

OFFICIAL



Mansfield Shire

Council Meeting

Tuesday 21 July 2026 5:00 pm
Mansfield Shire Council Chamber

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

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.**

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

13.2-13.4 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 30 June 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:

The beginning of a new financial year is always an opportunity to reflect on what we've achieved together as a community, while looking ahead to the work still to be done.

At our June Council meeting, we adopted the 2026–27 Budget. I believe it strikes the right balance between recognising the cost-of-living pressures many families are facing while continuing to invest in the services, facilities, and infrastructure our growing shire needs.

I'm pleased to say this is the sixth consecutive year Mansfield Shire Council has adopted a budget with rate increases below the Victorian Government's rate cap. At a time when many councils across Victoria are finding it increasingly difficult to remain under the cap, this reflects Council's commitment to careful financial management, improving efficiencies and delivering value for our ratepayers.

This is also very much a community-shaped budget. We received 45 submissions during the public consultation process and I'm pleased that around 80 per cent of those ideas have been incorporated into the final budget.

Among the initiatives driven directly by community feedback are planning and design work for a Jamieson bike pump track, upgrades to College Park and the Bonnie Doon Community Centre, an expanded Winter Festival and the return of a moonlight cinema.

Another welcome improvement from 1 July is the expansion of operating hours at the Mansfield Resource Recovery Centre, which is now open seven days a week from 9.00am until 3.00pm.

This has been something our community has been asking for over many years and I'm delighted we've been able to deliver it. Better still, we've achieved this by finding efficiencies within Council's operations, meaning there is no additional cost to ratepayers through waste fees or charges.

At the same June meeting, Councillors received the results of this year's Community Satisfaction Survey.

The results were extremely encouraging, with Council's overall performance rating increasing by six points to 68 - the highest result recorded in the past ten years.

There were improvements across almost every area of Council's operations. I was particularly pleased to see Emergency and Disaster Management increase by seven points to a rating of 75. Given everything our community experienced during the 2026 Victorian Bushfire Season, that result is especially meaningful and reflects the outstanding work of Council staff, our emergency service agencies, volunteers and the broader community.

While these results are encouraging, we know there is always more to do. Listening to our community and continually improving the services we provide will always remain one of Council's highest priorities.

That commitment also extends to our advocacy with other levels of government.

Recently, I wrote to the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, government and opposition ministers, shadow ministers and our local Members of Parliament reminding them that the lessons of the 2026 Victorian Bushfire Season cannot be forgotten.

Mansfield Shire Council's highest advocacy priority ahead of the Victorian State Election remains securing funding for the Mansfield Emergency Services Precinct.

The need for a modern, purpose-built facility that brings our emergency services together has never been clearer. Better coordination will lead to faster responses, improved communication and, ultimately, better outcomes when lives, homes and livelihoods are under threat.

Council will continue working constructively with all sides of politics in the months ahead to ensure this vital project remains firmly on the agenda.

Finally, one of the greatest privileges of serving as Mayor is welcoming new Australians into our community.

On 14 July, eight residents originally from Germany, Thailand, South Africa and New Zealand proudly became Australian citizens during our third Citizenship Ceremony for 2026.

Becoming an Australian citizen is a significant milestone and it is always a privilege to share that moment with our newest Australians, together with their families and friends.

On behalf of Mansfield Shire Council and our entire community, I warmly congratulate each of our new citizens. I wish them every success as they begin this exciting new chapter, and I know they will make a valuable contribution to the vibrant, welcoming and connected community that makes Mansfield the best little shire in Victoria.

