

Public Questions

Council Meeting 9 June 2026



Mornington
Peninsula Shire

We have received 7 questions without notice.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Short term rentals

Geoff Adams, a resident of Dromana asked the following questions:

What can be done to make short term rentals e.g. Airbnb's, Stays, Peninsula Escapes comply with Council and EPA noise and conduct regulations?

Council regulates registered Short Stay Rental Accommodation (SSRA) properties through the Short Stay Rental Accommodation Local Law and works with property owners, booking agents and the community to address complaints regarding noise, anti-social behaviour and amenity impacts.

To improve compliance with Council's SSRA Local Law, the following measures occur:

- Ensure all SSRA properties are registered with Council and have a nominated local contact person (designated contact person) available to respond to complaints within two hours.
- Requirement of property owners and booking agents to provide guests with clear information regarding noise restrictions, parking requirements, waste collection arrangements and expectations of behaviour before and during their stay. This information must also be displayed within the property.
- Require prompt investigation and response to complaints by the property owner, manager or designated contact person, including attending the property where necessary.
- Where ongoing breaches occur, Council may investigate potential breaches of the Short Stay Rental Accommodation Local Law and take appropriate enforcement action where sufficient evidence exists.
- Property owners should consider occupancy limits, restrictions on parties and events, and other management practices designed to minimise impacts on neighbouring properties.

While most short-term rental operators manage their properties responsibly, effective registration, monitoring, complaint response processes and enforcement where necessary are important tools in ensuring these properties operate in a manner that respects the amenity of surrounding residents.



Council acknowledges that enforcement action can only be taken where sufficient evidence exists to demonstrate a breach of the Short Stay Rental Accommodation Local Law. For this reason, residents experiencing ongoing issues are encouraged to maintain records of incidents, including dates, times, photographs, videos or other supporting information where appropriate. Residents affected by excessive noise are encouraged to report incidents when they occur. Depending on the circumstances, complaints may be referred to Council or Victoria Police where applicable.

Subsidised pet care

Heather Florence Cooke, a resident of Mornington asked the following question:

When will the subsidised et de-sexing and microchipping be implemented and will this apply to Centrelink Recipients only? Also, will this program be available to cat owners, not just dog owners?

The desexing and microchipping project is still in the planning phase, and Officers hope to be able to offer the services to the public by August 2026. The project will be available to dog and cat owners who reside in the Shire and are in receipt of a Centrelink pension (e.g. disability, carers etc).

Pet adoption

Heather Florence Cooke, a resident of Mornington asked the following question:

Has the adoption process been streamlined and simplified allowing walk-ins without having to fill out a four-page online adoption form, waiting for a phone call, then visiting the shelter at least twice. Also, can shelter hours be extended?

We have recently undertaken a review of our adoption form and have made several changes to ensure it is consistent with other shelters and rescue groups. We have a duty of care to ensure we find the right animal for the right household. We actively encourage two meet-and-greet sessions as this is best practice to support successful, long-term outcomes for both the animal and the adopter. This process also helps ensure adopters are making considered decisions, and allows us to better assess suitability, lifestyle compatibility, and the needs of both the animal and the family.

Shelter volunteering

Rosy Fischer, a resident of Mornington asked the following questions:

Will a volunteer and foster care program be implemented at the shelter and if so when and in what capacity. Fostering is particularly beneficial to stressed, elderly, young and nervous

pets. Volunteers/foster carers provide socialism and enrichment. They often adopt as well as reducing ill rates and cutting costs.

At the adoption of the Domestic Animal Management Plan in late 2025, a subsequent Council Action was resolved by Council to review the Community Animal Shelter operations. This review will include the feasibility of foster and volunteer programs.

Pet Adoption / Fostering

Why isn't the Community Animal Shelter promoting the pets for adoption in a positive way including names, ages, personalities, etc which will lead to increased adoptions. Many videos / photos do not include information on the shelter's Facebook page.

The Community Animal Shelter Facebook page is not only used to promote animals for adoption, but also to showcase the hard work and dedication of the Shelter team, their challenges and successes, and provide a behind-the-scenes view on how they operate. We communicate with our followers through a mix of informative, funny and touching stories and posts. Whilst we understand that not every post will resonate with every follower, we aim to vary our communication style to ensure we can reach as many people as possible. If a follower sees an animal in a post or video they want to find out more about, they can access a permanent link to the Shire's adoption page which shows the full profile of every animal available for adoption.

The Briars Dirt Road

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

The Dirt Road leading up to the Scout Camp and Mornington Stargazers Building at the Briars is constantly plagued with potholes as big as fruit dishes, why doesn't the Shire tarmac the whole Road instead of filling holes with gravel all the time?

Council officers inspected the access road on 10 June 2026 and noted some potholes and minor surface irregularities; these are typical for unsealed roads and are managed through routine maintenance programs.

To address the current concerns, the road is scheduled for grading works in July/August 2026. These works will smooth the surface, address potholes, and improve overall drivability. In addition, a minor misalignment between the sealed and unsealed sections at the top of the access road was identified during inspection, and this will also be rectified while the contractor is onsite.

In relation to sealing the entire road, there is currently no allocated budget for those works. Council will continue to maintain the road through regular grading and maintenance to ensure it remains safe and functional for all users and will keep its condition under review.

Plastic pollution clean up

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

3 years ago, a Dutch CEO invented an interceptor vessel to clean up oceans and rivers. So far, 50 million tons of plastic pollution has been taken from rivers in Panama, Indonesia, India and Los Angeles. Why hasn't Local, State or Federal Governments cottoned on to this fine invention?

Council is aware of interceptor vessel technology, which is generally designed for large river systems and involves significant cost and infrastructure.

Our primary focus is preventing litter at the source. Waterway management is also shared across councils, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, and the State Government.

Council continues to assess emerging solutions for suitability and cost-effectiveness in our local context.

Currently, we operate 64 gross pollutant traps (GPTs), maintained quarterly, which capture litter and debris within the stormwater system before it reaches waterways. These provide a practical, locally appropriate approach to managing pollution.
