

Community Report

October to December 2025



**Mornington
Peninsula** Shire



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Mayor's Message



Welcome to this Community Report for October to December 2025. Among the numerous highlights of this quarter was substantial progress in the areas of safety, wellbeing and long-term planning.

Road safety is a key focus for Council, so I'm very proud Mornington Peninsula Shire was named the winner of the 2025 ACRS Excellence in Road Safety Award. This prestigious Australasian award was for our innovative work on rural compact roundabouts – projects that deliver life-saving infrastructure at a fraction of the traditional cost.

This recognition highlights the importance of our increased investment in local roads – a huge priority for Council – and our ongoing improvements to safety across the road network. Building on this, we are developing a draft *Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy*, which will set out a long-term pathway to reducing road trauma on the Peninsula. Community input will be essential as we shape this vision for the future.

We continued making significant infrastructure improvements across our region this quarter, including the completion of Stage

2 of the Broadway Road and Drainage Upgrade in Capel Sound. This delivered a new roundabout and street lighting, as well as a pedestrian crossing at the Broadway/Trueman's Road intersection – supporting safer travel and better local amenity for residents and visitors.

We were thrilled to welcome the community back to our newly revamped Pelican Park Recreation Centre, after we completed a major renewal of the facility. It was particularly exciting to officially open the new Wellness Centre, which will support an active, healthy lifestyles for all ages for many years to come.

The wellbeing of our community was likewise a priority when allocating \$4.3 million in Community Investment Funding. Support was awarded to local organisations through grants, subsidies and sponsorships. Among these initiatives, the Biolink Support Grant round delivered \$100,000 in on-ground environmental works, restoring habitat, protecting waterways and strengthening biodiversity connections across the Peninsula.

We are keenly aware that our community's wellbeing is

underpinned by a strong local economy. On the Peninsula, this foundational support is predominantly provided by small businesses. This quarter, I'm thrilled we could recognise the innovation and leadership of those local businesses that help drive our prosperity, with the holding of the 2025 Mornington Peninsula Business Excellence Awards.

I'd like to finish by mentioning our Long-Term Financial Plan, adopted by Council on 30 October. It was a huge piece of work, informed by more than 3,500 community voices. It sets a sustainable financial direction for the next decade and ensures we can continue delivering vital services and infrastructure while preparing responsibly for the future.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to making the Mornington Peninsula such a connected, caring and forward-looking community. I am genuinely excited to be continuing this work together in the year ahead.

