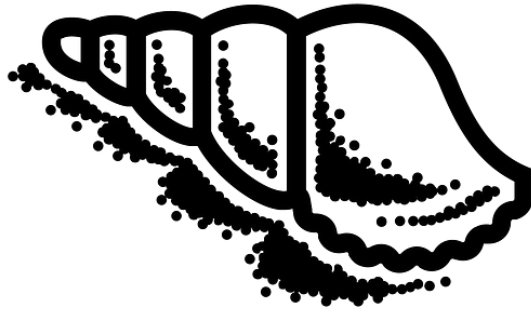




**Mornington
Peninsula Shire**

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, 7 JULY 2026

6:30 PM

**MUNICIPAL OFFICES
BESGROVE STREET, ROSEBUD**

MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE COUNCIL**WARDS AND COUNCILLORS**

Beek Beek	Cr Kate Roper
Benbenjie	Cr Max Patton
Briars	Vacant
Brokil	Cr Patrick Binyon
Coolart	Cr David Gill
Kackeraboite	Cr Stephen Batty
Moorooduc	Cr Bruce Ranken
Nepean	Cr Andrea Allen
Tanti	Cr Paul Pingiaro
Tootgarook	Cr Cam Williams
Warringine	Cr Michael Stephens

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Mr Mark Stoermer Ms Cheryl Casey Mr Andrew Pomeroy Mr Davey Smith Ms Kelly Gillies	Chief Executive Officer Director – Communities Director – Planning and Liveability Director – Assets and Infrastructure Chief of Staff
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OBSERVERS

Prue Digby Rebecca McKenzie	Municipal Monitor Municipal Monitor
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RECORDING

Please note that this Council Meeting will be livestreamed to the Mornington Peninsula Shire's YouTube channel and a recording of the meeting will be available on the Shire's website.

Recording of persons in the public gallery is not intended but may occur incidentally. By attending this meeting, you consent to being filmed at the meeting and the possible use of subsequent recordings in a live streaming or published video of the meeting.

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1 OPENING AND WELCOME

Appointed Chairperson – Mayor, Cr Stephen Batty

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

To be read by Cr Patton

Mornington Peninsula Shire acknowledges the Bunurong people, who have been the custodians of this land for many thousands of years; and pays respect to their elders past and present. We acknowledge that the land on which we meet is the place of age-old ceremonies, celebrations, initiation and renewal; and that the Bunurong peoples' living culture continues to have a unique role in the life of this region.

2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

2.1 Apologies

2.2 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest Pursuant to Sections 126 – 131 of the *Local Government Act 2020*

2.3 Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 9 June 2026, 16 June 2026 and 29 June 2026 be confirmed.

2.4 Councillor Briefing Sessions

Councillor Briefing Session – 26 May 2026

Councillor Workshop Session – 2 June 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the record of Councillor Briefing Session for 26 May 2026 and Councillor Workshop Session for 2 June 2026.

2.5 Public Question Time

Questions from the public shall be dealt with at the commencement of the meeting.

The aim of public question time is to provide an opportunity for the public to ask general questions at Council Meetings requiring routine responses. Questions with or without notice can be submitted.

Questions with notice are to be received in writing by 12.00pm the Friday prior to the relevant Council Meeting and can be lodged via the Shire's website. Questions received by this time will be provided with a considered response prepared by the relevant Shire officer and read by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at the Council Meeting.

Questions without notice must be lodged in person no later than 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the meeting. The question will be read by the CEO and taken on notice with a written response forwarded to the person asking the question within 7 days of the Council Meeting and published on the Shire's website.

This segment does not substitute for appeal or other formal business procedures with the Council.

3 COUNCILLORS AND DELEGATES REPORTS

At each Council Meeting, all Councillors will have the opportunity to provide an overview of any meetings attended as an appointed representative of Council.

If a Councillor chooses to provide details, the name of the conference/event and the Councillor attending will be noted in the Minutes for that meeting. If a Councillor requires additional information on the conference/event to be included in the Minutes, the Councillor must submit it in writing to Governance by 12.00 noon the day following the meeting.

Association/Committee	Representative/s	Substitute Representative/s	Shire Contact
Arts and Culture Advisory Panel	Cr Gill	Cr Patton	Tori Hayat, Team Leader – Arts and Culture
Association of Bayside Municipalities	Cr Patton	Cr Williams	Lachy Chapman – Water and Coasts Coordinator
Audit and Risk Committee	Cr Ranken Cr Batty	Cr Stephens	Mark Schubert, Financial Officer
Australian Coastal Councils	Cr Patton	Cr Roper	Lachy Chapman – Water and Coasts Coordinator
Bass Park Trust	Cr Stephens	Cr Gill	Pam Vercoe, Manager – Governance and Risk
Climate Resilience Community Reference Group	Cr Gill	Cr Stephens	Chris Yorke, Energy and Carbon Management Officer
Disability Advisory Committee	Cr Binyon	Cr Williams	Monica Seal, Community Wellbeing and Inclusion Coordinator
Mornington Peninsula Friends of Lospalos	Cr Binyon	N/A	Chris Munro, Manager – Community Partnerships and Engagement
Greater South East Melbourne (GSEM)	Mayor	Deputy Mayor	Mark Stoermer, Chief Executive Officer
Health and Wellbeing Committee	Cr Williams	Cr Batty	Kate Hills, Manager – Community Wellbeing
Metropolitan Transport Forum	Cr Patton	Cr Roper	Peter Bourlotos, Traffic & Transport Coordinator

3.1 (Cont.)

Association/Committee	Representative/s	Substitute Representative/s	Shire Contact
Mornington, Hastings and Southern Peninsula Liquor Accords	Cr Batty	N/A	Katherine Cooper, Team Leader – Business and Industry Support
Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation – Council Liaison Group	Cr Stephens	Cr Patton	James Rose, Team Leader – Natural Systems
Mornington Peninsula Cemetery Trust	Cr Roper Cr Pingiaro Cr Batty	N/A	Jenny Brown, Senior Cemeteries Officer
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	Mayor	Deputy Mayor	Pam Vercoe, Manager – Governance and Risk
Peninsula Advisory Committee for Elders (PACE)	Cr Williams	Cr Roper	Helen Ridgeway, Positive Ageing Officer
South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA)	Cr Pingiaro		Nicci Tsernjavski, Climate Change Partnerships Officer and Daniel Kabel, Climate Resilience Coordinator
Triple A Housing Committee	Cr Gill	Cr Patton	Petrina Dodds-Buckley, Housing Projects Lead
Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA)	Cr Roper	Cr Stephens	Pam Vercoe, Manager – Governance and Risk

4 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

PLANNING & LIVEABILITY

4.1 HMAS Cerberus – Proposed partial land divestment – Council advocacy position for community consultation

Issued By	Manager – Strategic Planning, Transport & Environment
Authorised By	Director – Planning & Liveability
Document ID	A14047330
Briefing Note Number	BN2205 – 26 May 2026
Attachment(s)	1. Department of Defence Estate Audit fact sheet – HMAS Cerberus ⇒ 2. Internal stakeholder engagement - comments ⇒ 3. Draft Submission ⇒

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report recommends a proposed submission for Council on the preferred future use of land at HMAS Cerberus in Crib Point which the Commonwealth Government is proposing to partially divest.

About 1,164 hectares of the site is proposed to be divested, including the existing golf course and surrounding vacant land. The main base will be retained for defence purposes, including Defence Housing Australia homes, service residences, childcare centre, military cemetery, training range and facilities and access roads.

The Australian Department of Finance is leading the divestment process and is seeking community feedback on preferred future land uses.

It is recommended that Council provides a submission to the divestment process. Prior to doing this it is recommended that Council consult with the community on the submission which is advocating for the land to be used primarily for conservation purposes with limited supporting recreation, tourism and/or aquaculture uses, and that at least 5% of the divestment proceeds be used to deliver more social housing stock on the Mornington Peninsula within the Urban Growth Boundary.

This position is consistent with Council's well-established planning policies, recognising that the site is located outside the Urban Growth Boundary, forms part

4.1 (Cont.)

of the coastal interface to the internationally significant Western Port Ramsar site and comprises large areas of remnant native bushland. It also recognises opportunities for sensitively integrated ecotourism in support of the Peninsula's tourism economy while helping to address the critical shortage of social housing for the Shire's most vulnerable residents within the Urban Growth Boundary.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves a six-week period of community consultation on the draft submission to the Commonwealth Department of Finance on the proposed partial divestment of land at the HMAS Cerberus site, Crib Point as contained in Attachment 3 to this report, commencing on 14 July 2026 and concluding on 25 August 2026.

COUNCIL PLAN

This aligns with the Council Plan 2025–2029, in particular:

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

- Strategic Objective 1.1: Protected, resilient and enhanced natural environments.

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

- Strategic Objective 2.2: An engaged and connected community.

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles. This report aligns with principles B, C, D, F, H and I which are:

- B. Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.
- C. The economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.
- D. The municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

4.1 (Cont.)

- F. Collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought.
- H. Regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making.
- I. The transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

RELEVANT COUNCIL DECISIONS AND POLICIES

- Housing and Settlement Strategy: Refresh 2020–36 (2020)
- Green Wedge Management Plan (2019)
- Biodiversity Conservation Plan (2019)
- A Thriving Peninsula 2033: Our Economic Development and Tourism Strategy (2024)
- Mornington Peninsula Localised Planning Statement (2014)
- Mornington Peninsula Shire Advocacy Strategy (2022)
- 23 September 2023 Council Meeting – Advocacy Priorities 2025–2026

DISCUSSION**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council about the proposed partial divestment of HMAS Cerberus land in Crib Point and recommend Council consult with the community on a proposed submission to the Commonwealth Department of Finance on preferred future uses of the land.

Background

The Australian Government Department of Defence (Defence) released a public version of the Defence Estate Audit (Audit) on 4 February 2026. This independent Audit was commissioned in response to the 2023 Defence Strategic Review. The Audit made recommendations about the Defence estate to meet current and future capability needs.

The Australian Government has agreed to the Audit's first recommendation:

Defence reduce its property holdings through focused divestment of sites at market value in areas not aligned with current or future capability priorities,

4.1 (Cont.)

