

Community Report

July to September 2025



**Mornington
Peninsula** Shire



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Mayor's Message



Welcome to our first quarterly Community Report for the 2025-26 financial year. These reports provide a snapshot of the projects and services we've delivered over the past quarter, measured against the priorities in our Council Plan. We now have a new Council Plan, built around the themes of Place, People, Prosperity and Performance. You will see these new themes reflected in the structure of this report.

With a high reliance on cars to get around the Peninsula, feedback about our roads features strongly in our customer surveys. I'm pleased to report this quarter we have begun an ambitious, \$7.5 million resealing and rehabilitation program covering 35 Shire-managed local roads. This includes more patching to ensure that what's under the surface is in good condition too.

Road safety has also been a major theme this quarter, with traffic management and safety improvements installed at both Somerville and Rye.

Still on the subject of roads, Council will lobby hard for increased investment in local state-owned roads ahead of next year's Victorian state election. Among the other priorities we will campaign for are an upgrade to Rosebud Hospital, solutions for our housing and homelessness crisis and better support to look after our coasts.

In August, CEO Mark Stoermer announced a major organisational restructure in response to a Council-mandated \$10 million reduction in staff costs and service efficiencies. I'd like to thank Mark for leading a thorough review process throughout this quarter. The new organisation structure is now in place and will position the organisation to improve the way we serve our community, while remaining financially sustainable into the future.

I'd like to finish by flagging an upcoming change to our youth services. In September, Council opted to partner with a range of external providers to deliver a

more diverse and better targeted mix of youth services. The Shire will retain strong leadership in this space, ensuring young people have ongoing involvement in the planning, design and evaluation of the services provided to them.

Under the new model, our three youth hubs at Rosebud, Mornington and Hastings will become busier than ever, offering a base for existing providers and other services not currently available on the Mornington Peninsula. I look forward to the new service model being in place from Term 2 next year.

**Councillor Anthony Marsh,
Mayor
Mornington Peninsula
Shire Council**

Our Councillors



Cr. Anthony Marsh
(Mayor)
Briars Ward



Cr. Paul Pingiaro
(Dep. Mayor)
Tanti Ward



Cr. Kate Roper
Beek Beek Ward



Cr. Max Patton
Benbenjie Ward



Cr. Patrick Binyon
Brokil Ward



Cr. David Gill
Coolart Ward



Cr. Stephen Batty
Kackeraboite Ward



Cr. Bruce Ranken
Moorooduc Ward



Cr. Andrea Allen
Nepean Ward



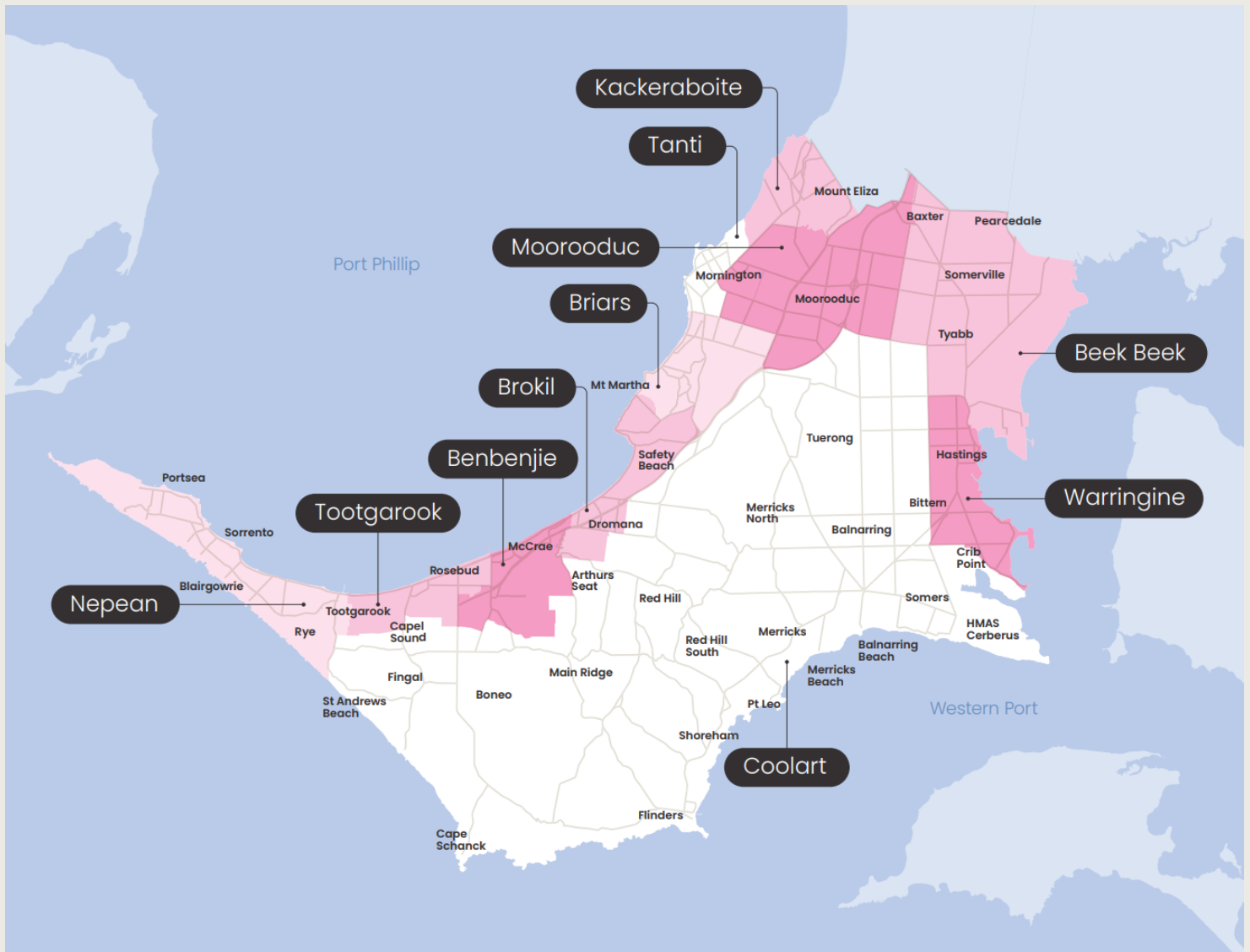
Cr. Cam Williams
Tootgarook Ward



Cr. Michael Stephens
Warringine Ward

For more information visit:
mornpen.vic.gov.au/ourcouncillors

Our Wards



Our Engagement

Fast Facts – How You Engaged With Us



26,910 Calls taken
50% resolved at first contact



4,150 customers attended on of our service centres



1,861 correspondence received
100% responded to within 10 business days



26,204 service requests received (includes Snap Send Solve requests)
81% of enquiries resolved on time