*Cr Steve Rabie
Mayor*

Recommendation

THAT COUNCIL receive the Mayor's report for the period 30 June 2026 to 15 July 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	- Mayor Cr Steve Rabie - Cr James Tehan - Cr Mandy Treasure
Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance (GMCA)	Cr Tim Berenyi
Hume Regional Local Government Network (HRLGN)	Mayor Cr Steve Rabie
Mansfield Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee	- Mayor Cr Steve Rabie - Cr Mandy Treasure
Mansfield Shire CEO Employment Matters Committee	- Mayor Cr Steve Rabie - Cr James Tehan - Cr Bonnie Clark
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	- Mayor Cr Steve Rabie - Substitute - Deputy Mayor Cr James Tehan
North East Local Government Waste and Recovery Forum	Cr Tim Berenyi
Rural Councils Victoria (RCV)	Cr James Tehan
Station Precinct Museum Community Asset Committee	Mayor Cr Steve Rabie
Taungurung-Local Government Forum	Mayor Cr Steve Rabie

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
- ▶ Governance
- ▶ Capital Works
- ▶ Statutory & Strategic Planning
- ▶ Waste Services
- ▶ Property
- ▶ Building Services
- ▶ Regulatory Services
- ▶ Field Services
- ▶ Community Health and Wellbeing (Maternal and Child Health, Integrated Family Services and Community Strengthening)
- ▶ Library
- ▶ Visitor Services (Tourism, Events and Youth)
- ▶ Communications
- ▶ Digital Transformation Project

Recommendation

THAT COUNCIL receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's report for the period 1 June 2026 to 30 June 2026.

Support Attachments

1. CEO Monthly Report – June 2026 [13.1.1.1 - 60 pages]

13.2. Investment and Planning

13.2.1. Register of Public Roads and Requests for Addition to the Register

File Number	E10327	Responsible Officer	Acting Manager Engineering Services, Fabian Rukshan
Purpose			

To present the updated Register of Public Roads to Council for adoption.

To seek decisions from Council in relation to requests to include the following roads in the Register of Public Roads:

- ▶ Lemins Lane, Merton
- ▶ The Sideling, Jamieson
- ▶ Lambing Gully Road, Bonnie Doon
- ▶ Cemetery Lane, Jamieson

Executive Summary

Council has developed and published a Road Management Plan (RMP) in accordance with the *Road Management Act 2004*, which has established a management system for road management functions, based on policy, operational objectives, and available resources.

Section 19 of the Act requires Council to create and maintain a Register of Public Roads for which it is the coordinating road authority. The Act also empowers Council to create a Road Management Plan describing how it performs road management functions and duties. These duties apply to the roads that Council has recorded on its Register of Public Roads.

Under Section 17(3) of the Act, the Register of Public Roads must contain any road that Council has determined is reasonably required for general public use. For any road that has been determined to be a public road, Council, as the coordinating road authority, has statutory duties to inspect, maintain and repair the road to the standard specified in the Road Management Plan.

In order to ensure that the Register of Public Roads is current, Officers have undertaken a review since it was last adopted by Council, predominantly due to new roads acquired through the development of new subdivisions. As an outcome of this review, some updates and changes are proposed to the register of public roads.

This report recommends adopting the updated Register of Public Roads (refer Attachment 2).

This report also considers four requests to add roads to the Register of Public Roads.

Key Issues

Proposed Changes to the Road Register

All the amendments made since the last adoption of the RMP and Register of Public Roads are highlighted in yellow and are attached to this document. The changes are as follows:

- ▶ Sealing of 205 metres in Church Street, Mansfield
- ▶ Sealing of 124 metres in New Street, Mansfield
- ▶ Sealing of 1.9km in Glen Creek Road, Bonnie Doon
- ▶ Sealing of 6.241km in Rifle Butts Road, Mansfield

Tannin Lane, part of the 100 Highton Lane subdivision, has been completed but is still within the maintenance period. This road will be included on the Register of Public Roads at the completion of the maintenance period.

A summary of the length of roads managed by Council is as follows:

Type of Road	Length in Register in 2025	Length in Register in 2026	Additional Length being maintained
Sealed	265.7km	274.2km	+8.5km
Unsealed	582.8km	574.3km	-8.5km
TOTAL	848.5km		

Request for Roads to be added to the Register of Public Roads

The Register of Public Roads lists all roads to be maintained by Council. Standard criteria, defined in the RMP, are used to assess whether a section of road is reasonably required for general public use and should therefore be included on the Register of Public Roads. The register provides four classes of assets for roads: Link, Collector, Access and Limited Access.