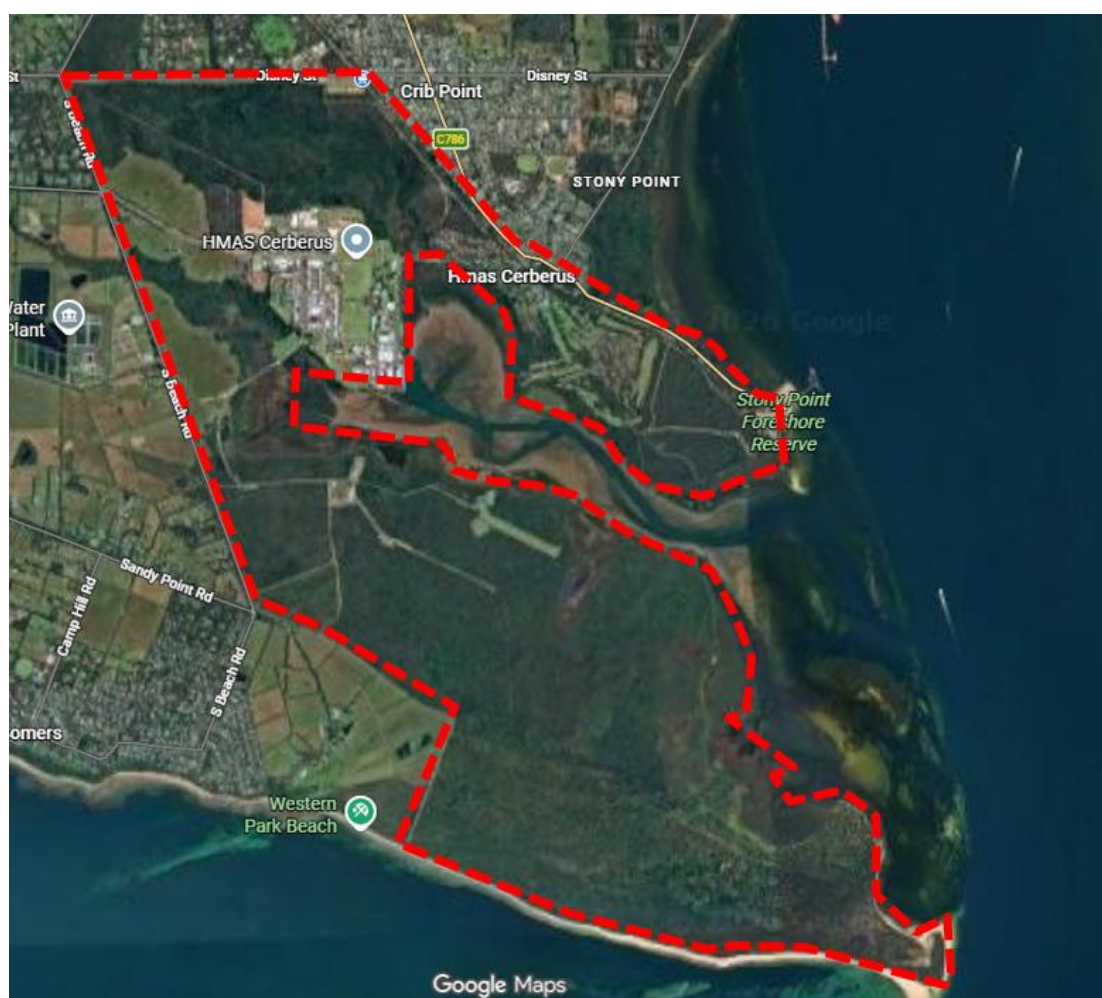
with proceeds reinvested to the priorities outlined in the Defence Strategic Review.

The full Audit report can be accessed on the Defence website: [Delivering the Future Estate, Defence Estate Audit Report](#). It includes divesting 46 owned properties and 12 leased properties, located across all states and territories.

The Audit lists the HMAS Cerberus site in Crib Point, Victoria for partial divestment.

The Site

HMAS Cerberus is located in South Beach Road, Crib Point. The site contains a golf course which is licensed to the Cerberus Golf Club and is publicly accessible. Figure 1 is an aerial image of HMAS Cerberus showing the central base, the golf course and surrounding vegetated land.



*Figure 1: Aerial image of HMAS Cerberus
(source: Google maps)*

The site is located outside the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and adjacent to land in Somers to the west, zoned Green Wedge. The site also abuts the urban areas of the townships of Crib Point, Bittern and Somers (all within the UGB). To the east, the

4.1 (Cont.)

land forms part of the coastal interface to the internationally significant Western Port Ramsar site, shown in green in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Extent of the Western Port Ramsar Site

(source: Western Port Ramsar Site Map, Australian Government, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, 2009)

The Department of Defence is the planning authority for the HMAS Cerberus site. As with all Commonwealth owned land, the site is exempt from the entire Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme, as shown by the white shaded area in the zoning map in Figure 3. This means the land is not subject to any of the local planning policies, zones, overlays or other controls of the planning scheme.

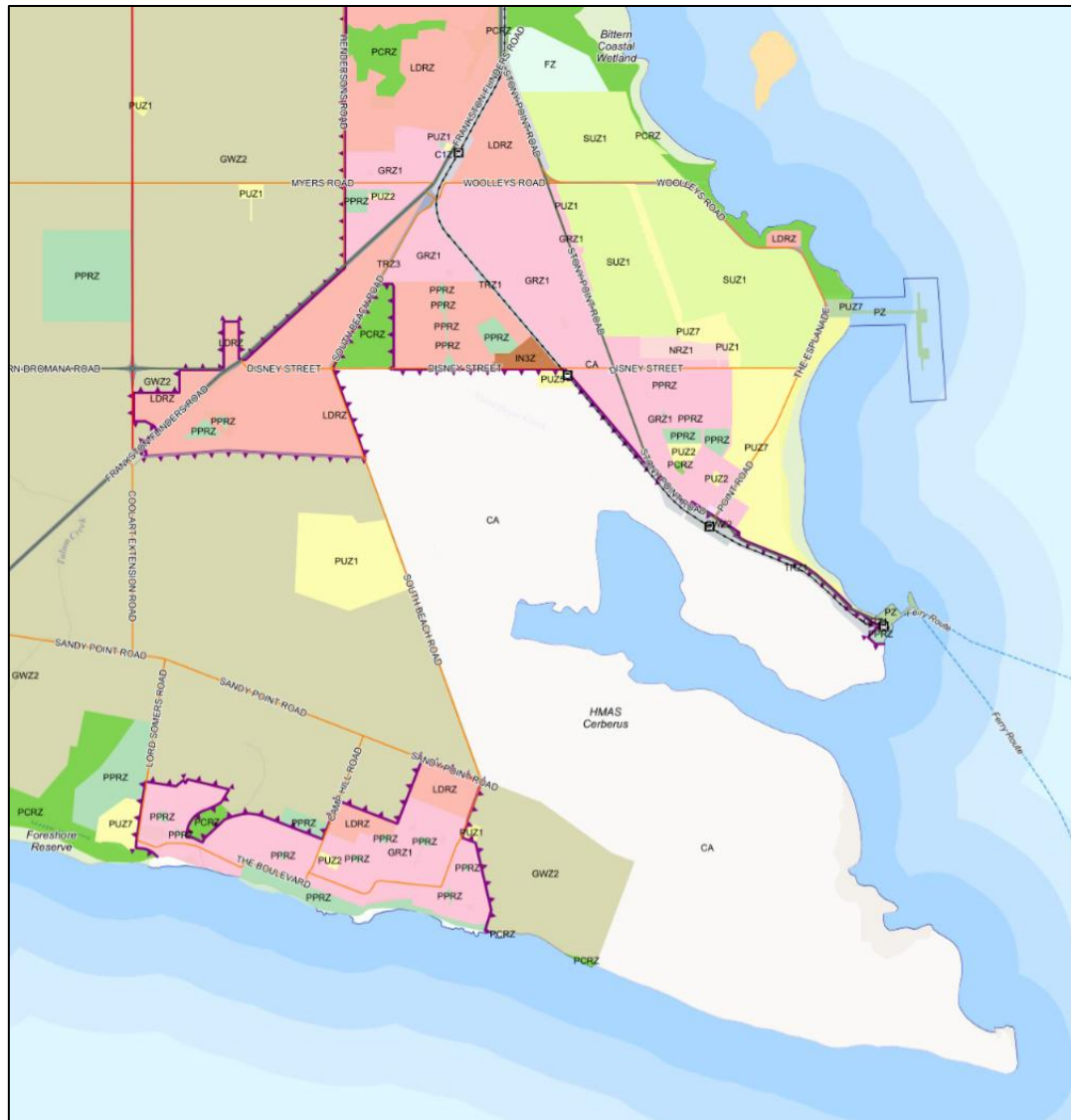


Figure 3: Zoning map of Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme
(excluding HMAS Cerberus)

Proposed Divestment Area

Defence is proposing a partial divestment of the HMAS Cerberus site, as outlined in the Defence fact sheet at Attachment 1 to this report. The divestment area covers a large area of 1,164 hectares comprising the golf course and vacant land, as shown in Figure 4.

4.1 (Cont.)

*Figure 4: Partial divestment area of HMAS Cerberus
(source: Department of Defence fact sheet)*

The main base will be retained for Defence purposes, as will the access road to South Beach Road. The base includes Defence Housing Australia homes, service residences, childcare centre, military cemetery, training range and facilities, and access roads.

Divestment Process

The divestment process is being facilitated by the Department of Finance in partnership with Defence. The process, which does not currently have any set timeframes and is expected to take several years, is outlined in Figure 5.

4.1 (Cont.)

