

OFFICIAL

Council Meeting

Minutes

25 March 2026 at 6:30pm

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Sturt Street,
Ballarat



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1. OPENING DECLARATION

Councillors: *"We, the Councillors of the City of Ballarat, declare that we will carry out our duties in the best interests of the community, and through collective leadership will maintain the highest standards of good governance."*

Mayor: *"I respectfully Acknowledge the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung People, the Traditional Owners of the land, and I would like to welcome members of the public in the gallery."*

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Present

Cr Tracey Hargreaves (Mayor)
Cr Ben Taylor
Cr Damon Saunders
Cr Des Hudson
Cr Jay Morrison
Cr Jim Rinaldi
Cr Samantha McIntosh
Cr Ted Lapkin
Cr Tess Morgan

Mr Evan King - Chief Executive Officer
Ms Bridget Wetherall - Director Infrastructure and Environment
Mr Matthew Wilson - Director Community Wellbeing
Mr John Hausler - Director Corporate Services
Ms Natalie Robertson - Director Development and Growth
Mr Martin Darcy - Director Economy and Experience
Ms Julia Cornwell - Head of Executive and Civic Services
Mr Cameron Montgomery - Executive Manager Governance and Risk
Ms Rosie Wright - Coordinator Risk, Governance and Compliance
Ms Sophie Brown - Governance Officer

2.2 Apologies

Nil

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

3.1 GENERAL INTERESTS

Nil

3.2 MATERIAL INTERESTS

Nil

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting on 25 February 2026 as circulated be confirmed.

Moved: Cr Ted Lapkin
Seconded: Cr Jay Morrison

CARRIED
(R27/26)

RESOLUTION:

That Council move a condolence motion for Luigi Bazzani

Moved: Cr Des Hudson
Seconded: Cr Samantha McIntosh

CARRIED
(R28/26)

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

QT8/26 - Vanessa Bowen

Question 1:

Given all the recent breaches and cyber-attacks in the news, what is the City of Ballarat doing to protect the personal information of its residents and rate payers?

Answer 1: Director Hausler

City of Ballarat has a Privacy Policy which is available on our website, which aligns our obligations under the Privacy and Data Protection Act.

The City of Ballarat has a number of controls it specifically uses to ensure personal information is protected, including, controlling and securing access to our networks through strong authentications such as multi factor authentications for users to connect with network and software systems, monitoring and detecting threats across emails, the web, file sharing and user behavior to quickly identify and contain suspicious activity and maintaining a robust incident response and recovery process, including a tested cyber incident response plan and collaborating with the Victorian government and cyber services. We have a cyber security program informed by current cyber frameworks and networking with other local government entities and State Government cyber security entities. We provide regular updates to the Audit and Risk Committee, comprising independent experts, Victorian Auditor General agents and external auditors to actively seek their feedback and suggestions

Question 2:

Are Council aligned to the Essential 8, NIST, SOC2 or similar, and if so what is your maturity level?

Answer 2: Director Hausler

City of Ballarat has cyber security program informed by the NIST framework and it continues to renew and improve its cyber security measures and practices every year. Maturity levels are monitored and forwarded to the Audit and Risk Committee on a biannual basis.

QT9/26 – Dennis George

Question 1:

Can the Council explain why in Heavens name did they put a roundabout on the intersections of Rubicon Clarkson and Talbert Street South? This has allowed local hoons to use this intersection as a launching pad to speed at such a speed that it has become to dangerous for local pedestrians to use in fear of being hit by cars.

Question 2:

May I challenge the Council to come and look at the Burn out marking along Clarkson Rubicon and Kent Streets there have been several near misses due to hooning.

Answer 1 and 2 – Director Wetherall

From 2012 to 2023 there have been 13 crashes with 5 of those serious injury crashes at the Rubicon/Talbot St intersection. As a result of the crash history, Black Spot funding was sought and received by the City of Ballarat to upgrade the intersection. With endorsement of the roundabout design by the Department of Transport and Planning, a roundabout WAS constructed in September 2024, to help reduce crashes. The scope of works also included drainage upgrades, new pedestrian crossing points, splitter islands, and street lighting.

Victoria Police have launched Operation Armour to help deal with hooning in the City of Ballarat. This is running in parallel with Operation Presidium which is a task force set up to deal with antisocial behavior within Little Bridge Street and surrounding area. Operation Armour is a pro arrest, pro charge and pro bail model that could lead to vehicle impoundment and imprisonment for hoon offenders. A High-Risk Driving Team has been assigned to the Ballarat area. VicPol need assistance from the Ballarat community to do in a hoon. This can be done via Crime Stoppers. Customers are encouraged to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or a report can be submitted via the website at Home – Crime Stoppers Victoria.