**Councillor Paul Pingiaro,
Deputy 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



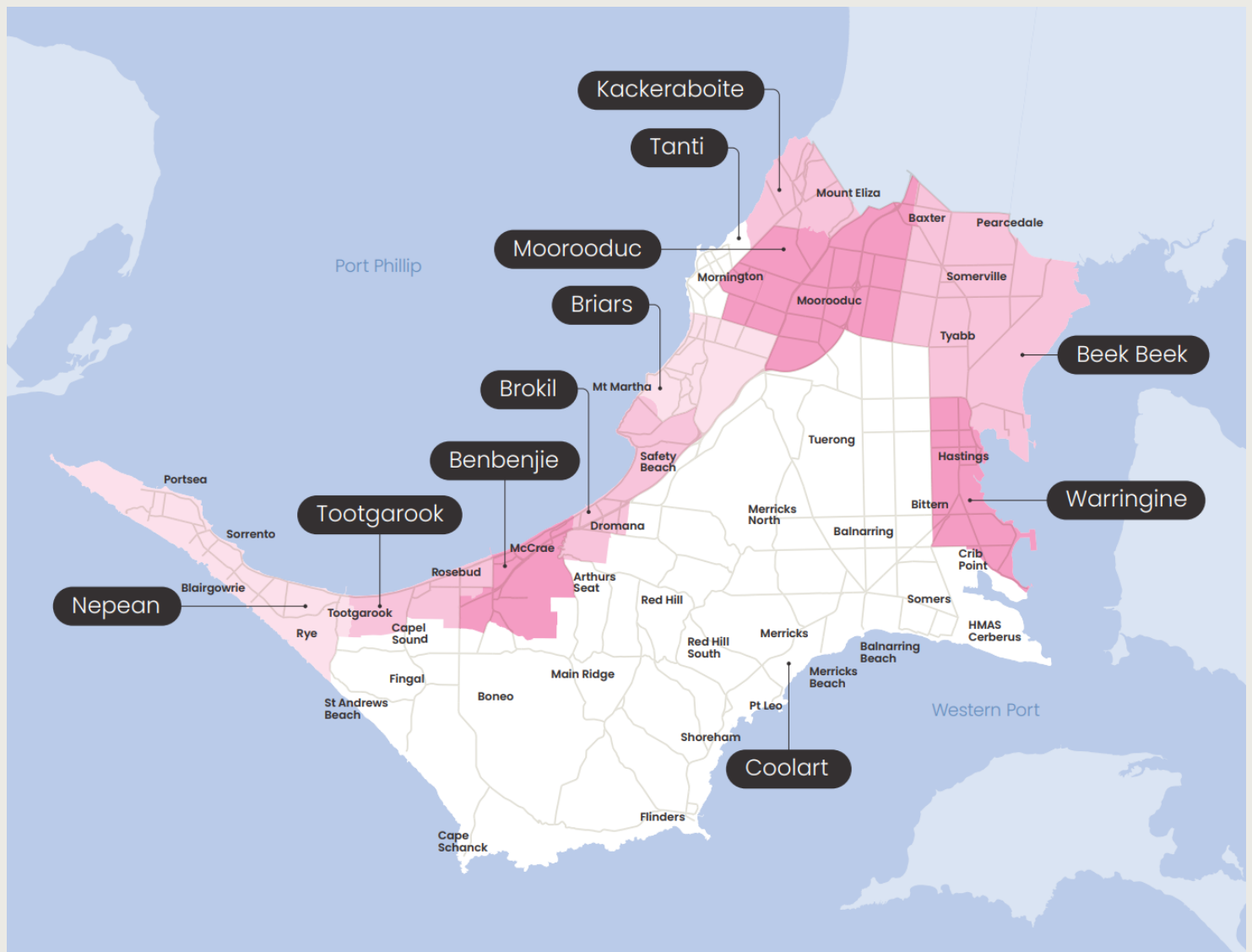
Cr. Cam Williams
Tootgarook Ward



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



25,556 Calls taken
55% resolved at first contact



3,301 customers attended on of our service centres



1,933 correspondence received
79% responded to within 10 business days



29,106 service requests received (includes Snap Send Solve requests)
77% of enquiries resolved on time



3,388 webchats



1.3M web page views

Major Engagements – Have Your Say

There were 12 community engagement projects open for Q2:

- Arts and Culture Strategy
- Sorrento Parking Upgrades
- Dromana Shared Path
- Somerville Draft Recreation Reserve Master Plan
- Crib Point Public Art
- Lease and Licence Policy
- Mount BMX
- Red Trail Signage
- Water Safety Plan
- Woodbyne proposed land sale
- Rating Review
- Coastal Strategy.



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

Shire scoops major road safety award

Each year, the Australasia College of Road Safety (ACRS) recognises exceptional leadership, research and innovation in road safety, highlighting individuals and organisations committed to reducing road trauma across Australasia.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council has been named the winner of the 2025 ACRS Excellence in Road Safety Award.

For more information, click on

mornpen.vic.gov.au/roadsafetyaward

Mornington Peninsula named Victoria's Tidy Town for 2025

The Mornington Peninsula community has plenty to celebrate after being named Tidy Town of Victoria 2025 at Keep Australia Beautiful VIC's Tidy Towns and Cities Sustainability Awards.

The awards recognise the passion and dedication of local people working together to make their communities stronger, more connected and more vibrant places to live.

For more information, click on

mornpen.vic.gov.au/tidytown2025

Strategic Objective 1.1

Protected, resilient and enhanced natural environments.

Performance Measures



110 bushland working bees supported this quarter.
281 year to date.
(Annual target – 500)



No trees planted under the Urban Forest Strategy this quarter due to seasonality.
860 trees planted year to date
(Annual target – 2,000)



1,009 km of beaches cleaned
(Quarterly target – 1,000km)



6,487 drainage pits inspected with **448** cleaned
(Quarterly target – 6,000 inspections)



9,802 tonnes of kerbside waste diverted from landfill
8,125 tonnes diverted last quarter
(Target – increase)

Annual Actions

1.1.1.1 Deliver the Biodiversity Conservation Plan. On Track ●

The Shire’s Bushland Contractor delivered priority spring/summer works under the annual Biodiversity Works Program. Activities focused on the control of high-threat environmental weeds across 80 priority bushland and foreshore reserves throughout the Peninsula.

The Fuel Hazard Reduction Works Program continued with inspections of fire management zones. Fuel reduction efforts are being implemented across the Peninsula to mitigate bushfire risk and enhance community safety.

The Natural Systems Pest Animal Control Program was delivered at key sites, including Tootgarook Wetland, to protect significant threatened species present in the area. These include Swamp Skinks, Glossy Grass Skinks and Australasian Bitterns. The Shire’s Natural Systems team also conducted spring monitoring of threatened orchid populations within bushland and foreshore reserves to guide ongoing conservation management.

We also initiated another round of Koala monitoring, enhancing our understanding of local populations and habitat use to inform future planning and biodiversity outcomes.

Promotion for the next round of the Nature Stewards program started, with outreach activities underway to encourage community participation and build local capacity for environmental stewardship.

1.1.1.2 Deliver the Biolinks Support Grants Program.

On Track ●

This year's Biolink Support Grant round funded 17 projects, delivering a total investment of \$100,000 into on-ground environmental works across the Mornington Peninsula. Collectively, these projects will provide:

- 13 hectares of revegetation, including the planting of 5,700 tube stock
- 15 hectares of environmental weed control
- 480 metres of creek line restoration
- 12 hectares of remnant vegetation protection and enhancement.

These outcomes will play a vital role in strengthening habitat connectivity, improving waterway health and safeguarding remnant native vegetation throughout the region. All project applicants have been notified of their results.

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 with interviews set to begin in mid-January. 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.

Monitor ●

We have finalised the preliminary adaptation actions for each priority township and will put them out for community consultation, which will be held in the next quarter. We will be seeking community input on which adaptation actions they think would work best for their townships.

This feedback will help inform the draft Our Coast, Our Future Coastal Strategy, which we plan to finalise for public exhibition before the end of the financial year, with adoption now planned for early in the 2026-27 financial year.

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 was briefed on 9 December 2025 on the feedback obtained through public exhibition and provided with copies of the updated documents. Officers will schedule a Council workshop in early 2026, prior to seeking a decision to adopt the draft Open Space Strategy and the draft Open Space Contributions Report.