4,150 webchats



1.24M web page views

Major Engagements – Have Your Say

Positive Aging Communication

The Positive Aging Communication consultation sought feedback to improve connection with older residents in the Mornington Peninsula. The project was a response to feedback from older community members and the Peninsula Advisory Committee for Elders who noted that some residents were unaware of the Shire's events, programs and services. The aim was to make information easier to understand, and more accessible, delivered in formats that suit different preferences. As part of this work, the Shire is also reviewing current communication methods, including print newsletters, digital platforms, and community outreach to ensure they remain effective and offer good value for money.

Road Management Plan

The Shire manages over 1,700 kilometres of local roads and recently invited the community to help shape its approach to road management through feedback on the draft Road Management Plan. The plan outlines how Council maintains and inspects local roads, footpaths and related infrastructure, sets minimum service

standards and maintenance to keep roads safe and reliable for all users. Community feedback was sought on key priorities and improvements to ensure maintenance activities reflects local needs. Following this consultation, the Road Management Plan was formally adopted by Council on 14 October 2025.

David MacFarlan Playground 2

Earlier this year, community feedback helped shaped the concept design for the David MacFarlan Playground. This second round of consultation aimed to ensure the concept plan reflects community priorities. Residents asked for slides and balancing features, and accessibility features to be included. Safety and visibility concerns were addressed with protective screening within a layout that maintains clear sightlines. Approval and community support will enable the next phase where the Shire will proceed to detailed planning to make the project 'shovel ready' and apply for funding through the Council's Capital Works Program and/or external grants.



Council Plan Update

Place

Strategic Direction 1

Celebrate,
protect and
enhance our
unique blend of
coast,
hinterland,
Green Wedge
and connected
villages and
townships.



Community Focus

Place

New community-led trial makes container recycling easier on the go

Mornington Peninsula Shire is one of three Victorian councils participating in an innovative 12-month trial designed to increase recycling and reduce litter.

New Container Deposit Scheme exchange baskets are being installed next to public bins at 90 locations across the Peninsula, including in foreshore areas and other popular public spaces.

For more information, click on mornpen.vic.gov.au/container-recycling

Little legends, big impact: Rosebud kids help restore the dunes

It's not every day you get to say you helped save a beach – but for 90 Grade 6 students from Rosebud Primary School, that's exactly what they did.

Armed with gloves, garden trowels and a serious love for the outdoors, the students spent the day planting 1,500 indigenous seedlings into the dunes along the Rosebud foreshore.

For more information, click on mornpen.vic.gov.au/rosebud-dunes



Strategic Objective 1.1

Protected, resilient and enhanced natural environments.

Performance Measures



171 bushland working bees supported
(Annual target – 500)



860 trees planted
(Annual target – 2,000)



1,000km of beaches cleaned
(Quarterly target – 1,000km)



12,670 drainage pits inspected with
786 cleaned
(Quarterly target – 6,000 inspections)



52.5% of kerbside waste
diverted from landfill
(Target – increase)

Annual Actions

1.1.1.1 Deliver the Biodiversity Conservation Plan.

On Track ●

Biodiversity Month was celebrated throughout September. The latest actions implemented from the plan include:

- A communications campaign to raise awareness of and celebrate local biodiversity, and to promote the activities the Shire will be doing as part of Biodiversity Month.
- The Shire participated in Biodiversity Month Bioblitz, a competition between LGAs for recording species on the iNaturalist App. This year, the Shire took first place with over 6,000 observations, which included over 4,000 species observations from 363 participants.
- The Shire hosted eight biodiversity walk and talks in a selection of bushland reserves. The walks provided an opportunity for residents to hear more about biodiversity in their local areas. There were 59 participants.
- The Shire hosted the Koala Forum to raise awareness for Koalas and Koala habitat protection. The Forum was an online event with guest speakers including ecologists, scientists and special interest groups, shire staff and councillors. There were fifty participants.

We started preparing for the annual Friends Group working bee program. The program will support working bees for 171 Friends Groups, which includes 644 volunteers.

We also started preparing and securing dates for the 2025–26 Nature Stewards program, which will be held over 10 weeks. This will be the fourth round of the popular course. The Shire's Natural Systems team are working on the communication plan and finalising the course content.

1.1.1.2 Deliver the Biolinks Support Grants Program.

On Track ●

The Shire's Natural System and Community Grants teams have commenced reviewing grant applications to support applicants in ensuring their applications meet the grant requirements, improving application readiness and progress through evaluation process.

Social media post advertisements encouraged eligible applicants to apply for projects that protect threatened species, link Biolinks in the landscape and focus on community engagement.

The Biolinks Support Grants (BSG) Program opened on 7 July and closed on 17 September 2025. A total of 18 applications were received by the closing date, which is the largest number of applications submitted for BSG funding. Assessments are now underway.

1.1.1.3 Plan and deliver the first year of the Urban Forest Tree Planting program.

Monitor ●

The Shire is working through the recruitment process to engage an Urban Forest Arborist. Tree planting is planned for the autumn and winter of 2026 to ensure their successful establishment.

1.1.2.1 Develop Stages 5-7 (Part B) of 'Our Coast Our Future' Coastal Strategy.

Off Track ●

Council and Executive were briefed on Part B of 'Our Coast Our Future' in Q1. Further Council Briefings on the Strategy and the outcomes from the community consultation are set for 21 October and 11 November 2025, after which the strategy will be finalised for adoption.

