conjunction with the six (6) member Councils of the Wimmera Southern Mallee Council Alliance to endorse four (4) motions as attached at appendix one (1) to this report;
2. Endorse the motion to be lodged with the MAV for consideration at the State Council Meeting on 23 October 2026.

MOVED: Cr Bruce Stafford

SECONDED: Cr Alan Getley

CARRIED.

(R/26/54)

DISCUSSION

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is the peak body representing Victoria's 79 local councils. It advocates for councils, provides policy advice, governance guidance, and sector support, and delivers

services including procurement and insurance. MAV works to strengthen local government capacity, promote community wellbeing, and ensure councils can sustainably and effectively serve Victorian communities.

Held twice per year, the MAV State Council is the peak decision-making body of the Municipal Association of Victoria, comprising representatives from all 79 Victorian councils. It sets policy, endorses advocacy priorities, and guides MAV's strategic direction, ensuring local government perspectives are represented in statewide issues and policy discussions.

Individual councils can seek to influence the advocacy and policy agenda of the MAV through the submission and adoption of motions by a majority of the members. A motion to MAV State Council must be formally endorsed by the individual council, submitted by the relevant deadline, be of statewide significance or strategic relevance, not replicate recent State Council business, and meet MAV Board assessment criteria before it is accepted for consideration.

The attached four motions are considered to comply with the requirements listed above and are of significant importance to Buloke Shire Council and other rural and regional communities across Victoria.

The first motion calls for the Victorian Government to invest in a comprehensive, tiered rural and regional mental health and wellbeing model. The motion responds to ongoing mental health service gaps experienced across rural Victoria, including limited access to early intervention, psychology, counselling, outreach and acute mental health services, and seeks a community-first approach that improves access to care closer to home.

The second motion seeks improved long-term planning and investment to support the reliability of water supply for recreational lakes. The motion recognises the importance of recreational water assets to regional economies, liveability, tourism, recreation and community wellbeing, particularly during periods of drought and climate variability.

The third motion calls for increased Victorian Government funding to support the implementation of Integrated Water Management (IWM) initiatives. The motion seeks dedicated funding and streamlined delivery mechanisms to assist councils and regional partners to progress projects that improve water security, waterway health and alternative water supply outcomes.

The fourth motion advocates for strengthened communications network resilience in disaster-prone areas. The motion responds to recommendations arising from the Victorian Summer Fires Inquiry and seeks action to improve telecommunications reliability during emergencies through enhanced infrastructure standards, backup power arrangements and expanded satellite communications capability.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

OPTIONS

- Council can endorse all of the motions, some of the motions or none of the motions.
- Council can also put forward alternative motions for endorsement and lodging with the MAV.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The proposed motions address key long-term sustainability challenges facing rural and regional communities, including community wellbeing, water security, emergency resilience and service

accessibility. If successful, the advocacy outcomes would support improved liveability, economic resilience and sustainable community development across regional Victoria.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

While there has not been engagement with the community in relation to the specific proposed motions, they are informed by engagement and conversations with the community.

INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The proposed motions advocate for innovative, long-term policy and infrastructure solutions to address emerging challenges facing rural and regional communities. They support improved service delivery, greater resilience, stronger community outcomes and more effective planning and investment across mental health, water management and emergency communications.

COLLABORATION

The motions will be sent to the other five member Councils of the Wimmera Southern Mallee Alliance. It is the intention of the Alliance to submit all four motions with either individual council endorsement or letters of support. The engagement through the MAV will strengthen our advocacy position and allow us to continue to raise the issues with State Government representatives and Ministers.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

There are no financial implications with endorsing the motions and lodging them with the MAV.

REGIONAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PLANS AND POLICIES

The proposed motions align with a range of regional, state and national plans and policy frameworks, including:

- Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System,
- Victorian Mental Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023-2027,
- Integrated Water Management Framework for Victoria
- Inquiry into the 2025-26 Victorian Summer Fires
- State Emergency Management Plan

The proposed motions seek to advance outcomes that are consistent with these existing policy directions and support improved service delivery, community wellbeing, resilience and liveability across rural and regional Victoria.

COUNCIL PLANS AND POLICIES

This report aligns with the Buloke Shire Council Plan 2025-29 strategic objectives.

TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

Not applicable.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest has been declared in relation to this report.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 8.4.1.1 - MAV motions - October 2026

8.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Lower Avoca Ward

Name: Cr Stephen Barratt

Date: 2 July 2026 to 5 August 2026

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting / Event
08/07/2026	Councillor Briefing: Planning and Related Matters – <i>Online</i>
13/07/2026	Donald Update – <i>Online</i>
15/07/2026	Citizenship Ceremony – <i>Wycheproof Senior Citizens</i>
15/07/2026	Council Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
20/07/2026	Councillors - Laying of Wreath – <i>Donald</i>
28/07/2026	Additional Council Meeting – <i>Online</i>
31/07/2026	Layla Jeffery's Funeral – <i>Donald</i>
04/08/2026	Councillor Training – <i>Warracknabeal</i>
05/08/2026	Councillor Training – <i>Warracknabeal</i>

Name: Cr Bruce Stafford

Date: 2 July 2026 to 5 August 2026

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting / Event
08/07/2026	Councillor Briefing: Planning and Related Matters – <i>Online</i>
09/07/2026	CEO and Councillor Only Time – <i>Online</i>
13/07/2026	Donald Update – <i>Online</i>
15/07/2026	Citizenship Ceremony – <i>Wycheproof Senior Citizens</i>
15/07/2026	Council Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
20/07/2026	Councillors - Laying of Wreath – <i>Donald</i>
27/07/2026	Public Submissions Hearing: Aquatic Strategy – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
27/07/2026	Councillor Briefing – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
28/07/2026	Additional Council Meeting – <i>Online</i>
03/08/2026	Charlton Park
04/08/2026	Councillor Training – <i>Warracknabeal</i>
05/08/2026	Councillor Training – <i>Warracknabeal</i>

Mallee Ward

Name: Cr Alan Getley

Date: 2 July 2026 to 5 August 2026

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting / Event
08/07/2026	Councillor Briefing: Planning and Related Matters – <i>Online</i>
13/07/2026	Donald Update – <i>Online</i>
15/07/2026	Citizenship Ceremony – <i>Wycheproof Senior Citizens</i>
15/07/2026	Council Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
20/07/2026	Councillors - Laying of Wreath – <i>Donald</i>
20/07/2026	Community Meeting – <i>Donald Hall</i>
27/07/2026	Public Submissions Hearing: Aquatic Strategy – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
27/07/2026	Councillor Briefing – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
28/07/2026	Additional Council Meeting – <i>Online</i>
03/08/2026	Advance Sea Lake Inc Meeting – <i>Sea Lake</i>

Name: Cr Bernadette Hogan

Date: 2 July 2026 to 5 August 2026

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting / Event
08/07/2026	Councillor Briefing: Planning and Related Matters – <i>Online</i>
13/07/2026	Donald Update – <i>Online</i>
15/07/2026	Citizenship Ceremony – <i>Wycheproof Senior Citizens</i>
15/07/2026	Council Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
20/07/2026	Councillors - Laying of Wreath – <i>Donald</i>
26/07/2026	Chair Buloke Tourism Board AGM – <i>Nullawil Museum</i>
27/07/2026	Public Submissions Hearing: Aquatic Strategy – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
27/07/2026	Councillor Briefing – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
28/07/2026	Additional Council Meeting – <i>Online</i>
29/07/2026	Birchip Leisure Centre Meeting – <i>Birchip</i>
31/07/2026	Layla Jeffery's Funeral – <i>Donald</i>
04/08/2026	Councillor Training – <i>Warracknabeal</i>
05/08/2026	Councillor Training – <i>Warracknabeal</i>

Mount Jeffcott Ward

Name: Cr Charmaine Delaney

Date: 2 July 2026 to 5 August 2026

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting / Event
08/07/2026	Councillor Briefing: Planning and Related Matters – <i>Online</i>
08/07/2026	NGSC Transmission Forum – <i>Online</i>