QT10/26 Pat Cerra**Question 1:**

Could you please confirm what artefacts have been discovered as announced last week which has led to the cancellation or delay of the promised Sports Hub for Miners Rest.

Answer 1: Director Wilson

The Miners Rest Recreation project is a component of the State Government Regional Sports Infrastructure Program (RSIP). The project remains in its planning phase and accordingly continues to be a project managed by State Government. The details of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan and investigations that inform this work remain the domain of the State Government. While Council is aware of cultural heritage implications that have delayed progress, the details of investigations and related reports are held by the relevant State Government department.

Question 2:

At the time of cancellation of our hosting of the commonwealth games how advanced was the Council's involvement within the planning process for the construction of the proposed hub.

Answer 2: Director Wilson

As with all the Commonwealth Games Projects relevant to Ballarat, the City of Ballarat was a member of state governments working groups as the land owner or land manager for all of the projects' sites.

QT11/26 Dan Sliwa**Question 1:**

The Platy Patch initiative in the Yarrowee catchment raises questions about whether it forms part of a broader catchment wide strategy addressing key limiting factors for platypus habitat. Is it expected to attract and support platypus populations as promoted, or is its primary function to improve upstream bank stability and downstream waterway condition in areas where ongoing urban stressors, including water quality, mine and sewage discharge, and pest species, may limit platypus occupancy?

Answer 1: Director Wetherall

The Yarrowee River has been facing pressure from urbanisation, including increased stormwater runoff, soil disturbance and bank erosion which are factors that degrade water quality and biodiversity.

In partnership with the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, and as part of the Platy Patch project, the large-scale removal of invasive tree species such as willows, desert ash and pine trees through the section of the Yarrowee River from Docwra Street to Whitehorse Road, has commenced. These species choke the waterway, elevate flood risk, displace native vegetation, and reduce habitat for platypus and other native species. In addition to the focus on the woody weed removal, the collapsing of rabbit burrows will also be undertaken within the first year.

Through the winter and spring of 2026 and 2027 there will be extensive revegetation using locally indigenous species to stabilise the riverbank, filter pollutants, and provide vital habitat corridors.

Platypus have been anecdotally reported in this section on the Yarrowee and were also detected downstream of the Platy Patch site at Garibaldi during The Great Platypus Search in 2021.

QT12/26 Lucy Bracey**Question 1:**

Given the Council's dealing with homelessness to Uniting, how many homeless people has Uniting housed in permanent or semi-permanent housing (more than 48 hours) in the last 12 months?

Answer: Director Wilson

Thank you for the question. Council works closely with funded homelessness agency Uniting on supporting homeless people across the municipality. The actual specific data relating to providing homeless people permanent or semi-permanent housing should be referred to Uniting directly. The data would change on a day to day or week to week basis.

Question 2:

What actions is the Council taking to support the State Government and not-for-profits like Uniting, in tackling the growing homelessness and rough-sleeping crisis that is increasingly visible throughout Ballarat East?

Answer: Director Wilson

Thank you for the question. Whilst recognising that being homeless is not a crime, Council works closely with the numerous agencies that have a role in responding including Victoria Police and Uniting to provide support and response to people who are homelessness or rough sleeping. This can include liaising closely with residents, or highlighting issues raised by the community through Council's customer service team to Victoria Police or relevant support services. In addition to this, City of Ballarat is a member of a local initiative Ballarat Zero Project, which is a collaboration between Council Ballarat Foundation, Uniting Vic Tas, and a range of other agencies locally who have a direct role and interest in addressing homelessness, that is being experienced by individuals within the city of Ballarat. The Goal is to eliminate homelessness if possible, it is a 3-year pilot project. Will provide more detail in written form after the meeting.

QT13/26 David Salt**Question 1:**

I live on a roundabout in Sebastopol and have had solar panels damaged by local youth using the adjacent park. While 95% are good there is a feral element around.

The problem being the palm sized river rocks that make up part of the roundabout that some choose to throw at multiple houses in our proximity. I question the logic of placing this temptation in plain view and convenience to young kids. Can this be resolved in short order please?

Answer: Director Wetherall

The roundabout at the corner of Grant Street and Victoria Street does have a landscape feature which includes decorative river rocks as a part of the treatment. Whilst the City of Ballarat was unaware that these river rocks have allegedly been thrown at nearby houses, the Operations team have been planning a reworking of the landscape feature as a part of the ongoing roundabout renewal program and will therefore look to consider the removal of the decorative rocks and provide another durable landscape treatment.