In order to add a road to the Register of Public Roads, it will need to be considered "reasonably required for general public use." To be considered this way, each request is assessed against a range of criteria. Attached to this paper is an assessment of each request against these criteria, which can be found in the Road Management Plan.

Lemins Lane, Merton

The property owner and occupier of 2 and 7b Lemins Lane, Merton has requested to have the road upgraded by Council and added to the Register of Public Roads for ongoing maintenance. The requested extension would continue the road 420 metres further south within the existing Government Road reserve. The section of road requested for extension is not owned or managed by any other public authority. Lemins Road is currently a Council-managed, Unsealed Limited Access Road with a total length of 902 metres. It begins at Shaws Road, which is classified as an Access Road. The existing road was upgraded by another developer as part of the subdivision for 235 Shaws Road.

The officer's assessment is that road is not "reasonably required for general public use" and that it does not meet the standard criteria for inclusion of this road in the register.

Council officers have discussed this assessment with the landowner, and as the request had not been withdrawn at the time of writing this paper, it is included for Council's consideration with a recommendation that this road not be included in the register.

The section of road in question is as follows:



Figure 1: Lemins Lane, Merton

The Sideling, Jamieson

The property owner and occupier of 277 The Sideling, Jamieson, has requested to add the remaining 600m of The Sideling to the Register of Public Roads for ongoing maintenance. The Sideling is currently a Council-managed, Unsealed Access Road with a total length of 810 metres. The requested extension would continue the road 610 metres further east within the existing Government Road reserve. The proposed section of the road also has an AusNet High Voltage Overhead Line extension. Effectively, it is an unmanaged public reserve being maintained voluntarily. It is the sole access for all these properties and goes between the Jamieson River and State Forest and serves five separately owned residential dwellings and two vacant properties.

The officer's assessment is that road is "reasonably required for general public use" and that it is considered reasonable to include this road in the register, as it does meet the standard criteria.

Council officers are seeking advice from all potentially benefitting property owners to determine how much of a contribution they would be willing to make to the upgrade works required. At the

time of writing this report, Council officers had confirmed a small contribution of \$762 at the time of writing this report to the upgrade.

The section of road in question is as follows:



Figure 2: The Sideling

Lambing Gully Road, Bonnie Doon

The property owner and occupier of 90 Lambing Gully Road, Bonnie Doon has requested that Council upgrade the road and add it to the Register of Public Roads for ongoing maintenance. Lambing Gully Road is a Council-managed, unsealed access road for the first 360 metres, and begins at Hutchinsons Road. The resident has advised that this is the only access for emergency services during a bushfire. The requested extension would continue approximately 460 metres further northeast within the existing Government Road Reserve. The section proposed for extension has an AusNet High Voltage Overhead Line. It serves three separately owned residential dwellings.

The officer's assessment is that road is “reasonably required for general public use” and that it is considered reasonable to include this road in the register, as it does meet the standard criteria.

Council officers are seeking advice from all potentially benefitting property owners to determine how much of a contribution they would be willing to make to the upgrade works required. At the time of writing this report, Council officers had confirmed a contribution of \$10,000 from owners adjoining the road.

The section of road in question is as follows:



Figure 3: Lambing Gully Road

Cemetery Lane, Jamieson

The owner of property 37 Cemetery Lane, Jamieson, has formally requested that Council open and extend the unused section at the end of Cemetery Lane for approximately 725 metres. Cemetery Lane is currently a Council-managed, Unsealed Limited Access Road with a total length of 350 metres. It begins at Cemetery Lane Access Road. The requested extension would continue the road a further 725 metres toward his property at 37 Cemetery Lane. The section of road proposed for extension is not owned or managed by any other public authority.