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. Council continues to monitor the State Government's progress in delivering supported recommendations from the Inquiry Report on Securing the Victorian Food Supply, as well as implementing its Planning for Melbourne's Green Wedges and Agricultural Land Action Plan (2024).

1.1.5.1 Develop an updated Landslide Susceptibility Assessment.

On Track ●

The initial review of the previous landslide susceptibility work undertaken in 2012 has been undertaken and an interim Erosion Management Overlay has been introduced. The specialist geotechnical engineering consultant is undertaking additional work to refine the mapping to remove anomalies where retaining walls and other minor earthworks with an artificially steep slope have been picked up as being highly susceptible to landslides. This work is anticipated to be completed by March 2026 and then will inform a planning scheme amendment to revise the interim EMO.

Additionally, two specialist roles who will oversee the update of the landslide susceptibility assessment that will underpin a permanent EMO will commence in January 2026.

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

On Track ●

The Foreshore Camping Heat Pump Upgrade Program has been completed with hot water heat pump upgrades to 20 foreshore camping amenity blocks. This has reduced operating costs and improved system reliability.

A 22-kilowatt system consisting of Solar PV panels and batteries was installed at the Mornington Community Animal Shelter.

Other work includes:

- Yawa Energy Performance Optimisation Project. This project aims to establish an energy performance baseline and investigate opportunities to improve financial sustainability, reduce operational emissions and enhance facility amenity through optimisation of Building Management System controls. The project is on track to be completed by June 2026.
- Solar and Batteries for Council Facilities Project. A business case was completed to support a submission for additional battery storage and solar PV for Shire facilities (Stage 1) in the upcoming 2026–27 budget bid cycle. The rollout of solar and batteries is an ongoing project. New facilities are being designed and constructed with solar PV, batteries and energy-efficient appliances and systems as per Council's ESD Policy, including the design of Emil Madsen Eastern Pavilion.
- Domestic Hot Water Efficiency Upgrade Project. A business case was completed to support a submission in the upcoming 2026–27 budget bid cycle for delivery of the next stage of the hot water system upgrade program. These upgrades improve energy resilience of Council facilities, reduce operating costs and support best practise asset management.
- Electrification of Rosebud Memorial Hall. The upgrade of the gas stove and removal of redundant gas space heating for full electrification. This will reduce costs and improve energy efficiency and energy resilience.

1.1.6.1 Utilise flood mapping to mitigate and adapt to flood risk.

On Track ●

Melbourne Water has completed flood mapping for all of the Shire's water catchments. This information has been presented to the Executive team with a Council briefing scheduled for the upcoming quarter. Following this, Melbourne Water will undertake community consultation later in 2026. Additionally, our annual average damage assessments are set to begin in early 2026.

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

Monitor ●

The kerbside transition plan has been finalised and submitted to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

The project to transition to the mandated four-bin household waste and recycling system is underway, although we are still awaiting the release of the final standards from the state government which is delaying implementation.

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

Monitor ●

The design work for the final cap is in progress and is currently under review by an Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) auditor, following which it will be submitted to the EPA for approval.

The landfill is expected to close in mid to late 2026.

Strategic Objective 1.2

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

Performance Measures



80 days, on average, for planning applications (Target – <90 days)
61% of planning applications decided within target timeframes



94,845m² of roads resurfaced and/or rehabilitated in the quarter.
232,252m² year to date
(Annual target – 200,000m²)

Annual Actions

1.2.1.1 Finalise the residential height planning controls review. Off Track

Both the Background Report (Literature Review) and the Shire-wide Landscape Character Assessment Report were 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 before commencing community engagement.

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

Upon receiving the report from the independent Planning Panel about Amendment C295morn (Creswell Street Crib Point Development Contributions Plan Review) in the previous quarter, Council resolved on 16 December 2025 to adopt the amendment and submit it to the Minister for Planning for approval with changes.

These changes will investigate whether two Manna Gums in the Cooma Street Road Reserve can be retained with an alternative road sealing treatment. If an alternative design cannot preserve the trees, the Development Contributions Plan will be updated to delete sealing that section of Cooma Street to ensure the trees can be retained. These investigations will commence in January, with the final DCP and Amendment C295morn to be submitted to the Minister for approval in early 2026.

A Planning Panel hearing was held in October 2025 for Amendment C247morn (Woodbyne Crescent, Mornington North). The Panel delivered its report to Council in November 2025. Council will consider the Panel’s report and decide whether to adopt the amendment in the following quarter.

Amendments sitting with the Minister for Planning:

- Amendment C219morn (Housing on the Peninsula). We continue to liaise with the State Government to try to progress the assessment and approval of the amendment, noting that significant recent planning reforms (namely the new Single Dwelling Code and Townhouse and Low-Rise Code) will likely impact the amendment. The amendment was adopted by Council in August 2024 and submitted to the Minister for Planning in September 2024.
- Amendment C302morn (Heritage Review Area 4 and Stage 5, including permanent Heritage Overlays and Sorrento Incorporated Document Review). Council is awaiting approval from the Minister for Planning to publicly exhibit the amendment.
- Amendment C286morn (Ocean Beach Road Sorrento Built Form Controls). Council adopted the amendment on 23 September 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, has been developed and we are currently undertaking engagement and consultation on the 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 nearing completion, 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. Upon completion, the Plan will be presented to the Project Control Group and the Executive.