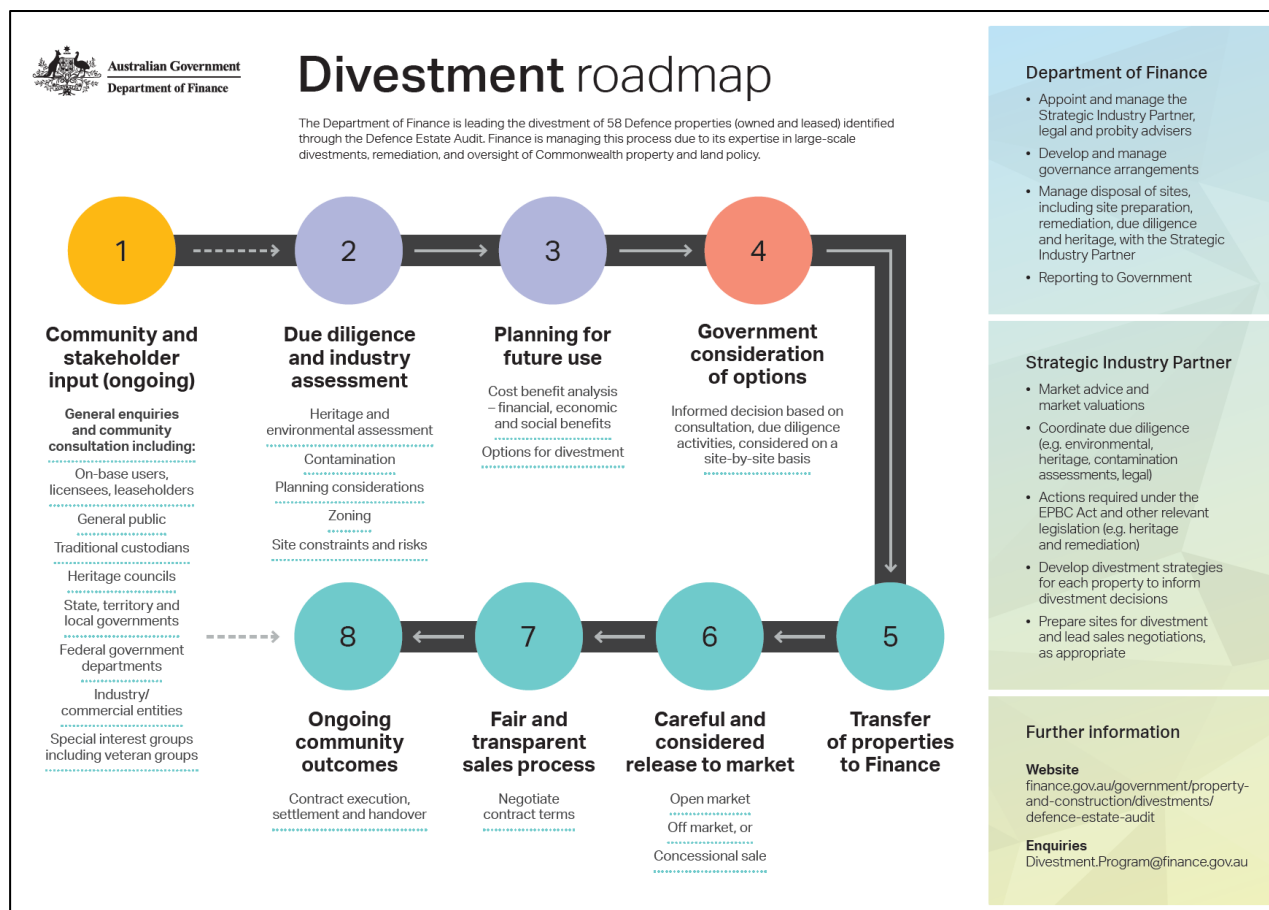


Figure 5: Divestment Roadmap
(source: [Defence Estate Audit | Department of Finance](#))

Shire officers requested further information from the Departments of Finance and Defence about the divestment process and if the process addresses:

- Preferred future uses and/or development outcomes, recognising that the site is outside the UGB.
- Future land use zoning and alignment with the Victorian Planning Provisions and the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme (assuming that if the land is transferred from Commonwealth to private, or other public ownership, it would no longer be exempt from the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme and would therefore need to be zoned appropriately).
- The impacts of a change of use on the road network and local services.

The Department of Finance confirmed that it will commission a due diligence process that will include property valuations, market and sale method advice consistent with the Commonwealth Property Disposals Policy, coordination of due diligence reporting, and support for any legislative or statutory processes that may be required.

4.1 (Cont.)

The Department of Finance advised that at this stage, due diligence materials, including valuations and supporting technical assessments, will remain commercial-in-confidence. Following completion of the due diligence phase, proposed divestment strategies will be developed to inform the appropriate method and timing of any divestment.

The individual divestment strategies will consider appropriate future land uses, including alignment with relevant state and local planning frameworks and zoning controls. Matters such as potential impacts associated with a change of use, including transport, access and services, may also be considered as part of this broader assessment process.

Internal Stakeholder Engagement

Relevant Shire teams considered the proposed divestment and identified possible and preferred future land uses (see Attachment 2). In summary, a range of potential land uses were identified as follows:

- Conservation area – based on its remnant bushland values, coastal interface with the Western Port Ramsar Wetland area and objectives for the protection of coastal migration, and protection of coastal dune systems, shorelines, wetlands and low-lying coastal areas.
- Ecotourism including public access to bushland, public golf course, camping and caravan park.
- Agritourism and aqua tourism in the cleared areas including mussel farming and seaweed/kelp farming.
- Residential uses and in particular social housing.

Recommended Future Uses

Theoretically, the divestment of such a large area of land in Western Port raises the opportunity for the creation of a new precinct that could have various urban, recreational, conservation, agricultural and tourism land uses, as canvassed by internal stakeholders. However, the site presents many challenges for these proposed uses, primarily due to its location outside the UGB and physical characteristics.

On balance, it is recommended that Council's submission focuses on long term conservation with the potential for some managed recreation and limited tourism. The reasons for this recommendation are outlined below and in the proposed submission at Attachment 3 to this report.

4.1 (Cont.)***Maintenance of the Urban Growth Boundary***

- Councils long held policy position of maintaining the existing UGB and the extent of the Mornington Peninsula Green Wedge as reflected in Council's adopted Housing and Settlement Strategy Refresh 2020–2036 (2020) (HSS), Green Wedge Management Plan (2019) and the Mornington Peninsula Localised Planning Statement (Victorian Government, 2014).
- State, and local, planning objectives which identify that the Peninsula is not a growth area and will only accommodate moderate to low levels of population and housing growth.

Preference for a dedicated conservation area

- The proposed divestment land is one of the largest areas of remnant bushland on the Peninsula. The size of land to be divested is 1,164 hectares (by comparison, Point Nepean National Park is 560 hectares, and the entire Mornington Peninsula National Park is 2,686 hectares).
- Protection of the HMAS Cerberus land is important in protecting the internationally significant Ramsar Wetland site.
- A conservation area would align with Commonwealth obligations associated with the Western Port Ramsar Wetland and other Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) protected under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).
- The land could be appropriately secured within the State's protected area network, particularly as a National Park.

Potential for low intensity and informal recreation uses

- If the area is protected for conservation, the areas of cleared land and adjacent to the areas of the naval base could potentially be used for recreational and tourism uses, including informal uses, subject to protections of identified ecological values.

Significant areas of the site are impacted by coastal hazards

- The Westernport Local Coastal Hazard Assessment (2014) identifies that large parts of the site are at risk of coastal inundation and/or erosion due to predicted sea level rise of 0.8 metres by the year 2100, as shown in red in Figure 6:

4.1 (Cont.)



*Figure 6: Areas at risk of coastal hazards
(source: Westernport Local Coastal Hazard Assessment)*

The land is not located in a preferred area for urban settlement

- The overarching local settlement policy is not to accommodate major population expansion. Council's adopted HSS sets out strategies for the right locations for increased residential development (near services, shops and employment areas within the UGB).
- Mornington Peninsula's housing target has been determined to be 24,000 net new dwellings by 2051. The State's Housing Capacity Assessment Platform identifies a notional shortfall of 1,700 dwellings. Shire officers disagree with this finding given Council's own detailed Housing Capacity Analysis found that there is capacity for about 25,000 dwellings within 15 years, exceeding the State target. Future supply can be delivered within the UGB by rezoning 'Investigation Areas' identified in the HSS and, in the longer term, reviewing some of the restrictive planning controls in existing zones and overlays in established townships (such as mandatory single dwelling requirements).

4.1 (Cont.)

The land is not suitable for social housing, however, proceeds of its sale should contribute towards the delivery of more social housing stock on the Peninsula within the UGB

- Council continues to advocate for the provision of more social and affordable housing (i.e. government subsidised housing) and is active in seeking developer contributions for this purpose.
- The land is not suitable for affordable or social housing stock for vulnerable populations because it is outside the UGB and is not located close to necessary services, shops, employment areas or reliable and regular public transport (despite being close to the Stony Point railway line).
- However, selling such a sizeable area of publicly-owned land presents a significant opportunity to deliver net community benefit by contributing a percentage of the sale revenue towards the delivery of affordable and/or social housing elsewhere on the Peninsula, within the UGB – such as on surplus Port of Hastings land, or other nearby established township areas. The contribution should be at least 5%. Providing such a contribution is consistent with and helps deliver on the aspirational targets of the National Housing Accord which commits the Commonwealth government, states and territories to accelerating delivery of more affordable and social housing by 2028.

Zoning

- While the land could arguably be zoned Green Wedge as it is outside the UGB, it is not suitable for broad agricultural use given its significant remnant vegetation and biodiversity values. Similarly, it is not suitable for some of the other major uses permissible within the Green Wedge (including discretionary uses), such as schools, exhibition centres, hotels, function centres, places of assembly, etc. A more appropriate zone would be the Public Conservation and Resource Zone which reflects Council's preferred land use outcomes.

Consistency with Shire advocacy

- The Mornington Peninsula Shire Advocacy Strategy 2022 outlines why and how the Shire advocates on behalf of the community. The recommendation to focus on a conservation area and to use a percentage of the divestment proceeds for the delivery of social housing on the Mornington Peninsula is consistent with the Shires advocacy focus for 2025–2026 which includes:
 - Urgent investment in social and affordable housing on the Mornington Peninsula.

4.1 (Cont.)

- Adequate government funding to better manage our coastlines and build resilience for erosion and sea level rise.
- Ongoing investment to support Victoria's tourism economy.
- Management and protection of the Green Wedge.

As the Audit factsheet (Attachment 1) does not contain detailed information about the divestment, the proposed submission (Attachment 3) requests that the following matters should also be addressed as part of the divestment process:

- The process should include early and meaningful engagement with relevant Traditional Owner groups as the site is located on Country with enduring Aboriginal cultural, historical and spiritual significance.
- The site's identified environmental hazards, such as coastal erosion, inundation and bushfire risk, should be clearly recognised and managed.
- Preferred future zones and overlays of the Victorian Planning Provisions should be identified, reflecting Council's preferred land use outcomes (such as Public Conservation and Resource Zone, Vegetation Projection Overlays, Significant Landscape Overlays, Environmental Significance Overlays, Bushfire Management Overlay, and any overlays required to address flooding or erosion, including in response to coastal hazards from predicted sea level rise).
- Subdivision controls should be applied to prevent any further fragmentation of the land and its highly sensitive ecological systems.
- Any need to buffer existing remaining areas of the naval base from any new uses should be clearly identified.
- An assessment of any potential contaminated land because of Defence activities and the proposed mitigation measures required for future uses.
- An assessment of, and public statement about the presence of unexploded ordinances resulting from Defence activities, and proposed remediation measures.
- Confirmation should be provided as to whether:
 - The access road to the naval base from South Beach Road needs upgrading.
 - Any other infrastructure or service upgrades are required to the site and how these will be funded and delivered.