Based on the assessment criteria, the officer's assessment is that road is not “reasonably required for general public use” and that it does not meet the standard criteria for inclusion of this road in the register. However, Council officers have met with the landowner to explain the circumstances around when a road would be added to the Register of Public Roads. He noted that the road had been graded by DEECA in the past but had not been done for some time and was in a state of disrepair, limiting his access. Following discussion with the property owner and confirmation of his willingness to contribute financially to grading of the road, Council officers have developed the following proposal for consideration by Council:

- ▶ Subject to the landowner contributing an amount of \$15,000 towards its future maintenance, Council could consider adding the road to the register for ongoing maintenance of that section of the road reserve.
- ▶ The road would be maintained at a limited access road standard only (not as a properly formed road) with a 2-year grading frequency subject to condition upon inspection.

Council's Field Services team have estimated the cost of a maintenance grade for the road as being around \$3,700. Council would be able to do this work when in the area and would complete a grade of the existing surface only, not an upgrade, on an as needed basis at not more than a 2-year frequency. The payment proposed would therefore allow for maintenance of the road for 20 years or more and could be accommodated without the need for additional resources, given the reduction of unsealed road kms arising from the IMPACT Route and Walsh's Road sealing.

The section of road in question is as follows:

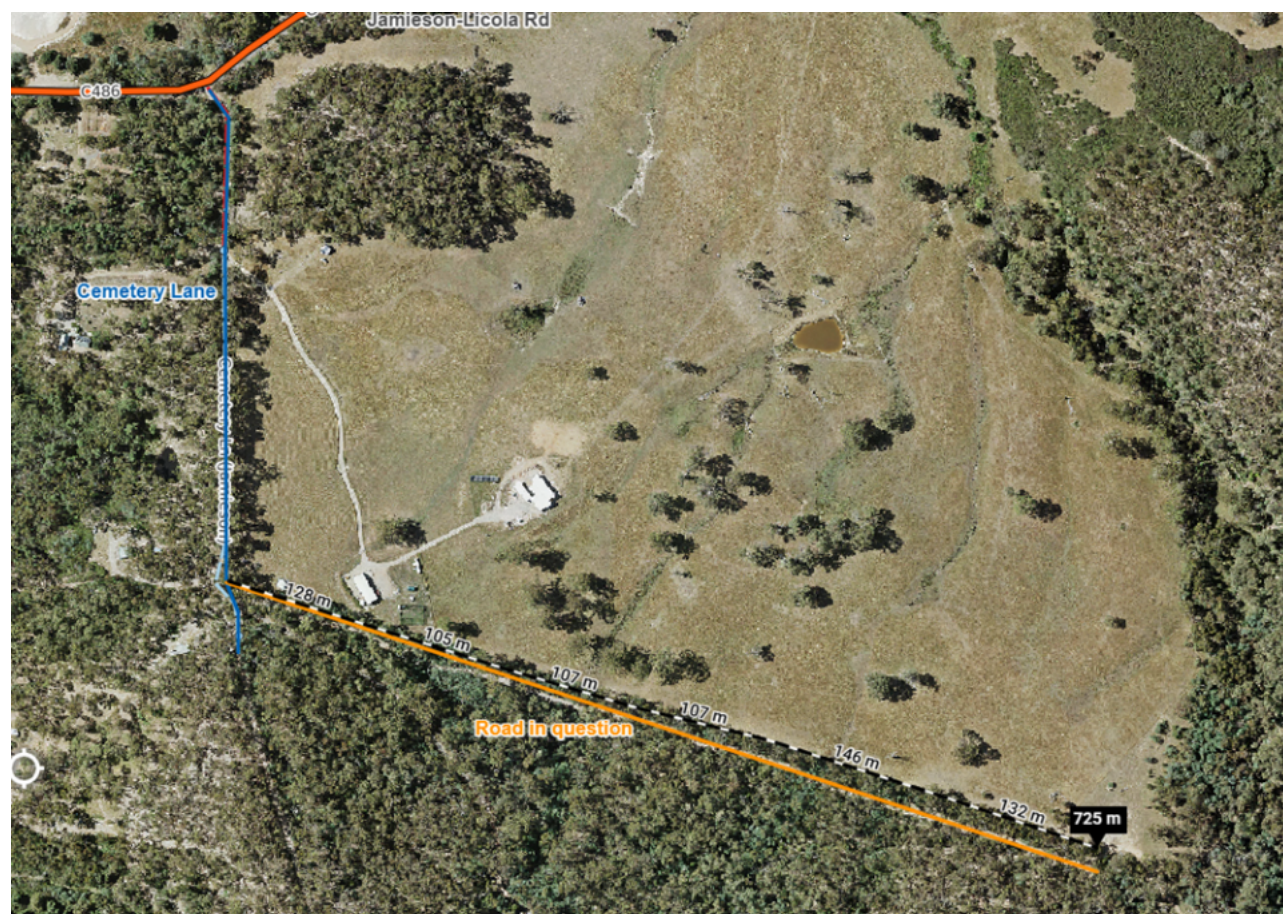


Figure 4: Cemetery Lane

Recommendation

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Adopts the updated Register of Public Roads attached to this report.
2. Approves the declaration of the following roads, as a public highway, for their inclusion on the Register of Public Roads:
 - a. The upgrade and extension of The Sideling, Jamieson
 - b. The upgrade and extension of Lambing Gully Road, Bonnie Doon
 - c. The grading of Cemetery Lane, Jamieson
3. Does not approve the declaration of the following road, as a public highway, or inclusion on the Register of Public Roads:
 - a. The upgrade and extension of Lemins Lane, Merton.

Support Attachments

1. Requests for adding to Register of Public Roads Assessment [13.2.1.1 – 1 page]
2. Register of Public Roads - as at 30 June 2026 [13.2.1.2 - 16 pages]

Considerations and Implications of Recommendation

Sustainability Implications

Requests for the maintenance or upgrade of roads can have sustainability implications for Council. Any decision to add roads to the Register can have the effect of diluting the available funds and resources to maintain all public roads and must be carefully considered against the criteria developed to assist in identifying roads that may be reasonably required for inclusion, as outlined in the Road Management Plan.

