

OFFICIAL



Mansfield Shire

# Council Meeting

Tuesday 30 June 2026 5:00 pm  
Mansfield Shire Council Chamber

Notice and Agenda of meeting livestreamed via the  
[Mansfield Shire Council website](#)  
Commencing at 5pm

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Our aspiration for our Shire and its community

We live, work and play in an inclusive, dynamic and prosperous place where  
community spirit is strong and people are empowered to engage in issues that  
affect their lives.

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## **Councillors**

Cr Steve Rabie (Mayor)  
Cr James Tehan (Deputy Mayor)  
Cr Mandy Treasure  
Cr Bonnie Clark  
Cr Tim Berenyi

## **Officers**

Kirsten Alexander, Chief Executive Officer  
Melissa Crane, General Manager Investment & Planning  
Janique Snyder, Executive Manager Community Health & Wellbeing  
Justin Hotton, Executive Manager Capital Works & Operations  
Maya Balvonova, Executive Manager Development & Customer Service

## Order of Business

### 1. Opening of the meeting

The Mayor, who chairs the meeting, will formally open the meeting and welcome all present.

### 2. Present

Where a meeting is held virtually, Councillors will confirm that they can see and hear each other.

### 3. Apologies

Where a Councillor is not present, their absence is noted in the Minutes of the meeting.

### 4. Statement of commitment

The Council affirms its commitment to ensuring its behaviour meets the standards set by the Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

### 5. Acknowledgement of Country

The Council affirms its recognition of the Taungurung people being traditional custodians of this area, and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

### 6. Disclosure of conflicts of interest

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, a Councillor must declare any Conflicts of Interest pursuant to sections 126 and 127 Act in any items on this Agenda.

Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to any items listed on this Agenda must declare a Conflict of Interest regarding the specific item.

### 7. Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting are placed before Council to confirm the accuracy and completeness of the record.

### 8. Representations

Council receives or presents acknowledgements to the general public. Deputations may also be heard by members of the general public who have made submission on any matter or requested to address the Council. Council may also receive petitions from residents and ratepayers on various issues. Any petitions received since the previous Council meeting are tabled at the meeting and the matter referred to the appropriate Council officer for consideration.

### 9. Notices of Motion

A Motion is a request (Notice of Motion) that may be made by a Councillor for an issue not listed on the Agenda to be discussed at a Council meeting and for a decision to be made.

## **10. Mayor's report**

The Mayor provides a report on their activities.

## **11. Reports from council appointed representatives**

Councillors appointed by Council to external committees will provide an update where relevant.

## **12. Public question time**

Councillors will respond to questions from the community that have been received in writing, by midday on the Monday prior to the Council meeting. A form is provided on Council's website.

## **13. Officer reports**

**13.1 Council considers a report from the Chief Executive Officer on the current operations, activities and projects undertaken with each department over the past month**

**13.2-13.6 Officer reports are presented to the Council, where required.**

## **14. Council resolutions report**

Council reviews the outstanding actions arising from resolutions from previous Council meetings.

## **15. Advisory and Special Committee reports**

Council considers reports from Advisory Committees that Councillors represent Council on.

## **16. Authorisation of sealing of documents**

Any documents that are required to be endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer under delegated authority and sealed by the Council are presented to the Council.

## **17. Closure of meeting to members of the public**

Whilst all Council meetings are open to members of the public, Council has the power under the Local Government Act 2020 to close its meeting to the general public in certain circumstances which are noted where appropriate on the Council Agenda. Where this occurs, members of the public are excluded from the meeting while the matter is being discussed.

## **18. Presentation of confidential reports**

## **19. Reopen meeting to members of the public**

The Mayor will reopen the meeting to members of the public.

## **20. Close of meeting**

The Mayor will formally close the meeting and thank all present for attending.

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# Agenda

## 1. Opening of the meeting

## 2. Present

The Chair will call on any Councillor/s attending the meeting virtually and ask them to confirm verbally that they can see all Councillors and hear the proceedings.

Councillor/s attending virtually will respond to their name with: "I can hear the proceedings and see all Councillors and Council officers".

The Chair will ask the Councillor/s to confirm by raising their hand that they could all hear each statement of the Councillors.

Councillors will raise their hand to acknowledge they can hear each other.

## 3. Apologies

The Chair will call on the CEO for any apologies.

## 4. Statement of commitment

The Chair will read the statement and call on each Councillor to confirm their commitment:

*"As Councillors of Mansfield Shire we are committed to ensuring our behaviour meets the standards set by the Model Councillor Code of Conduct. We will, at all times, faithfully represent and uphold the trust placed in us by the community."*

## 5. Acknowledgement of Country

The Deputy Mayor will recite Council's Acknowledgement of Country:

*"Our meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Taungurung people. We wish to acknowledge them as the traditional custodians and pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We extend that respect to all members of our community."*

## 6. Disclosure of conflicts of interest

The Chair will call on each Councillor in turn and ask them to declare whether they have any conflicts of interest in relation to any agenda items:

- Councillor Tehan
- Councillor Treasure
- Councillor Clark
- Councillor Berenyi

## 7. Confirmation of minutes

### Recommendation

THAT the Minutes of the Mansfield Shire Council meeting held on 19 May 2026 be confirmed as an accurate record.

## 8. Representations

## 9. Notices of motion

Nil

## 10. Mayor's report

Mayor Steve Rabie will present the monthly Mayor's report to the Council as follows:

*Following an extended period of beautiful autumn weather, winter is now well and truly upon us.*

*We recently celebrated the start of the snow season with the expanded annual Lantern Festival. Once again, the organisers did an outstanding job delivering this much-loved community event. Council has proudly supported the festival since its inception in 2015, and it continues to provide a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together during the quieter months of the year while also welcoming visitors from across Victoria.*

*It's particularly pleasing to see more and more families and children attending each year. The sight of hundreds of lanterns lighting up the streets is a reminder of the strong community spirit that makes Mansfield such a special place. As we celebrate the arrival of winter, we look forward to what we hope will be a successful snow season for our alpine region. Recently, I attended the 2026 Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour Launch in Melbourne. Council, together with the Mansfield and District Racing Club and the team at Mt Buller, has successfully secured a place on the prestigious global Melbourne Cup Tour.*

*This is a significant achievement for our shire and a fantastic opportunity to showcase Mansfield and Mt Buller to a wider audience. Planning is already underway for a series of events to celebrate the arrival of the famous Melbourne Cup in Mansfield and at Mt Buller this August. Further details, including where residents and visitors will be able to view the iconic \$1 million, 18-carat gold trophy, will be announced closer to the visit.*

*NAIDOC Week will be celebrated from 5–12 July and this year marks the 50th anniversary of this national event. Council has developed a week-long program of activities commencing on 5 July with a Launch Event and Smoking Ceremony at the Gadhaba Gathering Place within the Station Precinct.*

*We recently received the results of the annual Community Satisfaction Survey and I was very pleased to see strong improvements across almost every category. These results tell me that Council's efforts to listen to the community and respond to local priorities are making a difference.*

*We continually look for opportunities to strengthen the relationship between Council and the community, and these results provide encouraging evidence that we are moving in the right direction. The full survey results will be presented to Council at the Ordinary Meeting on 30 June before being released publicly, and I encourage residents to take a look when they become available.*

*After many months of work from council officers and Councillors, I am also very pleased with the proposed 2026–27 Council Budget, which will be considered for adoption at the June Council meeting.*

*This is a responsible budget that continues to invest in the roads, facilities, services and infrastructure our growing community needs while maintaining strong financial discipline. It balances the challenges facing local government with our commitment to delivering value for ratepayers and preparing our shire for the future.*

*We understand the concerns many community members have expressed regarding the recent removal of native vegetation within Mansfield township. Council shares those concerns.*

*Mansfield's mature native trees contribute significantly to the character of our towns, provide important habitat for wildlife and help preserve the country atmosphere that residents value so highly. Council has introduced Significant Tree Protection provisions through our new Community Local Laws and will continue advocating for planning policies that recognise the unique needs of regional communities.*

*At the same time, we will continue to oppose the one-size-fits-all, Melbourne-centric approach to planning that is increasingly being imposed on regional Victoria.*

*Council will continue to strongly advocate for the Mansfield Emergency Services Precinct in the lead-up to the next State Election. The 2026 bushfire season reminded us how important it is that our emergency services have facilities that are fit for purpose.*

*With forecasts suggesting the 2027 season could again be severe, now is not the time to delay investment in critical emergency infrastructure. The lessons of recent fires must not be forgotten, and Council will continue working with all levels of government to ensure Mansfield receives the support and infrastructure needed to keep our community safe.*

*As winter settles in, I encourage everyone to get out and enjoy the many events, attractions and activities our shire has to offer. Whether you're a local resident or one of the many visitors we welcome each year, I hope you enjoy everything that makes Mansfield Shire such a wonderful place to live, work and visit.*

*Cr Steve Rabie  
Mayor*

### **Recommendation**

THAT COUNCIL receive the Mayor's report for the period 20 May 2026 to 24 June 2026.

## 11. Reports from council appointed representatives

Councillors appointed by Council to internal and external committees will provide a verbal update where relevant.

Committee	Responsible Councillor(s)
Australia Day Awards Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Cr Steve Rabie</li> <li>• Cr James Tehan</li> <li>• Cr Mandy Treasure</li> </ul>
Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance (GMCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cr Tim Berenyi</li> </ul>
Hume Regional Local Government Network (HRLGN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Cr Steve Rabie</li> </ul>
Mansfield Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Cr Steve Rabie</li> <li>• Cr Mandy Treasure</li> </ul>
Mansfield Shire CEO Employment Matters Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Cr Steve Rabie</li> <li>• Cr James Tehan</li> <li>• Cr Bonnie Clark</li> </ul>
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Cr Steve Rabie</li> <li>• Substitute - Deputy Mayor Cr James Tehan</li> </ul>
North East Local Government Waste and Recovery Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cr Tim Berenyi</li> </ul>
Rural Councils Victoria (RCV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cr James Tehan</li> </ul>
Station Precinct Museum Community Asset Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Cr Steve Rabie</li> </ul>
Taungurung-Local Government Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Cr Steve Rabie</li> </ul>

### Recommendation

THAT COUNCIL note the verbal reports provided by Councillors in relation to their representation on internal and external Committees.

## 12. Public question time

Council welcomes questions from the community. A question must be submitted by midday on the Monday prior to the Council meeting. The [‘ask a question’ form](#) is available from Council's website.

The Mayor will read out the question and answer at the meeting.

## 13. Officer reports

### 13.1. Chief Executive Officer's report

**File Number:** E103

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer, Kirsten Alexander

#### Introduction

The Chief Executive Officer's report allows a short briefing to be provided to the Council on the current operations, tasks and projects undertaken within each department over the past month.

The Chief Executive Officer report will provide information relation to:

- ▶ Customer Service
- ▶ Capital Works
- ▶ Statutory and Strategic Planning
- ▶ Waste Services (Landfill)
- ▶ Field Services
- ▶ Youth Services and Events
- ▶ Library
- ▶ Communications
- ▶ Digital Transformation Project

#### Recommendation

THAT COUNCIL receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's report for the period 1 May 2026 to 31 May 2026.

#### Support Attachments

1. CEO Monthly Report – May 2026 [13.1.1.1 - 39 pages]

## 13.2. Investment and Planning

### 13.2.1. Container Deposit Scheme Public Bin MOU and Advocacy Position on Scheme Expansion

<b>File Number</b>	E15035	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Project Officer Waste Infrastructure, Tori Fair
<b>Purpose</b>			

To seek Council endorsement to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Green Community Containers Mansfield to collect drink containers from dedicated Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) public bins; and to seek Council endorsement of an advocacy position on expansion of the Victorian Container Deposit Scheme.

#### Executive Summary

The Victorian State Government introduced the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) (Container Deposit Scheme) Regulations 2022*, managed by Recycling Victoria and promoting the recycling of eligible drink containers.

Since the rollout of the Victorian CDS system in December 2024, Green Containers Mansfield has seen exponential growth in container deposit levels, with the depot in Mansfield now reaching 10,000,000 eligible CDS containers returned since the program started. Momentum has been strong since inception of the program and continues to grow; however, statewide analysis across Victoria suggests this return rate is now starting to slow.

Advocacy groups like the Boomerang Alliance have conducted recent studies and surveys that indicate that the two main reasons for this drop in return rates are lack of convenience and not enough value in the refund amount per container. This refund rate is currently 10c per eligible container, with the Alliance advocating for an increase to 20c per container and an expansion of the scheme to include wine and spirit bottles.

An increase in local CDS container collection points is proposed in public spaces across Mansfield Shire, with new CDS public bins proposed to assist in reinvigorating CDS messaging and provide incentive to the Mansfield Shire community and visitors to recycle their drink containers and avoid sending them to landfill.

#### Key Issues

Council is installing up to 38 new CDS public bins across the Shire in areas with a high volume of visitor or community pedestrian traffic. The project responds to both community feedback and the opportunity provided by the container deposit scheme. Grant funding of \$4,000 has been made available to Council through VicReturn, towards supporting the roll out of this project.

Green Community Containers Mansfield (GCCM) on Withers Lane, operate Mansfield's local CDS sorting facility and have agreed to collaborate with Council by carrying out a collection service from the proposed 38 new CDS public bin locations across the Shire. This ongoing

collection service would be provided at no additional cost to Council with the collection schedule tailored to usage and managed by GCCM under the proposed MOU.