1.2.2.3 Develop the Property Strategy. On Track ●

The development of a new Property Strategy is underway. A Councillor workshop is planned for 3 February 2026 to discuss the strategic property framework with councillors, and to agree on timelines, including community consultation.

1.2.2.4 Develop the Long Term Capital Works Plan. Monitor ●

We started planning for and incorporating a 4-year and 10-year financial planning outlook for capital budget submissions 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. Workshops with Councillors will be held in the coming quarter, before finalising the draft for public exhibition by June 2025.

1.2.3.2 Review the Towards Zero Road Safety Strategy. Monitor ●

The draft strategy is currently in development. To inform its development, a workshop with key stakeholders was held on 11 November 2025 to discuss options for improving road safety on the Mornington Peninsula.

The workshop provided valuable input into the road safety strategy development. An expert road safety consultant has been engaged to refresh the Shire's road safety strategy. The first stage of the road safety strategy refresh (crash data analysis) is almost complete. The next stage is development of road safety actions.

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 completed.

Pre-works have been completed for remaining locations, which 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. *Completed* ●

Our Road Management Plan (RMP) was adopted on 14 October 2025.

As part of delivery of the RMP we filled in 1,866 potholes this quarter from 548 requests received.

1.2.5.1 Deliver the Peninsula Trail Masterplan. *On Track* ●

The Peninsula Trail project has made good progress this quarter, particularly in the areas of branding, wayfinding, and design. A Branding Strategy has been completed, 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.

Concepts have been completed 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 section, with an updated concept design completed in draft pending the outcome of a biodiversity assessment. The biodiversity assessment is also currently in draft form and undergoing internal reviews before finalisation. Once complete, a decision on a preferred route through the rail corridor will be able to be made to progress the section to detailed design.

A design package for the next four highest priority missing links will go to market shortly to engage a suitably qualified consultant to undertake detailed design.

Looking ahead to the 2025–26 financial year, priorities will include progressing key sections through design to be funding-ready 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

Seniors Festival highlights the vibrant spirit of our community

Throughout October, Mornington Peninsula senior residents got out and about to enjoy close to 100 events across our region. Spanning themes such as music, nature, home making, intergenerational gathering, art, exercise, 'come and try' days, films and more, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

For more information, click on

mornpen.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival2025

This is what community looks like at Christmas

When a grandmother walked into a local community support centre last year, she didn't think anyone could help her provide Christmas gifts for her 12 grandchildren. She walked out with a car full of toys and tears in her eyes.

For more information, click on

mornpen.vic.gov.au/communitychristmas



Strategic Objective 2.1

A safe, accessible, inclusive and healthy community.

Performance Measures

-  50 preventative health and wellbeing initiatives delivered
-  2 Equity impact assessments undertaken on Shire projects and/or services
(Quarterly target – 4)
-  1,602 new youth participating in Shire provided programs
-  3,104 new compliance investigations received.
1,897 compliance investigations closed.

Annual Actions

2.1.1.1 Deliver the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. On Track ●

Significant progress has been made in promoting safety, inclusion and wellbeing through the implementation of the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan across the Mornington Peninsula. Between 25 November and the 10 December, we successfully delivered the 16 Days of Activism campaign, with six impactful events held across the Shire. Highlights included a community march at Hastings Foreshore, a Youth Theatre Project, and respectful relationships sessions for men and secondary school boys, reinforcing the Shire’s commitment to preventing gender-based violence.

Capacity-building initiatives were also prioritised. Elder Abuse training was delivered to 25 frontline staff on 4 December, enhancing skills to recognise and respond to abuse. Additionally, Ageism training was provided to staff working directly with older residents, supporting inclusive service delivery.

Community engagement remained strong through intergenerational programs and community-led events, such as the Blue Christmas event for families impacted by suicide and our ongoing All Abilities golf days. The Shire also advanced diversity and inclusion by partnering with First Nations, multicultural, disability and LGBTQIA+ communities to deliver programs and advocacy initiatives.

Other notable achievements include:

- Maternal and Child Health outreach, delivering 54 Key Ages and Stages consultations to improve early childhood health access.
- Breastfeeding support, with 85 lactation consultations provided.
- Progress on Make a Move Your Way campaign, promoting active living with over 46,700 online impressions.
- Implementation of smoke-free signage, with 128 signs installed at beaches and 40 at sporting reserves.

2.1.2.1 Deliver the We All Belong Strategy. *On Track* ●

The Shire continued delivery of inclusive programs and initiatives to support priority populations and key life stages across the Mornington Peninsula. Highlights delivered include:

- Engaging young people, older people and diverse communities through inclusive arts, culture, recreation and community programs.
- Supporting community connection through youth activities, intergenerational programs, neighbourhood houses and All Abilities Golf.
- Strengthening multicultural engagement through the Multicultural Community Network and planning for the Multicultural Storytelling Project and Harmony Week.
- Increasing visibility and support for LGBTIQ+ communities through regional collaboration, Pride flag displays and inclusion training.
- Improving recreation access through ongoing beach matting, all abilities equipment and accessible recreation initiatives such as the Hansa C Crane Hoist at Hastings Floating Pontoon.
- Progressing the Accessible Events Guide to embed inclusive practice across Council activities.
- Introducing Easy English versions of the Council plan and Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.
- Supporting children and families through maternal and child health services, supported playgroups and grandparent groups.
- Engaging young people through youth hubs, leadership programs and creative initiatives.
- Supporting older people through the Seniors Festival, age-friendly programs and Ageism Awareness training.