QT14/26 Chloe Matthews**Question 1:**

Why wasn't International Day of Persons with a Disability (December 3rd) acknowledged on the day. It was acknowledged 10 days later with a post about the companies who funded a set of awards, rather than the recipients.

Answer 1: Director Wilson

Thanks for your question, Chloe. City of Ballarat recognised International Day of People with Disability through a range of activities and communications across the period including the Disability Awards Ceremony held on 3 December 2025. The later post focused on acknowledging program supporters. We acknowledge the importance of timely and person-centered recognition and appreciate the feedback, and officers have taken note.

Question 2:

Why is the Council requesting people to contribute to the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan Consultancy without offering any sort of compensation?

Answer 2: Director Wilson

Thank you for the question. In any given year City of Ballarat provides a range of opportunities for community input and participation across many topics as part of our Community Engagement Framework. City of Ballarat welcomes and highly values the voluntary contribution of community members across all community cohorts. City of Ballarat recognises the importance of people contributing to community and civic life through that voluntary participation, particularly on committees and these engagement processes.

QT15/26 Sarah Kernighan**Question 1:**

At last month's Council meeting I asked 2 questions in relation to getting a pedestrian crossing installed in Latrobe Street outside Ballarat Sth Seniors Club. At that meeting I was told that copies of the correspondence sent to and received from the Department of Transport and Planning and details of the best contact person to contact in relation to our safety concerns, would be provided to us. To date this has not happened. My question is when will this information be provided to us or do we have to wait another 12 months.

Answer 1: Director Wetherall

After the Council meeting in February, a letter was sent to Ms Kernighan dated 3 March. As requested, this letter included contact details of the relevant person at DTP. In regards to the letter sent by DTP to the Senior Citizens Centre, the City of Ballarat staff were provided with a copy (which was dated 25 February 2026, also the day of the council meeting). This letter from DTP was addressed to the Vice President of the Senior Citizens Centre (on a personal email address) and therefore this was not forwarded to Ms Kernighan. A conversation with Ms Kernighan to explain this was held today via phone.

QT16/26 Stuart Kelly**Question 1:**

My question relates to the recent planning scheme amendment VC300, which was gazetted on 19th of March. This amendment included hundreds of changes to the planning scheme.

Some of them trivial like correction of a spelling or a capital letter changed, but some were also quite concerning like changes clearly designed to facilitate the development of high buildings, up to 4 – 6 stories, were as the previous clauses were dealing with 4 stories. Other changes were to remove the ability for community objectives or appeals especially by adding a concept of deemed to comply and others were changing the overlooking rules for looking into someone's private backyard.

I'm wondering whether given if the work load the councillors have, that once the planning officers have had a chance to really analyse this change, if they could give a briefing to Council on the ramifications for Ballarat.

Answer 1: Director Robertson

Planning scheme amendment VC300 introduces the midrise code which is intended to streamline the assessment process for four to six story residential developments in Victoria. The amendment comes into effect on 16 April 2026 and will implement a "deemed to comply" pathway allowing for faster approval provided the development meets the new standards outlined. Under the deemed to comply pathway, because the Code already includes standards for design quality and street amenity, there will be no right of appeal process for planning applications that meet these standards with the intention of making assessment and decision making for planning officers quicker. It should be noted the introduction of this amendment does not override the consideration of other controls such as the Heritage Overlays. A detailed briefing will be provided to Councilors in the future, together with some 35 other planning scheme amendments which have been introduced over the past 12 years.

Question 2:

This amendment was made by the State Government. It applies, I understand, to every municipality within the state. It seems to me that it is the latest move in a reduction in the power of local government, and this is fairly worrying to a community.

I'm wondering whether Council would consider approaching other councils in a similar situation – Bendigo, for example, Greater Shepparton, any council which has a CBD – to get some sort of united approach to the government and the Planning Minister, to try to ameliorate the ways in which these planning matters are dealt with.

Answer 2: Director Robertson

I realise the question is a question of Council, so that is a decision of Council, whether they will advocate for any direction or change in what is already adopted policy. It sits within our planning scheme now.

I do want to point out that this Council and many other councils already have many adopted policies and strategic work underway that help to frame a decision around this amendment. These include our housing strategy, our growth area framework, and the subsequent work that comes from that, such as the residential zones review and the renewal programs we are currently running and have briefed Council on. These allow or encourage intensification and renewal, or this type of change, in areas where it would be suitable.