4.1 (Cont.)**Options for Consideration**

Option 1 – Approve community consultation on the proposed submission to the Commonwealth Department of Finance on the proposed partial divestment of HMAS Cerberus (recommended)

This option is recommended because:

- Engaging in the divestment process provides an important early opportunity for Council to influence the proper and orderly planning of a sizeable parcel of land – which may soon become part of the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme.
- The proposed submission appropriately reflects Council’s long-held planning policies, recognising that the site is located outside the Urban Growth Boundary, forms part of the coastal interface to the internationally significant Western Port Ramsar site and comprises large areas of remnant native bushland. It also recognises opportunities for sensitively integrated ecotourism in support of the Peninsula’s tourism economy while helping to address the critical shortage of social housing for the Shire’s most vulnerable residents.
- Seeking community feedback on the proposed submission will ensure it reflects the community’s views.

Option 2 – Adopt and provide a submission to the Commonwealth Department of Finance on the proposed partial divestment of HMAS Cerberus without undertaking community consultation

This option is not recommended as seeking community feedback on the proposed submission will ensure that it appropriately reflects both adopted Council policy positions and community sentiment.

ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement on the potential future use of divested land at HMAS Cerberus is being run by the Commonwealth Government – not Mornington Peninsula Shire.

The Department of Defence held a community information session about the Defence Estate Audit and proposed divestment of HMAS Cerberus on 10 June 2026. Details of the session were advertised on: [HMAS Cerberus | Defence](#).

The Department of Finance is seeking feedback and interest from the public on the proposed divestment of all its Defence sites, including the partial divestment of HMAS Cerberus, which it says will assist in determining the level of market

4.1 (Cont.)

interest for proposed divestment sites and options for potential future uses. Anyone in the community can provide feedback.

The Department has confirmed that consideration of feedback and interest will occur following the due diligence process, and that a closing date for providing feedback has not yet been specified.

Community engagement on Council's proposed submission to the Commonwealth Department of Finance will include:

- Media release
- Social media
- Website with survey.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

If Council resolves to approve community consultation on the proposed submission to the Commonwealth Department of Finance this consultation will be publicised via a media release and social media with council's proposed submission available for review and feedback on Council's website.

LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
- Victoria Planning Provisions
- Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme.

CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed submission acknowledges the environmental significance of Western Port Bay and the Western Port Environs, including the Western Port Ramsar Site, seeking the protection and enhancement of large areas of remnant bushland and related ecological and biodiversity values. It also recognises predicted impacts of sea level rise (i.e. erosion and inundation) modelled for the site in the Western Port Local Coastal Hazard Assessment.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no budget implications for consulting on the proposed submission to the Department of Finance's divestment process.

4.1 (Cont.)

OFFICER DECLARATION

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a General or Material interest requiring disclosure.

4.2 Sorrento Parking Management – Morce Avenue Car Park and Hotham Road Angle Parking Trial

Issued By Manager – Strategic Planning, Transport & Environment

Authorised By Director – Planning & Liveability

Document ID A14048665

Briefing Note
Number BN2206 – 26 May 2026

- Attachment(s)
1. Morce Avenue – Four Additional Parking Option Plans [⇒](#)
 2. Additional Parking Proposal – Morce Ave Sorrento – Community Consultation Report [⇒](#)
 3. Morce Ave Revised Additional Parking Options – Wayfinding – Time Limit Changes and Hotham Rd Angle Parking [⇒](#)
 4. Consultation Report – Parking Upgrades for Sorrento Commercial Activity Centre and Surrounds [⇒](#)
 5. Consultation Report – Sorrento Upgrade Parking Trial – Hotham Rd Angle Parking [⇒](#)
 6. Morce Avenue Preferred Options [⇒](#)
 7. Hotham Road Angle Parking Trial – Summary Evaluation Report [⇒](#)
 8. Hotham Road Preferred Option [⇒](#)
 9. Parking Proposals – Cost Comparison [⇒](#)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Council endorsement of a prioritised program of works to address peak period parking demand and associated congestion within the Sorrento Commercial Centre following detailed technical assessment and community consultation.

Sorrento experiences sustained seasonal parking pressure, with occupancy exceeding 85% during peak periods. This results in congestion largely driven by vehicles circulating in search of parking, negatively impacting access, safety and amenity.

The assessment has identified that targeted increases in parking supply, supported by staged delivery and improved management measures, provide the most effective and balanced response.

4.2 (Cont.)

The Morce Avenue Revised Stage 1 Option is recommended as the highest priority project as it delivers:

- A net increase of approximately 38 parking spaces in a high-demand location
- Reduced congestion, vehicle circulation, improving traffic flow and safety
- Improved accessibility to shops and community facilities, supporting increased visitation and economic activity
- Enhanced amenity for residents, visitors and traders through a better functioning commercial centre
- Improved pedestrian connectivity and safety
- The most cost-effective outcome
- A balanced response to community feedback, including retention of significant trees

The report also identifies the Hotham Road indented angle parking option as a secondary priority, recognising its broader connectivity and amenity benefits and Morce Avenue Stage 2 as a longer-term opportunity.

Endorsement of the recommended prioritisation will enable progression of budget bids for detailed design and delivery through the Capital Works Program, providing a coordinated and financially responsible approach to addressing Sorrento's parking and congestion challenges.

RECOMMENDATION**That Council:**

- 1. Endorses the Plans and Prioritised Program of Works to increase parking supply within the Sorrento Commercial Centre and surrounds, in the following order:**
 - A. Morce Avenue – Stage 1 (as shown in Attachment 6)**
 - B. Hotham Road – Angled Parking (as shown in Attachment 8)**
 - C. Morce Avenue – Stage 2 (as shown in Attachment 6)**
- 2. Notes that funding to design and deliver these works will be considered yearly through Council's annual budget process.**

4.2 (Cont.)**COUNCIL PLAN**

This aligns with the Council Plan 2025–2029, in particular:

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

- Strategic Objective 1.2: Connected townships with integrated and accessible transport and well-maintained infrastructure.

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

- Strategic Objective 2.1: A safe, accessible, inclusive and healthy community.

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles. This report aligns with principles B, D and I which are:

- B. Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.
- D. The municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.
- I. The transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

RELEVANT COUNCIL DECISIONS AND POLICIES

At the 25 July 2016 Council meeting in relation to the “Proposed Sale – 23 Constitution Hill Road, Sorrento” Council resolved to sell the land for \$1,800,000 subject to specific conditions. Condition 7 of the Minutes states:

“That Council undertakes an assessment of both the current and projected traffic and car parking requirements for the Sorrento Commercial Area and prepare a report to Council providing appropriate recommendations and the net proceeds of the sale of 23 Constitution Hill Road, Sorrento be considered for parking requirements as advised by the studies and subject to the Budget process.”

The proceeds of the sale were allocated to general revenue with future parking projects to be considered through Council’s annual budget process.

4.2 (Cont.)

At the 27 November 2018 Council meeting, Council considered the Sorrento Activity Centre Parking Action Plan and a proposed planning scheme amendment to introduce a Parking Overlay within the township of Sorrento and resolved:

1. *That this item (Sorrento Activity Centre Parking Action Plan) also be considered with Item 3.16 (Proposed Planning Scheme Amendment – Sorrento Activity Centre Parking Overlay).*
2. *That the Sorrento Activity Centre Parking Action Plan proceed as a matter of urgency to the second stage of investigation with the Sorrento Activity Centre Parking Options Investigation to identify locations and costs for the construction of additional parking.*
3. *That Council be briefed at the earliest opportunity on the draft second stage investigation but no later than May 2019.*
4. *That a Planning Scheme Amendment for a Parking Overlay be urgently prioritised as a short-term recommendation.*

At the 8 October 2019 Council meeting, Council considered the Sorrento Activity Centre Parking Action Plan, the Sorrento Activity Centre Parking Options Investigation and a future parking project for inclusion in a cash-in-lieu scheme as part of a future Parking Overlay for the Sorrento Activity Centre and resolved:

1. *That Council adopts the Sorrento Activity Centre Parking Action Plan, and the Sorrento Activity Centre Parking Options Investigation.*
2. *That the project to construct an at-grade car park on the land of 13, 15, 17 and 19 George Street (Option 3A) is adopted as the future parking project for inclusion in a financial contribution cash-in-lieu scheme as part of a possible future Parking Overlay in Sorrento.*
3. *That a Planning Scheme Amendment for the Sorrento Parking Overlay is prepared and brought to the Planning Services Committee as soon as practicable.*

At the 25 October 2021 Planning Services Committee meeting, the Committee considered a planning scheme amendment to introduce a Parking Overlay and Cash in Lieu contribution scheme and resolved 'That Item 8.1 'Sorrento Activity Centre – Investigation of alternatives to a Parking Overlay to help manage car parking demands' be deferred to another meeting.

At the 28 March 2022 Planning Services Committee Meeting, the Committee resolved to:

4.2 (Cont.)

1. *Abandon further investigation in pursuit of a Planning Scheme amendment to introduce a Parking Overlay and/or Cash-In lieu Scheme for the Sorrento commercial precinct.*
2. *Review existing and consider new concept plans and prepare a business case for the construction of decked parking to maximise the capacity of the existing Morce Avenue public carpark.*

At the 26 August 2024 Council meeting, Council considered multi-deck and at grade parking extensions and resolved: *"That Council endorses the draft Morce Avenue, Sorrento at grade carpark extension options for community consultation, for a four-week period after the Council election caretaker period".*

DISCUSSION**Purpose**

This report provides Council with an assessment of the results of the public consultations on proposals for additional at grade parking in Morce Avenue (Ave), and an angle parking trial in Hotham Road, Sorrento with recommended prioritised actions. It also details the wayfinding and time limit changes that have been implemented.