2.1.2.2 Deliver the Gender Equality Strategy. *On Track* ●

Implementation of the Year 6 Action Plan from our Gender Equality Strategy began with the organisation of community events for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign.

We submitted our Gender Equality Workforce Audit submission on 1 December 2025 and completed an Equity Impact Assessment for the Dromana Shared Path Project. We also started planning for International Women's Day and conducted an Equity Impact Assessment on the Arts, Culture and Events Plan.

Other activities include a local walk against violence in Hastings, supporting a Youth Theatre Project, holding an Author Talk at Mornington Library and training front-line staff to recognise elder abuse.

2.1.3.1 Implement the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan. *On Track* ●

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

- Delivering the Junior Ranger program in collaboration with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation. This program has now completed its first year of supporting over 90 First Nations primary and secondary students. An additional two years of funding to continue engaging with First Nations youth on the Peninsula was successfully secured.
- Coordinating the successful recruitment of a First Nations Trainee within the Shire's Traineeship Program.
- Collaborating with Willum Warrain and First Nations ally groups, Walking Together and Southern Peninsula Allies for First Nations Justice to deliver 3 First Nations Seniors Festival events during October. All three events were attended with over 60 First Nations people and allies alike.

- The Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery's exhibition 'Unfolding: First Nations works on paper' is a result of the cultural and curatorial guidance of First Nations artist-curator Jenna Mayilema Lee. Jenna reviewed the collection and guided the Gallery in selecting the appropriate works and themes to meaningfully express the artist's story through art. The Gallery also commissioned 16 other First Nations artists to write about each other's work, create in-exhibition engagement touchpoints, deliver floor talks, in-conversations and engage with the gallery to create a purposeful, meaningful and engaging outcome for the whole community.

2.1.4.1 Develop the Local Water Safety Plan.

Monitor ●

The draft Local Water Safety Plan was completed and went live on our SHAPE page for community consultation and feedback on December 8, 2025. The consultation period will close on January 30, 2026.

Signage was installed at Mills Beach, Gunnamatta and 16th Beach as part of the research project. A real estate board-sized water safety message was also installed on Peninsula Link (southbound), with further signage being arranged.

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.

We are partnering with WPI and YWCA to develop women's housing on four parcels of land in Hastings and Mornington. Both projects have been successfully funded through State Government funding, with construction in Hastings to start in 2026.

A working group has commenced to oversee the Rosebud Women's Housing project. Housing Choices Australia and Good Shepherd will partner with the Shire to apply for Federal Government funding to progress this project in early 2026.

The Triple A Housing Advisory Committee meet quarterly and provides advice to the Shire on current issues, local challenges and potential opportunities. Priorities for the upcoming year have been identified with the committee to continue working on these in 2026, in accordance with the Triple A Housing Plan.

2.1.6.1 Develop the Community Disaster Resilience Plan.

Completed ●

Council adopted the Community Disaster Resilience Plan and Year 1 Action Plan at the 2 December 2025 Council meeting.

2.1.6.2 Emergency Relief Hub Energy Resilience Upgrade.

Monitor ●

The project to upgrade the Emergency Relief Energy Hub is nearly back on track, with the working group established and meeting in December. The Terms of Reference have been adopted, the suitability criteria have been distributed for feedback and meetings have been scheduled throughout June 2026.

Strategic Objective 2.2

An engaged and connected community.

Performance Measures



82 programs delivered via Community Houses
76 last quarter
(Target – increase)



63 community-led events and projects, supported by Council, that promote social connection
75 last quarter
(Target – increase)



11,081 community members participated in Library programs
8,364 last quarter
(Target – increase)



12 new engagement projects



64,912 followers and subscribers across communication mediums
3.3% increase from last quarter

Annual Actions

2.2.2.1 Develop the Sports Capacity Plan V2 and 3. Completed ●

The Sports Capacity Plans were finalised and adopted by Council on 5 November 2025. All recommendations from the strategies will be prioritised and delivered as part of Council’s Capital Works Program, subject to future funding as part of Council’s Budget process.

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

The development of the strategy is currently in progress. The project brief has been completed and we expect to finalise the appointment of consultants by the end of January 2026.

2.2.2.3 Develop the Pavilion Strategy. Monitor ●

We are currently finalising the draft of the Pavilion Strategy. This strategy will include the sports facility development standards outlined in the recently adopted Sport Capacity Plan. We expect to present the draft Pavilion Strategy to 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, which will form the basis of future capital works projects as part of Councils budget process.

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

Community consultation took place over four weeks in October and November. This included engagement with key stakeholders, members of the Arts and Culture Advisory Panel, and Councillors. We have now completed the draft background paper, which will guide the development of the Draft Arts, Culture, and Events Strategy for 2026–2036.

The Draft Strategy is scheduled to be presented to the Executive in March, followed by a Council Briefing Workshop later that month and adoption later in 2026.

2.2.4.1 Implement the Library Strategy. *On Track* ●

Actions delivered in support of the Library Strategy in the last quarter included:

- Seniors' month, multiple events held over all branches focusing on positive ageing and learning.
- New chute at Somerville Library installed and completed.
- Collaboration with Smart Gardens, Little Sprouts workshop planting workshop for Children's Week.
- Delivery of Digital Literacy Classes and one on one tech help.

Actions scheduled for next quarter include:

- Holding a Community Engagement Survey in February.
- Summer at the Library – Big Summer read program.
- New OLiv, Our Library Van schedule/roster, programs to be included.
- International Women's Day displays and events across branches.