### **Locations**

The new CDS public bins are proposed to be located in four townships across the Shire including; Mansfield, Jamieson, Bonnie Doon, and Goughs Bay. Locations proposed include key sporting areas, highly frequented tourist areas and locations in proximity to hotels/caravan parks. A copy of the proposed locations is included in Attachment 1.

### **Public Bin Infrastructure Recycling**

Due to the recent Public Bin Upgrade project undertaken by Council, all 38 CDS bins will be created by recycling and restoring the old public bin surrounds from Council's original stock replaced in the upgrade project. This has helped to keep costs low and minimised waste to landfill.

The old bin surrounds are currently undergoing a small refurbishment to fix locks, frames and general appearance so that they can have fresh panels affixed to the side with photos contributed by the local community. As for the Public Bin Upgrade project, the CDS bin surrounds will further celebrate the landscapes, plants, animals and community of Mansfield Shire, with photographs submitted by local photographers. Each door panel will have the generic CDS Victoria branding which is a requirement of the VicReturn funding body.

GCCM will supply 240L 'blue lid' bins to fit the refurbished bin surrounds. A Memorandum of Understanding is proposed between Council and Green Community Containers Mansfield to formalise the arrangements for collection of the CDS drink containers, with an initial term of two years proposed to trial the arrangement. The proposed MOU document is included in Attachment 2.

### **Container Deposit Scheme Advocacy**

The Boomerang Alliance are seeking support for expansion of the current scheme, with the following actions proposed for advocacy to governments across Australia to take the next step in strengthening Australia's Container Refund Scheme by:

- Increasing the refund amount to a minimum of 20c per container.
- Including wine and spirit bottles in all states and territories (currently excluded in Victoria).
- Expanding the scheme to include more container types, bottle tops (tethered caps), and reusable bottles.
- Improving community access to refund drop-off points to increase public participation and container returns (as proposed in this report).
- Implementing strategies to directly address low return rates in problem areas such as away from home, multi dwellings and remote locations.

The Alliance undertook a survey to determine what impact an increase to 20c for the refund amount would yield in Australia, which resulted in:

- 85% of respondents supported increasing the refund.
- 84% confirmed they'd participate more if the refund went up to 20c.
- 60% confirmed it would help with cost-of-living pressures.

### Recommendation

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Notes the proposed installation of up to 38 new CDS public bins in public areas across Mansfield Shire with a high volume of visitor or community pedestrian traffic as part of the project, supported by a \$4,000 grant from VicReturn.
2. Endorses the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with Green Community Containers Mansfield for collection of containers from the new public bins.
3. Authorises the CEO to undertake any required administrative amendments prior to execution of the MOU agreement.
4. Approves an advocacy position in relation to strengthening of the Container Refund Scheme for expansion of the scheme and increase in the refund amount to a minimum of 20c.
5. Authorises the CEO and Mayor to advocate for and communicate this position statement.

### Support Attachments

1. Proposed CDS Public Bin Locations [13.2.1.1 - 4 pages]
2. DRAFT MoU - Green Community Containers Mansfield [13.2.1.2 - 4 pages]

## Considerations and Implications of Recommendation

### Sustainability Implications

The reuse and refurbishment of existing bin surrounds and the collection of eligible drink containers for recycling through the proposed CDS public bins contributes to Council's strategic objective for waste and energy sustainability through minimising and re-using waste and diverting items from landfill.

### Community Engagement

Stakeholder engagement has occurred with Green Community Containers Mansfield to develop the proposed Memorandum of Understanding. Engagement with the Mansfield Shire community has been undertaken to seek images for inclusion on the bin surrounds to further celebrate the landscapes, plants, animals and community of Mansfield Shire. Subject to Council endorsement of the MOU, further engagement with local businesses will be undertaken with respect to the proposed CDS bin locations.

## **Collaboration**

Council collaborates with other Councils and Alpine Resorts Victoria on waste and recycling initiatives through the Northeast Local Government Waste & Recycling Forum, which is currently chaired by Mansfield Shire Cr Tim Berenyi. The Boomerang Alliance has presented to participating Councils in the Forum seeking support for the advocacy campaign to expand the Container Refund Scheme. Forum members are also sharing information and collaborating over their CDS bin rollouts to learn from experiences in other Councils and States.

## **Financial Impact**

The VicReturn grant funding of \$4,000 will partly support the rollout of the new CDS bins. The remaining funds will be contributed by Council within existing operational budget allocations, with a total anticipated project cost of approx. \$42,000.

## **Legal and Risk Implications**

Project risks have been addressed through collaboration with project partners and other local governments to learn from their experience with other CDS bin rollouts. Bin locations will be carefully selected to minimise reputational risk and the risk of container theft. The proposed MOU agreement clearly sets out the responsibilities for each party for the supply and rollout of the new bins and the collection of the containers.

## **Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019

Recycling Victoria: A new economy 2020-2030

## **Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

Information obtained on waste and recycling initiatives through the Northeast Local Government Waste & Recycling Forum has been used by Council officers in development of the project scope, with re-use of old bin surrounds and pyramid top bins being an innovation proposed by Mansfield Shire to minimise contamination with other waste items.

## **Alignment to Council Plan**

Theme 1: A Healthy and Connected Community

Strategic Objective 1.1 Strengthen community connections, inclusions and participation

Theme 2: Vibrant Liveability

Strategic Objective: 2.4 Strengthen and diversify the local economy and visitor appeal

Theme 3: An Effective and Efficient Council

Strategic Objective 3.2 Ensure responsible and innovative resource management

## **Governance - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

The author of this report and officers providing advice in relation to this report do not have a conflict of interest to declare in this matter, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

### 13.2.2. High Street Service Lane - Proposed Closure

<b>File Number</b>	E15859	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Acting Manager Engineering Services, Fabian Rukshan
<b>Purpose</b>			

The purpose of this report is to seek a council resolution to close the High Street service road from Apollo St end, including obtaining final approval of the design from Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and commence works to implement that resolution.

#### Executive Summary

Mansfield Shire Council has received multiple concerns and requests from residents and community members regarding current traffic conditions on the High Street service road. It is noted that the purpose of a service road is to allow drivers to safely access local homes and businesses and driveways, without disrupting the flow of traffic on the main road. Council has undergone an engagement process on the requested closure with two different options explored, and closure of the service road from the Apollo Street end is being recommended as a result of this engagement.

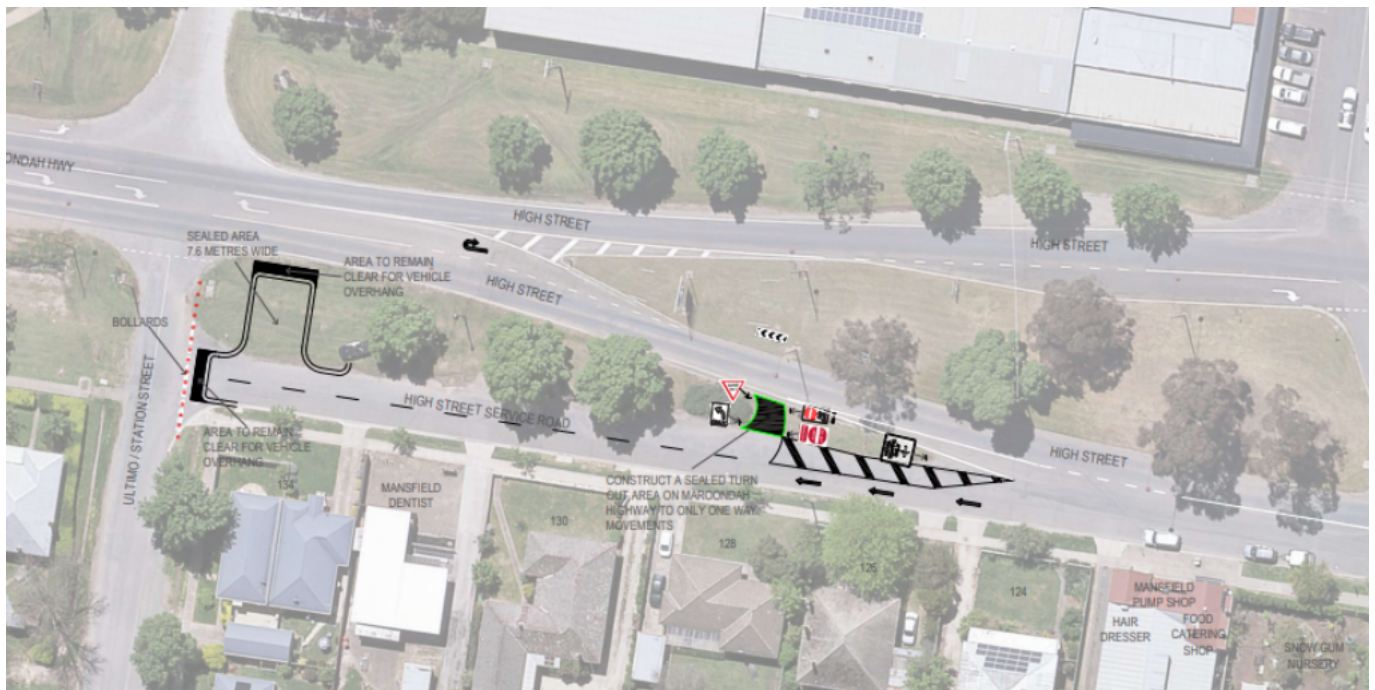
#### Key Issues

The concerns raised relate to the use of the service road by drivers as a shortcut through to Station Street, rather than just for access to the houses and businesses in that area, as is the purpose of a service road. This behaviour increases traffic volumes and affects safety and amenity for local residents.

These issues are especially noticeable during peak periods, including the winter ski season due to the increased number of visitors.

An analysis of current traffic patterns shows that most vehicles are using the High Street service road as a through-route to access Ultimo/Station St, rather than using the main road network as intended. With the anticipated growth for Mansfield, this behaviour is expected to increase, placing additional pressure on the service road and impacting the amenity, safety, and livability for nearby residents.

Council officers proposed two options through the engagement process, with the first option to close the service road at the Ultimo/Station Street end, as follows:



Community engagement on this option found that 57% of respondents were not in favour, and 37% were in favour. Based on the information from submitters in that consultation, a second option was developed, which changed the end of the service lane that the closure would apply to, as follows:



This option resulted with only 20% of respondents not in favour, and 80% in favour of the proposal and is recommended to Council to be enacted.

**Recommendation**

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Closes the High St service road to through traffic at the Apollo Street end.
2. Seek approval from the Department of Transport and Planning to undertake the closure.
3. Undertake the necessary works to close this through road.
4. Amend the Register of Public Roads to reflect the change in the status of this service road.

**Support Attachments**

1. High Street Service Road Proposal Survey - 1 [13.2.2.1 - 38 pages]
2. High Street Service Road Proposal Survey - 2 [13.2.2.2 - 20 pages]

**Considerations and Implications of Recommendation**

**Sustainability Implications**

Not Applicable

**Community Engagement**

To address concerns raised regarding the use of this service road, Council has recently completed two rounds of community engagement over two closure options.

The first round of engagement on Option 1, which proposed closing the service road at the Ultimo/Station Street end, started on 7 April 2026 and concluded on 21 April 2026. The engagement results found that of the 35 responses to the proposal, 57% of respondents were not in favour, and 37% were in favour. Based on the information from submitters in that consultation, a second option was proposed, which changed the end of the service lane that the closure would apply to. The second round of engagement started on 1 May 2026 and concluded on 15 May 2026 and received 15 submissions, with only 20% of respondents not in favour, and 80% in favour of the proposal. Copies of the engagement reports are attached to this paper.

In addition, for both proposals, individual letters were hand delivered to affected residents and businesses. This method of engagement allowed both residents and business owners an opportunity to discuss the proposal and ask questions if needed.

Facebook posts on 7 April 2026 and 5 May 2026 were posted, directing community towards the engagement page for their feedback.

**Collaboration**

Council officers have discussed both closure options with the Department of Transport and Planning, and have received in principle support for both options, however; the final design is still under discussion with DTP and will have to be approved by DTP prior to implementation.

**Financial Impact**

The works to block High Street service road from the Apollo Street end will require signs and line marking, with no significant cost. The U-turn for service trucks may require sealing which Council officers would recommend being added to the future capital works sealing program if needed, upon advice from DTP. No expected additional ongoing maintenance costs or financial implications are anticipated.

## **Legal and Risk Implications**

Under the *Local Government Act 1989* Schedule 11, Section 9, Council has the power to permanently block or restrict vehicles on a road managed by council by installing barriers or obstacles. However, before doing this, the council must obtain Department of Transport and Planning consent.

## **Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

The works on the High Street service road, will be undertaken in accordance with the *Road Management Act 2004*.

## **Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

Not Applicable

## **Alignment to Council Plan**

Council Plan – Strategic Objective 3.1: Deepen community engagement and foster civic responsibility

## **Governance - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

The author of this report and officers providing advice in relation to this report do not have a conflict of interest to declare in this matter, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

### 13.2.3. Gravel Cycling Routes

<b>File Number</b>	E11411	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Senior Coordinator Economic Development, Gareth MacDonald
<b>Purpose</b>			

To seek Council endorsement of the final Gravel Cycling Route Network and associated safety and education measures following an extensive community engagement process.

#### Executive Summary

The Mansfield Gravel Cycling Project forms part of a broader regional initiative led by Tourism North East to establish Victoria’s High Country as a premier gravel cycling destination. The project was originally developed through the Activating Gravel Cycling Tourism Program, which secured external funding to install route infrastructure, signage and rider support facilities across the municipality.