Background

Sorrento is one of the Mornington Peninsula's key visitor destinations. Visitors, the community, and traders have expressed ongoing concerns about parking availability in Sorrento for many years. High demand for parking in Sorrento is predominantly seasonal, peaking in summer (late December to late January). However, Sorrento is experiencing increased visitation throughout the year which has resulted in extended periods of higher parking demands and pressures.

While parking demand reduces outside peak seasons, high-impact congestion during summer creates operational, access and amenity issues for residents, traders, emergency services and visitors. In recognising that Sorrento sustains above 85% parking occupancy across this peak summer period, investigations and community consultations have been undertaken to identify the most effective response to peak period parking pressures in Sorrento.

This work has been informed by broader transport analysis, including findings from the draft Integrated Transport Strategy, which confirm that peak-summer congestion in Sorrento is largely caused by motorists queuing for parking near Ocean Beach Road rather than by intersection capacity limitations, highlighting the role of parking management, wayfinding and targeted capacity improvements in reducing congestion.

4.2 (Cont.)

It has also been informed by the previous options considered, and decisions made, by Council in relation to increasing parking in Sorrento. These are outlined in the 'Relevant Council Decisions and Policies' section of this report and included, planning scheme amendments, funding mechanisms, decked parking and at-grade parking.

Consultation – Additional Parking ProposalsMorce Avenue – 4 Additional Parking Options

As per the Council resolution from the 26 August 2024 Council meeting, community consultation on four parking options for additional at grade parking at Morce Avenue (*refer to Attachment 1– Morce Ave – Four Additional Parking Options*) was undertaken over a six-week period from 20 February to 3 April 2025. Engagement comprised an online survey, three on-site pop-up sessions, direct notification to adjacent properties, and targeted stakeholder meetings with the Sorrento Chamber of Commerce, Nepean Ratepayers Association and local emergency services.

A total of 352 survey responses were received, with the majority from local residents. Consultation demonstrated broad recognition of peak-season parking pressure, while also highlighting strong community interest in cost effectiveness, minimising environmental impacts (particularly tree loss), traffic safety, and maintaining town character. A majority supported providing additional parking, subject to scale, staging and mitigation of environmental impacts (*refer to Attachment 2 – Additional Parking Proposal – Morce Ave Sorrento – Community Consultation Report*).

While the option delivering the highest number of spaces attracted support from most respondents, there was also consistent feedback favouring lower-impact, more cost-effective solutions. Other concerns were received about impacts to goods delivery for local businesses along Morce Avenue.

To respond to the community feedback received, a range of parking initiatives were developed, including:

- A revised option for additional parking drawing on the prior 4 options for the Morce Avenue car park and addressing goods delivery impacts
- Enhancing pedestrian safety outcomes in Morce Ave and car park
- Allowing a staged delivery of the additional parking
- Temporary angle-parking trial on Hotham Road

4.2 (Cont.)

- Parking management improvements including upgraded wayfinding signage and parking time limit changes.

Additional community engagement was then undertaken on these initiatives, as outlined below.

Morce Ave Revised Additional Parking Option, Wayfinding Upgrades, Time Limit Changes and Hotham Road Angle Parking

Community consultation on revised parking options for Morce Avenue, including wayfinding and parking time limit upgrades and Hotham Road angle parking (*refer Attachment 3 – Morce Avenue Revised Additional Parking Options – Wayfinding, Time Limit Changes and Hotham Road Angle Parking*) was undertaken via an online feedback form on the Shire’s website between 23 October and 24 November 2025. Direct notification was provided to 458 adjacent properties and targeted stakeholders with social media notification of an online feedback form.

Seven responses were received (*refer Attachment 4 – Consultation Report – Parking Upgrades for Sorrento Commercial Activity Centre and Surrounds*).

Overall consultation feedback showed mixed support for the additional parking proposals for Morce Ave, with some viewing the proposals as logical and beneficial, with others raising concerns on overall effectiveness, potential loss of vegetation and amenity. Several respondents also suggested alternative approaches, such as better use of existing parking rather than expansion. There was concern around the adequacy of proposed time limit changes. Key issues raised in relation to the proposal for angle parking in Hotham Road included the impact of angled parking on traffic flow and large vehicles.

In December 2025 wayfinding signage upgrades and parking time limit changes were implemented (*refer Attachment 3, page 2*).

Hotham Road – Angle Parking Trial

Prior consultation on the Hotham Road angle parking proposal received a low amount of feedback but some concerns were raised over the operational impacts on the busy road.

The Hotham Road angle-parking trial was implemented over the 2025–26 summer period providing 19 additional parking spaces, which were well utilised during peak holiday demand. To help mitigate any safety and operational risks a temporary 40 kilometres per hour (km/h) zone was installed.

Consultation was held via an online survey during the trial period from Dec 2025 to April 2026 with 19 respondents (*refer to Attachment 5 – Consultation Report –*

4.2 (Cont.)

Sorrento Upgrade Parking Trial – Hotham Road Angle Parking). There were also submissions from stakeholders including the Sorrento Chamber of Commerce in strong support, whereas Nepean Ratepayers Association and a local boat building business had strong concerns.

Overall, there was broad support for increasing parking capacity in principle, but clear opposition to the angle parking trial configuration, with a preference for an improved operation and safer solution.

Next Steps – Preferred OptionsMorce Avenue Parking

In response to the consistent environmental impact concerns raised in both consultations, the Morce Ave Revised Option has been further refined to:

- Retain approximately three significant eucalypt trees noting other vegetation is predominantly smaller trees and lower value vegetation.
- Reduce parking yield by approximately six spaces overall.
- Retain same overall parking layout but include plantation areas around retained trees.

These refinements to the Morce Avenue Revised Option to retain some trees result in:

- Stage 1: Net gain of approximately 38 spaces
- Stage 2: Additional net gain of approximately 51 spaces
- Overall (combined): Approximately 89 additional spaces

While tree retention reduces the initial yield slightly, this revised option (the preferred option) will still result in more parking supply in a high-demand location whilst providing a balanced approach to environmental impact (*Refer Attachment 6 – preferred option – Morce Avenue parking*).

This option is expected to deliver a range of benefits to the Sorrento Commercial Centre and the broader community, including:

- Improved accessibility: Provides convenient parking within a short walking distance of Ocean Beach Road shops and nearby community facilities.
- Increased economic activity: Additional parking spaces are expected to increase parking turnover, supporting greater retail exposure and visitation.

4.2 (Cont.)

- Reduced congestion: An increased parking supply will reduce the need for vehicles to circulate in search of parking during peak periods, thereby lowering congestion and associated vehicle emissions.
- Enhanced amenity: Reducing traffic congestion will improve the overall experience of residents, visitors and shoppers within the commercial centre.

Hotham Road Angle Parking

During the trial of angle parking in Hotham Road, safety and operational issues were identified, demonstrating that the temporary arrangement was not suitable to remain or be made permanent within the existing road width (*refer to Attachment 7 – Hotham Road Angle Parking Trial – Summary Evaluation Report*).

Notwithstanding the concerns raised during the trial, the trial demonstrated that additional parking for Hotham Road remains strategically important, particularly when assessed beyond parking yield alone.

A suitable permanent, indented angle-parking proposal on Hotham Road that addresses all operational and safety concerns would provide the needed additional parking whilst also achieving broader community benefits, including:

- Provision of a safe off-road shared path for pedestrians and cyclists. The detailed design of a shared path along Hotham Road has already been completed with delivery subject to Council's annual budget process. This path is priority 41 on the Principal Pedestrian Network.
- Removal of aging and hazardous cypress trees, reducing maintenance risks. This is identified as a high priority in the David MacFarlan Reserve Masterplan.
- Construction of angled parking on Hotham Road will also benefit sporting clubs within the reserve. This is listed as high priority in the David MacFarlan Reserve Masterplan.

As such, the preferred option is the refinement of the permanent concept to include an extension west to Melbourne Road and gain approximately 12 additional indented parking spaces. This would improve the overall parking contribution during peak periods by a total of 31 spaces and would require removal of the cypress trees and delivery of an off-road shared pedestrian and cyclist path (*Refer Attachment 8 – preferred option – Hotham Road Parking*).

Cost comparison of additional parking in Morce Ave to indented angle parking in Hotham Road

Morce Avenue Revised Stage 1 option with 38 additional spaces (with significant trees retained) at an estimated cost of \$0.45million (M) provides the lowest cost

4.2 (Cont.)

per additional parking space at \$11,842 per space (*refer to Attachment 9 – Parking Proposals – Cost Comparison*).

The Hotham Road indented angle parking proposal, including tree removal and a shared path, delivers 31 additional indented angle parking spaces at an estimated cost of \$1M (approximately \$32,258 per space).

While this is a higher cost per space than the Morce Avenue Revised Stage 1 and 2 options either staged or completed together, Hotham Road indented angle parking delivers broader amenity and connectivity benefits. In contrast, the Morce Avenue combined stages (1 and 2) require a significantly higher total investment (\$2.05M) and, despite the lower unit cost, provide fewer broader amenity and connectivity benefits compared to the Hotham Road proposal (\$1M).

Prioritisation of Options for Delivery

Given the above, the recommended prioritisation of the available options for increased parking capacity in the Sorrento Commercial centre are as follows:

- Morce Avenue Revised Stage 1 Option is recommended as the highest priority at a preliminary estimated cost of \$0.45M, as it delivers the lowest cost per space, a net gain of 38 spaces, provides relief during peak periods, manages financial risk through staging, and incorporates some tree retention to address environmental concerns.
- Hotham Road indented angle parking, tree removal and shared path, including the extended angle parking west of the reserve entrance at a high-level estimated cost of \$1M, is recommended as the second priority, delivering a net gain of 31 spaces, with additional connectivity benefits for David MacFarlan Reserve.
- While Morce Ave Revised Stage 2 Option provides more additional spaces (net gain of 51 spaces) it comes at a much higher cost (\$1.6M) and as such is recommended to be the lowest priority, to be considered in the longer term.

Options for Consideration

Recommendation – That Council endorses the final plans for increasing parking in Morce Avenue (Attachment 6) and the final plan for delivering permanent angle parking on Hotham Road, including removal of cypress trees and a safe off road shared path for pedestrians and cyclists (Attachment 8). That Morce Avenue parking – Stage 1 is the priority for delivery, followed by Hotham Road angle parking and then Morce Avenue parking – Stage 2.