We are conscious that four- and six-storey developments, if we are considering them in our greater heritage areas, we have stronger powers to consider them, and the VC30 amendment does not override that ability. Whereas if you are looking somewhere like Wendouree, close to the station, there may be greater opportunity because you don't have the heritage impacts and overlays, and you might say that area is suitable for substantial change in the future that would allow four to six storeys.

I hope that clarifies that we are in a position to control that ourselves through our own planning policy and guidelines.

7. PETITIONS

7.1. MOUNT HELEN INTERSECTION

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Sarah Anstis – Senior Governance Officer

Public submissions were made by Linda Zibell, Jessica Robertson and Judith Bailey.

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a written petition containing 38 signatures, regarding road safety.

RESOLUTION:

5. That Council:
 - 5.1 Note the petition be received; and
 - 5.2 Refer the petition to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response.

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor
 Seconded: Cr Samantha McIntosh

CARRIED
(R29/26)

RESOLUTION:

That Council adjourn at 7:50pm for a comfort break.

Moved: Cr Des Hudson
 Seconded: Cr Jay Morrison

CARRIED
(R30/26)

Council returned at 7.58pm.

DRAFT

8. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

8.1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Division: Executive Unit
Director: Evan King
Author/Position: Evan King – Chief Executive Officer

PURPOSE

1. The CEO's Operational Report highlights issues and outcomes affecting the organisation's performance as it delivers services and implements the Council's strategies and policy decisions.

RESOLUTION:

18. That Council:

18.1 Receive and note the CEO's Operational Report.

Moved: Cr Tess Morgan
Seconded: Cr Damon Saunders

CARRIED
(R31/26)

9. OFFICER REPORTS

9.1. PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C234BALL - BALLARAT WEST PRECINCT STRUCTURE PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS PLAN REVIEW

Division: Development and Growth
Director: Natalie Robertson
Author/Position: Chris Duckett, Manager Sustainable Growth

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - a. Provide information on the recommendations from Planning Panels Victoria (PPV) following the hearing held in December 2025 on Planning Scheme Amendment C234ball, Ballarat West Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) and Development Contributions Plan (DCP) Review, (the Amendment); and
 - b. Consider the adoption of the Amendment and submit to the Minister for Planning for approval and incorporation into the Ballarat Planning Scheme (the Scheme).

RESOLUTION:

154.1 That Council:

154.2 Adopt Planning Scheme Amendment C234ball including:

- (a) the Ballarat West Precinct Structure Plan February 2026;
- (b) the Ballarat West Development Contributions Plan February 2026; and
- (c) the Ballarat West Native Vegetation Precinct Plan 2012 (as amended February 2026).

154.3 Authorise the Director Development and Growth to make minor changes to the planning scheme amendment documentation, provided those changes are consistent with this Resolution and do not materially alter the intent or impact of the planning scheme amendment.

154.4 Submit the Amendment to the Minister for Planning for approval.

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor
Seconded: Cr Des Hudson

CARRIED
(R32/26)

9.2. ARTS AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Division: Economy and Experience
Director: Martin Darcy
Author/Position: Tara Poole – Coordinator Creative City

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend that Council establish the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee and adopt its Terms of Reference.

RESOLUTION:

11. That Council:

11.1 Establish the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee;

11.2 Adopt the attached Terms of Reference; and

11.3 Note a report will be provided at a future Council meeting to formally appoint members to the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee following an Expression of Interest process.

Moved: Cr Jay Morrison
Seconded: Cr Samantha McIntosh

CARRIED
(R33/26)

9.3. LAKE WENDOUREE PUBLIC TOILET CONSULTATION OUTCOME

Division: Infrastructure and Environment
Director: Bridget Wetherall
Author/Position: Michael Hynes – Executive Manager Property and Facilities

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - a. Inform Council of the outcomes of the community engagement and process undertaken to inform the future location of the new Lake Wendouree public toilet, replacing the discontinued underground toilet; and
 - b. Seek Council endorsement of St Patrick's Point as the preferred toilet location at Lake Wendouree.

MOTION:

13. That Council:
 - 13.1 Note the outcome of the community engagement and process undertaken to inform the future location of the new Lake Wendouree public toilet, replacing the discontinued underground toilet;
 - 13.2 Endorse Loreto Point as the preferred toilet location for the new toilet at Lake Wendouree.