Since the initial proposal was developed, Council has undertaken community engagement processes in recent years to ensure the proposed routes appropriately balance tourism opportunities with the needs of local residents, landowners and agricultural businesses

Community engagement included direct correspondence with affected landowners, online engagement through Engage Mansfield, stakeholder meetings, individual property visits and ongoing discussions with community members over a twelve-month period.

As a result of feedback received, Council officers have substantially revised the original proposal. The network has been reduced from nine proposed routes to three routes, with several routes removed entirely from promotion due to concerns raised by adjoining landowners and road users. Additional safety measures, educational resources and route-specific improvements have also been incorporated.

The routes to be considered for the final recommended network consists of:

- Mansfield – Goughs Bay Picnic Point
- Merrijig – Two Rivers Loop
- Mt Samaria Loop

These routes have been identified as providing the best balance between visitor experience, economic opportunity, rider safety and community expectations.

#### Key Issues

Council recognised concerns raised regarding the initial development of the route network and responded by undertaking a comprehensive engagement process in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Feedback was received from residents, farmers, cyclists, tourism operators, community groups and visitors. Concerns relating to safety, livestock movements, agricultural operations, road conditions and visitor behaviour have directly informed the final recommendations presented to Council.

Gravel cycling is one of the fastest-growing sectors within the cycling and outdoor recreation market nationally and internationally. Victoria's High Country has established itself as a leading cycling destination through significant investment in road cycling, mountain biking and rail trail infrastructure. The proposed gravel cycling routes complement existing cycling assets and form part of the wider Ride High Country network. The project provides an opportunity to attract new visitor markets, encourage longer visitor stays and increase visitor expenditure across accommodation, hospitality, retail and tourism businesses. Unlike large-scale infrastructure projects, the gravel cycling network utilises existing public roads and infrastructure, representing a cost-effective tourism development initiative while maintaining public access and agricultural use.

Some concerns have been raised in relation the Merrijig – Two Rivers loop, including where the loop crosses the creek on Buttercup Road. It is noted that the Two Rivers Loop is intended for very experienced riders due to its length (62.9km), elevation gain (1,556m) and remote nature. It is not proposed as a beginner ride or mass tourism experience, but rather for experienced gravel cyclists who actively seek remote and challenging riding conditions. Council officers will expand the safety messaging to include specific warnings advising people it is recommended for dry weather only due to the creek crossings and high elevation, being from November to early May.

A key outcome of the engagement process has been the development of additional safety initiatives for all road users. Council and Tourism North East have developed educational materials specifically addressing interactions between cyclists, livestock, farm machinery and local road conditions. A dedicated rider safety video and rider etiquette guidelines have been produced and will be promoted through route signage, QR codes and digital channels.

Additional road signage is also proposed on sections of the network where concerns were raised regarding road geometry, visibility and driver behaviour.

These measures aim to improve awareness and promote respectful coexistence between cyclists, residents, farmers and other road users.

**Recommendation**

**THAT COUNCIL**

1. Endorse the Mansfield Gravel Cycling Route Network consisting of:
  - Mansfield – Goughs Bay Picnic Point;
  - Merrijig – Two Rivers Loop; and
  - Mt Samaria Loop.

OR:

Endorse the Mansfield Gravel Cycling Route Network consisting of:

  - Mansfield-Goughs Bay Picnic Point; and
  - Mt Samaria Loop

OR:

Not endorse the Mansfield Gravel Cycling Route Network.
2. Endorse the implementation of the associated safety improvements, educational resources and rider etiquette initiatives outlined in this report.
3. Note that Council officers will undertake monitoring and review of the promoted route network, including consideration of community feedback, usage data and any identified safety concerns.

## Support Attachments

1. Mt Samaria Loop Gravel Cycling Project Map [13.2.3.1 - 1 page]
2. Merrijig Two Rivers Loop Gravel Cycling Project Map [13.2.3.2 - 1 page]
3. Mansfield Goughs Bay Picnic Point Gravel Cycling Project Map [13.2.3.3 - 1 page]

## Considerations and Implications of Recommendation

### Sustainability Implications

The project promotes low-impact nature-based recreation and encourages active participation in outdoor environments while utilising existing road infrastructure.

### Community Engagement

Community Engagement has been undertaken in accordance with the Council Community Engagement Policy by direct correspondence with affected landowners, online engagement through Engage Mansfield, stakeholder meetings, individual property visits and ongoing discussions with community members over a twelve-month period.

### Collaboration

This project has been undertaken in collaboration with Tourism North East.

### Financial Impact

The project was funded through a grant program with Tourism North East, at no cost to Council for the identification of potential routes or the signage and other infrastructure installed. All secondary engagement has been undertaken internally by Council Officers within existing staff resources.

### Legal and Risk Implications

Safety Risk: Safety has been a key consideration throughout the development of this project. Through the extensive community engagement process, Council identified a range of concerns relating to interactions between cyclists, agricultural activities, livestock movements and other road users. In response, the proposed network has been significantly reduced from the original nine routes to three routes, with several routes removed specifically due to safety concerns raised by residents and landowners. Additional mitigation measures have also been implemented, including route-specific safety signage, educational videos, rider etiquette guidelines and ongoing monitoring of the network. While it is acknowledged that risks can never be completely eliminated on public roads that are shared by a variety of users, Council officers are satisfied that all reasonable and practical measures have been taken to minimise identified risks and promote the safe coexistence of cyclists, motorists, agricultural vehicles and livestock movements.

### Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Not Applicable

## **Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

The project demonstrates Council's ability to adapt tourism initiatives in response to community feedback and reflects a collaborative approach to balancing economic development with community expectations.

## **Alignment to Council Plan**

Theme 1: A Healthy and Connected Community

Strategic Objective 1.1 Strengthen community connection, inclusion and participation

Strategic Objective 1.2 Enable active lifestyles through inclusive, accessible and utilised public spaces

Strategic Objective 1.3 Promote health and wellbeing across all life stages

Theme 2: Vibrant Liveability

Strategic Objective 2.1 Look after the land, the environment and our country character

Strategic Objective 2.2 Plan and deliver sustainable, future-ready infrastructure and land use

Strategic Objective 2.3 Enhance recreation, sport and community facilities

Strategic Objective 2.4 Strengthen and diversify the local economy and visitor appeal

Theme 3: An Effective and Efficient Council

Strategic Objective 3.1 Deepen community engagement and foster civic responsibility

Strategic Objective 3.2 Ensure responsible and innovative resource management

Strategic Objective 3.3 Maintain strong governance, transparency and accountability

## **Governance - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

The author of this report and officers providing advice in relation to this report do not have a conflict of interest to declare in this matter, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

### 13.2.4. Sporting Wall of Fame

<b>File Number</b>	E613	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Senior Coordinator Economic Development, Gareth MacDonald
<b>Purpose</b>			

To provide Council with the results of community engagement undertaken for the Mansfield Sporting Wall of Fame Mural project and seek Council endorsement of the proposed athletes for the mural.

#### Executive Summary

Council is renewing the mural located on the Mansfield Sporting Complex as part of the overall Mansfield Sporting Complex refurbishment project. For the past five years, the wall has featured a mural of local Olympian Hayley Wilson, which was sponsored and funded by Nike. In conjunction with the upgrades currently planned to the Sporting Complex changerooms as part of the “Play our Way” grant funded project, Council has identified an opportunity to create a broader Sporting Wall of Fame that celebrates Mansfield's rich sporting heritage and recognises local athletes who have achieved success at elite levels.

The project aims to create a significant public artwork that recognises sporting excellence, celebrates local achievement, and reinforces Mansfield's identity as a community with a proud sporting culture.

Council officers are seeking endorsement of the proposed list of community nominated athletes, in order to progress artist selection in partnership with community representatives. The proposed list of athletes is as follows:

<b>ATHLETE</b>	<b>SPORT</b>
Catherine Skinner	Shooting
Will Purcell	Bull Riding
Max Fricke	Speedway Racing
Alex “Chumpy” Pullin	Snowboarding
Simon Gerrans	Cycling
Hayley Wilson	Skateboarding
Domingo “Mingo” Diaz	Shooting
Anton Grimus	Skiing
Michael Walker	Wheelchair Basketball
Hayden Fletcher	BMX
Sophia Hill	Equestrian
Josh Fraser	AFL

## Key Issues

The Mansfield Sporting Wall of Fame presents an opportunity to create a lasting community asset that recognises local sporting excellence and inspires future generations of athletes across a broad scope of sports.

A community engagement process was undertaken through Council's Engage platform, inviting nominations and votes for athletes to be featured on the mural. The engagement generated strong community interest and resulted in nominations spanning a diverse range of sports and achievements, including Olympians, Paralympians, World Champions, Commonwealth Games representatives and professional athletes. The nomination process received submissions for a broad range of athletes across disciplines including cycling, shooting, snow sports, AFL, wheelchair basketball, equestrian, boxing and motorsport.

The area proposed to be used for the mural is shown in green below:



To ensure broad community ownership of the project, it is proposed that Council work collaboratively with the Arts Collaboration Forum and local sporting representatives, including the Sports and Recreation Reference Group, to assist with artist assessment and selection of a preferred artistic style.

## Recommendation

### THAT COUNCIL:

1. Note the results of the community engagement undertaken for the Mansfield Sporting Wall of Fame Mural project and endorse the final selection of athletes being the following:
  - Catherine Skinner
  - Will Purcell
  - Max Fricke
  - Alex “Chumpy” Pullin
  - Simon Gerrans
  - Hayley Wilson
  - Domingo “Mingo” Diaz
  - Anton Grimus
  - Michael Walker
  - Hayden Fletcher
  - Sophia Hill
  - Josh Fraser
2. Endorse Council officers working with the Arts Collaboration Forum and local sporting representatives to assist with artist selection and development of the mural concept; and
3. Receive a further report on the preferred mural design and proposed project budget prior to final implementation.

## Support Attachments

1. Mansfield Sporting Wall of Fame - Engagement Summary [**13.2.4.1** - 78 pages]

## Considerations and Implications of Recommendation

### Sustainability Implications

Not Applicable

### Community Engagement

Community Engagement has been undertaken in accordance with Council’s Community Engagement Policy to seek input on the athletes for inclusion on the mural. A copy of the engagement report is attached to this paper.

### Collaboration

The project will be delivered in collaboration with the Arts Collaboration Forum, local sporting clubs and the Sports and Recreation Reference Group to ensure the final outcome reflects both community aspirations and artistic integrity.

### Financial Impact

All project planning and engagement activities have been undertaken within existing Council resources. A final budget allocation for creation of the mural will be confirmed following development of a preferred concept with the stakeholders outlined above.

## **Legal and Risk Implications**

Athlete achievements will be verified prior to inclusion in the mural. Although early engagement has already taken place with the nominated athletes, formal consent will be sought from all the nominated athletes and/or their families before any final design work proceeds. Council will continue to manage procurement and contractual arrangements in accordance with its procurement policies and governance requirements.

## **Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

Not Applicable

## **Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

The project provides an opportunity to celebrate local athletes in a prominent public space and highlight local sporting achievements, strengthening community pride and ownership of the space.

## **Alignment to Council Plan**

Theme 1: A Healthy and Connected Community

Strategic Objective 1.1 Strengthen community connection, inclusion and participation

Strategic Objective 1.3 Promote health and wellbeing across all life stages

Theme 2: Vibrant Liveability

Strategic Objective 2.3 Enhance recreation, sport and community facilities

Theme 3: An Effective and Efficient Council

Strategic Objective 3.3 Maintain strong governance, transparency and accountability

## **Governance - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

The author of this report and officers providing advice in relation to this report do not have a conflict of interest to declare in this matter, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

### 13.3. Development & Customer Service

#### 13.3.1. Creation of Road – Erril Street

<b>File Number</b>	E11146	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Strategic Property Program Manager, Renee Archibald
<b>Purpose</b>			

To seek Council approval to formally establish Erril Street as a road reserve, including the preparation and lodgement of two Section 35 Plans of Subdivision, associated surveyor works, and completion of the required statutory processes to enable the land to be vested in Council as a road reserve.

#### Executive Summary

This proposal seeks to facilitate the formal creation of a road over Erril Street, traversing Lots 1 and 2 on PS311621H and Lot 1 on PS331405B in Mansfield. The requirement has been triggered by Goulburn Valley Water (GVW), which requires formalised access and easements over existing water main infrastructure to support the completion of the subdivision of the Bowls Club site.

Erril Street has historically not been formally vested as a road in Council, instead existing as a parcel of land owned by Council. Notwithstanding this, the land has long been recognised and managed as a road and is already included in Council’s Register of Public Roads. This process therefore does not introduce any new road or change in use but is simply formalising and regularising arrangements that were already in place, ensuring consistency between the road register, statutory status, and existing on-ground conditions.

To address this, the preferred approach is to prepare and lodge two Section 35 Plans of Subdivision to create the road and enable it to vest in Council. This will resolve existing legacy anomalies and formally recognise the function of Erril Street as a road reserve.

Investigations of the relevant Plans of Subdivision identified inconsistencies in the common boundaries between the two subdivisions. Development of a single consolidated plan would necessitate extensive and unnecessary site survey works. The proposed two-plan approach avoids this complexity and provides a more efficient pathway. This option is considered more practical, timely, and cost-effective than the alternative approach of establishing various easements on the associated titles to satisfy GVW requirements.

Given that Erril Street is already constructed, functions as a carriageway, and is included in Council’s road register, formalising the land as a road reserve represents the most appropriate long-term solution.

Approval is sought to proceed with this approach, including the preparation and lodgement of the required plans and associated statutory processes.