4.2 (Cont.)Other options available

Council could choose to not deliver any additional parking in Sorrento and instead rely on existing parking provision. Whilst this would be the cheapest option, it doesn't address the parking issues in Sorrento during peak times.

Alternatively, Council could choose to only endorse some of the final plans, not all of them. This would improve parking provision in Sorrento to some extent, but not to the extent that all the plans do. It is important to note, that endorsing the plans does not mean these plans are funded for delivery. Council will consider funding delivery of these plans as part of Council's ongoing annual budget process.

ENGAGEMENT

Community consultation on the four original parking options at Morce Avenue was undertaken over a six-week period from 20 February to 3 April 2025. Engagement comprised an online survey, three on-site pop-up sessions, direct notification to adjacent properties, and targeted stakeholder meetings with the Sorrento Chamber of Commerce, Nepean Ratepayers Association and local emergency services.

Feedback from this engagement then informed the revised parking options for Morce Avenue, including wayfinding and parking time limit upgrades, with consultation on these options undertaken via an online feedback form on the Shire's website between 23 October and 24 November 2025. Direct notification was provided to 458 adjacent properties and targeted stakeholders with social media notification of an online feedback form.

Consultation on the Hotham Road angle-parking trial was held via an online survey during the trial period from Dec 2025 to April 2026.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

The Sorrento Chamber of Commerce and key stakeholders will be contacted directly to advise of Council's decision. The Shire's project website will also be updated to inform the general community.

LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Not applicable.

CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Improved parking availability reduces vehicle circulation and idling, easing congestion and enhancing local air quality and pedestrian experience in commercial areas.

4.2 (Cont.)

However, greater parking supply can encourage additional car travel, which may be inconsistent with long-term emissions reduction goals.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**Potential Funding Mechanisms**

The proposed works are to be funded primarily through Council's Capital Works Program, with budget bids submitted for consideration through Council's annual budget process. Morce Avenue Car Park Upgrade' and 'Hotham Road Footpath' are identified in Council's Long Term Capital Works Plan 2026- 2027 to 2035-36 as 'Future Considerations'.

A Special Charge Scheme may also be considered to support cost recovery from benefiting properties however, this will require further investigation and consultation to confirm feasibility and, if feasible, a Council decision to proceed.

Estimated Costs and Budget Implications

The recommended delivery of the Morce Avenue Revised Stage 1 Option as the priority has the following indicative costs:

- Detailed design: approximately \$50,000
- Construction: approximately \$400,000

This staged approach enables Council to manage financial exposure by refining costs prior to construction and aligning delivery with available budget capacity. Funding for this and later stages, including Hotham Road works and Morce Avenue Stage 2, will be subject to future budget bids and Council consideration as part of Council's annual budget process.

OFFICER DECLARATION

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a General or Material interest requiring disclosure.

COMMUNITIES

4.3 Arts, Culture and Events Plan (DRAFT)

Issued By	Manager – Economic & Cultural Development
Authorised By	Director – Communities
Document ID	A13994313
Briefing Note Number	BN2207 – 26 May 2026
Attachment(s)	1. Draft Arts, Culture and Events Plan ⇒

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval to place the Draft Arts, Culture and Events Plan (the Plan) on public exhibition for a four-week period.

With the expiry of Council's Arts and Culture Plan 2020–2024, the draft Plan provides a 10-year framework to prioritise initiatives that foster a connected and prosperous creative sector and a vibrant year-round calendar of events.

While development of the draft Plan has been informed by extensive engagement with the community, approving the draft Plan for public exhibition will enable the community and stakeholders to provide further input and feedback.

Following the exhibition period, feedback will be reviewed and reported back to Council, along with any proposed changes to the Plan. Council will be asked to adopt the Plan at this stage.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the Draft Arts, Culture and Events Plan (as at Attachment 1) being placed on public exhibition for a period of four weeks from 8 July to 5 August 2026 to seek community feedback.

COUNCIL PLAN

This aligns with the Council Plan 2025–2029, in particular:

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

4.3 (Cont.)

- Strategic Objective 2.2: An engaged and connected community.

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

- Strategic Objective 3.1: A vibrant, innovative and thriving local economy.

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles. This report aligns with principles B, C, D and H which are:

- B. Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.
- C. The economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.
- D. The municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.
- H. Regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making.

DISCUSSION**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of the draft Plan for public exhibition.

Public exhibition will provide a further opportunity for the community to understand and comment on Council's proposed approach to facilitating a connected and prosperous creative sector and a vibrant year-round calendar of events.

Background

Council's previous Arts and Culture Plan 2020-2024 has now expired and requires updating. An updated and expanded plan has been developed, incorporating events and festivals due to the highly interconnected nature of arts, culture and events.

4.3 (Cont.)

The draft Plan provides a 10-year framework to prioritise initiatives (including existing activities) that deliver the following outcomes which align to the Council Plan:

- An energised and inspired community (People)
- Vibrant places and spaces (Places)
- A thriving experience economy (Prosperity).

Options for Consideration

Council has the following options:

1. Approves the draft Plan being placed on public exhibition (Recommended)

This option enables community input prior to final consideration of the Plan and continues transparency and inclusivity in development of the Plan.

2. Defers approval of the Draft Plan being placed on public exhibition (Not recommended)

This option would delay community consideration of the draft Plan and would further extend the period where there is no strategic framework to guide the Shire's facilitation of a connected and prosperous creative sector and a vibrant year-round calendar of events.

ENGAGEMENT

The draft Plan has been developed through extensive community and stakeholder engagement, review of existing research and strategic documents, and analysis of local data. Together, these inputs have guided the development of the Plan's outcomes, priorities and actions.

Broad community consultation was undertaken in late 2025 with individuals via surveys and through face-to-face engagement in popular locations throughout the Shire, including:

- Libraries – Mornington and Hastings
- Markets – Dromana, Mount Eliza, Mornington Main Street (two occasions), Bittern Community, Hill and Ridge – Red Hill, Briars Craft
- Yawa Aquatic Centre
- Coolart House
- Sorrento Visitor Information Centre

4.3 (Cont.)

- Somerville Central.

These locations and the engagement activities undertaken were chosen to enable connection with a broad cross-section of the community. A total of 4,356 engagements and surveys were conducted. This engagement, coupled with input from across the Shire's internal teams, helped inform the development of the draft Plan.

Feedback on the draft Plan was sought from the Arts and Culture Advisory Panel (ACAP) as Council's advisory committee for the Shire's creative community. ACAP was generally supportive of the Plan but sought Council's consideration of inclusions relating to:

- Further investment in dedicated theatre and live music performance spaces
- Further investment in increasing the amenity of Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery (particularly as a venue that hosts nationally significant exhibitions).

ACAP also noted their in-principle support for further investigation into mechanisms to support the attraction of philanthropic funds but noted that this should not be at the expense of other Shire support.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

If approved for exhibition, the draft Plan will be published on the Shire's website and promoted through existing communications channels.

To ensure that stakeholders that have a strong interest in this Plan are aware of the opportunity to provide feedback, targeted communications will also be sent to the following (in accordance with any privacy considerations):

- Council's advisory committees
- Mornington Peninsula Music Network
- Mornington Peninsula History Network
- Creators Network
- Friends of the Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery
- Public Galleries Association Victoria
- Australian Museums and Galleries Association
- Local Artists formerly associated with Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery (MPRG)

4.3 (Cont.)

- Local Arts Professionals
- General public that come into MPRG
- General community who might participate in events and arts and culture programs
- Event organisers – business events, sports clubs, hall hirers, event permit applicants
- Regional and local tourism associations
- Trader groups.

LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Council has the power to plan for and deliver services under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Approving the draft Plan to be placed on public exhibition does not approve expenditure or commit Council to funding or delivering projects beyond those adopted through the Annual Budget process.

OFFICER DECLARATION

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a General or Material interest requiring disclosure.

ASSETS & INFRASTRUCTURE

4.4 Draft Bathing Box Policy

Issued By	Manager – Assets, Buildings & Property
Authorised By	Manager – Infrastructure & Waste Services
Document ID	A14011323
Briefing Note Number	BN2202 – 26 May 2026
Attachment(s)	1. Draft Bathing Box Policy 2026 ⇒

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bathing Boxes are iconic features of the Mornington Peninsula foreshore, valued for their historical and cultural significance. Council currently manages 819 of the 1,300 boatsheds and bathing boxes (bathing boxes) within the Shire. The remainder are managed by volunteer community Committees of Management.

The existing Boatshed and Bathing Box Policy was adopted by Council in 2000 and does not adequately address current legislative requirements, operational practices, or evolving community expectations.

The draft Bathing Box Policy (the draft Policy) (Attachment 1) provides a consistent, equitable and transparent framework for managing bathing boxes on Council owned and managed land across the Shire. It provides guidance for their appropriate use and maintenance, whilst recognising their sensitive coastal location and Council's obligations as committee of management of reserved Crown land.

It is recommended that Council undertake community engagement on the draft Policy, with the outcomes of that engagement to be reported to Council in October 2026 for consideration and adoption of an updated Policy.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the draft Bathing Box Policy (as at Attachment 1) to be placed on public exhibition for a period of six weeks from 13 July to 21 August 2026.

4.4 (Cont.)**COUNCIL PLAN**

This aligns with the Council Plan 2025–2029, in particular:

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

- Strategic Objective 1.1: Protected, resilient and enhanced natural environments.

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

- Strategic Objective 4.1: A financially sustainable, high-performing and well-governed Council.

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles. This report aligns with principles A, B, C and I which are:

- A. Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.
- B. Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.
- C. The economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.
- I. The transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

RELEVANT COUNCIL DECISIONS AND POLICIES

At the Council Meeting held on 8 November 2000, Council resolved to adopt the Boatshed and Bathing Box Policy.

At the Council Meeting held on 21 April 2020, Council resolved to place the draft Boatshed and Bathing Box Policy 2020 on public exhibition for a minimum period of six weeks and present a further report to Council at the conclusion of the public exhibition period.

At the Council Meeting on 25 August 2020, Council resolved to place the updated draft Boatshed and Bathing Box Policy 2020 on public exhibition for a further

4.4 (Cont.)

period of six weeks and present a further report to Council at the conclusion of the public exhibition period.

DISCUSSION**Purpose**

This report seeks to present the draft Bathing Box Policy 2026 to Council, obtain approval for public exhibition and outline the next steps for consideration and adoption of the draft Policy.