1.1.3.1 Develop the Open Space Strategy.

On Track ●

The draft Open Space Strategy and draft Open Space Contributions Report were placed on public exhibition for six weeks from 25 August to 3 October 2025. Council will be briefed on 11 November on the feedback received prior to the reports being updated and the adoption of the Strategy planned for December 2025.

1.1.4.1 Advocate to State Government regarding reforms to Green Wedge Planning Policy.

On Track ●

At its meeting on 23 September 2025, Council approved Green Wedge protection as a Tier 2 advocacy priority for 2025-26. In July 2025, the State Government tabled its Response to the Inquiry Report on Securing the Victorian Food Supply, indicating that it supports 29 of the 33 Inquiry Committee's recommendations. Many of the recommendations align with the State Government's Planning for Melbourne's Green Wedges and Agricultural Land Action Plan (2024). We submitted to the Inquiry in April 2024.

The State Government also released the Ministerial Direction on the Preparation and Content of Green Wedge Management Plans. The Shire adopted our Green Wedge Management Plan in 2019.

1.1.5.1 Develop an updated Landslide Susceptibility Assessment.

Off Track ●

A specialist geotechnical engineering consultant has been engaged and is reviewing the previous landslide susceptibility work undertaken in 2012. The initial review should be completed by December 2025 and will inform



an Interim Erosion Management Overlay (EMO). Additional work will be needed to inform a permanent EMO.

Recruitment for two specialist roles to oversee the development of landslide susceptibility has started. Council will be briefed on 14 October 2025 about the proposed approach to introducing the EMO controls, based on updated landslide susceptibility work.

1.1.5.2 Plan and deliver renewable energy and asset efficiency projects on Shire facilities. On Track ●

Following Council's resolution on 22 April 2025, the development of the Climate Resilience Plan Framework is underway and is scheduled to be presented to Council on 2 December 2025. Also in development is the draft Energy Resilience Strategy, which will be guided by the Climate Resilience Plan Framework.

The construction phase of the Major Roads Streetlight Upgrade Project has been successfully completed. Approximately 3,600 municipal streetlights were upgraded to energy-efficient LED's. The project is expected to generate annual cost savings of from approximately \$525,000, resulting in a projected payback period of four years. Over a 20-year lifecycle, the initiative is anticipated to deliver cumulative net savings of approximately \$9.9 million.

Other work includes:

- Procuring operational services for the Building Management System for the Yawa Optimisation Project. This project aims to establish an energy performance baseline and investigate opportunities to enhance efficiency and extend asset lifespan.
- Awaiting the outcome of our submission to the Federal Government's Community Energy Upgrade Fund. If successful, the grant will subsidise the electrification of Pelican Park Aquatic Centre, which will deliver significant operational savings.
- Delivering efficiency upgrades to 20 amenity blocks as part of our Foreshore Camping Heat Pump Upgrade program. This has reduced operating costs and improved system reliability.

- Drafting the business case for Stage 1 of the Battery and Solar for Council Facilities Project to support a submission in the upcoming budget bid cycle.
- Constructing new facilities with solar PV, batteries and energy-efficient appliances and systems. This includes the Mornington Community Animal Shelter and Emil Madsen Eastern Pavilion, with other buildings in design stages.

1.1.6.1 Utilise flood mapping to mitigate and adapt to flood risk. On Track ●

Draft reports and deliverables of the flood mapping have been provided to Melbourne Water (from consultant Water for Good) and external auditors for their final review. Melbourne Water has outlined the process for engaging with the community for model verification, which is expected to start in 2026.

1.1.7.1 Prepare for the rollout of the State's Recycling Victoria's mandated four-bin household waste and recycling system. Off Track ●

Our Kerbside Transition Plan is being finalised in preparation for submission to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action. We are still awaiting the release of the kerbside standards from the State Government which is delaying preparations.

1.1.7.2 Finalise the Rye landfill closure subject to the Environment Protection Authority's approvals and post-closure requirements. On Track ●

The Environment Protection Authority has granted approval to extend the Rye Landfill, enabling an improved final design of the landfill cap. Planning for a new cap and the landfill's closure in 2026 is currently underway.

Strategic Objective 1.2

Connected townships with integrated and accessible transport and well-maintained infrastructure.

Performance Measures



75 days, on average, for planning applications (Target – <90 days)
67% of planning applications decided within required timeframes



161,247m² of roads resurfaced and/or rehabilitated
(Annual target – 200,000m²)

Annual Actions

1.2.1.1 Finalise the residential height planning controls review.

On Track ●

Both the Background Report (Literature Review) and the Shire-wide Landscape Character Assessment Report have been completed in the last quarter.

Data from the Landscape Character Assessment will be integrated with the Victorian Government's Vic3D platform in the next quarter. Detailed site testing, modelling and analysis will then be undertaken to inform recommended changes to height controls.

1.2.1.2 Deliver planning scheme amendments across Mornington Peninsula in support of population growth and maintaining neighbourhood character.

On Track ●

We continue to liaise with the State Government to try and progress the assessment and approval of Amendment C219morn, noting that significant recent planning reforms (namely the new Single Dwelling Code and Townhouse and Low-Rise Code) will likely impact the amendment. Amendment C219morn (Housing on the Peninsula) was adopted by Council in August 2024 and submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval in September 2024.

We are also still awaiting approval from the Minister for Planning to publicly exhibit Amendment C302morn (Heritage Review Area 4 & Stage 5, including permanent Heritage Overlays and Sorrento Incorporated Document Review).

An independent Planning Panel report on Amendment C295morn (Creswell Street Crib Point Development Contributions Plan Review) was delivered to Council in late August 2025, with Council scheduled to consider the Panel's report in December 2025.

Council adopted Amendment C286morn (Ocean Beach Road Sorrento Built Form Controls) on 23 September 2025.

Upcoming activity includes a public hearing in October from the Independent Planning Panel on Amendment C247morn (Woodbyne Crescent, Mornington North). The Panel will deliver their report to Council in November 2025.