### Key Issues

Erril Street is already constructed and functions as a road, providing access to adjoining businesses with direct frontage. While it has historically existed as Council-owned land rather than a formally declared road reserve, it has long been included in Council’s road register and managed accordingly. This process does not introduce any new infrastructure or change in use; it simply formalises and regularises existing arrangements to ensure alignment between statutory land status, the road register, and on-ground conditions.



Figure 1 – Locality and Title Plan Showing Erril Street and Surrounding Parcels

Investigations have identified that the common boundaries between PS311621H and PS331405B are not aligned. This prevents the road from being created through a single Plan of Subdivision without undertaking a detailed and costly site survey. To address this, two separate Section 35 Plans of Subdivision are proposed, providing a more efficient and practical pathway.

Figure 1 provides spatial context for the proposal, showing Erril Street and the surrounding parcels, including the Bowls Club site. It illustrates the extent of land affected, the relationship between adjoining titles, and the boundary inconsistencies that necessitate the two-plan approach. The figure also reflects the existing function of Erril Street as a formed and operational roadway. The finalisation of the subdivision and sale of the Bowls Club land at 35–37 Ailsa Street is contingent on this process progressing.

Goulburn Valley Water (GVW) requires formalised access to water infrastructure located within Erril Street. While the creation of easements was initially considered, this option would introduce ongoing title encumbrances and increased administrative complexity. GVW has confirmed that the Section 35 subdivision approach is preferred and has indicated it will prioritise assessment of the application.

Although easements could satisfy servicing requirements, they do not represent the most appropriate long-term outcome. Formalising and vesting the land as a road reserve provides greater clarity of ownership and responsibility and aligns with Council’s road register and broader asset management objectives. The process will require certification and registration of the subdivision plan, including plan preparation, lodgement through SPEAR, Council certification, and registration at Land Registry.

**Recommendation**

**THAT COUNCIL**

1. Approves the commencement of the process to formalise and regularise Erril Street as a road reserve, being Lots 1 and 2 on PS311621H and Lot 1 on PS331405B, Mansfield.
2. Endorses the preparation and lodgement of two Section 35 Plans of Subdivision to facilitate the formalisation of the road and vesting of the land as road reserve.
3. Notes that this approach is supported by Goulburn Valley Water as the preferred option and is required to enable final progression of the Bowls Club land transaction at 35–37 Ailsa Street.
4. Notes that Erril Street is already constructed and included in Council’s Register of Public Roads, with this process representing an administrative formalisation of existing arrangements rather than the creation of new infrastructure.
5. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute all required documentation and to take any necessary actions to give effect to this resolution.

**Support Attachments**

1. Plan of Subdivision 1192405 Draft [13.3.1.1 - 2 pages]
2. Plan of Subdivision 1192404 Draft [13.3.1.2 - 2 pages]

**Considerations and Implications of Recommendation**

**Sustainability Implications**

Not Applicable

## **Community Engagement**

Community Engagement will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy by placing a notice in the Mansfield Courier and on Council's website, and by directly notifying adjoining landholders. As this process does not introduce any new road or change in use but is simply formalising and regularising arrangements that were already in place, broader community engagement is not considered necessary in this case.

## **Collaboration**

Not Applicable

## **Financial Impact**

The total estimated cost to complete the subdivision, certification, and registration process is approximately \$6,892 (ex GST). This includes all surveying, plan preparation, SPEAR lodgement, certification, and final registration activities with Land Use Victoria.

These costs can be accommodated within Council's operational budget, and the subdivision works will be coordinated using internal Council officer time within existing budget allocations.

## **Legal and Risk Implications**

The creation of the road must comply with the Subdivision Act 1988, including the preparation and lodgement of Section 35 Plans of Subdivision, certification through SPEAR, and registration with Land Use Victoria. The process requires coordination between Council and relevant referral authorities to obtain all necessary approvals.

The risk of delays or additional costs will be mitigated through accurate documentation, thorough preparation, and proactive management of the application process. Costs have been minimised through the proposed two-plan approach to resolve this legacy issue identified during the establishment of the new Bowls Club allotment.

## **Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

Not Applicable

## **Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

Not Applicable

## **Alignment to Council Plan**

Theme 2 – Vibrant Liveability

Strategic Objective 2.2 Plan and deliver sustainable, future-ready infrastructure and land use

Theme 3: An Effective and Efficient Council

Strategic Objective 3.3 Maintain strong governance, transparency, and accountability

## **Governance - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

The author of this report and officers providing advice in relation to this report do not have a conflict of interest to declare in this matter, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

## 13.4. Capital Works and Operations

### 13.4.1. Tracks and Trails Strategy 2026-2046

<b>File Number</b>	E13805	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Project Officer, Asher Lloyd
<b>Purpose</b>			

To present Council’s Tracks and Trails Strategy 2025–2045 to Council for endorsement.

#### Executive Summary

The Tracks and Trails Strategy 2026–2046 provides a 20-year framework to guide how the network is planned, improved and managed into the future.

The Strategy identifies key gaps and opportunities across the Shire's trail network and sets a direction for investment. It covers a broad range of trail users and experiences from walking, cycling, mountain biking and horse riding.

The Strategy sets out the framework, key directions and priority actions to guide the planning, development and management of the Shire’s tracks and trails network over the next 20 years.

#### Key Issues

The Tracks and Trails Strategy 2026-2046 provides a 20-year framework to guide the planning, development, improvement and management of the Shire's recreational tracks and trails network.

Council engaged Tredwell Management in January 2025 to develop the strategy which has been funded by a \$40,000 grant from the Victorian Government through the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund 2023–24, with a Council contribution of \$15,000.

#### Community Engagement

An extensive community engagement process was undertaken across three rounds to inform and test the Strategy, in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

**Stage 1:** The first round focused on gathering broad community input to shape the Strategy's direction. Community members were asked about their experience and use of existing tracks and trails, what improvements they wanted to see and what new trails or connections they felt were missing. Activities included an online community survey via Engage Mansfield, community drop-in sessions at the Mansfield Farmers Market and Visitor Information Centre and online workshops with business and community groups.

**Stage 2:** The second round presented a shortlist of potential priority projects back to the community, asking them to indicate which projects they considered most important. This helped confirm the priority order of actions in the implementation plan.

**Stage 3:** The third round placed the draft Strategy on public exhibition, providing the broader community with an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed directions before finalisation.

Feedback across all three rounds highlighted strong support for improved connectivity between key destinations, better maintained trails, enhanced accessibility and a greater variety of trail experiences across the Shire.

Further community engagement will take place prior to the implementation of included projects in this strategy.

### Strategic Outcomes

The strategy is supported by four Strategic Outcomes:

Criteria	Description
Integrated Planning & Management	A coordinated approach to planning and managing tracks and trails, with prioritised investment and resources.
Quality, Safe and Sustainable Network	Enhancing and developing tracks and trails to offer high-quality, safe and sustainable experiences for residents and visitors across all areas of the Shire.
Information and Marketing	Promoting the Shire’s trail network with consistent and reliable information to encourage safe and sustainable exploration of the region.
Community, Tourism & Economic Development	Supporting community wellbeing, strengthening the visitor experience, and contributing to the Mansfield Shire economy through tracks and trails.

### Economic Assessment

A high-level economic assessment of the 17 priority tracks and trails projects is included as Appendix A of the Strategy. The assessment benchmarks projected economic benefits against comparable Australian trail destinations and identifies annual economic uplift potential.

Collectively, the priority projects are projected to support job creation across construction, tourism, hospitality and retail, while delivering long-term economic resilience for the Shire.

The implementation of individual actions will be subject to future Council budget processes and grant funding opportunities.

Recommendation
<p>THAT COUNCIL:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopts the Mansfield Shire Tracks and Trails Strategy 2026–2046.</li> <li>Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make any minor editorial corrections required to the Mansfield Shire Tracks and Trails Strategy 2026–2046.</li> </ol>
Support Attachments
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mansfield Shire Tracks and Trails Strategy 2026-46 [<b>13.4.1.1</b> – 29 pages]</li> </ol>

## Considerations and Implications of Recommendation

### Sustainability Implications

The Strategy prioritises socially, economically and environmentally sustainable trail development and management. Trail planning principles embedded in the Strategy include

universal design, conservation of natural values, and the long-term maintenance and management of the network.

## **Community Engagement**

Community Engagement has been undertaken in accordance with the Council Community Engagement Policy through three rounds of community engagement including draft strategy exhibition.

## **Collaboration**

Not Applicable

## **Financial Impact**

The Strategy has been developed through a \$40,000 grant from the Victorian Government's Local Sports Infrastructure Fund 2023–24 and a Council contribution of \$15,000.

Adoption of the Strategy does not commit Council to any expenditure. Individual projects will be subject to separate budget processes and grant funding applications.

## **Legal and Risk Implications**

Reputation Risk: Community or landowner opposition to specific proposed routes, particularly in rural areas. This risk is managed by requiring project-specific community engagement before any routes are progressed.

## **Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

Not Applicable

## **Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

The Strategy identifies monitoring and evaluation as an ongoing action, including usage monitoring and user experience surveys. The Strategy should be reviewed periodically to account for changes in funding priorities, community needs and emerging opportunities.

## **Alignment to Council Plan**

Theme 1: A Healthy and Connected Community

Strategic Objective 1.1 Strengthen community connection, inclusion and participation

Strategic Objective 1.2 Enable active lifestyles through inclusive, accessible and utilised public spaces

Theme 2: Vibrant Liveability

Strategic Objective 2.1 Look after the land, the environment and our country character

Strategic Objective 2.2 Plan and deliver sustainable, future-ready infrastructure and land use

Strategic Objective 2.3 Enhance recreation, sport and community facilities

Strategic Objective 2.4 Strengthen and diversify the local economy and visitor appeal

Theme 3: An Effective and Efficient Council

Strategic Objective 3.2 Ensure responsible and innovative resource management

## **Governance - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

The author of this report and officers providing advice in relation to this report do not have a conflict of interest to declare in this matter, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

## 13.5. Community Health and Wellbeing

### 13.5.1. Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy

<b>File Number</b>	E1533	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Executive Manager Community Health & Wellbeing, Janique Snyder
<b>Purpose</b>			

To seek Council endorsement of the revised Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy in response to regulatory reforms to Victoria’s child safety framework.

#### Executive Summary

The Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy outlines Council’s commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children and the promotion and protection of children’s rights and takes into account Council’s legislative requirements to comply with Victorian Child Safe Standards and the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005*.

Council’s Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy was last endorsed in November 2025 however have been updated in response to changes to the regulatory framework governing child safety in Victoria that has seen the regulatory functions of the Commission for Children and Young People for the Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme transferred to the Social Services Regulator (SSR). The updated policy is presented to Council for endorsement.

#### Key Issues

As part of reforms to strengthen child safety, the regulatory functions of the Commission for Children and Young People for the Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme transferred to the Social Services Regulator (SSR) in February 2026. The Working with Children Check (WWCC) was also transferred to the SSR at the same time.

These schemes are now all under one roof with the SSR’s existing regulatory functions, the Social Services Standards and the Worker and Carer Exclusion Scheme, creating a single regulator to safeguard the rights of children, young people and people who use social services. This is the first time in Victoria where, the Working with Children Check, Reportable Conduct Scheme and the Worker and Carer Exclusion Scheme will be overseen by a single regulator.

In response to the above reforms, Council’s Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy and Child Safe Reportable Conduct Procedure have been updated to reflect the change in regulators from the Children and Young People for the Child Safe Standards to the SSR.

The revised Policy also includes a requirement that all Councillors, during their elected term, are required to hold a Victorian WWCC and that evidence of this check be provided and be held in Council’s records management system.

Following consideration by Council the community will be notified of the revised policy through Mansfield Matters and it will be published on Council’s website.

<b>Recommendation</b>
<p>THAT COUNCIL:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Endorse the Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy 2026; and</li> <li>2. Note the updated Child Safe Reportable Conduct Procedure 2026.</li> </ol>
<b>Support Attachments</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DRAFT Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy 2026 [13.5.1.1 - 13 pages]</li> <li>2. Tracked Changes - Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy 2026 [13.5.1.2 - 13 pages]</li> <li>3. Child Safety Reportable Conduct Procedure 2026 [13.5.1.3 - 8 pages]</li> </ol>

## Considerations and Implications of Recommendation

### Sustainability Implications

Not Applicable

### Community Engagement

The updated Policy will be published on Council’s website following consideration by Council, and the community will be notified through the Mansfield Matters column in the Courier.

### Collaboration

Not Applicable

### Financial Impact

The review of the Policy has been undertaken internally within existing staff resources.

### Legal and Risk Implications

The Policy ensures alignment with current legislative and regulatory requirements. Without a policy framework there is an increased risk that child safety incidents may not be appropriately prevented, identified or managed. The policy addresses this risk and supports the safety and wellbeing of children and young people engaged in Council programs, services or facilities.

### Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

This Policy supports Council’s compliance with the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005* and the Child Safe Standards which set out the minimum requirements for organisations to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. It also supports the Model Councillors’ Code of Conduct which requires Councillors to uphold behaviours and interactions with children consistent with Council’s policies and procedures in all interactions with children and young people.

### Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not Applicable

### Alignment to Council Plan

Theme 1: A Healthy and Connected Community

Strategic Objective 1.1 Strengthen community connection, inclusion and participation

Strategic Objective 1.3 Promote health and wellbeing across all life stages

## **Governance - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

The author of this report and officers providing advice in relation to this report do not have a conflict of interest to declare in this matter, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

## 13.6. Executive Services

### 13.6.1. Revenue and Rating Plan

<b>File Number</b>	E14658	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Coordinator Financial Planning & Analysis, Joanne O'Brien Financial Controller, Michael McCormack
<b>Purpose</b>			

To present Council with the revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-29 for adoption

#### Executive Summary

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires each Council to prepare a Revenue and Rating Plan for a period of at least 4 years by 30 June after a general election.