Moved: Cr Samantha Mcintosh
Seconded: Cr Jim Rinaldi

LOST

RESOLUTION:

13. That Council:
 - 13.1 Note the outcome of the community engagement and process undertaken to inform the future location of the new Lake Wendouree public toilet, replacing the discontinued underground toilet;
 - 13.2 Endorse St Patrick's Point as the preferred toilet location for the new toilet at Lake Wendouree, in accordance with the attached Recommended Project Direction.

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor
Seconded: Cr Des Hudson

CARRIED
(R34/26)

9.4. TENDER 25/26-79 EASTWOOD LEISURE COMPLEX - CONSTRUCTION

Division: Community Wellbeing
Director: Matthew Wilson
Author/Position: Phillip Barnett – Manager Project Delivery | Major Projects

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend award of Contract Number 25/26-79 for the construction of the Eastwood Leisure Complex project.

RESOLUTION:

13. That Council:
 - 13.1 Resolve to enter into Contract Number 25/26-79 for the provision of Eastwood Leisure Complex Development Construction with A W Nicholson Pty Ltd for the total tendered price of \$11,411,566.00 (ex GST).
 - 13.2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a. finalise the terms of Contract Number 25/26-79 with A W Nicholson Pty Ltd, provided that those contract terms are consistent with this Resolution; and
 - b. execute Contract Number 25/26-79 on behalf of Council.

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor
Seconded: Cr Des Hudson

CARRIED
(R35/26)

9.5. TENDER 2025/26-4 MARTY BUSCH RESERVE OVAL NO.2 CHANGEROOM CONSTRUCTION

Division: Community Wellbeing
Director: Matthew Wilson
Author/Position: Pinak Nirmal – Project Manager Major Projects

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend award of Contract Number 25/26-4 for the construction of Marty Busch Reserve Oval no.2 Changeroom.

RESOLUTION:

12. The Tender Evaluation Panel recommends that the Council:
 - 12.1 Resolves to enter into Contract Number 25/26-4 for the provision of Marty Busch Reserve – Oval No.2 Changeroom Construction with CIQ Construction Management Pty Ltd for the total tendered price of \$2,877,473.00 (ex GST).
 - 12.2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:
 - a. finalise the terms of Contract Number 25/26-4 with CIQ Construction Management Pty Ltd provided that those contract terms are consistent with this Resolution; and
 - b. execute Contract Number 25/26-4 on behalf of Council.

Moved: Cr Des Hudson
 Seconded: Cr Ben Taylor

CARRIED
(R36/26)

RESOLUTION:

That Council adjourn at 9:10PM for a comfort break

Moved: Cr Des Hudson
 Seconded: Cr Jay Morrison

CARRIED
(R37/26)

Council returned at 9:16pm.

9.6. TENDER 25/26-103 - PROVISION OF TECHNOLOGY AND ASSOCIATED PARKING METERS

Division: Development and Growth
Director: Natalie Robertson
Author/Position: Brenda Carey – Executive Manager Regulatory Services

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a recommendation to Council for the award of Contract 25/26-103 for the provision of parking technology and associated parking infrastructure (meters).

RESOLUTION:

16. That Council:

16.1 Enter into Contract Number 25/26-103 for the provision of technology and associated Parking Meters with Cellopark Australia Pty Ltd (Smarter City Solutions) for the tendered price of \$5,725,446.01 (ex GST) which includes implementation costs, fixed monthly costs, estimated variable monthly costs and estimated meter replacement costs.

16.2 The Contract Term is for five (5) years with the provision of two (2) x five (5) year extensions.

16.3 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:

- a. Finalise the terms of Contract Number 25/26-103 with Cellopark Australia Pty Ltd (Smarter City Solutions) provided that those contract terms are consistent with this Resolution; and
- b. Execute Contract Number 25/26-103 on behalf of Council.

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor
Seconded: Cr Des Hudson

CARRIED
(R38/26)

9.7. TENDER 24/25-63 - LEACHATE REMOVAL PANEL

Division: Infrastructure and Environment
Director: Bridget Wetherall
Author/Position: Lya Assef – Landfills and Transfer Station Manager

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend the award of Contract No 24/45-63 for the Provision of Liquid Waste (Leachate) removal works for Ballarat Regional Landfill and Gillies Street Transfer Station for a tendered schedule of rates.
2. The contract term is for three years with the provision of two additional three-year extensions.
3. The estimated spend over the full possible life 9-year contract including all options is \$9,755,428 (excluding GST).

RESOLUTION:

13. That Council:

13.1 Resolve to enter into Contract Number 24/25-63 for the provision of Liquid Waste (Leachate) removal works – Panel with the following companies for the tendered schedule of rates:

- RTD Environmental Pty Ltd; and
- Stows Waste Management.