1.2.2.1 Deliver the Community Facilities Infrastructure Strategy through development of Community Infrastructure Action Plans. On Track ●

The local area action plans for Western Port are almost complete, with assessments of all 94 facilities conducted.

A Community Facilities Delivery and Management Model Framework, which will guide the recommendations, have been developed. We are currently undertaking engagement/consultation on recommendations. The draft Framework will be presented to Council in early 2026.

1.2.2.2 Review the Public Amenity Strategy. On Track ●

The review of our Public Amenity Strategy is progressing with a significant amount of work completed, including audits of all facilities, the development of a prioritisation matrix and consideration of key data and information.

A draft Public Amenity Strategy, incorporating existing information and background research, is in development and will be presented to Council for approval to place on public exhibition in early 2026.

1.2.2.3 Develop the Property Strategy. Monitor ●

A review of the previous draft Property Strategy has been completed to aid planning for the new strategy. The development of the new Property Strategy has been rescheduled to commence in January 2026.

1.2.2.4 Develop the Long Term Capital Works Plan. On Track ●

We started planning for and incorporating a 4-year and 10-year financial planning outlook for capital budget submissions, which will start in November 2025.

We also undertook priority Councillor sessions to outline the process and inputs as part of the Long Term Capital Works Program and facilitated recurring program sessions. This will help us understand the planning and necessary information required for a 10-year outlook.

1.2.3.1 Develop the Integrated Transport Strategy. On Track ●

The draft Integrated Transport Strategy is progressing and nearing completion. A series of workshops with internal stakeholders was held with recommendations informing the draft. Council is expected to be briefed on the draft Strategy by December 2025.

1.2.3.2 Review the Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy. On Track ●

The draft scope for the Strategy has been finalised with work due to commence in Q2. A workshop to discuss options to improve road safety on the Mornington Peninsula, as part of its review of the Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy and its associated action plans, is scheduled for 11 November 2025.

1.2.4.1 Deliver the annual Road Rehabilitation and Resurfacing Programs. On Track ●

The Mornington Peninsula community can look forward to smoother, safer journeys, with the Shire's annual Road Resurfacing and Rehabilitation Program (RRRP) now underway. As part of the scheduled program of works, these programs will be delivered throughout the 2025–26 year with some works, including Uralla Road, Mount Martha, already underway or completed.

Upcoming works include:

- Wooralla Drive, Mount Eliza
- Canadian Bay Road, Mount Eliza
- Old White Hill Road, Dromana
- Point Leo Road, Point Leo
- Verdon Street, Dromana
- Heales Street, Dromana
- Coryule Street, Shoreham.

1.2.4.2 Review the Road Management Plan. On Track ●

The draft Amended Road Management Plan 2025 and the accompanying Road Management Plan Review Report were placed on public exhibition for six weeks, from 18 June to 30 July 2025, to invite community feedback.

Following the conclusion of the exhibition period, all public submissions were compiled and presented to Council on 9 September 2025. After reviewing the

feedback, Council resolved to progress the amended plan to a future Council meeting for formal consideration and adoption.

The Road Management Plan is scheduled to be presented to Council on 14 October 2025 for adoption.

1.2.5.1 Deliver the Peninsula Trail Masterplan.

On Track ●

The Peninsula Trail project has made significant progress this quarter, particularly in the areas of branding, wayfinding, and design planning. A draft Branding Strategy has been developed in collaboration with local marketing agency Oraco, incorporating the MPS logo and aligning with the corporate Style Guide. Extensive engagement, including workshops with the Bunurong Land Council, Parks Victoria, community stakeholders, and internal experts, has informed the Strategy and identified five brand pillars: Country & Culture, Diversity & Discovery, Inclusivity & Connection, Healthy Living & Wellbeing, and Sustainability & Care. These pillars will guide functional wayfinding, interpretive storytelling, and engagement campaigns.

Draft concepts are being refined in time for the new visual identity to first appear on signage for the nearly completed Somerville to Baxter link.

Planning progress continues on the Mornington to Moorooduc (M2M) section, with JCA engaged to kick off concept design work. The biodiversity assessment for the trail is also underway.

Officers are advancing other key actions from the Implementation Framework in the Peninsula Trail Strategic Plan, focusing on priority missing links to ensure they are funding-ready for delivery.

Looking ahead to the 2025–26 financial year, priorities include finalising the Branding Strategy in time for the Somerville to Baxter completion, progressing M2M actions into detailed design, and beginning detailed design for the next highest priority links. Additional focus will be on completing an existing trail audit to inform prioritisation, continuing community engagement, and collaborating with the Advocacy team to support funding opportunities.



People

Strategic Direction 2

A safe, accessible, inclusive and engaged community that fosters our diverse culture, supporting health and wellbeing and a connected and compassionate society for all.

Community Focus

People

Delivering housing for women and children on the Peninsula

The Mornington Peninsula Shire has partnered with housing agencies YWCA Australia and Women's Property Initiatives (WPI) to deliver 17 dwellings in Mornington and Hastings for essential social housing for women and children.

For more information, click on mornpen.vic.gov.au/housing-women-children

A vibrant future for public art on the Mornington Peninsula

Last year, after extensive community and stakeholder consultation, Council adopted the Public Art Policy. The Policy has introduced a clear and transparent framework for commissioning public art.

This Policy is all about creating opportunities for artists and enhancing our shared spaces.

For more information, click on mornpen.vic.gov.au/future-public-art



Strategic Objective 2.1

A safe, accessible, inclusive and healthy community.

Performance Measures



24 preventative health and wellbeing initiatives delivered



1 impact assessment undertaken
(Quarterly target – 4)



2,668 youth participated in Shire provided programs



3,851 new compliance investigations received
3,500 compliance investigations closed

Annual Actions

2.1.1.1 Deliver the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

On Track ●

The Public Health and Wellbeing Plan was adopted by Council. The Public Health and Wellbeing Plan was submitted to the Department of Health to meet the Shire's legislative requirements under Section 26(6) of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act.

The Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Data Profile have been uploaded to the Council's website for the public to view. Currently, the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan is being adapted into Easy English and Screen Reader versions to ensure the community can broadly access the Plan.

