

Public Questions

Council Meeting 12 May 2026



**Mornington
Peninsula Shire**

We have received 4 questions without notice.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

The following questions were received without notice. Responses will be provided to submitters and published on the Shire website.

Planned Burning

Dale Stohr, a resident of Crib Point asked the following question:

Regarding planned burns of vegetation and trees over large areas or consecutive days, are there legal requirements for landowners to provide adequate notice to neighbouring properties and schools and record air quality data during and after the burn-offs as well as notifying EPA Victoria if smoke pollution exceeds air quality standards?

From a municipal perspective, planned burns undertaken by state government agencies e.g. Forest Fire Management Victoria or the CFA are not activities regulated or administered by the Shire.

These burns are conducted under state legislation and coordinated programs, with responsibility for planning, notification, smoke management and compliance resting with the relevant state agencies. This includes the use of statewide notification systems and coordination with EPA Victoria and other agencies to manage smoke impacts.

Accordingly:

- Requirements regarding notification to neighbouring properties are determined and implemented by the responsible state agency as part of its operational procedures, rather than by the Shire.
- Air quality monitoring and assessment associated with planned burns is undertaken at a regional level by EPA Victoria and partner agencies, rather than through site-specific obligations enforced by the Shire.
- Any obligations to notify EPA Victoria in relation to smoke impacts arise under state environmental legislation and are managed by the agency conducting the burn where required.



Role of the Shire

The Shire does not have a regulatory role in overseeing or approving planned burns conducted by state agencies, nor in enforcing notification or air quality monitoring requirements for those activities.

However:

- Where burns are conducted on land owned or directly managed by the Shire, the Shire will provide advice or notification to nearby residents in line with its operational practices and community engagement expectations.
- The Shire is responsible for issuing burn-off permits to qualifying properties, in accordance with CFA requirements and relevant local laws.

The Shire may also assist residents by:

- Directing them to relevant state agency information channels (e.g. VicEmergency, Planned Burns Victoria), and
- Providing general guidance on smoke impacts and local conditions.

Further information on fire related matters can be found at:

- <https://plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au/>
- <https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/My-property/Fire-and-emergency/Fire-management>
- <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/about-us/what-we-do/planned-burns>

Heating in Hastings Library

Fred Crump, a resident of Hastings, asked the following question:

This morning inside the Hastings Library the heating/air conditioning wasn't working properly and was very cold inside. Again. After making enquiries, I was told the problem would be fixed at the end of the month. Why can't it be addressed tomorrow instead of waiting another two weeks.

Council advises, the Hastings Library HVAC system (installed 1995) is at end of life and must be fully replaced. New units are being sourced from overseas, with delivery expected early-mid June.

The library is expected to close for around 10 days in the last two weeks of June to allow works to be completed safely. A brief car park closure will also be required for crane lifting.

Further details will be shared once delivery and installation dates are confirmed.

Hastings Public Hall Community Clock

Fred Crump, a resident of Hastings, asked the following question:

The Hastings Public Hall community clock has malfunctioned once again. Why doesn't the Shire install a new clock r brick the hole up and forget the maintenance issue.

Council advises, a request has been submitted for the Shire Building Maintenance service providers to attend site and investigate the issue with the clock function. If the clock can be repaired, this will be carried out. Should further assessment or discussion be required, the contractors will advise the relevant Shire contact accordingly.

Roadside Collection pricing

J. Farrell a resident of Mornington, asked the following question:

What is happening with roadside collection price?

The Waste Service Charge is not a new charge; however it will be applied differently in the coming financial year.

Presented more transparently in two parts:

- public cleaning – a charge that all rateable properties receive which forms the budget for public cleaning, and
- waste collection – which is applied to properties receiving a kerbside bin collection.

This proposal ensures every dollar collected through the waste charge is used to deliver waste services and maintain a clean, safe environment within the Shire.

Waste charges are set purely to recover the cost of collection, processing and disposal. Council does not profit from this charge.