Background

Bathing Boxes are well recognised features of the Mornington Peninsula foreshore, valued for their historical and cultural significance as well as serving the functional purpose of storing boats and beach equipment. In conjunction with the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA), Council oversees the use, occupancy and management of Bathing Boxes. This includes licensing, transfers, and regular inspections to ensure compliance with State Government Guidelines and Policy.

The existing Boatshed and Bathing Box Policy was adopted by Council in 2000 and requires updating to reflect current best practice, strategic objectives and legislative requirements.

The new draft Policy applies to all Bathing Boxes located on land owned or managed by Council and provides guiding principles for the management of Bathing Boxes, including:

- Outlines the requirements for maintenance and structural works to Bathing Boxes. Only repair like for like replacement within the existing Bathing Box footprint will be permitted and new additions such as decks, ramps or extensions are prohibited.
- Licensee's will be required to obtain multiple approvals from Council (as land manager and planning authority) as well as DEECA for any structural works.
- Prohibition of the installation of water, gas, electrical, telecommunications or surveillance equipment, except for previously approved legacy connections, which may still require removal if unsafe or unauthorised.
- Controls extend to the surrounding area, with prohibitions on vegetation removal, planting, retaining walls, or sand removal other than minimal removal using hand tools.
- The transfer of any licence requires Council approval and the rectification of all compliance issues before a transfer will be granted.

4.4 (Cont.)

There are currently no formal licence agreements in place between Council and Bathing Box owners, creating a range of legal, operational and governance risks.

The draft Policy proposes to formalise licence arrangements with all Bathing Box owners within six months of its adoption. This is a critical measure to protect Council's interests and to ensure the appropriate management of public land. Licences will be issued in accordance with the DEECA licence template and for a term of 10 years.

Options for Consideration

Option 1 (recommended): That Council endorses the draft Policy to be placed on public exhibition for a period of six weeks.

If Council endorses the draft Policy, Shire officers will proceed to release the document for public consultation on the Shire's Shape Our Future page, providing the community with the opportunity to complete a short online survey and provide feedback on the draft Policy.

Option 2: That Council does not endorse the draft Policy.

If Council does not endorse the draft Policy, Shire officers must continue to rely on the current policy which does not provide the necessary framework and principles to manage Bathing Boxes on Council owned and managed land. Further, actions in this space have the potential to open Council to legal risk if the processes are not carried out according to the relevant legislation.

ENGAGEMENT

Following internal stakeholder feedback, the draft Policy and draft licence has been distributed to the Mornington Peninsula Bathing Box Association (MPBBA) and DEECA for their feedback. DEECA have advised that the draft document is satisfactory from its perspective, particularly in relation to works, footprint extensions and associated matters.

Shire officers have met with the MPBBA, who provided detailed feedback on the draft Policy and licence. The MPBBA's key requests include:

- Emphasising Council's role in advocating for coastal protection
- Reinvesting Bathing Box revenue into the foreshore reserve
- Exploring an ongoing foreshore advisory committee
- The need for solar connections and Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)
- Vegetation management

4.4 (Cont.)

- Consultation on at risk sites to investigate relocation or co-fund solutions.

Where this feedback relates to the objectives and scope of the Bathing Box Policy, it has been considered in the development of the draft Policy. While feedback relating to tenure and occupancy has been taken into account in developing the draft licence.

It is recommended that the draft Policy be placed on public consultation for a period of six weeks on Shire's Shape Our Future page. Direct notification of the consultation will be provided to the MPBBA, all Bathing Box owners (located on Council owned or managed land), the Foreshore Committee of Managements and DEECA. This will provide the key stakeholders and the community with an opportunity to complete a short online survey and provide feedback on the document.

At the conclusion of the community engagement period, a report will be presented to Councillors at a future Council Briefing outlining the community's feedback on the draft Policy and to give Councillors an opportunity to consider the community's views, seek clarification from Shire officers and discuss any potential amendments to the draft Policy prior to formal consideration. Following this, a subsequent report will be brought to a future Council Meeting to present the finalised draft Policy, incorporating any revisions arising from both the community engagement process and Councillor feedback and seek a decision on the endorsement of the draft Policy.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

In conjunction with the Community Engagement Team, Shire officers have developed a Communications Plan to ensure the draft Policy and engagement, reaches the widest audience possible. In person pop up sessions, digital and social media tools will also be utilised to ensure community feedback is included.

LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The draft Policy has been drafted in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* and the relevant *DEECA Guidelines in relation to Bathing Boxes and Boatsheds*.

CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The draft Policy recognises that Bathing Boxes are located within highly dynamic coastal environments increasingly affected by climate change, including erosion, inundation, storm surge and long-term sea-level rise. The draft Policy supports sustainable foreshore management by prohibiting service connections and works that may disrupt natural coastal processes and ensuring all maintenance and structural works align with State coastal policy and environmental guidelines.

4.4 (Cont.)

Bathing Box licensees are required to accept all risks associated with climate impacts and maintain structures safely, so they do not create environmental or public safety risks.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The cost required to undertake the public exhibition, and community consultation has been factored into the adopted 2026/2027 Council Budget.

The adoption of the draft Policy will continue the existing fee and transfer arrangements for Bathing Box licences and transfer fees with annual escalations in line with budget income assumptions.

OFFICER DECLARATION

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a General or Material interest requiring disclosure.

4.5 RFT00024 Booked Hard and Green Waste Kerbside Collection Services – Tender Evaluation and Award

Issued By	Manager – Infrastructure & Waste Services
Authorised By	Director – Assets & Infrastructure
Document ID	A14049677
Briefing Note Number	Not applicable
Attachment(s)	1. RFT00024 Tender Evaluation Matrix (confidential) ⇒ 2. RFT00024 Contingency Calculation (confidential)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mornington Peninsula Shire (the Shire) offers a booked hard and green waste collection service delivered by a third-party contractor, allowing residents to arrange collections using either allocated vouchers or a fee for service option. The current service, delivered by Cleanaway Pty Ltd, commenced in October 2021 and expires in September 2026. No further extension options are available.

A tender for a replacement contract was released to market on 10 March 2026 and closed on 22 April 2026. Multiple tender submissions were received, which were evaluated by an Evaluation Panel under an approved Evaluation Plan. It is recommended that the tender from Tenderer A is accepted.

The contract will provide booked hard and green waste collections from October 2026 until October 2031, with a three-year extension option.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Having considered all tender submissions, hereby accepts the tender submission received from Tenderer A for the schedule of rates value of \$XXX plus \$XXX GST being for RFT00024 Booked Hard and Green Waste Kerbside Collection Services.**
- 2. Approves the contingency sum identified within the confidential Attachment 2 'RFT0024 Contingency Calculation', which is not to be disclosed to the tenderer until and if required by a contract variation.**
- 3. Delegates the execution of the contract for the awarded tender to the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to s11 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.**

4.5 (Cont.)**Part B**

That Attachments 1 and 2 to this report be retained as confidential items, pursuant to section 3 (1) (g) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, as they contain private commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would reasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

COUNCIL & WELLBEING PLAN

This aligns with the Council and Wellbeing Plan, in particular:

Theme 3: A flourishing, healthy and connected community.

- Strategic Objective 3.3: A community in which people from all generations, backgrounds and abilities can access local services.

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles. This report aligns with principles C, E and G which are:

- C. The economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted
- E. Innovation and continuous improvement are to be pursued
- G. The ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

RELEVANT COUNCIL DECISIONS AND POLICIES

In September 2021, Council resolved to award the contract for CN2536 Booked Hard and Green Waste following a competitive procurement process.

This tender aligns with Council's Beyond Zero Waste Strategy 2030.

COLLABORATIVE PROCUREMENT

Not applicable.

DISCUSSION**Purpose**

Council is seeking to appoint a suitably qualified contractor to provide booked hard and green waste collections across the Shire.

4.5 (Cont.)

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the results of the tender process and evaluation for RFT00024 Booked Hard and Green Waste Kerbside Collection Services and identifies a preferred tenderer.

Background

Council issues owners and occupiers of residential tenements with four (4) waste vouchers per year. Each voucher may be used by the owner or occupier to:

- Book a collection from the kerbside of hard waste or green waste, the provision of which is the subject of this report.
- Deliver hard waste or green waste to the Shire's Resource Recovery Centres.

Council currently provides the booked collection service through a third-party contractor, with the current contract due to expire in September 2026 with no further extensions available. On 10 March 2026 a tender was released for the provision of a booked hard and green waste kerbside collection service. Multiple submissions were received and evaluated.

RFT00024 Booked Hard and Green Waste Kerbside Collection Services replaces the current contract 'CN2536 Booked Hard and Green Waste Kerbside Collection Service', currently undertaken by Cleanaway Pty Ltd. This contract commenced on 1 October 2021 and expires on 30 September 2026.

The new contract builds in necessary service enhancements. These enhancements were determined from a review and include:

1. Provision of a Council operated booking system, allowing for:
 - Better oversight of voucher usage and a reduction in the reliance on physical waste vouchers.
 - Automatically generated email notifications to residents to confirm a booking and completed collection
 - An option to implement an online booking component to allow residents to request a booking via the Council website.
2. Increased resource recovery and diversion from landfill, using the following contract mechanisms:
 - Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) and incentives to recover and recycle at least 25% of collected hard waste

4.5 (Cont.)

- Requirement for the contractor to identify and recover priority recyclable material, such as green waste, cardboard, metal, e-waste, white goods, mattresses, tyres and polystyrene
 - Material specific monthly volume report.
3. Option for Council to request for the contractor to remove hazardous waste that has been presented for collection, as required
 4. Revised contract price adjustment mechanism to more accurately incorporate cumulative inflation into adjusted contract rates, preserving the long-term viability and financial sustainability of the contract.

Options for Consideration

All tenders were conforming and are considered capable of delivering the service; however, Tenderer A was selected as the preferred tenderer through a tender evaluation process detailed in Attachment 1 'RFT00024 Tender Evaluation Matrix'.

There are no additional options for consideration in relation to this report.

TENDER INVITATION

The tender was released to the market on 10 March 2026 via the Shire's website, Tenderlink, and LinkedIn.

The tender closed at 3.00pm on 22 April 2026.

Multiple submissions were received.

TENDER EVALUATION

All submissions passed mandatory gateways and were deemed to be conforming submissions.