Community Engagement

Council has undertaken community consultation with affected property owners seeking contributions to the potential upgrades to these roads.

Collaboration

Not Applicable

Financial Impact

All work to update the Register of Public Roads and assess the road upgrade request has been undertaken internally by Council Officers within existing staff resources.

Any roads added to the Register of Public Roads will require inspection, maintenance and repair. This does have a financial impact and increases demand on Field Services resources. The roads recommended for inclusion on the Register of Public Roads have the following estimated costs associated with upgrade works. It is noted that these estimated costs are the maximum cost anticipated to upgrade the roads, however Council's Field Services team will look to minimise these costs and will undertake the works in-house.

Details	Total Estimated Cost	Proposed Contribution	Maximum Estimated Cost
The Sideling, Jamieson	\$32,548	\$762 at time of writing the report	\$31,786
Lambing Gully Road, Bonnie Doon	\$33,920	\$10,000	\$23,920

The total length of additional sealed roads is 8.5km (for a total of 274.2km). The reduction in the total length of unsealed roads is 8.5km (for a total of 574.3 km).

Legal and Risk Implications

There is potential for reputational risk if roads are not maintained and renewed in line with community expectations and the requirements of the Road Management Plan. Council carefully reviews all requests for the addition of new roads to the Register, to ensure that it can continue to meet its obligations in relation to the Road Management Plan.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

Section 19 of the *Road Management Act 2004* requires Council to create and maintain a Register of Public Roads for which it is the coordinating road authority. The Act also empowers Council to create a Road Management Plan describing how it performs road management functions and duties. These duties apply to the roads that Council has recorded on its Register of Public Roads.

Under Section 17(3) of the Act, the Register of Public Roads must contain any road that Council has determined is reasonably required for general public use. For any road that has been determined to be a public road, Council, as the coordinating road authority, has statutory duties to inspect, maintain and repair the road to the standard specified in the Road Management Plan.

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 3.2 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.

13.3. Development & Customer Service

13.3.1. Dogs in Public Places Order

File Number	E12810	Responsible Officer	Compliance Coordinator, Michael Richards
Purpose			

To seek a Council resolution to make a Dogs in Public Places Order under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* to regulate the effective control of dogs in public places throughout the Mansfield Shire.