The Revenue and Rating Plan establishes the revenue raising framework within which the Council proposes to operate.

The purpose of the Revenue and Rating Plan is to determine the most appropriate and affordable revenue and rating approach for Council to generate income to deliver on the Council Plan, services, and the capital works program.

Community engagement over the proposed Revenue & Rating Plan 2025-29 has been undertaken in accordance with the Act, with no submissions received, and the Plan is now presented to Council for adoption.

#### Key Issues

Council has made the decision that rating fairness is measured by a consistent sharing of rates charges between rating sectors from year to year. It is a method called the 'pie model'. It means that each year, each rating sector should contribute a very similar amount of the rating pie. This reflects the intent of section 101(1) (c) of the *Local Government Act 2020* which requires that Councils seek to provide stability and predictability in the financial impact on the municipal community.

To maintain consistency in the percentage of rates being charged across the five rating sectors it is critical to understand that the differential rate is not a discount or a fixed element that underpins rating fairness, rather that it is an economic lever to be used to ensure that the current rates proportion is maintained between rating sectors.

This equilibrium in charges between rating sectors is often disturbed through changes in property valuations between rating sectors. If valuations in one sector increase or decrease disproportionately to the overall movement in valuations it will skew the proportion of rates paid by one sector and this needs to be adjusted through alteration of one or more differentials.

Council will continue to attempt to minimise the impact of rating increases on the community by seeking ongoing organisational efficiencies.

The Revenue and Rating Plan contains the necessary statutory information in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

The Revenue and Rating Plan explains how Council calculates the revenue needed to fund its activities, and how this will be apportioned between ratepayers and other users of Council facilities and services. Council’s revenue sources include:

- Rates and charges
- Waste and recycling charges
- Grants from other levels of Government
- Statutory fees and fines
- User fees and charges
- Cash and non-cash contributions from other parties (including developers and community groups)
- Investment income
- Sale of assets

Community feedback on the proposed Revenue & Rating Plan 2025-29 was sought through Council’s Engage platform on the website and advertised as part of the 2026-27 Budget process in Mansfield Matters and on social media, with no submissions received on the draft Plan.

### Proposed Budget 2067-27 – Final Valuations

The Valuer General Victoria (VGV) is responsible for valuing all properties as of 1 January each year and the resulting Capital Improved Values are used to allocate Council rates.

Council received the final certified valuations (Stage 4) in May 2026 with some changes to the capital improved values used for development of the Proposed Budget 2026-27. This resulted in some minor adjustments required to the differential rates in the Proposed Budget. The 2026 valuations have returned valuation increases that are more consistent and lower than the previous year.

Council has reviewed the impact of these increases on general rates in relation to each type or class of land and is proposing to modify the differential rates applied to each property category to ensure a more equitable distribution of the general rates revenue. If unaddressed this would have the effect of shifting the rate burden toward those property categories with higher valuation increases.

The profile of the change in general rates revenue by type or class of land is presented in the table below, compared with the original Proposed 2026-27 Budget amounts:

Type or class of land:	General Rate Revenue		
	Draft 2026-27 \$'000	Final 2026-27 \$'000	Percentage Change
Residential	4,637	4,673	0.78%
Commercial	1,028	1,043	1.46%
Vacant properties	586	583	-0.51%
Rural residential	3,999	3,974	-0.63%
Farmland	1,841	1,849	0.43%
<b>Total amount to be raised by rates</b>	<b>12,090</b>	<b>12,122</b>	<b>0.26%</b>

The revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-29 includes changes to the differential rates for 2026-27 as shown in the table below:

Differential Category	Differential as a percentage (%) of the Residential Rate		
	Draft 2026-27	Final 2026-27	Percentage Change
Residential	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Commercial	158.60%	158.00%	0.00%
Vacant properties	190.00%	200.00%	5.26%
Rural residential	87.00%	86.00%	-1.15%
Farmland	61.00%	61.00%	0.00%

### Emergency Services Volunteer Fund

The Emergency Services Volunteers Fund (ESVF) replaced the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) from 1 July 2025 and is governed by the new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Act. The ESVF is a State Government charge collected through Council rates notices.

For 2026-27 the Fixed Charges for the ESVF have increased by \$3 for Residential land (including Vacant residential) and by \$7 for Non-Residential land as shown in the table below:

Property Type	Fixed Charge 2026-27	Fixed Charge 2025-26	Percentage Change
Residential (Including Vacant residential)	\$139	\$136	2.21%
Non-Residential	\$282	\$275	2.55%

There has been no change in the variable ESVF rates for the 2026-27 financial year.

<b>Recommendation</b>
THAT COUNCIL adopt the Revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-29.
<b>Support Attachments</b>
1. Revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-29 (Updated June 2026) [13.6.1.1 - 27 pages]

## Considerations and Implications of Recommendation

### Sustainability Implications

Economic: The disparate impact of annual property valuation movements on each differential rating category has been mitigated through the revision of the differential percentages. This has the effect of ensuring the revaluation cycle does not unfairly redistribute rates between ratepayers categorised as Commercial, Farmland, Residential, Rural Residential and Vacant.

### Community Engagement

The proposed differential rates were provided for public review within the Proposed 2026-27 Budget and released for community consideration from 15 May to 1 June 2026. No submissions regarding the differential rates were received.

### Collaboration

Not Applicable

## **Financial Impact**

The Revenue and Rating Plan does not set revenue targets for Council. The Plan outlines the strategic framework and decisions that inform how Council will determine and collect its revenue. Work to review and revise the Revenue and Rating Plan has been undertaken by Council Officers within existing staff resources.

## **Legal and Risk Implications**

Not Applicable.

## **Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

The Revenue and Rating Plan was developed and reviewed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

## **Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

Annual review of the Revenue and Rating Plan reflects Council's commitment to continuous improvement and *Local Government Act 2020* which requires that Councils seek to provide stability and predictability in the financial impact on the municipal community.

## **Alignment to Council Plan**

Theme 3: An Effective and Efficient Council

Strategic Objective 3.2 Ensure responsible and innovative resource management

Strategic Objective 3.3 Maintain strong governance, transparency and accountability

## **Governance - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

The author of this report and officers providing advice in relation to this report do not have a conflict of interest to declare in this matter, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

### 13.6.2. 2026-27 Budget

<b>File Number</b>	E14658	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Coordinator Financial Planning & Analysis, Joanne O'Brien  Financial Controller, Michael McCormack
<b>Purpose</b>			

To present Council with the 2026-27 Budget, including the schedule of fees and charges, for adoption.

#### Executive Summary

Development of the annual budget is an essential planning process to provide for the operational and financial sustainability of Mansfield Shire Council and the services it provides to the community. Sound financial management and well-planned infrastructure investment is necessary to support the long-term growth of the Shire, deliver Council Plan initiatives, and respond to emerging challenges and opportunities.

The budget document covers the financial year commencing from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 and includes financial projections for the following three years. It is prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020 (the Act)*, *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 (the Regulations)*, Better Practice Guides and the Australian Accounting Standards.

#### Key Issues

Council gave public notice and invited early budget submissions from the community for consideration in the development of the 2026-27 Budget over an 8-week period between 5 December 2025 and 31 January 2026.

Council received 45 submissions in our early budget consultation. Every submission was considered, and many have been included in this year’s budget, including:

- Creation of a new BBQ area and shelter in Macs Cove.
- Planning and design for a new bike pump track for Jamieson.
- Inclusion of a splash play area in the new Station Precinct All-abilities Playground.
- Upgrade of the learner’s pool to enable increased community access for swimming lessons, and a new splash play area at the Mansfield Aquatic Centre.
- Improvements to roads and paths, including sealing Walshes Road in collaboration with DEECA.
- Engaging with community over financial contributions for sealing of Hearn Rd and Buttercup Rd.
- Improved facilities at College Park.
- New exercise equipment and other improvements at the Bonnie Doon Community Centre, in collaboration with the Bonnie Doon Community Asset Committee.
- Establishing new events, with an expanded Winter festival and moonlight cinema planned.

The Proposed Budget 2026-27 was released for further community consideration from 15 May 2026 to 1 June 2026, with a hybrid Community Information Session offered by the Mayor on 25 May 2025, for which no registrations for attendance were received. Two (2) submissions were received from the community in response to the Proposed Budget via the Engage Mansfield portal. These submissions are summarised along with responses to each submission in this report.

### Submissions

No financial amendments were required to the 2026-27 Budget as a result of the latest round of community submissions received (summarised below). The submissions are summarised below, together with Council’s proposed response to them:

Submitter	Focus of Communication	Council Response
Submitter 1: Vinnies Mansfield	Sealing of informal parking at Nolan Street	To be considered as part of the future 10 Year Capital Works Plan, with opportunities to be sought for inclusion as part of the road renewal and upgrade program in the 2026-27 Financial Year, subject to funding.
Submitter 2: Circular PV Alliance	Allocate \$3,000 of operational spending for CPVA membership, an industry-led, not-for-profit organisation working to accelerate a circular economy for solar PV in Australia. Their primary goal is to ensure solar panels are treated as valuable resources rather than landfill waste by shaping policy and standardizing practices	To be considered as part of the current review of Council’s solar and battery infrastructure which is due to be completed in the 2026-27 Financial Year.

### Budget Influences

Development of the 2026-27 Budget has been influenced by how our community, businesses and visitors see, use and value the places and spaces we currently have. Our future prosperity is determined and shaped through sound financial management and well-planned infrastructure investment to support the long-term growth of the Shire.

The budget development process has considered and responded to external and internal factors as outlined below.

### External Factors

The Victorian Government cap on rate increases for 2026-27 has been set at 2.75%. Over the last year CPI has been sitting around 4%. With inflationary and cost of living pressures, the economic climate provides a challenging operational landscape.

The budget includes a rate increase of 2.65%, down from the maximum 2.75% rate cap set by the Minister under the Fair Go Rating System, in recognition of the cost-of-living pressures and challenging climatic conditions experienced by the Mansfield Shire community.

## Internal Influences

As well as external influences, there are also several internal influences which have been taken into consideration in the preparation of the 2026-27 Proposed Budget.

These include:

- Continuing to invest in the maintenance and beautification of the Shire's public spaces, through increased investment in Field Services resources to maintain the new open space assets transferred to Council from subdivisions.
- Maintaining a positive position for the waste reserve with careful budget management, in addition to managing the cost impacts associated with new waste streams and progressing the Resource Recovery Centre masterplan.
- Investing in systems, with funding to improve efficiencies through the completion of the Collaborative Digital Transformation program to enhance productivity and customer service.
- Continuing to renew infrastructure assets, with a capital works program focused on road, stormwater and bridge renewal.
- Strategic Property Program to critically look at Council's property portfolio and maximise the value of this for residents while balancing community uses and needs for all spaces.
- Delivery of major grant-funded capital works projects. These include a major package of works at the Station Precinct including a new pump track and shared paths, Changing Places facility and all abilities playground, refurbishment of the Goods Shed and Fertiliser Shed and fit out of the Mansfield Heritage Museum. The capital works program also includes a new Pavilion at Lords Reserve and upgraded changerooms at the Mansfield Sporting Complex and Aquatic Centre.

Substantial savings have been realised by bringing the following initiatives in-house:

- gravel road re-sheeting
- street sweeping
- strategic planning
- VCAT preparation and appearances
- recruitment
- arborist inspections
- selected training and development
- preparation of key documents often previously requiring a consultant, such as the Annual Report, strategic planning reports and engineering concept designs

Council has also undergone a system overhaul to streamline our corporate systems to replace outdated manual processes.

## Budget Summary

The 2026-27 Budget provides a total operating expenditure of \$29.5 million and a capital works program of \$18.9 million. This includes:

- \$12.221 million on the road network including renewal and upgrade works to sealed and unsealed roads, kerb and channels, bridges, culverts, footpaths, and car parks.
- \$5.756 million in community buildings and recreational facilities.
- \$899,000 on plant and equipment.

The continued capital work projects from 2025-26 include priority grant-funded projects such as the Station Precinct, Mansfield Whitfield Rd Roundabout, The Mansfield Sporting Complex Play Our Way changeroom upgrade, LAPS Pool enclosure and the Lords Reserve Pavilion.

Key indicators within the 2026-27 Budget include:

- Operating Surplus: \$12.292 million.
- Underlying operating deficit: \$98,000 (0.5%).
- Asset renewal of \$6.960 million compared to depreciation of \$5.714 million, new assets \$5.754 million, and asset upgrades \$7.162 million.

In addition to the planned delivery of services, the 2026-27 Budget incorporates funding of several new initiatives. The new initiatives are as follows:

- Introduction of a seven-day operating week at the Mansfield Resource Recovery Centre
- Expanded resources for the maintenance of an additional 7 acres of open space at Samaria Views and Cloverdale Court
- Continued investment in environmental programs for solar power for key locations, weed management, European wasp control and tree planting.
- Appointment of an experienced Recovery Manager and Recovery Support team to work with the 2026 Bushfire impacted property owners and businesses
- Implement a 10-year Strategic Land Use and Development Plan
- Continued delivery of the Lakins Road Industrial Estate subdivision
- Establish a Community Asset Committee to manage the Bonnie Doon Community Centre

### **Capital Projects**

Council's Capital Works program provides for renewal of existing infrastructure and for the upgrade or provision of new assets to meet community expectations.