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

A review of the Community Engagement Policy has commenced. Recommendations for the Policy, including a Framework and operational Terms of Reference for staff, are on schedule to be presented to the Executive for approval by the end of the upcoming quarter.

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

Local businesses celebrated at the 2025 Business Excellence Awards

The Shire is delighted to announce the winners of the 2025 Mornington Peninsula Business Excellence Awards following a vibrant celebration that took place this week at The National Golf Club in Cape Schanck.

More than 140 local business owners, industry leaders and community supporters came together for an inspiring evening recognising the leadership and talent that form the backbone of our local economy.

For more information, click on mornpen.vic.gov.au/celebratebusinesses

Shire celebrates regional partnership to support local

Local farmers are getting support to adopt more regenerative and climate resilient practices, thanks to a regional collaboration helping producers strengthen their operations for the future.

The Climate-Smart Agriculture Project brings together farmers, councils, landcare and agricultural groups across the region to support sustainable farming.

For more information, click on mornpen.vic.gov.au/supportfarming



Strategic Objective 3.1

A vibrant, innovative and thriving local economy.

Performance Measures



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



34 community events held or supported
22 events last quarter
(Target – increase)



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



48,008 visitations to Shire destinations

Annual Actions

3.1.1.1 Create a dedicated business permit support process. *Off Track* ●

A working group has been established to map the current procedures that businesses must follow when seeking permit information from the Council. Officers are collaborating with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and several other councils to explore the potential of an AI-driven business concierge service.

3.1.1.2 Deliver the Western Port Futures Project. *On Track* ●

Officers are actively engaged in working group meetings with the State Government to advance initiatives concerning the Surplus Port Land. A comprehensive land use plan is currently under development and will subsequently be presented to Council for endorsement. Furthermore, preliminary work has commenced on the Vision and Opportunities Paper.

3.1.2.1 Deliver initiatives, in collaboration with stakeholders, to increase local learning opportunities. *On Track* ●

Shire officers supported the implementation of several initiatives, including the Mornington Peninsula Business Excellence Awards program, a series of agribusiness workshops and field days, an Emergency Preparedness workshop attended by 24 businesses, and the ‘Work for Money and Enjoyment’ forum, which was designed for more than 60 seniors looking to re-enter the workforce.

The Best Bites program provides opportunities for businesses to enhance their skills in sustainability, accessibility, and health and wellbeing. At the end of 2025, the program had successfully assessed 64 businesses, which was a 20 per cent increase on last year. Additionally, program officers participated in regular meetings with various organisations, including the Frankton Mornington Peninsula Skills and Jobs Network, the South Eastern Melbourne and Peninsula Taskforce, the FMP Youth Employment Body, 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 and submitted to the Minister for Planning on 6 October 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.

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 Sustainable Food Economy and Agroecology Taskforce engaged Sustain to prepare a progress report on the 2-year Action Plan, to run a priority setting workshop in December, and to develop a forward-looking priority action plan for the next 2 years.

Delivery of the 3-year Climate Smart Agriculture grant through Melbourne Water has started. This funding will assist in progressing the project to measure the baseline for agroecological farming practices on the Mornington Peninsula. A launch event was held in the quarter with farmers registering their interest.

The Future Farmers Pathway program, to develop the next generation of small-scale farmers on Mornington Peninsula land, is continuing.

Additionally, communication and education to the Mornington Peninsula farming and landholding community were enhanced through the Agribusiness newsletter and business website resources in the previous quarter.

Strategic Objective 3.2

Valued partnerships and empowered community groups and volunteers.

Performance Measures



\$1,990,645 of funding provided through Community Investment Funding YTD
(Annual Target – \$4,360,000)



23 days, on average, for approval of community capital projects
Previous quarter was 80 days
(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 this quarter:

- 7 Sponsorships
- 69 Grants
- 33 Subsidies.

3.2.2.1 Develop and deliver the Community Volunteering Strengthening Plan to expand and promote volunteering opportunities across the Shire. On Track

Volunteer Engagement included a Get Active Expo during the Seniors' Festival Week and a Volunteer Pop-up at Rosebud. Thirty volunteer vacancies for services and programs opportunities across the Mornington Peninsula were promoted through the volmornpen.com.au website and shared through digital media.

A draft Volunteer Strengthening Strategy has also been developed.

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. On Track

Three training sessions for volunteers were conducted, engaging a total of 35 participants. The sessions included Psychological First Aid Training and 'How to Get Involved in Volunteering,' aimed at enhancing the capacity and capability of the sector. Additionally, two separate Governance Guides were developed to assist volunteer management committees—one for those employing staff and another for committees without staff.

3.2.3.1 Review the Community Capital Infrastructure Policy.

Off 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.

A new Community and Engagement Project Lead has been appointed to oversee the update of the Community Capital Infrastructure Policy and the benchmarking and community engagement efforts. The objective of the policy review is to simplify the process for the community and to potentially increase the number of projects.

A revised target end date for the policy's adoption by Council is now set for November 2026. This timeline will allow for the completion of benchmarking and a more thorough stakeholder engagement process to take place before the policy is updated. Officers will provide a briefing to Councillors on our approach to reviewing and updating the policy on 31 March.

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. Advocacy collateral has been updated for existing priorities and developed for new priorities.