Executive Summary

Section 26 of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 enables Council to make an Order specifying requirements for the control of dogs in public places. Adoption of the proposed Order will provide a clear, legally enforceable framework for responsible dog ownership, support public safety and amenity, and ensure Council's regulatory approach aligns with legislative requirements.

The proposed Order reflects the intent of the provisions previously exhibited as part of the Community Local Law review and continues the regulatory approach historically applied within Mansfield Shire. No objections relating to dog control provisions were received during the public exhibition period of the draft laws and the final Community Local Law 2026 was adopted by Council on 19 May 2026. Following completion of the legal review, the Order is now presented for Council consideration.

Key Issues

Council's Community Local Law 2026 underwent a comprehensive legal review prior to its adoption. As part of that review, legal advice confirmed that while provisions relating to the control of dogs in public places may be referenced within a Local Law, enforcement is best supported through an Order made under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

Section 42 of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 specifies the matters that may be addressed through local laws. Section 26 of the Act separately empowers Council to make an Order requiring dogs to be under effective control in public places and provides the legislative basis for enforcement.

The proposed Order has been prepared in accordance with the Act and formalises Council's requirements for the control of dogs in public places, providing a clear and enforceable framework across the municipality.

Community Expectations and Public Amenity

The effective control of dogs in public places supports community safety, responsible pet ownership, and the shared use and enjoyment of parks, reserves, footpaths and other public areas.

As part of the Community Local Law 2026 review, Council publicly exhibited provisions relating to dog control in public places. No submissions objecting to those provisions were received during the exhibition period, indicating community support for Council continuing to regulate this matter.

The proposed Order reflects the intent of the exhibited provisions and ensures Council can effectively enforce dog control requirements throughout the municipality.

Proposed Dogs in Public Places Order

The proposed Order requires that dogs in public places be under effective control by a competent person. The Order provides authorised officers with a clear legislative basis for enforcement and supports consistent management of dog-related issues across the municipality.

The Order has been reviewed by Council's legal advisors and is considered compliant with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* and capable of enforcement.

Recommendation
THAT COUNCIL 1. Approves the Dogs in Public Places Order attached to this report. 2. Makes the Dogs in Public Places Order pursuant to Section 26 of the Domestic Animals Act 1994. 3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to take all necessary administrative actions to implement and publish the Order.
Support Attachments
1. Section 26 Order [13.3.1.1 - 2 pages]

Considerations and Implications of Recommendation

Sustainability Implications

Not Applicable

Community Engagement

Community consultation on the control of dogs in public places was undertaken as part of the public exhibition process for the Community Local Law 2026.

The exhibited draft Local Law included provisions requiring dogs to be appropriately controlled in public places. No submissions or objections were received in relation to these provisions during the exhibition period, indicating community support for Council continuing to regulate this matter.

The proposed Order gives effect to the intent of the provisions previously exhibited and consulted on with the community. No additional community engagement is considered necessary, as the Order does not introduce any new requirements beyond those already presented through the Local Law review process. It also maintains an established approach to managing dogs in public places within Mansfield Shire.

Collaboration

The Order has been developed with input from Council officers and has undergone independent legal review to ensure compliance with the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

Financial Impact

There are no material financial implications arising from the adoption of the Order. Any implementation and enforcement activities will be undertaken within existing operational resources.

Legal and Risk Implications

The proposed Order provides Council with a lawful and enforceable mechanism for regulating the control of dogs in public places.

Independent legal review by Macquarie Lawyers confirmed that the Order is consistent with the requirements of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and is capable of enforcement.

Failure to adopt the Order would result in an absence of clear and enforceable municipal requirements relating to the control of dogs in public places, potentially reducing Council's ability to respond effectively to animal management issues and community concerns.