The Contract Term is for three (3) years with the provision of two (2) additional three-year extensions.

Note: The estimated spend across the full possible life of the contract is \$9,755,428 ex GST.

13.2 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:

- a. finalise the terms of Contract Number 24/25-63 with RTD Environmental Pty Ltd and Stows Waste Management provided that those contract terms are consistent with this Resolution; and
- b. execute Contract Number 24/25-63 on behalf of Council.

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor
Seconded: Cr Des Hudson

CARRIED
(R39/26)

9.8. NAMING PROPOSAL - C.E BROWN RESERVE COURTS

Division: Infrastructure and Environment
Director: Bridget Wetherall
Author/Position: Maddison Campbell – Naming Officer

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - Inform Council of the outcomes of community consultation undertaken on the proposed name for the netball court at C.E Brown Reserve; and
 - Recommend that Council endorse the name ‘Sally McLean Courts’.

RESOLUTION:

13. That Council:

13.1 Endorse the name ‘Sally McLean Courts’ as the name for the courts at C.E Brown Reserve, as identified in Figure 1 of the report.

13.2 Refer the endorsed name to Geographic Names Victoria for registration and gazettal.

Moved: Cr Jay Morrison
Seconded: Cr Des Hudson

CARRIED
(R40/26)

9.9. USE OF HERITAGE LOAN FUNDS FOR HERITAGE GRANTS OFFICER PILOT POSITION

Division: Development and Growth
Director: Natalie Robertson
Author/Position: Annabel Neylon – Coordinator Heritage

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend that Council use a portion of the Heritage Loan funds to establish a 2-year pilot position of Heritage Grants and Engagement Officer to deliver the City of Ballarat Heritage Grants Scheme.

RESOLUTION:

17. That Council:

- 17.1 Confirm the use of the defunct Heritage Loan fund to support the administration and delivery of the new Heritage Grants Scheme.

Moved: Cr Ted Lapkin
Seconded: Cr Samantha McIntosh

CARRIED
(R41/26)

9.10. INTERCULTURAL PLAN 2022-2026 IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Division: Community Wellbeing
Director: Matthew Wilson
Author/Position: Suzannah Burton, Coordinator Reconciliation and Social Inclusion

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is for Council to receive and note the progress made towards actions in the third year of the implementation of the Intercultural Plan 2022-2026.

RESOLUTION:

15. That Council:

- 15.1 Receive and note the progress made towards actions in the third year of the implementation of the Intercultural Plan 2022-2026, as attached to this report.**

Moved: Cr Samantha McIntosh
Seconded: Cr Tess Morgan

CARRIED
(R42/26)

9.11. BSANZ CONFERENCE - OFFICER INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Division: Community Wellbeing
Director: Matthew Wilson
Author/Position: Craig Donaldson – Acting Executive Manager Libraries & Lifelong Learning

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to present an overview of the international travel of Mia Peardon, Heritage Librarian, who attended the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand (BSANZ) conference in Dunedin, New Zealand/Aotearoa.

RESOLUTION:

12. That Council:

12.1 Receive and note the report.

Moved: Cr Tracey Hargreaves
Seconded: Cr Jim Rinaldi

CARRIED
(R43/26)

9.12. BALLARAT WEST PRECINCT STRUCTURE PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS REVIEW STAKEHOLDER REFERENCE GROUP

Division: Development and Growth
Director: Natalie Robertson
Author/Position: Chris Duckett, Manager Sustainable Growth

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend that Council dissolve the Ballarat West Precinct Structure Plan and Development Contributions Review Stakeholder Reference Group.

RESOLUTION:

25. That Council:

25.1 Acknowledge the participation of the development industry representatives in the Ballarat West Precinct Structure Plan and Development Contributions Review Stakeholder Reference Group.

25.2 Dissolve the Ballarat West Precinct Structure Plan and Development Contributions Review Stakeholder Reference Group.

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor
Seconded: Cr Jay Morrison

CARRIED
(R44/26)

9.13. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE CHARTER

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Sophie Brown – Governance Project Officer

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend that Council adopt the revised Audit and Risk Committee Charter, which supersedes the previous Audit and Risk Committee Charter adopted on 12 August 2020 (R204/20).

RESOLUTION:

8. That Council:
 - 8.1 Adopt the revised Audit and Risk Committee Charter, which supersedes the previous Audit and Risk Committee Charter adopted on 12 August 2020 (R204/20).