A dedicated state election campaign to highlight and promote these advocacy priorities to local political candidates is currently being developed and 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 other ongoing advocacy projects include Peninsula Trail, Emil Madsen Reserve, Performing Arts Centre, Digital Connectivity and Family Violence.

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 is further out, wearing 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

Community voices shape Council's long-term plans for the Peninsula

More than 3,500 community members have helped shape the Mornington Peninsula Shire's long-term plans, giving Council a clear direction for the Peninsula's future.

On 30 October, Council adopted the Financial Plan 2025–26 to 2035–36 and Asset Plan 2025–26 to 2035–36. Together with the Council Plan and Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, these plans outline the outcomes the community wants and how Council will deliver them.

For more information, click on mornpen.vic.gov.au/peninsulasfuture

Tell us what you think about proposed rate changes

Rates help pay for the services and facilities our community uses every day – including things like roads, parks, waste services, libraries and community centres.

We're reviewing the way we calculate rates to make sure the system stays up to date and reflects how properties are used across the Shire.

For more information, click on mornpen.vic.gov.au/ratechanges



Strategic Objective 4.1

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

Performance Measures

-  **\$138,573,000** Net Operating Expenses
(YTD forecast \$137.6M)
-  **\$28.1M** Expenditure on Capital works projects
(YTD forecast \$28.3M)
-  **75%** of Annual Action Plan actions completed or on track
(Target – 80%)
-  **14.7%** of Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public
(Target – <10%)
-  **97%** of Freedom of information requests resolved within statutory timeframes
(Target – >95%)
-  **2.4%** Voluntary staff turnover for the quarter
(Annual target – <10%)
-  **8.4%** Position vacancy rate
(no target)

Annual Actions

- 4.1.1.1 Develop the Financial Plan with identified levers for achieving financial sustainability.** Completed 

On 30 October 2025, following community consultation, Council adopted the 10-year financial plan with 3 levers to achieve financial sustainability.
- 4.1.1.2 Develop the Revenue and Rating Strategy.** On Track 

Community consultation on the Revenue and Rating Plan began in December 2025. Feedback will close on 15 February 2026 with the Revenue and Rating Plan scheduled to be presented to the Council for adoption in March 2026.
- 4.1.1.3 Review the Procurement Policy.** Completed 

Council adopted the Procurement Policy 2025–2029 on 2 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 resolution on 11 March 2025.

The business case indicates that the capital costs of developing a facility that meets the endorsed functional requirements 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, Council will undertake a strategic reset and project review to form new recommendations for how best to proceed. A workshop was held with Councillors in November 2025 to realign the problems Council are trying to solve with this project and undertake a new investment logic mapping exercise.

This was completed successfully with the outputs from this session forming the basis of the next stage of work. This includes a Council asset review, an options design process, possible market testing and a business case. This work will be undertaken over the second half of the financial year.

4.1.1.5 Explore key commercial opportunities to increase revenue. Monitor ●

The exploration of key commercial opportunities is in progress. A capital works bid has been submitted for the expansion of the golf course and Budget bids have been submitted for the conversion of outdoor spaces at the recreation centres.

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

Contract Management Plans in TechnologyOne are currently undergoing an audit to ensure that best practice contract management has been implemented and to ensure compliance with the established Contract Management Framework. The results from the audit will be presented to the executive management team.

4.1.2.1 Implement the Good Governance and Decision making Framework. On Track ●

Benchmarking against eight councils has been completed and a draft Good Governance and Decision-Making Framework is in development. Once completed, this draft Framework will be presented to the Executive for review in early 2026.

4.1.2.2 Review the Enterprise Risk Management Framework. On Track ●

Work is ongoing with the Executive and Leadership Team to profile Council's strategic risks. In early 2026, Councillors will be engaged on the Profile and the Risk Appetite Statement, which will be reviewed in relation to the implementation of the Council Plan.

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

We have continued implementing the new approach to Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting. This included the delivery of Community and Quarterly Financial Reports, implementing a unified process for business planning and budgeting, and reviewing the Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework to better align it with Council's strategic direction, which is outlined in the Council Plan.

As part of the review of the Framework, we have completed an assessment of the current strategies and plans. This has led to the creation of a new Outcome Strategy hierarchy, which will better guide the development of Council plans and strategies, ensuring alignment back to the Council Plan 2025-2029 and Community Vision. This will be presented to the Executive in February 2026 for endorsement, alongside the results from the Framework Review.

Work in the upcoming quarter will focus on further improving internal performance reporting, as well as establishing a Policy and Strategy Committee to oversee and monitor the development of policies and strategies within Council.

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

Preparatory efforts and strategic planning for the Shire's Workforce Plan are underway. This background work aims to ensure that all actions and consultations are aligned with the Organisational Plan and Strategy in March and April of 2026.

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

The audit was submitted at the end of November. We are currently reviewing the key items that will inform actions for the new Gender Equality Action Plan with drafting of the new plan due to commence in the coming quarter.

4.1.5.1 Develop and deliver the IT and Digital Strategy.

On Track 

The IT and Digital Strategy is now in the delivery phase of Year 1 actions. Some of the key initiatives that are underway include:

- Upgrading the current telephone system, which is due for completion by the end of the financial year. This will help support improved call flow, analytics and customer experience when engaging with Council.
- Uplifting cybersecurity and disaster recovery processes and technology to further enhance protection against current and emerging threats.
- Delivering 'Act Now, Stay Secure' workshops across Rosebud, Hastings and Mornington for senior residents to uplift their cybersecurity skills as part of the Department of Home Affairs cyber safety grant.
- Consolidating IT systems with the rollout of the TechnologyOne platform.
- Undertaking pilot technology projects that leverage AI to support service delivery, including internal knowledge assistants and an AI camera road defect trial.