09/07/2026	CEO and Councillor Only Time – <i>Online</i>
13/07/2026	Donald Update – <i>Online</i>
15/07/2026	Citizenship Ceremony – <i>Wycheproof Senior Citizens</i>
15/07/2026	Council Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
16/07/2026	VicPol and BSC Meeting – <i>Online</i>
20/07/2026	Councillors - Laying of Wreath – <i>Donald</i>
20/07/2026	Community Meeting – <i>Donald Hall</i>
21/07/2026	Donald Family Precinct – <i>Donald</i>
22/07/2026	Donald 2000 Meeting – <i>Donald</i>
27/07/2026	Public Submissions Hearing: Aquatic Strategy – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
27/07/2026	Councillor Briefing – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
28/07/2026	Dr Anne Webster MP – <i>Donald Neighbourhood House</i>
28/07/2026	Additional Council Meeting – <i>Online</i>
31/07/2026	Layla Jeffery's Funeral – <i>Donald</i>
04/08/2026	Councillor Training – <i>Warracknabeal</i>
05/08/2026	Councillor Training – <i>Warracknabeal</i>

Name: Cr Graeme Milne

Date: 2 July 2026 to 5 August 2026

Meetings Attended:

Date	Meeting / Event
07/07/2026	Rail Freight Alliance Monthly Finance Meeting – <i>Online</i>
07/07/2026	Audit and Risk Committee Interviews – <i>Online</i>
08/07/2026	Councillor Briefing: Planning and Related Matters – <i>Online</i>
09/07/2026	Wimmera Southern Mallee Council Mayor and CEO Meeting – <i>Horsham</i>
09/07/2026	CEO and Councillor Only Time – <i>Online</i>
10/07/2026	VicPol Announcement and Briefing – <i>Donald</i>
13/07/2026	Donald Update – <i>Online</i>
14/07/2026	VicPol and BSC Briefing – <i>Wycheproof</i>
15/07/2026	Citizenship Ceremony – <i>Wycheproof Senior Citizens</i>
15/07/2026	Council Meeting – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
16/07/2026	Audit and Risk Committee Interviews – <i>Online</i>
20/07/2026	One Nation - Resource Ready Strategy - Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell MP – <i>Warracknabeal</i>
20/07/2026	Councillors - Laying of Wreath – <i>Donald</i>
20/07/2026	Community Meeting – <i>Donald Hall</i>
22/07/2026	MAV Regional Meeting - Loddon Campaspe Mallee – <i>Online</i>
23/07/2026	Jade Benham MP Advocacy – <i>Online</i>
24/07/2026	707 Passenger Train to Mildura – <i>Donald Railway Station</i>

26/07/2026	Buloke Tourism Board AGM – <i>Nullawil Museum</i>
27/07/2026	Public Submissions Hearing: Aquatic Strategy – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
27/07/2026	Councillor Briefing – <i>Wycheproof Supper Room</i>
28/07/2026	Dr Anne Webster MP – <i>Donald Neighbourhood House</i>
28/07/2026	Additional Council Meeting – <i>Online</i>
28/07/2026	MAVlab Innovation Talks – Online Learning – <i>Online</i>
29/07/2026	Deputy Leader of the Opposition - Nationals MPs and Wimmera Southern Mallee Councils re: Resource Ready – <i>Parliament House, Melbourne</i>
04/08/2026	Councillor Training – <i>Warracknabeal</i>
05/08/2026	Councillor Training – <i>Warracknabeal</i>

9 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

9.2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Nil.

9.3 URGENT BUSINESS

Cr Alan Getley raised an item of Urgent Business relating to VNI West and requested that the fines issued to the 12 affected farmers be withdrawn.

MOTION

That Council admits an item of Urgent Business that relates to a motion regarding VNI West and a request for the fines issued to 12 farmers to be withdrawn.

MOVED: Cr Bruce Stafford

SECONDED: Cr Stephen Barratt

CARRIED.

(R/26/55)

MOTION

That Council urgently calls on the Minister for Energy and Resources, the Honourable Jaclyn Symes MLC to:

- a) intervene and immediately withdraw the fines issued to the Victorian farmers for denying access to their properties.
- b) ensure the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) Authorised officers are suitably trained in the Wimmera Mallee farming practices.
- c) listen to all farmers in a timely manner who have raised concerns in relation to property access.
- d) provide a full bio security plan for access to farms at least seven days prior to the requested access date.

MOVED: Cr Alan Getley

SECONDED: Cr Stephen Barratt

CARRIED.

(R/26/56)

9.4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nil.

9.5 MATTERS WHICH MAY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Nil.

10 MEETING CLOSE

Meeting closed at 7:47pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be held in Wycheproof Hall Supper Room on Wednesday, 16 September 2026 at 7:00pm.