The highlights for this quarter include the delivery of the successful Suicide Prevention Walk, which brought together more than 10 community and business partners. Council Youth Services and Community Partnerships teams. Five hundred community members attended the event, which included a memorial roll call to honour loved ones lost to suicide and provide the community with an opportunity for collective remembrance and healing. The event aims to shift the narrative around suicide, from silence and stigma to openness, empathy and community resilience.

Other activities include:

- Nine My Smart Garden events. These were attended by 172 people, supporting residents' skill and confidence in home habitat and produce gardening.
- Delivering bike education and training accreditation in partnership with State's Department of Traffic and Planning. Fourteen teachers participated, enabling schools to teach curriculum aligned bike skills education, encouraging young people to ride their bikes safely and for physical activity.
- Installing pad and tampon vending machines across three locations, through the State's Free Pads and Tampons program.

2.1.2.1 Deliver the We All Belong Strategy. On Track ●

We started development of Ageism and Elder Abuse Awareness training to support Positive Ageing programs. Key events delivered from the Positive Ageing programs include the successful Dying to Know Day with 120 attendees and the Youth Week "Create IT" art competition and workshops, which engaged over 85 young artists.

Additional activities delivered that align with the We All Belong Strategy include:

- Introducing a beach matting trial at Mount Martha Lifesaving Club to enable year-round water access for cold water swimmers of all abilities.
- Resumption of the All Abilities Golf program, which recorded strong participation.
- Introducing communication lanyards featuring universal symbols to support people with communication differences at community events.
- Strengthening staff capacity through the rollout of a Universal Design training module.

2.1.2.2 Deliver the Gender Equality Strategy. On Track ●

A mid-term review of the Gender Equality Strategy has been completed and the Strategy updated to reflect accurate family violence/gender equality statistics, policies and key achievements. The Health and Wellbeing Committee endorsed the updated Strategy and Year 6 Action Plan on 25 August 2025.

Implementation of the Year 6 Action Plan has begun, with the organisation of community events for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign. We also began preparing our Gender Equality Workforce Audit for submission on 1 December 2025 and completed an Equity Impact Assessment for the Dromana Shared Path Project.

2.1.3.1 Implement the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan. On Track ●

Highlights delivered in support of the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan include:

- Celebrating public art, cultural workshops, film screenings and storytelling sessions as part of NAIDOC Week.
- Delivering a collaborative public artwork by First Nations students and artist Sammy Trist, which was installed on the external wall of the Rosebud Tounnin Wominjeka Youth Hub.
- Collaborating with Willum Warrain to deliver a morning of storytelling for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day at Hastings Library and an Elders Story Time with Aunty Fay Muir for Indigenous Literacy Day at Mornington Library.
- Delivering the Junior Ranger program in collaboration with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, with over 90 First Nations primary and secondary students engaging in the program.

2.1.4.1 Develop the Local Water Safety Plan. On Track ●

The development of the Local Water Safety Plan is nearing completion. Remaining tasks include installing water safety signage on Peninsula Link and securing the adoption of the Water Safety Plan by the Mornington Peninsula Water Safety Alliance.

2.1.5.1 Implement the Triple A Housing Plan. On Track ●

The Mornington Peninsula has the highest proportion of people experiencing sleeping rough under the Functional Zero program, including those in Melbourne's CBD. We remain committed to advocating for and providing homelessness services in the Shire.

Currently, we are partnering with WPI and YWCA to develop women's housing on four parcels of land in Hastings and Mornington. We are pleased to announce that we have received funding from the State Government and construction on this project is set to begin in the coming weeks.

Based on community feedback indicating 84% support for the development of social housing in Rosebud, we are actively seeking funding from government programs and private investors to advance this project.

2.1.6.1 Develop the Community Disaster Resilience Plan.

On Track ●

The draft Community Disaster Resilience Plan was publicly exhibited from 3 to 30 September 2025. Feedback is being collated and analysed. The final draft plan will be taken to a briefing of the Executive and then Council, before going back to Council for adoption by December 2025.

2.1.6.2 Emergency Relief Hub Energy Resilience Upgrade.

Off Track ●

The project to upgrade the Emergency Relief Energy Hub has officially started, beginning with a research phase aimed at clearly defining the project's scope. The findings from this initial phase will lay the groundwork for subsequent planning and implementation stages, with a working group to be established in the next quarter.

Work on the project was delayed due to the Organisational restructure and will recommence in October 2025.

Strategic Objective 2.2

An engaged and connected community.

Performance Measures

-  **69** programs delivered via Community Houses
(Target – increase)
-  **75** community-led events and projects, supported by Council, that promote social connection
(Target – increase)
-  **8,364** community members participated in Library programs
(Target – increase)
-  **6** new engagement projects
-  **62,506** followers and subscribers across communication mediums
(3.3% increase)

Annual Actions

2.2.2.1 Develop the Sports Capacity Plan V2 and 3. On Track ●

The draft Sports Capacity Plans have been publicly exhibited with community feedback informing the final Plans. The Plans are scheduled to go before Council for adoption on 5 November 2025.

2.2.2.2 Develop the Playspace and Outdoor Exercise Strategy. On Track ●

The development of the Strategy is scheduled to begin in November 2025. A project brief and project plan has been developed in Q1. All playground audits and a gap analysis (through the Open Space Strategy) have been completed in preparation of the strategies development.

2.2.2.3 Develop the Pavilion Strategy. On Track ●

We are currently finalising the draft of the Pavilion Strategy. This strategy will incorporate the sports facility development standards outlined in the Sport Capacity Plan once it is adopted. We expect to present the draft Pavilion Strategy to the Council for public exhibition in early 2026. Additionally, we have created a priority list of pavilion projects based on an audit of our existing pavilions.

2.2.3.1 Develop the Arts, Culture and Events Strategy 2026–2036. On Track ●

We have engaged a consultant to deliver a background paper that will inform the creation of the Arts, Culture and Events Strategy 2026–2036. The background paper is expected at the end of November 2025.