Strategic Objective 4.2

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

Performance Measures



77% of Customer requests actioned within timeframe
(Target – 80%)



14.8 days, on average, for customer requests to be completed
19.9 last quarter
(Target – decrease)



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



55% First contact resolution for telephone calls
50% last quarter
(Target – increase)



1,338,125 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.

Monitor ●

The IT Strategy and Service Review has been completed. Final recommendations on the Customer Stakeholder Management Service Review are scheduled to be presented to the Executive in January 2026. Due to the impact of the Organisational Strategy Review, a Capability Matrix has been developed to support the reprioritisation of service reviews for the new review schedule.

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:

- Service Review program implementation. The Customer Stakeholder Relationship Management Service Review recommendations for strategic options 1 and 5 are due to return to the Executive again in the next quarter for a final decision on the preferred options. A Service Review capability matrix has been developed and is being used by Service Owners and Managers to prioritise and create a new Service Review Schedule. The schedule is being redesigned to address a backlog of reviews resulting from the organisational restructure and to allow time for the new structure to stabilise.
- Telephony System Improvement. The upgrade of the Telephony system has progressed with an RFQ being developed for potential vendors. The system improvement is expected to commence in Q3 and will provide a significantly more efficient service and enhanced customer experience.
- Customer Experience Data. Performance data is regularly shared across the organisation to ensure transparency, drive accountability and to support continuous improvement in delivering on our commitments to customers. Six key performance metrics are on track with trend lines included in the charter report to monitor monthly progress.

4.2.3.1 Implement a Continuous Improvement Program.

On Track ●

Key actions delivered to support our Continuous Improvement Program across the quarter include:

- Continuing 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. Key problems being investigated include:
 - Complex correspondence
 - Council reports and agendas
 - Parking challenges across the Peninsula
 - Occupational violence and aggression
 - Communications processes and protocols
- Developing 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

Peninsula Trail Somerville to Baxter

Total Project Value \$7,700,000

We're creating a new, scenic way to walk or ride between Somerville and Baxter, connecting communities as part of the Peninsula Trail project.

Stage 1 of the Somerville to Baxter project, which started in early January 2025 from Baxter–Tooradin Road to Golf Links Road (approximately 1.2km), was completed earlier in the year. This section is now open and safe for public use.

Stage 2 of the project between Baxter–Tooradin Road to Eramosa Road West sections (approximately 3.4km) was completed by December 2025.

Stage 3 of the project, which involves the detailed design of the culvert underpass at the crossing of Frankston–Flinders Road near Hawkins Road in Baxter, is ongoing. The design will be shared with the community once it is finished. Works completed include the pavement base and rail delineation fence from Eramosa Road East to Frankston–Flinders Road, and the asphaltting and boardwalk near Somerville.



Mornington: Community Animal Shelter Redevelopment

Total Project Value \$2,428,116

The new Community Animal Shelter and Pound includes a community-focused adoption space, enhanced dog kennels that exceed welfare standards, a dedicated cat isolation room to provide required medical care for infectious felines, and spacious new habitats for pocket pets such as guinea pigs and rabbits, ensuring all our animals receive the highest standard of care and comfort.

Work on the redevelopment of the community animal shelter and animal pound in Mornington was finalised and handed over to our Animal Shelter Team in October 2025.



Safety Beach: Access Upgrades

Total Project Value \$283,125

We are working to make Safety Beach more accessible. Due to the high levels of visitation throughout the year and only one suitable ramp near the Safety Beach Club, we identified the need for improved beach access for people with disabilities.

This project will deliver an accessible ramp opposite Victoria Street and the design for an accessible footpath opposite Prescott Avenue.

Construction of the Victoria Street Beach Access Ramp was completed in October 2025. Works included the installation of support piles, support structure, ramp decking, stair treads and handrail. The design for beach access across from Prescott Avenue is also completed and awaiting funding for construction.



Capel Sound: Broadway Road and Drainage Upgrade

Total Project Value \$1,600,000

After receiving additional funding from the Roads to Recovery grant, which supports the construction and maintenance of the nation's local road infrastructure assets, the Shire is progressing with Stage 2 works of the Broadway Road and Drainage Upgrade project.

Stage 2 of the project involved the construction of a roundabout, new street lighting and a pedestrian crossing at the Broadway and Truemans Road intersection. All works were completed by December 2025.



Dromana: Hillview Reserve Footpath and Playground

Total Project Value \$3,900,000

The new playground, footpath and carpark at Hillview Reserve will enhance accessibility while maintaining natural features such as picnic areas, leash-free dog zones, and local biodiversity. This project aims to revitalise the reserve to meet the growing population demands in the area.

The playground, parking lot, and path network have now been completed. Additional vegetation planting and minor works throughout the reserve are continuing into early 2026 to finalise the project.



Pelican Park Recreation Centre Renewal

Total Project Value \$5,700,000

Since January 2025, we've been working hard to upgrade and renew Pelican Park Recreation Centre—replacing vital equipment and making improvements to enhance your experience. We're thrilled to share that we are ready to welcome you back.

From 8 September 2025, the pool, hall and gym reopened to members and guests. The group fitness studio reopened alongside the exciting new Wellness Centre, which was completed in November 2025.