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor
Seconded: Cr Ted Lapkin

CARRIED
(R45/26)

9.14. S11A INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Lyndsay Leingang – Statutory Governance Officer

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to request that Council authorise the S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation for Caroline Rollis and Lawrence Chu.

RESOLUTION:

8. **That Council:**
 - 8.1 **In the exercise of the powers conferred by section 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, resolves that:**
 - a. **The members of Council staff referred to in the instruments titled S11A Instrument of Delegation attached be appointed and authorised as set out in the instruments.**
 - b. **The instruments come into force immediately upon being signed by Council's Chief Executive Officer and remain in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.**

Moved: Cr Des Hudson
Seconded: Cr Ted Lapkin

CARRIED
(R46/26)

9.15. CONTRACTS APPROVAL DELEGATED COMMITTEE MINUTES

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Lorraine Sendall – Executive Assistant Director Corporate Services

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Council with minutes of Council's Contracts Approval Delegated Committee in accordance with the adopted Terms of Reference. This report provides minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2026 and a summary of information in relation to these minutes.

RESOLUTION:

6. That Council:
 - 6.1 Note, in accordance with section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, that the material contained in the Contracts Approval Delegated Committee agendas has been designated confidential.
 - 6.2 Receive the Contracts Approval Delegated Committee minutes of the meeting held on 14 January, 2026.

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor
Seconded: Cr Des Hudson

CARRIED
(R47/26)

9.16. OUTSTANDING QUESTION TIME ITEMS

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Sophie Brown – Governance Officer

PURPOSE

1. This report provides Council with an update of responses to questions taken on notice and outstanding unanswered questions from public question time.

RESOLUTION:

5. That Council:
 - 5.1 Endorse the Outstanding Question Time Report.

Moved: Cr Des Hudson
Seconded: Cr Jim Rinaldi

CARRIED
(R48/26)

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

11. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/COUNCILLORS

11.1. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Sophie Brown – Governance Project Officer

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is for Council to:
 - a. Receive the records of meetings held under the auspices of Council for noting, from Council's advisory committees and stakeholder reference groups that met throughout February 2026.
 - b. Note the resignation of Leticia Yates from the LGBTIQA+ Advisor Committee, commencing January 2026.
 - c. Adopt the updated Terms of Reference for the Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility Stakeholder Reference Group, as attached, superseding any previously adopted versions of the same.
 - d. Receive the results of the annual self-evaluation survey from advisory committees.

RESOLUTION:

11. That Council:
 - 11.1 **Receive the records of meetings held under the auspices of Council for noting, from Council's advisory committees and stakeholder reference groups that met throughout February 2026.**
 - 11.2 **Note the resignation of Leticia Yates from the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee, in January 2026.**
 - 11.3 **Adopt the updated Terms of Reference for the Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility Stakeholder Reference Group, as attached, superseding the previous Terms of Reference adopted 28 May 2025 (R93/25).**
 - 11.4 **Receive and note the results of the annual self-evaluation survey from advisory committees.**

Moved: Cr Tess Morgan
Seconded: Cr Des Hudson

CARRIED
(R49/26)

11.2. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

GB11/26 Cr Damon Saunders

Cr Saunders addressed the meeting and raised several questions on behalf of the community regarding the closure of Ring Road.

GB12/26 Cr Jay Morrison

Cr Morrison had the honour of raising the flag and speaking at the Harmony Week flag-raising ceremony.

Cr Morrison noted his attendance at the Begonia Festival and Parade. The event was described as a valued free community celebration of the City, its gardens and history, attracting families and people of all ages. Reference was made to record attendance numbers this year, as noted in the Chief Executive Officer Report.

Cr Morrison noted the upcoming *Let's Chat Ballarat* Expo, expressing enthusiasm following the success of the inaugural event last year. He further advised that a 'Let's Chat Wendouree Ward' session would be held on 20 April at the Wendouree Library from 4.00–6.00 pm, inviting community members to attend, ask questions, and raise issues.

GB13/26 Cr Ben Taylor

Cr Taylor attended the AFL Community Series over multiple days, noting strong attendance numbers despite ongoing construction works at the venue and favourable weather conditions. These events were acknowledged as contributing positively to the City's reputation for hosting major events.

Cr Taylor noted his attendance at the Begonia Festival. Cr Taylor observed strong community interest, including significant early attendance prior to daily opening times. Total attendance over the three-day event was estimated at approximately 75,000 people. Although unable to attend the parade, the Councillor was advised it was well received. The Councillor also highlighted use of the Yarrowee Track during the festival period and noted its value as a recreational asset.