A consultation plan and community engagement survey have been developed and are planned to commence in mid-October 2025. Consultation with key stakeholders, Arts and Culture Advisory Panel members and Councillors has been completed.

2.2.4.1 Implement the Library Strategy. On Track ●

Actions delivered in support of the Library Strategy include:

- Completing a review of OliV, Our Library Van, with the recommendations from the review to be implemented in February 2026.
- Completing the July and September School Holiday programs.
- Celebrating NAIDOC Week with activities.
- Successfully securing grant funding to deliver the Libraries After Dark program.

Actions scheduled for next quarter include:

- Implementing a new procurement process.
- Planning for January School Holiday programs.
- Installing a new chute at Somerville Library.
- Holding a Community Engagement Survey.

2.2.5.1 Improve community engagement process for Shire projects and commence review of Community engagement Strategy. Off Track ●

The Community Engagement function has been moved to the Communities Directorate as part of the Organisational Structure review. This aims to create stronger links between our services and programs and the community engagement we undertake. Due to this realignment the work on updating our approach to community engagement has been put on hold until the Organisational Structure review is completed in October.



Prosperity

Strategic Direction 3

Enabling balanced growth through innovation, empowering community groups and volunteers, and fostering a resilient, thriving and vibrant local economy.



Community Focus

Prosperity

Help shape the future of business support on the Mornington Peninsula

Local businesses were encouraged to share their insights in the 2025 Business Surveys, which were open until 30 September 2025.

Run in partnership with independent consultant, Metropolis Research, the surveys aim to capture a clear picture of local business needs, challenges and opportunities.

For more information, click on mornpen.vic.gov.au/shape-business-support

Finalists announced for the 2025 Business Excellence Awards

Mornington Peninsula Shire is proud to announce the finalists for the 2025 Business Excellence Awards, celebrating the outstanding achievements, innovation, and resilience of local businesses across the region.

This year, 22 businesses have been named as finalists, demonstrating the high calibre of leadership and continuous improvement driving our local economy.

For more information, click on mornpen.vic.gov.au/bea-finalists



Strategic Objective 3.1

A vibrant, innovative and thriving local economy.

Performance Measures



38 business events and workshops led or supported
(Quarterly target – 8)



22 community events held or supported
(Target – increase)



45 days, on average, for event applications
(Target – decrease)



39,048 visitations to Shire destinations
(Briar's visitation up 39% form July-September 2023)

Annual Actions

3.1.1.1 Create a dedicated business permit support process.

Off Track ●

An application was submitted to the Business Acceleration Fund to develop a digital concierge for business permits, which will help businesses navigate the process of obtaining necessary approvals and provide support with application forms, as well as offer advice and guidance.

Initial planning around the internal mapping process for the digital concierge has been completed, however further work will progress next quarter.

3.1.1.2 Deliver the Western Port Futures Project.

On Track ●

The Western Port Futures Project is underway. The working group met to plan the key project deliverables and Councillors were briefed on 19 August to introduce the project and discuss some project components that required feedback.

Recruitment for the Project Lead role is still underway.

3.1.2.1 Deliver initiatives, in collaboration with stakeholders, to increase local learning opportunities.

On Track ●

Shire officers supported the delivery of Frankston Mornington Peninsula Local Learning and Employment Network Industry Expo and attended regular meetings with the Frankston Mornington Peninsula Skills and Jobs network and South Eastern Melbourne and Peninsula Taskforce. We also attended monthly meetings with Chisholm TAFE and Advance College.

3.1.4.1 Deliver planning scheme amendments in support of increasing commercial and industrial land.

On Track ●

Planning Scheme Amendment C243morn (Somerville Technology, Industry and Business Park) was adopted

by Council on 23 September 2025. It seeks to rezone surplus Port-related land at 79 and 83 Bungower Road in Somerville to create a new precinct for general industrial use with a focus on emerging strategic manufacturing, research and development, and start-up enterprises. The amendment will be submitted to the Minister for Planning in October 2025 for final approval.

Planning Scheme Amendment C294morn (Hastings Industrial Precinct) is yet to be lodged with Council for assessment. The privately led amendment is intended to create a new industrial precinct on surplus Port-related land north of Graydens Road, generally between Frankston-Flinders Road, Boes Road and Olivers Creek South.

3.1.5.1 Deliver the Food and Agroecology Strategy.

On Track ●

The Future Farmers Pathway program to develop the next generation of small-scale farmers on Mornington Peninsula land has commenced. This Program creates a pathway for new farmers to have opportunities to access land and learn sustainable farming practices.

The project to measure the baseline for agroecological farming practices on the Mornington Peninsula is progressing. We will be the first region in Australia to use the Tool for Agroecological Performance Evaluation (TAPE), which will be used to measure this in the region. The Tool was developed by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

The Sustainable Food Economy and Agroecology Taskforce met to work together on strengthening the local food system. The Shire is a partner on The Community Plate, and a representative from Peninsula Health sits on the Taskforce.



Strategic Objective 3.2

Valued partnerships and empowered community groups and volunteers.

Performance Measures



\$1,461,547 of funding provided through Community Investment Funding (Quarterly Target – \$1,090,000)



80 days, on average, for approval of community capital projects (Target – decrease)

Annual Actions

3.2.1.1 Deliver the Community Investment Funding programs. On Track ●

Our Community Investment Funding opened on 13 July 2025. The following Sponsorships, Grants and Subsidies were awarded:

- 7 Sponsorships
- 25 Grants from the following grant programs: 12 Community Events Grants, 9 Community Support Grants and 4 Flexi Grants.
- 64 Subsidies.

3.2.2.1 Develop and deliver the Community Volunteering Strengthening Plan to expand and promote volunteering opportunities across the Shire. Not started ●

Action due to commence in Q3.

3.2.2.2 Implement annual Volunteer Training to build the capacity and capability of volunteering based groups and organisations and develop a governance guide for volunteer committees of management. Not started ●

Action due to commence in Q2.

3.2.3.1 Review the Community Capital Infrastructure Policy. On Track ●

The review of the Community Capital Infrastructure Policy is progressing. An internal stakeholder group is scheduled to be consulted in the next quarter before we begin developing the draft Community Capital Infrastructure Policy.