The substantial Capital Works program for 2026-27 of \$18.9 million will be funded with \$13.2 million from government grants, \$224,000 from development contributions, and \$5.4 million from Council operations.

Some of the key infrastructure priority projects included within the 2026-27 Capital Works Program are:

- Station Precinct works including refurbishment of the Goods Shed, completion of the Heritage Museum, Changing Places facility and all-abilities playground, improvements to the Mullum Wetlands, carparks and landscaping and creation of the Taungurung Art Trail.
- Lords Reserve 'Around the Grounds' package completion, including new Pavillion and upgrade of existing clubrooms to provide much-improved facilities for user groups.
- Mansfield Aquatic Centre upgrade project, with a new roof to the learner's pool, accessibility and changeroom upgrades and new splashplay area.
- Mansfield Sporting Complex home and away changeroom upgrades for all users of this important sporting and recreational space.

## **Emergency Response Recovery and Resilience**

Our experience and community preparedness for the 2026 Bushfire events has also been taken into consideration in this Budget, as we work together on recovery and on improving our resilience to future events.

This includes the following initiatives:

- Appointment of an experienced Recovery Manager and Recovery Support team to work with impacted property owners and businesses.
- Working with community organisations including Mansfield Autism Statewide Service, Mansfield District Hospital, Rosehaven, Mansfield Pastoral & Agricultural Society, Mansfield Football Netball Club and Mansfield Racecourse to investigate and plan for upgrade of facilities used in emergency events.
- Continuing to advocate to all levels of government for support and funding for the Mansfield Emergency Services Precinct and Resilience Centre in order to improve the Shire's emergency resilience.
- Review of the Shire's infrastructure and assets for relief and resilience, including water and power infrastructure and fire refuges.
- Continuing to carefully plan for the future development of our Shire to increase resilience and respond to growth pressures through the Strategic Planning Program and through completion of Flood Studies and associated mitigation actions.

## **Loan Funding**

The 2026-27 Budget does not include any new borrowings. Council debt as of 30 June 2027 will be \$2,457 million and is expected to reduce to \$835,000 across the next four years.

## **Cash Management**

Overall, total cash and investments of \$4.496 million are forecast as of 30 June 2027.

## **Fees and Charges**

The Fees and Charges Schedule has been included as part of the 2026-27 Budget with no amendments required as a result of community consultation and legislated fees updated for caravan parks and septic systems.

## **Rates and Charges**

In developing the Budget, rates and charges were identified as an important source of revenue. Planning for future rate increases has therefore been an important component of the financial planning process. The Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) sets out the maximum amount councils may increase rates in a year. For 2026-27 the FGRS cap has been set at 2.75%. The cap applies to both general rates and municipal charges and is calculated on the basis of council's average rates and charges.

The level of required rates and charges has been considered in this context, with reference to Council's other sources of income and the planned expenditure on services and works to be undertaken for the community.

To achieve these objectives while maintaining service levels and a strong capital expenditure program, the average general rate and the municipal charge will increase by 2.65% below the rate cap. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 161 of the Local Government Act 1989 the following differential rates in the dollar of Capital Improved Value (CIV) are proposed from 1 July 2026:

- General rate for rateable residential properties - 0.1715 cents in the dollar of CIV
- General rate for rateable commercial properties - 0.2809 cents in the dollar of CIV
- General rate for rateable vacant land - 0.3429 cents in the dollar of CIV
- General rate for rateable rural residential properties - 0.1475 cents in the dollar of CIV
- General rate for rateable farmland - 0.1046 cents in the dollar of CIV

### **Waste Service Charges**

The cost to Council of waste disposal has decreased year on year, due to a collaborative renegotiation of waste collection costs.

However, State Government charges such as the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) waste levy have increased significantly in recent years from \$33.03 in 2019-20 up to a scheduled \$88.68 for the 2026-27 Financial Year, an additional increase of 168.5% in the last 6 years.

Concerns around fuel are at the forefront of our community's mind during the ongoing uncertainty around supply and prices. Council will continue to work with other levels of government and the Municipal Association of Victoria on actions that can provide meaningful relief locally while the situation remains ongoing.

Recognising cost of living pressures Council's waste charges are proposed to remain stable in 2026-27 as a result of on-going efforts to reduce waste to landfill from all sources to reduce costs for the community. The following waste charges are proposed from 1 July 2026:

- Community Waste - to remain at \$76.70
- Kerbside Garbage 80L - to remain at \$163.70
- Kerbside Garbage 120L - to remain at \$245.55
- Kerbside Garbage 240L - to remain at \$491.10
- Kerbside Recycling 240L - to remain at \$131.70
- Kerbside FOGO 240L (Green Bin) - to remain at \$102.00

Hence, the average household waste charge will remain at \$453.96 for those households not receiving a green bin. The average household waste charge will remain at \$555.96 for those households who have a green bin.

The State Government's Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) came into effect in the 2025-26 financial year, which has placed a significant financial burden on rural ratepayers and small businesses. Council has advocated strongly against the ESVF and will continue to pursue removal of the tax and seek fairer arrangements that do not impose unreasonable cost of living pressure to our community.

### **Final Budget Review**

During the final budget review process, Council included amendments to the Financial Assistance Grant for the Proposed Budget 2026-27 due to receiving 80% in advance rather than 50%. This has now been incorporated and increases operating recurrent grant income by \$202,000.

## Recommendation

### THAT COUNCIL:

1. Having considered all submissions received on the Proposed Budget 2026-27, adopts the Budget 2026-27 including the Schedule of Fees and Charges for the financial year ending 30 June 2027.
2. Formally declares and sets the following rates and charges for the 2026-27 rating year:

#### **General Rates**

- a. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 161 of the *Local Government Act 1989* the following differential rates be declared for the 2026-27 financial year:
  - A general rate of 0.1716 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value for all rateable residential properties.
  - A general rate of 0.2709 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value for all rateable commercial properties.
  - A general rate of 0.3429 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value for all rateable vacant land.
  - A general rate of 0.1475 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value for all rateable rural residential properties.
  - A general rate of 0.1046 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value for all rateable farmland properties.
- b. Recorded that it believes each differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of Council functions. Details of the objectives of each differential rate, the types of classes of land which are subject to each differential rate and the uses of each differential rate are set out in the Revised Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-29 and shown at item 4.1.1 of the Budget 2026-27.
- c. In accordance with the *Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963*, the cultural and recreational charge, in lieu of rates in respect of the 2026-27 financial year, be applied to all land to which the *Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963* applies.

#### **Municipal Charge**

- d. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 159 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, a municipal charge be declared in respect of the 2026-27 financial year.
- e. The municipal charge be declared for the purpose of covering some of the administrative costs to Council.
- f. The municipal charge in the sum of \$362 for each rateable land (or part) in respect of which a municipal charge may be levied is declared in respect of the 2026-27 financial year.
- g. It be confirmed that the municipal charge is declared in respect of all rateable land within the municipal district of which a municipal charge may be levied.

#### **Annual Service Charge**

- h. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 162 of the *Local Government Act 1989* an annual service charge relating to waste management be declared for the 2026-27 financial year for each rateable property to remain unchanged as follows:
  - Kerbside rubbish collection 80 litre bin \$163.70
  - Kerbside rubbish collection 120 litre bin \$245.55
  - Kerbside rubbish collection 240 litre bin \$491.10
  - Kerbside recycling collection 240 litre bin \$131.70
  - Kerbside recycling collection 240 litre additional bin \$131.70

- Kerbisde FOGO collection 240 litre bin \$102.00
- Community Waste \$76.70
- i. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 221 of the Local Government Act 1989 an annual service charge relating to waste management be declared for the 2026-27 financial year for each non-rateable property to be the same as for a rateable property.
- 3. Declares that rates are due and payable in four (4) instalments:
  - First Instalment: 30 September
  - Second instalment: 30 November
  - Third instalment: 28 February
  - Fourth instalment: 31 May
- 4. Thanks all submitters for their participation in the budget development process.

### Support Attachments

1. Fees & Charges 2026-27 [13.6.2.1 - 27 pages]
2. Mansfield Shire Council 2026-27 Budget [13.6.2.2 - 72 pages]

## Considerations and Implications of Recommendation

### Sustainability Implications

Economic: The cost of living has increased significantly in the past 12-18 months. The Reserve Bank continues to closely monitor inflationary pressures with a recent hold to the cash rate creating relief to households after the three previous increases in 2026. Council has responded to the current environment by undertaking a comprehensive review of its operational expenditure.

Despite economic conditions, Mansfield Shire continues to grow, currently at a rate of 2.02% per annum. Over the next 15 years, Mansfield Shire’s permanent population is forecast to grow by 4,000 residents. This together with the non-resident population, which currently equates to approximately 43% of our rate base, continues to present both opportunities and challenges for community which have been considered during development of the 2026-27 Budget.

### Community Engagement

Council sought community input into the 2026-27 budget process over an 8-week period between 5 December 2025 and 31 January 2026 through Council’s Engage Mansfield portal a with 45 submissions received. Every submission was considered with many included in the 2026-27 budget as outlined in the report.

The Proposed Budget 2026-27 was released for community consideration from 15 May to 1 June 2026, with a hybrid Community Information Session offered on 25 May 2025, for which no registrations for attendance were received. Two (2) submissions were received from the community in response to the Proposed Budget which have been addressed in this report.

### Collaboration

Not Applicable

### Financial Impact

The Mansfield Shire Council Budget 2026-27 contains the financial resources required to deliver the Council Plan.

## **Legal and Risk Implications**

Not Applicable

## **Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

The Mansfield Shire Council Budget 2026-27 has been developed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

## **Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

Not Applicable

## **Alignment to Council Plan**

Theme 3: An Effective and Efficient Council

Strategic Objective 3.3 Maintain strong governance, transparency and accountability

## **Governance - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

The author of this report and officers providing advice in relation to this report do not have a conflict of interest to declare in this matter, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

### 13.6.3. Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) Levy Payment

<b>File Number</b>	E12189	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Financial Controller, Michael McCormack
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**Purpose**

To seek approval for the payment of the Q3 and Q4 Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) Levy for the 2025/26 financial year, as the amount exceeds financial delegation.

**Executive Summary**

The Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Act 2012 (the Act) appointed Council as an Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) collection agency for all leviable land within the municipal district, including land owned by Council.

The total Quarter 3 ESVF payment is \$696,451.94 (ex GST) and Quarter 4 is \$843,675.78 (ex GST), representing the third and fourth of four instalments for the 2025/26 financial year.

Approval is requested to facilitate timely payment and ensure full compliance with Council’s statutory and legislative obligations.

**Key Issues**

Compared to Q3 and Q4 of the previous financial year (2024/25) this amount reflects an increase of \$325,702.25 (ex GST) or 26.82% due to legislative changes introduced through the *Fire Services Property Amendment (Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund) Act 2025* which saw the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) abandoned and replaced by the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund.

To provide context on the financial impact of the legislative changes, the table below presents a quarterly comparison of the 2025/26 ESVF amounts against the corresponding FSPL amounts from both 2024/25 and 2023/24, including percentage increases year over year.

Quarter	ESVF Amount (2025/26) (ex GST)	FSPL Amount (2024/25) (ex GST)	% Increase from 2024/25 to 2025/26	FSPL Amount (2023/24) (ex GST)	% Increase from 2023/24 to 2024/25
Q1	\$ 966,373.40	\$854,077.68	13.15%	\$633,243.52	34.87%
Q2	\$1,133,450.60	\$864,735.43	31.07%	\$668,215.01	29.40%
Q3	\$ 696,451.94	\$621,441.21	12.07%	\$452,687.37	37.28%
Q4	\$ 843,675.78	\$592,984.26	42.28%	\$456,010.83	30.04%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,639,951.72</b>	<b>\$2,933,238.58</b>	<b>24.09%</b>	<b>\$2,210,435.73</b>	<b>32.70%</b>

**Recommendation**

THAT COUNCIL authorises the Chief Executive Officer to pay the Q3 \$696,451.94 and Q4 \$843,675.78 Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund for a total amount of \$1,540,127.72 (ex GST).

## Support Attachments

Nil

## Considerations and Implications of Recommendation

### Sustainability Implications

Not Applicable

### Community Engagement

Not Applicable

### Collaboration

Not Applicable

### Financial Impact

The ESVF is collected directly from ratepayers. While the administration is primarily undertaken internally by Council Officers within existing staff resources the State provides an annual funding allocation to assist with the administrative costs associated with managing and implementing the charge.

### Legal and Risk Implications

Under the *Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Act 2012*, payment of the ESVF collected is a statutory requirement. Failure to pay on time may result in financial penalties, interest charges and reputational risk to the organisation. To mitigate this risk approval is sought to process the payment within the required timeframe.

### Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Payment of the ESVF charge is in accordance with the *Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Act 2012*.

### Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Not Applicable

### Alignment to Council Plan

Theme 3: A Trusted, Effective and Efficient Council  
Strategic Objective 8 A consultative Council that represents and empowers its community

### Governance - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

The author of this report and officers providing advice in relation to this report do not have a conflict of interest to declare in this matter, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

### 13.6.4. LG Community Satisfaction Survey 2026

<b>File Number</b>	E392	<b>Recommending Officer</b>	Manager People, Communications & Governance, Tanya Tabone
<b>Purpose</b>			

To present the results of the Community Satisfaction Survey 2026 for Mansfield Shire Council.