Cr Taylor reported that representatives from other Councils visited Ballarat to learn about Council's aquatic strategies, including operations at the Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre. Discussions included accessibility improvements, shared learning between Councils, and confirmation that Council practices represent good practice, with ongoing commitment to continuous improvement informed by community feedback. Cr Taylor participated in this visit alongside Council officers and representatives from Wangaratta and Campaspe.

Cr Taylor promoted the upcoming Ballarat Business Awards, noting the launch of the program and acknowledging Federation University as the naming sponsor. Councillors were encouraged to nominate local businesses for recognition.

Cr Taylor acknowledged participation in St Patrick's Day celebrations and expressed anticipation for the upcoming *Let's Chat Ballarat* event.

GB14/26 Cr Tracey Hargreaves (Mayor)

The Mayor reported on the recent civic ceremony and parade hosted in Ballarat to mark the visit of HMAS *Ballarat*. The event was well attended and included a parade through the city, participation by approximately 120 naval officers, and associated ceremonial activities.

The Mayor promoted the upcoming *Let's Chat Ballarat* community expo, noting councillor and staff participation and encouraging community attendance.

GB15/26 Cr Samantha McIntosh

Cr McIntosh spoke in support of the Mayor's comments and highlighted the successful use of the A-Hall for the HMAS visit. Councillor McIntosh noted the demonstrated potential of the space for broader community use and that the event made very clear how that room can be used by many people in our community for events we should be very proud of. Cr McIntosh noted comments that we don't see the hall used like that very often, but there is an enormous opportunity for it to be used like that far more regularly, even weekly.

Cr Samantha McIntosh congratulated the CEO and staff for activating the room and showing us all how it can be used.

12. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

13. SECTION 66 (IN CAMERA)

RESOLUTION:

That Council resolve, pursuant to section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, that the meeting be closed to members of the public at 10.05pm whilst the Council is dealing with the following matters:

Moved: Cr Ben Taylor
Seconded: Cr Tess Morgan

CARRIED
(R50/26)

9.4 TENDER 25/26-79 EASTWOOD LEISURE COMPLEX – CONSTRUCTION

Division: Community Wellbeing
Director: Matthew Wilson
Author/Position: Phillip Barnett – Manager Project Delivery | Major Projects

(Confidential attachments)

Pursuant to sub rule 3.13.2 of the Governance Rules, the information contained within this document is designated as confidential information for the purposes of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). That is “confidential information” that in accordance with section 3 of the Act, is:

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

9.5 TENDER 2025/26-4 MARTY BUSCH RESERVE OVAL NO.2 CHANGEROOM CONSTRUCTION

Division: Community Wellbeing
Director: Matthew Wilson
Author/Position: Pinak Nirmal – Project Manager

(Confidential attachments)

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

9.6 TENDER 25/26-103 - PROVISION OF TECHNOLOGY AND ASSOCIATED PARKING METERS

Division: Development and Growth
Director: Natalie Robertson
Author/Position: Suzanne Verdoorn – Coordinator Compliance Parking and School Crossing

(Confidential attachments)

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

9.7 TENDER 24/25-63 - LEACHATE REMOVAL PANEL

Division: Infrastructure and Environment
Director: Bridget Wetherall
Author/Position: Lya Assef – Landfills and Transfer Station Manager

(Confidential attachments)

Pursuant to sub rule 3.13.2 of the Governance Rules, the information contained within this document is designated as confidential information for the purposes of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). That is “confidential information” that in accordance with section 3 of the Act, is:

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

9.15 CONTRACTS APPROVAL DELEGATED COMMITTEE MINUTES

Division: Corporate Services
Director: John Hausler
Author/Position: Lorraine Sendall – Executive Assistant, Director Corporate Services

(Confidential attachments)

Pursuant to sub rule 3.13.2 of the Governance Rules, the information contained within this document is designated as confidential information for the purposes of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). That is “confidential information” that in accordance with section 3 of the Act, is:

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

13.1 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Division: Infrastructure and Environment
Director: Bridget Wetherall
Author/Position: Nick Venville – Coordinator Property

(Confidential report)

Pursuant to sub rule 3.13.2 of the Governance Rules, the information contained within this document is designated as confidential information for the purposes of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). That is “confidential information” that in accordance with section 3 of the Act, is:

- (a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

RESOLUTION:

That Council move out of closed Council at 10.31PM and adopt the resolutions made therein.

Moved: Cr Des Hudson OAM
Seconded: Cr Ben Taylor

CARRIED
(R52/26)