3.2.5.1 Determine and position the Shire's advocacy priorities ahead of the 2026 Victorian State election.

On Track ●

Following an advocacy workshop with Councillors in May 2025 and a Council Briefing in July 2025, our 2025–26 advocacy priorities have been determined, with Council adopting our priorities on 23 September 2025. These advocacy priorities will be the focus and position of the Shire until the Victorian election in November 2026. A dedicated state election campaign to highlight and promote these advocacy priorities to local political candidates and the Victorian Government will be launched closer to the election.

Our priorities have been split into two tiers.

Tier One Advocacy priorities:

- Port of Hastings Surplus Land
- Rosebud Hospital
- Housing
- Homelessness
- Coastal Infrastructure
- Road Maintenance.

Tier Two Advocacy priorities:

- Green Wedge Protection
- Public Transport
- Personal Watercraft Regulation and Compliance.

The Shire's ongoing projects include Peninsula Trail, Emil Madsen Reserve, Performing Arts Centre, Digital Connectivity and Family Violence. A list of local priority infrastructure projects supports Shire advocacy.

An aerial photograph of two surfers riding a large, curling wave in vibrant turquoise water. The surfer closer to the wave's crest is wearing a yellow top, while the other further out is in a blue top. The water's surface is textured with ripples and the white foam of the breaking wave.

Performance

Strategic Direction 4

A transparent, accountable Council delivering measurable, community-centred services that are cost-effective, fit-for-purpose, future-proofed, and responsive to community needs.

Community Focus

Place

Realignment sets Council up for the future

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council CEO Mark Stoermer announced a major organisational restructure aimed at delivering improved customer service and long-term financial sustainability. The new structure aligns the organisation to the Council Plan and Council strategies.

For more information, click on mornpen.vic.gov.au/realignment-council

New direction for Shire Youth Services

We are improving the way we deliver youth services on the Mornington Peninsula with the aim of expanding opportunities for young people to connect and belong.

At the 2 September Council Meeting, councillors decided to partner with a range of external providers to deliver a more targeted and flexible mix of services for our young people. This new model will provide more opportunity for them to connect with services at a time and place that suits them.

For more information, click on mornpen.vic.gov.au/new-direction-youth



Strategic Objective 4.1

A financially sustainable, high-performing and well-governed Council.

Performance Measures

-  **\$69,433,000** Net Operating Expenses
(YTD forecast \$71,533,000)
-  **\$12,134,000** Expenditure on Capital works projects
(YTD forecast \$11,229,000)
-  **80%** of Annual Action Plan actions completed or on track
(Target – 80%)
-  **15.5%** of Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public
(Target – <10%)
-  **91%** of Freedom of information requests resolved within statutory timeframes
(Target – >95%)
-  **2.5%** Voluntary staff turnover
(Annual target – <10%)
-  **5.6%** Position vacancy rate
(no target)

Annual Actions

4.1.1.1 Develop the Financial Plan with identified levers for achieving financial sustainability. On Track ●

The draft Financial Plan was presented to Council and placed on Public Exhibition throughout Q1. The public exhibition closes on 8 October and the final Plan will be presented to Council for adoption on 30 October 2025.

4.1.1.2 Develop the Revenue and Rating Strategy. Monitor ●

Following the adoption of the Revenue and Rating Plan in June 2025, we are working on a revised rating strategy in line with Council's recommendation to update ahead of the next budget for 2026–27. An initial workshop with Councillors has already taken place, and we will present draft options to the Council in the upcoming quarter. Community consultation is expected to occur in December 2025.

4.1.1.3 Review the Procurement Policy. On Track ●

The review of the Procurement Policy is ongoing and was distributed to an internal working group, which has provided feedback. The draft Policy is on track to progress to a Council Meeting for adoption by December 2025.

4.1.1.4 Progress the Future Workplace Project. On Track ●

Officers have completed a business case evaluating the delivery of a consolidated workplace in Hastings, in accordance with the Council resolution of 11 March 2025.

The business case indicates that the capital costs of developing a facility that meets the endorsed functional requirements for an organisation of the Shire's size are significant. Considering the Council's current financial position and future commitments, the project is not expected to deliver a net financial benefit over a 20-year period.

As a result, the project requires a strategic reset to explore all available options for the Council. This process will reassess the issues the project aims to

address and revisit its objectives in the context of the new organisational structure and financial plan.

Officers will collaborate with Davidson Advisory, who will lead the strategic reset. This will include organising a workshop for Councillors to inform recommendations on the next steps. This workshop is scheduled for the end of November 2025.

4.1.1.5 Explore key commercial opportunities to increase revenue. Monitor ●

The exploration of key commercial opportunities is ongoing with work in Q2 focusing on identifying opportunities to explore that were raised as part of the Organisational Structure Review.

4.1.1.6 Implement Contract Management Plans across all contracts. On Track ●

Training has been provided to all Contract Managers, emphasising the importance of contract auditing as a tool for effective contract management. This includes the adoption of the new contract auditing framework that was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee. We are on track for the implementation of Contract Management Plans by 31 December, 2025.

4.1.2.1 Implement the Good Governance and Decision making Framework. Not started ●

Action due to commence in Q2.

4.1.2.2 Review the Enterprise Risk Management Framework. On Track ●

The Risk Appetite Statement was drafted and presented to the Executive for endorsement. The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) approved the Statement in August 2025. Feedback from both the Executive and ARC has informed the final version of the Risk Appetite Statement.

4.1.3.1 Implement the Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework including a review and consolidation of Council Strategies and Plans. On Track ●

The Council Plan 2025–2029 and the Annual Action Plan were finalised and adopted by Council. These are key documents in the Integrated Framework that set the future strategic direction for Council.

Work progressed includes updating reporting processes, in preparation for the Community Report and development of updated performance monitoring dashboards.

In the upcoming quarter, we will start work on an integrated Business Planning Process for the 2026–27 Financial Year, alongside the budget and complete a review of current strategies and plans to ensure alignment with the Council Plan 2025–29.