#### Executive Summary

JWS Research conducted Council’s Community Satisfaction Survey (CSS) 2026 in accordance with Local Government Victoria's Practice Note 22 - Conduct of the Community Satisfaction Survey. All scores in the survey are out of 100. Survey results are broken down within Mansfield Shire to report on gender, age group and location (Mansfield or ‘other’ townships).

Council’s 2026 overall performance index score of 68 represents a significant 6-point improvement on the 2025 result (index score of 62) reaching a 10 year high.

#### Key Issues

Each year Local Government Victoria (LGV) commissions a Community Satisfaction Survey (CSS) across the local government sector. In October 2025, LGV announced Klein Research as their new partner to deliver the Local Government CSS from 2026 onwards. However, due to concerns over increased ratepayer costs, Council has continued with JWS Research who have conducted the survey for Mansfield Shire for more than a decade. 23 of the 79 Victorian councils also engaged JWS Research for their 2026 CSS.

The 2026 survey followed the same structure and questions as in previous years to ensure consistency and comparability of results, while also incorporating some minor updates to wording to ensure the content remains current and relevant. These changes included:

- ‘Advocating for and representing’ replaced ‘lobbying on behalf of’
- The roads question was updated to identify the names of state-managed roads (Maroondah Highway, Mt Buller Road, and Mansfield Woods-Point Road), rather than excluding highways and main roads managed by VicRoads without identifying them
- References to art centres and family day care were removed, as these services are not provided by Mansfield Shire Council
- Business and community development was updated to ‘Developing and promoting the local economy’

400 participants were surveyed during the period 2 February 2026 to 15 March 2026, with 229 respondents from Mansfield and 171 respondents from outlying communities.

The survey report compares the performance of Mansfield Shire Council against:

- Previous years (2017 - 2025)
- Overall average across participating councils
- Small rural council group average

Councils who were part of the 2026 Small Rural group were: Ararat, Benalla, Gannawarra, Hepburn, Hindmarsh, Loddon, Mansfield, Queenscliffe and Yarriambiack.

**Survey Performance Summary**

Council’s overall performance continues to rate statistically significantly higher (at the 95% confidence interval) than both the Overall and Small Rural group council averages (index scores of 57 and 60 respectively).

Overall performance is rated highest among residents aged 18 to 34 years (index score 75, a 13-points increase on 2025), and lowest among those aged 50 to 64 years (index score of 64, a 4-point increase on 2025).

The graph below shows the trend in overall performance since 2017.

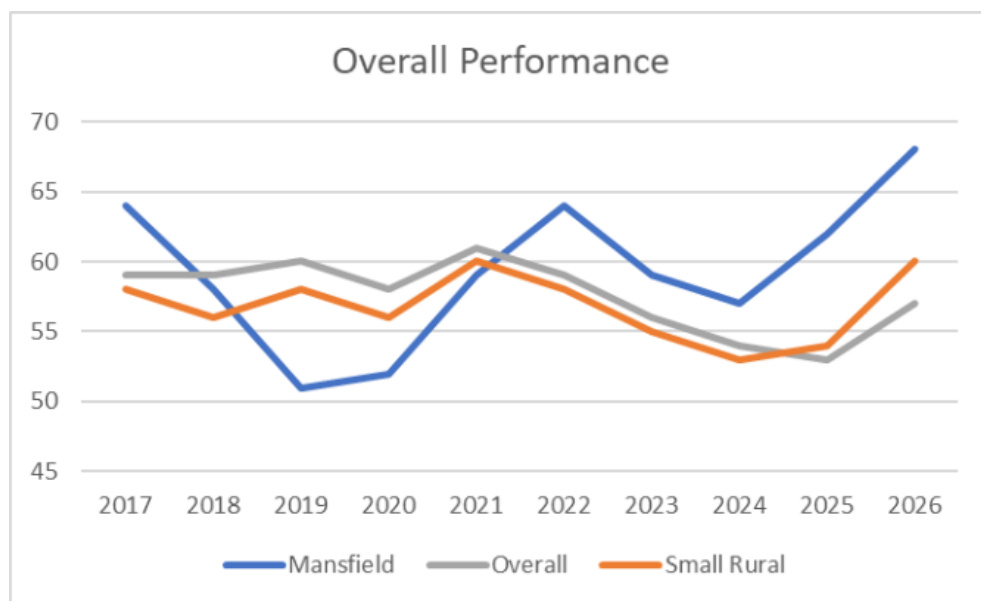


Table 1: Overall performance summary 2017-2026

Performance ratings in 2026 significantly improved in most service areas evaluated, including the lower performing areas of planning and building permits (up 4-points) and population growth (up 6-points).

Table 2 illustrates the overall summary performance index scores including a comparison to Council’s 2025 score and the Overall and Small Rural average scores for 2026.

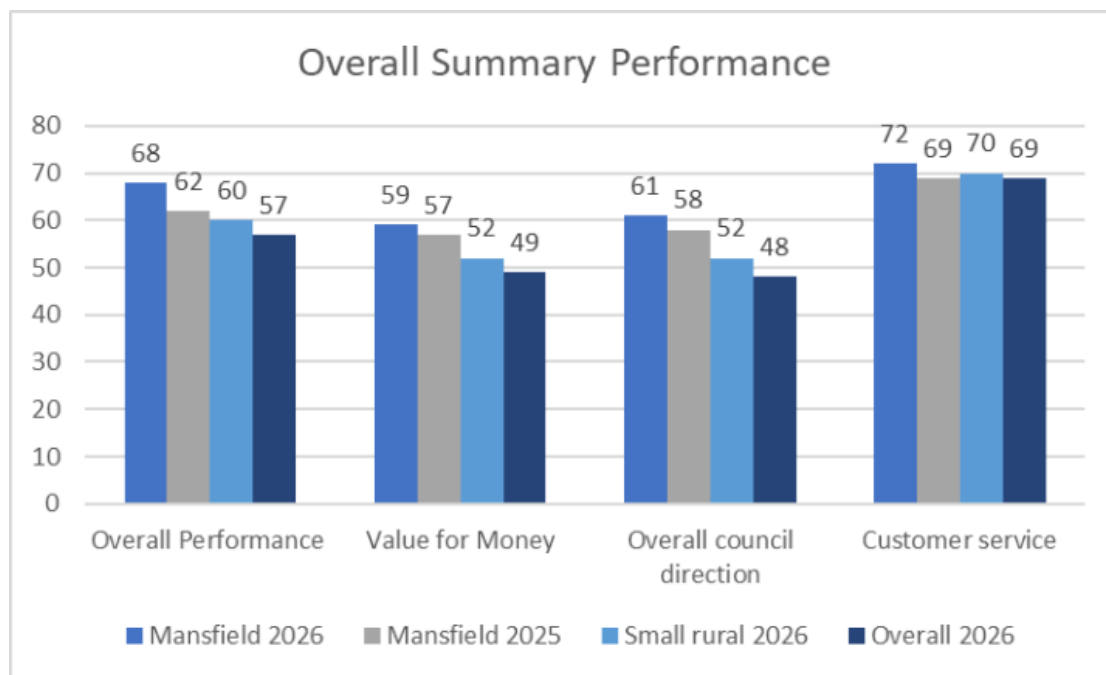


Table 2: Summary of Council performance compared to small rural and overall averages

Perceptions of the direction of Council’s overall performance further increased since 2025 (index score of 61, up 3 points), having regained 10 index points over the past two years.

Council’s overall direction score remains higher than the Small Rural group and Overall averages (index score of 52 and 48). The most satisfied with council direction are residents who live outside the Mansfield township (index score of 64) and the least are those aged 50 to 64 years (index score of 58 – noting this has increased 5 points on their 2025 index score of 53).

Table 3 provides a summary of Council’s performance against the comparator group average.

Top performing areas		
	Libraries	▲ higher
	Appearance of public areas	▲ higher
Bottom 3 performing areas		
	Planning & building permits	▬ on par
	Unsealed roads	▲ higher
	Population growth	▬ on par
	Customer service	▬ on par

Table 3: Summary of Council performance compared to group average

## Top Performing Areas

Libraries were rated the highest individual service area (index score of 83, up 7 points on 2025) and surpassed appearance of public areas (index score of 82, on par with 2025) for the first time. Libraries were rated highest by women (index score 87) and lowest by men (index score of 78 – noting this did increase 7 points on 2025).

The next highest rated area was appearance of public areas, which retained a score of 82 as per 2025. Developing and promoting local tourism and emergency & disaster management both scored 75, an increase of 6 and 7 points on 2025.

Service areas related to roads, including maintenance and road conditions, continued to show strong results. Satisfaction with sealed roads remained steady at an index score of 53, while unsealed roads increased significantly by 6 points to 50. Both results remain above the Small Rural and overall average.

Other notable findings from 2026's Community Satisfaction results are:

- Waste management – 74 (+5)
- Recreational facilities – 72 (+3)
- Advocating and representing – 69 (+8)
- Informing the community – 68 (+7)
- Consultation & engagement – 66 (+7)
- Developing and promoting the local economy – 66 (+6)
- Community decisions – 64 (+7)
- Population growth – 50 (+6)

## Lower Performing Areas

Council's ratings in services related to planning continued to show improvement. Satisfaction with planning for population growth increased by 6 points to an index score of 50, while planning and building permits increased by 4 points. Although both measures remain just below the Small Rural group average, planning and building permits are now on par with the overall average, while population growth is 2 points above the overall average. The upward trend across both measures reflects sustained improvement since the decline in 2022 and suggests that Council's ongoing focus in these areas is having a positive impact.

However, it is noted that in a time of changing planning legislation with a shift from Council decision-making to a more centralised, state government controlled and "codified" permit system, Council is limited in its ability to shift community satisfaction and, in many aspects, is aligned with the community in its dissatisfaction with planning regulations that are impacting on Mansfield Shire. Council continues to advocate for a greater community voice in planning matters.

## Focus Areas

After yet another year of significant improvement overall in the community satisfaction survey, Council will continue to focus on its key performance areas. The attached analysis highlights that while Council has invested significant efforts into communications and engagement, the greatest opportunities for increased community satisfaction are still to be found in increasing communication to the community and ensuring transparent decision making. In addition, Council continues its core focus areas of advocating for and representing the community, providing

value for money, maintaining and renewing local roads, making strategically strong planning decisions and listening to the local community.

<b>Recommendation</b>
THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the 2026 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey report.
<b>Support Attachments</b>
1. Community Satisfaction Survey 2026 Mansfield Shire Council Report [13.6.4.1 - 92 pages]

## Considerations and Implications of Recommendation

### Sustainability Implications

Not Applicable

### Community Engagement

JWS Research surveyed 400 residents within Mansfield Shire aged over 18 years during the period 2 February 2026 to 15 March 2026. The break down presented below indicates 229 were Mansfield residents and 171 were surveyed from outlying communities surrounding Mansfield.

Demographic	Actual survey sample size
Mansfield Shire Council	400
Men	197
Women	203
Mansfield	229
Other	171
18-34 years	42
35-49 years	49
50-64 years	88
65+ years	221

The survey will be published on Council’s website. LGV will also make the survey results publicly available via the Know Your Council website (or similar).

### Collaboration

Not Applicable

## Financial Impact

The Community Satisfaction Survey 2026 was undertaken at a cost of \$13,700 (incl GST) which was included in the 2025-26 Budget.

## Legal and Risk Implications

The Community Satisfaction Survey ensures legislative compliance with the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

## Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework, prescribed by the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*, requires councils to report the Community Satisfaction Rating for three specific indicators, being:

- ▶ community consultation and engagement
- ▶ making decisions in the interest of the community; and
- ▶ the condition of sealed local roads.

## Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Although Mansfield Shire Council is performing above other similar councils across the Victorian sector, the community feedback provided via the survey is valued by Council, enabling focus and development of actions in service areas that residents have scored as having lower performance.

## Alignment to Council Plan

Theme 3: An Effective and Efficient Council

Strategic Objective 3.1 Deepen community engagement and foster civic responsibility

Strategic Objective 3.2 Ensure responsible and innovative resource management

Strategic Objective 3.3 Maintain strong governance, transparency and accountability

## Governance - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

The author of this report and officers providing advice in relation to this report do not have a conflict of interest to declare in this matter, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

### 13.6.5. Public Interest Disclosures Policy

<b>File Number</b>	E1533	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Coordinator Governance & Risk, Chelsea Daly
<b>Purpose</b>			

To seek Council endorsement of the revised Public Interest Disclosures Policy.

#### Executive Summary

The Public Interest Disclosures (PID) Policy is designed to ensure Council is compliant with its obligations under the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* (PID Act) and the *Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2011* (IBAC Act); and that there is an effective process for managing the receipt of public interest disclosures, their assessment and notification.

The Policy has been reviewed and an updated Policy is presented to Council for endorsement.

#### Key Issues

The Policy and associated Procedure underwent an extensive review in 2024 during which the Procedure was completely rewritten to ensure alignment with IBAC's guidelines for handling public interest disclosures.

The revised policy includes minimal changes as follows:

- adding a statement regarding anonymous disclosures, acknowledging that this pathway exists and that the protections and processes available may differ from those available to identified disclosers; and
- updating 'PID Officer' to 'PID Coordinator' to reflect the terminology used in IBAC's current guidelines.

Following consideration by Council the community will be notified of the revised policy through Mansfield Matters and it will be published on Council's website.