Adoption of the Order will strengthen Council's regulatory framework, support community safety, and reduce risks associated with dogs being inadequately controlled in public areas.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

- *Local Government Act 2020*
- *Domestic Animals Act 1994*
- *Mansfield Shire Council Community Local Law 2026*

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

The proposed Order ensures Council's regulatory framework is aligned with current legislative requirements and contemporary governance practices by utilising the appropriate statutory mechanism available under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

Alignment to Council Plan

Theme 1 – A Healthy and Connected Community

Strategic Objective 1.3: Promote active lifestyles across all age groups.

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. Executive Services

13.4.1. Community Engagement Policy

File Number	E147812 - 19	Responsible Officer	Manager People, Communications & Governance, Tanya Tabone
Purpose			

To seek Council endorsement of the revised Community Engagement Policy.

Executive Summary

The Community Engagement Policy is a requirement under the *Local Government Act 2020* and outlines Council's commitment to meaningful community engagement and its investment in and approach to engagement activities, with the objective to meet or exceed legislative obligations.

The Policy has been reviewed with reference to the findings and recommendations of the Victorian Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee's Community Consultation Practices Inquiry (March 2026), with feedback sought from community on the revised and updated Policy.

Key Issues

The intent of the Policy is to continue to improve the quality and effectiveness of Council's community engagement and strengthen trust and confidence in Council by undertaking the following:

- ▶ Ensuring transparency and accountability in Council decision making;
- ▶ Creating genuine opportunities for members of the community to participate in matters that interest and affect them;
- ▶ Ensuring the diverse needs of the community are taken into account in decision making; and
- ▶ Encouraging and supporting the community to participate in civic life by giving them a direct line to decision makers.

In addition to considering any changes required with reference to the above Community Consultation Practices Inquiry, updates have been made to the policy to ensure it realistically reflects the practices and capabilities of the teams who undertake Mansfield Shire Council's community engagement activity. A copy of the tracked changes revised Policy is attached.

Recommendation

THAT COUNCIL endorse the Community Engagement Policy 2026.

Support Attachments

1. DRAFT Community Engagement Policy 2026 [13.4.1.1 - 8 pages]
2. Tracked Changes - Community Engagement Policy 2026 [13.4.1.2 - 8 pages]

Considerations and Implications of Recommendation

Sustainability Implications

Not Applicable

Community Engagement

Community Engagement was undertaken on the revised Policy through Engage Mansfield from 9 June – 26 June 2026 seeking feedback on the draft policy. No comments were received for consideration in the final review of the policy.

Collaboration

Not Applicable

Financial Impact

Review of the Policy and community engagement has been undertaken internally within existing staff resources.

Legal and Risk Implications

Reputation Risk: Consistency and clarity in Council's approach to community engagement provides certainty of the process for Councillors, Council officers and the community.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

The Community Engagement Policy has been developed as required under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Regular review and updating of policies reflects Council's commitment to continuous improvement in governance practices.

Alignment to Council Plan

Theme 3: An Effective and Efficient Council

Strategic Objective 3.1 Deepen community engagement and foster civic responsibility

Strategic Objective 3.3 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

Recommendation	
THAT COUNCIL receive and note the Mansfield Shire Council Meeting Resolution Actions Status Register as at 14 July 2026.	
Support Attachments	
1.	Mansfield Shire Council Action Register as at 14 July 2026 [14.1.1 - 9 pages]
2.	CONFIDENTIAL Mansfield Shire Council Action Register as at 14 July 2026 [14.1.2 - 3 pages]

15. Advisory and Special Committee reports

Nil

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. Tender Award: Museum Landscaping Design and Construction

Confidential

This report contains confidential information pursuant to the provisions of Section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 under Section 3(a) - Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

18.2. Tender Award: Library Outreach Van

Confidential

This report contains confidential information pursuant to the provisions of Section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 under Section 3(a) - Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

18.3. Mansfield Swimming Pool 2025-26 Season Report

Confidential

This report contains confidential information pursuant to the provisions of Section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 under Section 3(a) - Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

18.4. Tender Award: Mansfield Swimming Pool Operator

Confidential

This report contains confidential information pursuant to the provisions of Section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 under Section 3(a) - Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

19. Reopen meeting to members of the public

Recommendation
THAT COUNCIL reopen the meeting to members of the public.

20. Close of meeting