4.1.4.1 Review the Shire's Workforce Plan. On Track ●

The first stage of this project is the implementation of the Organisational Structure Review which is due to be completed in October.

Background work and planning for the review will be undertaken in Q2 with work on the Shire's Workforce Plan due to start in early 2026.

4.1.4.2 Review and deliver a new Gender Equality Action Plan. On Track ●

The Gender Equality Action Plan is due to commence in early 2026. The project plan is on track and the data background work, which will inform the Action Plan, is underway.

4.1.5.1 Develop and deliver the IT and Digital Strategy. On Track ●

The IT and Digital Strategy has been approved in principle by Executive and is scheduled to be formally considered by Executive in the following quarter. The strategy has been designed to incorporate work that has already started and is within the operating budget.

Strategic Objective 4.2

Community-centred, responsive and fit-for-purpose services.

Performance Measures



81% of Customer requests actioned within timeframe
(Target – 80%)



7.9 days, on average, for customer requests to be completed
(Target – decrease)



4.2 out of 5 for voice of customer satisfaction score
(Target – increase)



50% First contact resolution for telephone calls
(Target – increase)



1,278,650 customer interactions across all channels (in person, phone, correspondence, webchat and web page visits)
(No target)

Annual Actions

4.2.1.1 Implement the Service Review program.

Off Track ●

The delivery of Service Reviews has been paused due to the Organisational Structure Review. The Service Improvement Team is working with the Executive to review the review schedule for FY26.

The Service Review of the Shire's Youth Services was presented at the Council Meeting on 2 September 2025. During this meeting, Councillors decided to partner with external providers to offer a more targeted and flexible mix of services for young people in our community.

4.2.2.1 Implement the Customer Strategy. On Track ●

Our Customer Strategy remains on track with good progress across key priority areas. Key actions delivered in support of the Customer Strategy include:

- Customer journey mapping. We commenced mapping the customer journey for high-volume enquiry types in collaboration with key business units. This will help us identify pain points, streamline processes and improve service delivery.
- Exploring technology and AI opportunities. We continue to explore how generative AI can enhance service efficiency and customer experience through tools like Penny AI and myLot. Since its launch in February 2025, Penny AI has handled 4,973 webchats – with faster response times (47 seconds vs 55 seconds for human officers) and a customer satisfaction score of 3.8/5. Meanwhile, myLot consistently achieves 62–75% completion rates on weekly planning enquiries, with strong uptake across suburbs including Mount Eliza, Mount Martha, Rye and Dromana, demonstrating broad community engagement. We have increased interactions with the tool by 94 per cent since launching in April 2025.
- Staff capability and culture. To strengthen our customer-focused culture, we've invested in staff training and development. We launched new Customer Service/Customer Experience E-Learn

modules to build customer experience awareness and to embed best-practice service principles across the organisation.

- After-Hours service review finalised. We completed a review of our after-hours customer service arrangements. Following this review, we have awarded the contract to the same external supplier, based on their continued ability to meet our service requirements. The review process has also provided improved insights into reporting and performance monitoring, which will support ongoing enhancements to after-hours responsiveness and service delivery.

4.2.3.1 Implement a Continuous Improvement Program.

Monitor ●

Key actions delivered to support our Continuous Improvement Program include:

- Starting our A3 problem solving projects. A3 problem solving is a structured, collaborative, and visual lean manufacturing method that uses a single sheet of A3-sized paper to document a problem's analysis, root cause, potential solutions and implementation plan.
- Launching the Obeya Room. An Obeya room is a centralised physical or digital space for cross-functional teams to collaborate, manage projects and make decisions quickly using visual management principles.





Capital Works Projects

Somerville: Blackspot Road Safety Improvements

Total Project Value \$1,131,941

The Somerville Local Area Traffic Management project aims to improve safety and reduce the potential for crash occurrence on the local road network through a combination of traffic calming treatments and a proposed 40 km/h Area speed limit.

Somerville has several road safety risk factors such as wide roads that can encourage higher vehicle speeds and shopping, community and sports facilities, which all contribute to additional vehicle movements.

The scope of works for the road safety improvements included a series of raised safety platforms, speed limit reduction, line marking and signage. Community consultation for the proposed scope of works was undertaken prior to the start of the project. Construction commenced in late June with the works completed by the end of September 2025.



Rye: Blackspot Road Safety Improvements

Total Project Value \$108,843

This project was granted funding in the 2024-25 Federal Blackspot Program and aims to improve safety conditions at the Melbourne Road and Peninsula Avenue intersection by reducing approach speeds and reducing the number of potential collision points at the intersection.

The scope of works included:

- Installation of raised safety platform on Melbourne Rd approaches
- Speed limit reduction to 60 km/h between Dundas St and French St
- Installation of additional warning signage.

Works were completed in July 2025.



Somerville and Sorrento: Tennis Lighting Upgrades

Total Project Value \$1,131,941

Just in time for spring, tennis court lighting upgrades at Sorrento and Somerville were completed by the end of July 2025.

The Shire's Tennis Lighting Program is upgrading tennis courts across the Shire to compliant, safe competition standards, improving and extending playability. The program prioritises clubs with

outdated lighting, based on audit outcomes conducted every three years.

We expect to commence construction of Tyabb and Red Hill tennis light upgrades within the next quarter.



Hastings: Wallaroo Preschool Upgrade

Total Project Value \$418,030

Wallaroo Preschool was identified as requiring an upgrade to provide a safe, welcoming, and nurturing environment for local children and their families.

Maintenance works previously completed include roof cleaning, replacing windows and frames and internal cleaning and maintenance. Minor external drainage works was also undertaken to improve the existing system and reduce flooding surrounding the building.

Works included:

- Enhanced entry for easier access to the community house.
- Controlled access to the preschool entry for enhanced security.
- Internal refurbishment of the children's playrooms and bathroom amenities.
- Upgrading the outdoor environment to be more inclusive for children of all abilities.

External works for the play space area, including the internal building refurbishment works of the children's playrooms and bathrooms were completed in July 2025 with the primary works completed over the July school holidays.