<b>Recommendation</b>
THAT COUNCIL endorsed the Public Interest Disclosures Policy 2026.
<b>Support Attachments</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DRAFT Public Interest Disclosures Policy 2026 [<b>13.6.5.1</b> - 5 pages]</li> <li>2. DRAFT Public Interest Disclosures Procedure 2026 [<b>13.6.5.2</b> - 17 pages]</li> <li>3. Tracked Changes - Public Interest Disclosures Policy 2026 [<b>13.6.5.3</b> - 5 pages]</li> <li>4. Tracked Changes - Public Interest Disclosures Procedure 2026 [<b>13.6.5.4</b> - 17 pages]</li> </ol>

## Considerations and Implications of Recommendation

### Sustainability Implications

Not Applicable

## **Community Engagement**

The updated Policy will be published on Council's website following consideration by Council, and the community will be notified through the Mansfield Matters column in the Courier.

## **Collaboration**

Not Applicable

## **Financial Impact**

The review of the policy has been undertaken internally within existing staff resources.

## **Legal and Risk Implications**

The Policy ensures alignment with current legislative and regulatory requirements.

## **Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

*Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*

*Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2011*

## **Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

Not Applicable

## **Alignment to Council Plan**

Theme 3: An Effective and Efficient Council

Strategic Objective 3.3 Maintain strong governance, transparency and accountability

## **Governance - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

The author of this report and officers providing advice in relation to this report do not have a conflict of interest to declare in this matter, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

### 13.6.6. **Municipal Boundary Re-Alignment Request: 2946 Mansfield-Whitfield Road, Tolmie**

<b>File Number</b>	E15731	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Coordinator Governance & Risk, Chelsea Daly
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#### **Purpose**

To seek Council support for the proposed municipal boundary realignment at 2946 Mansfield-Whitfield Road, Tolmie.

#### **Executive Summary**

The property owners of 2946 Mansfield-Whitfield Road, Tolmie have contacted Council to request support for a municipal boundary realignment between Mansfield Shire Council and the Rural City of Wangaratta where it runs through their property.

The property consists of 4 allotments (12a, 12b, 13 & 13b) on 1 title (Volume 6004 Folio 608). Allotment 13b is the only allotment within the Mansfield Shire Council municipal boundary with a total land area of approximately 0.3 hectares. The remaining allotments within the Rural City of Wangaratta municipal boundary have a total land area of approximately 38.8 hectares.

As the majority of the property falls within the Rural City of Wangaratta municipal district, their assessment address is registered with that Council. As a result, Mansfield Shire Council does not attract rates and charges for the property, however, does collect the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) applicable to allotment 13b as required by the State Revenue Office.

The property owners are seeking to have the municipal boundary realigned to have allotment 13b included in the Rural City of Wangaratta municipal boundary. This would reduce the burden to them of having to engaging with two separate councils for a single land holding and for dealing with complications arising with the State Revenue Office where the split municipal boundary creates inconsistencies in how their property is identified and assessed.

#### **Key Issues**

The blue line in the images below is the current municipal boundary between Mansfield Shire Council and the Rural City of Wangaratta with the grey shaded area being the Rural City of Wangaratta.



Image: 2946 Mansfield-Whitfield Road, Tolmie - Allotment 13b (Mansfield Shire Council)

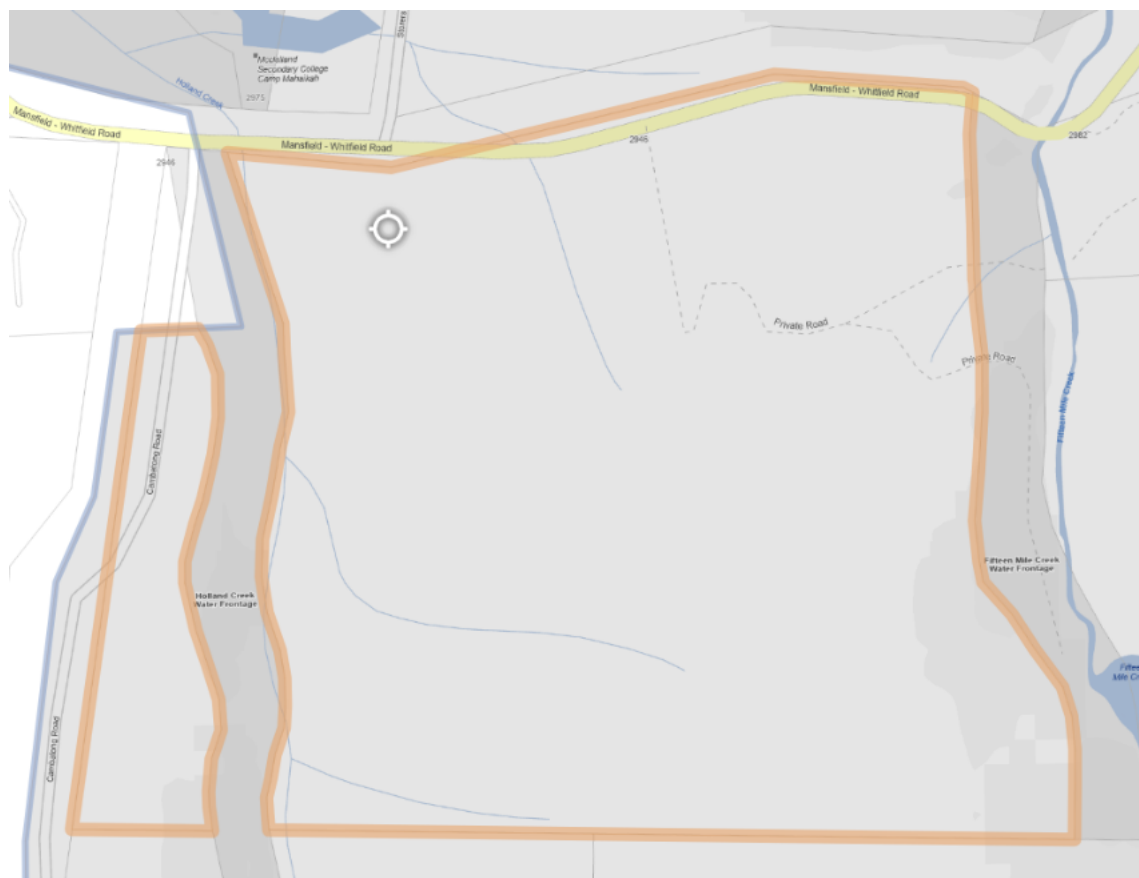


Image: 2946 Mansfield-Whitfield Road, Tolmie - Allotment 12a, 12b and 13 (Rural City of Wangaratta)

The property owners contacted Local Government Victoria (LGV) Department of Government Services in 2025 regarding the process for municipal boundary realignments in Victoria. Advice from Dan Harper, Acting Executive Director – LGV, (Attachment 1) included the process under the *Local Government Act 2020* for making changes to a municipal boundary and encouraged the property owners to discuss the matter with the relevant councils, being Mansfield and Wangaratta, to understand if there is support for the proposed municipal boundary change.

The Rural City of Wangaratta has provided the property owners with a letter supporting their request for a municipal boundary realignment.

### Legislative Framework

Under section 235(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), the Minister for Local Government may make a recommendation to the Governor in Council to make an Order in Council to alter the boundaries of a municipal district.

Section 238(1) of the Act provides that prior to making such a recommendation, the Minister must ordinarily establish a restructuring advisory panel to conduct a review of the matter and consider the panel's report.

However, section 238(2) of the Act provides an alternative pathway in limited circumstances, whereby the Minister may recommend a proposed boundary change without first forming a restructuring advisory panel. Where a boundary anomaly requires only a minor boundary change, the Minister may recommend that an Order in Council be made to give effect to that change, provided that:

- both councils have approved the proposed change; and
- public notice has been given in the municipal district or districts affected by the proposed changes.

Given that the proposed realignment relates to a single allotment of approximately 0.3 hectares and the advice from LGV, it is expected that this boundary change will be dealt with under section 238(2) of the Act.

#### Recommendation

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Approve and support the proposed municipal boundary realignment.
2. Give public notice of the proposed municipal boundary realignment.
3. Endorse the Chief Executive Officer to write, in collaboration with the Rural City of Wangaratta, to the Minister for Local Government advising of Council's support for the proposed municipal boundary realignment in accordance with section 238(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

#### Support Attachments

1. Local Government Victoria - Boundary Realignment Response [**13.6.6.1** - 2 pages]

## Considerations and Implications of Recommendation

### Sustainability Implications

Not Applicable

## **Community Engagement**

Community Engagement will be undertaken through public notice of the proposed municipal boundary realignment in accordance with Section 238(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

## **Collaboration**

This has been a collaboration with the Rural City of Wangaratta.

## **Financial Impact**

The financial impact of the proposed boundary realignment is minimal as Council does not attract rates and charges for the property. The realignment would remove the administrative resource required within the Revenue Department to manage and process the ESVF charge associated with allotment 13b.

## **Legal and Risk Implications**

Not Applicable

## **Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

The *Local Government Act 2020* sets out the process for making changes to a municipal boundary.

## **Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

Not Applicable

## **Alignment to Council Plan**

Theme 3: An Effective and Efficient Council

Strategic Objective 3.3 Maintain strong governance, transparency and accountability

## **Governance - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

The author of this report and officers providing advice in relation to this report do not have a conflict of interest to declare in this matter, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

### 13.6.7. Audit and Risk Committee Charter

<b>File Number</b>	E10902	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Coordinator Governance & Risk, Chelsea Daly
<b>Purpose</b>			

To seek Council endorsement of the updated Audit and Risk Committee Charter.

#### Executive Summary

The Audit and Risk Charter (the Charter) is the primary document that manages the operation of the Audit and Risk Committee.

The Charter is a requirement under Section 54 of the *Local Government Act 2020* which states that it must specify the functions and responsibilities of the Committee including the following -

- *monitor the compliance of Council policies and procedures with—*
  - *the overarching governance principles; and*
  - *this Act and the regulations and any Ministerial directions;*
- *monitor Council financial and performance reporting;*
- *monitor and provide advice on risk management and fraud prevention systems and controls;*
- *oversee internal and external audit functions.*

The Audit and Risk Committee endorsed the updated Charter for consideration by Council at its meeting on 25 May 2026. The updated Charter is presented to Council for endorsement.

#### Key Issues

Revisions to the Charter aim to streamline and simplify the document providing both the Audit and Risk Committee and Council with clear guidance on roles and responsibilities. Of particular note is the inclusion of Conflict of Interest provisions which strengthen governance and transparency.

#### Recommendation

THAT COUNCIL endorse the Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2026.

#### Support Attachments

1. DRAFT Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2026 [13.6.7.1 - 13 pages]
2. Tracked Changes - Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2026 [13.6.7.2 - 13 pages]

## Considerations and Implications of Recommendation

### Sustainability Implications

Not Applicable

### Community Engagement

Not Applicable

## **Collaboration**

Not Applicable

## **Financial Impact**

Work to review the Charter was undertaken within existing staff resources.

## **Legal and Risk Implications**

Adoption of the revised Charter supports Council's compliance with legislative requirements. Failure to maintain a compliant Charter may expose Council to regulatory non-compliance and reduced assurance over key risk and control frameworks.

## **Regional, State and National Plans and Policies**

An Audit and Risk Committee Charter is a requirement under Section 54 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

## **Innovation and Continuous Improvement**

Regular review and updating of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter reflects Council's commitment to continuous improvement in governance practices.

## **Alignment to Council Plan**

Theme 3: An Effective and Efficient Council

Strategic Objective 3.3 Maintain strong governance, transparency and accountability

## **Governance - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

The author of this report and officers providing advice in relation to this report do not have a conflict of interest to declare in this matter, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

## 14. Council Meeting Resolution Actions Status Register

This report presents to Council the Mansfield Shire Council Meeting Resolution Actions Status Register

<b>Recommendation</b>
THAT COUNCIL receive and note the Mansfield Shire Council Meeting Resolution Actions Status Register as at 22 June 2026.
<b>Support Attachments</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mansfield Shire Council Action Register as at 22 June 2026 [14.1.1 - 9 pages]</li> <li>2. CONFIDENTIAL Mansfield Shire Council Action Register as at 22 June 2026 [14.1.2 - 3 pages]</li> </ol>

## 15. Advisory and Special Committee reports

### 15.1. Audit & Risk Committee Meeting Agenda & Minutes

The Agenda & Minutes of the Mansfield Shire Audit and Risk Committee, held 25 May 2026, are attached for the Councils information.

<b>Recommendation</b>
THAT COUNCIL receive the Agenda & Minutes of the Mansfield Shire Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 25 May 2026.
<b>Support Attachments</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CONFIDENTIAL Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Agenda - 25 May 2026 (no attachments) [15.1.1 - 66 pages]</li> <li>2. Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes - 25 May 2026 [15.1.2 - 7 pages]</li> </ol>

## 16. Authorisation of sealing of documents

Nil

## 17. Closure of meeting to members of the public

Council has the power to close its meeting to the public in certain circumstances pursuant to the provisions of Section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020. The circumstances where a meeting can be closed to the public are:

- a) the meeting is to consider confidential information; or
- b) security reasons; or
- c) it is necessary to do so to enable the meeting to proceed in an orderly manner.

The definition of confidential information is provided in Section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

**Recommendation**

THAT COUNCIL close the meeting to members of the public under Section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 to consider Confidential Reports in accordance with section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 for reasons set out in section 18 below.

## 18. Confidential Reports

### 18.1. Contract Award: Landfill Disposal

**Confidential**

This report contains confidential information pursuant to the provisions of Section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 under Section 3(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

## 19. Reopen meeting to members of the public

**Recommendation**

THAT COUNCIL reopen the meeting to members of the public.

## 20. Close of meeting