Submissions were assessed against the following criteria:

Criteria	Weighting
Insurances	Degree of Risk
Compliance with Tender Schedules	Pass/Fail
Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Management Plan	Degree of Risk
Business Continuity Plan (BCP)	Degree of Risk

4.5 (Cont.)

Risk Management Plan	Degree of Risk
Privacy Plan	Degree of Risk
Departures from proposed Contract	Degree of Risk
Price/Best Value for Money	40%
Experience, Capability, and Past Performance	15%
Plan for Proposed Services	25%
Innovation and Social Responsibility	7.5%
Environmental Sustainability	12.5%
Total	100%

Evaluation was guided by an approved Evaluation Plan.

A summary of the findings from the Evaluation Panel against the above key evaluation criteria have been included as a confidential attachment to the report Attachment 1, 'RFT00024 Tender Evaluation Matrix'.

This tender has been undertaken during a period of market uncertainty given cost escalations due to the conflict in Iran. However, the market remains competitive with prices aligning to current budget forecasts. Prices are also relatively stable when comparing to current Council rates under the existing contract.

EVALUATION PANEL

The Evaluation Panel consisted of:

Name and Title	Role in Evaluation Process i.e. price/non-price/independent/ financial/technical etc.	Scoring or Non-Scoring Member
Steve Hall, Contracts Coordinator – Waste Collection	Evaluation Panel Member	Scoring
Domenic Mazza, Contracts Coordinator – Waste Disposal	Evaluation Panel Member	Scoring

4.5 (Cont.)

Jess Cooper, Zero Waste Officer	Evaluation Panel Member	Scoring
Chester Hart, Team Leader – Circular Economy and Waste	Technical Advisor	Non-Scoring
Daniel Kabel, Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Infrastructure Officer	Technical Advisor	Non-Scoring
Jane Symon, Procurement Business Partner	Evaluation Chair	Non-Scoring
Tara Lacey, Senior Finance Business Partner	Financial	Scoring – Financial Only

PROBITY ATTESTATION

All panel members entered into a Related Interests and Non-disclosure Agreement within the Evaluation Plan document for this tender. The Evaluation Chair monitored the tender and evaluation process to ensure all possible measures were taken to maintain transparency and probity.

CONTRACT VALUE

\$XX,XXX,XXX inclusive of GST.

TERM OF CONTRACT

The contract is for an initial period of five (5) years, with a three (3) year extension option.

DELEGATED AUTHORITY ASSESSMENT

Yes/No	Instrument of Delegation Conditions
Yes	The full amount is within budget
Yes	That the recommended Tenderer is the lowest cost tender
	That the recommended Tender is NOT the lowest cost tender and is >\$200,000.01 therefore Council determination required.

It has been determined in accordance with current Instruments of Delegation that Council will be the final decision-making authority.

4.5 (Cont.)**OFFICER DECLARATION**

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a General or Material conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

OFFICE OF THE CEO

4.6 Draft Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy

Issued By	Manager – Governance and Risk
Authorised By	Manager – Governance and Risk
Document ID	A14048831
Briefing Note Number	Not applicable
Attachment(s)	1. Draft – Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy ⇒ 2. Draft – Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy – Track Changes ⇒ 3. Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy – Current ⇒

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the revised Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy (the Policy) for adoption (Attachment 1). The policy was originally adopted on 7 December 2021 in accordance with section 45 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, it provides a framework outlining the employment conditions, performance management and remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy (as at Attachment 1).

COUNCIL PLAN

This aligns with the Council Plan 2025–2029, in particular:

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

- Strategic Objective 4.1: A financially sustainable, high-performing and well-governed Council.

4.6 (Cont.)**GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES**

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles. This report aligns with principles A, E and I which are:

- A. Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.
- E. Innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued.
- I. The transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

RELEVANT COUNCIL DECISIONS AND POLICIES

Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy – adopted 7 December 2021 (Attachment 3).

DISCUSSION**Purpose**

The policy was originally adopted in 2021 to provide a framework outlining the employment conditions, performance management and remuneration of the Mornington Peninsula Shire CEO.

The policy has undergone a comprehensive review in accordance with good governance and legislative expectations to ensure it is aligned with regulatory and organisational requirements.

Background

Key components of the policy that were identified for review:

- Chairing of the Committee
- Management of absenteeism
- Councillor membership
- Appointment and performance review of an Independent Advisor
- Quorum requirements
- Points of contact.

A summary of key changes to the policy arising from the review include:

4.6 (Cont.)

Key Change	Summary
Policy template	The Policy has been uploaded to the current policy template.
General	Definitions and abbreviations have been updated for example Chief Executive Officer has been replaced with CEO and duplications have been removed.
Independent Advisor title change	Change title to Independent Member. They are an Independent Member of the Committee to provide advice.
Executive Search Consultant title change	Change title to Independent Recruitment Consultant.
Annual mid-year review	Included to ensure there is provision for mid-year performance monitoring.
Probationary Period	Included to ensure there is provision for the Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Committee (CERC) to convene and provide advice to Council at least four weeks prior to the expiry.
Chair of the Committee	The Independent Member is to Chair the Committee Meeting.
Quorum	Not less than five Councillors.
Administrative Support	Added the Manager People and Culture to assist with the Recruitment of the CEO if required.
Independent Member Recruitment	Strengthened the Independent Member requirements and qualifications.

While updates have been made, the fundamental intent of the policy remains unchanged.

Options for Consideration

Option 1 – Adopt the updated CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy (Recommended)

4.6 (Cont.)

Adopting the updated policy supports compliance with governance and legislative expectations. The updated policy provides greater clarity, transparency and consistency in CEO employment and remuneration arrangements, including clear articulation of roles, responsibilities and associated processes.

Option 2 – Do not adopt the updated CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy (not recommended)

Not adopting the updated policy presents increased risk of governance and compliance issues arising from outdated policy provisions. There is potential reputational risk due to lack of transparency and failure to demonstrate regular policy review along with a missed opportunity to clarify roles, responsibilities and processes related to CEO employment and remuneration.

ENGAGEMENT

Feedback on the policy was provided by the CERC as well as the appointed Municipal Monitors.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Following adoption, the updated CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy will be published on the Shire's website.

LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

In accordance with section 45 of the *Local Government Act 2020* Council is required to adopt and keep in force a Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy.

CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The adoption of the updated policy does not introduce any financial or resource implications beyond existing CEO employment arrangements.

OFFICER DECLARATION

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a General or Material interest requiring disclosure.

4.7 Enterprise Risk Management Policy

Issued By	Manager – Governance and Risk
Authorised By	Chief Executive Officer
Document ID	A14047242
Briefing Note Number	Nil
Attachment(s)	1. Risk Management Policy 2022 ⇒ 2. Enterprise Risk Management Policy 2026 ⇒ 3. Enterprise Risk Management Policy - Summary of Changes ⇒ 4. Enterprise Risk Management Framework 2022 ⇒

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council last adopted a Risk Management Policy on 5 April 2022 (Attachment 1). As part of an uplift of risk management across Council, a rewritten Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Policy has now been drafted (Attachment 2) and is presented for Council adoption.

For Mornington Peninsula Shire Council risk management is central to responsible and effective decision making, with the ERM Policy noting:

“Effective risk management is an enabler for Mornington Peninsula Shire Council (MPSC) to achieve its objectives, realise the Council Plan and deliver services that benefit the Mornington Peninsula Shire community.”

The ERM Policy sets out the context for risk management and Council’s risk appetite, as well as identifying key roles and responsibilities.

As part of a review of the core risk management documents, it is recommended that the ERM Framework becomes a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), rather than Council, approved document. The Framework operationalises how risk management works at the Shire and this detail needs more frequent updates as processes and systems change.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Rescinds the Risk Management Policy 2022 (as at Attachment 1)**
- 2. Rescinds the Risk Management Framework 2022 (as at Attachment 4)**

4.7 (Cont.)**3. Adopts the Enterprise Risk Management Policy 2026 (as at Attachment 2).****COUNCIL PLAN**

This aligns with the Council Plan 2025–2029, in particular:

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

- Strategic Objective 4.1: A financially sustainable, high-performing and well-governed Council.

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles. This report aligns with principle B which is:

- B. Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

RELEVANT COUNCIL DECISIONS AND POLICIES

Council adopted the Risk Management Policy and the Risk Management Framework on 5 April 2022.

Reviewing the Policy, as well as the Framework, are a 2025–26 Annual Plan Action.

DISCUSSION**Purpose**

An updated ERM Policy (the Policy) is provided for Council approval. The Policy outlines the key roles and responsibilities for risk management at the Shire, as well as a high-level view of Council's risk appetite.

Background

Feedback from Council, the Audit and Risk Committee, Executive Team and Shire officers has been incorporated into the draft Policy. The Policy has been completely rewritten so a summary is provided to explain the reason of what has changed from the 2022 Policy, and why (Attachment 3).

It was timely to review Council's risk management documents following adoption of the new Council Plan in late 2025, leading to the creation of a new Risk Appetite Statement and revision of Councils' strategic risks.

4.7 (Cont.)

The ERM Framework has also been rewritten and will replace the Risk Management Framework 2022 (Attachment 4). It is considered reasonable that the new ERM Framework be a CEO adopted document as it requires more frequent updating of specific details to reflect evolving practice and process improvement. As such it is recommended that the Risk Management Framework 2022 be rescinded by Council.

ENGAGEMENT

Council's Audit and Risk Committee reviewed the ERM Policy in February 2026 and provided feedback.

Council were briefed on the ERM update on 26 May 2026.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Extensive awareness raising and training will be rolled out as part of the implementation of the Policy and associated documents.

LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

A risk management policy and a framework are two items Council reports on in the Governance and Management Checklist section of the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework. These reports are available on the [Know Your Council](#) website.

CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

No climate and sustainability considerations are made in this report.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

No financial considerations are made in this report.

OFFICER DECLARATION

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a General or Material interest requiring disclosure.

4.8 Audit and Risk Committee Chair Recruitment

Issued By	Manager Governance and Risk
Authorised By	Chief Executive Officer
Document ID	A14049698
Briefing Note Number	Not applicable
Attachment(s)	1. Audit and Risk Committee Charter 17 February 2026 ⇒ 2. Revised Audit and Risk Committee Charter June 2026 – marked up ⇒ 3. Revised Audit and Risk Committee Charter June 2026 – clean copy ⇒

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) comprises five members: two Councillors appointed annually by Council; and three independent members (one of whom is the Chair) appointed by Council for a three-year term, commencing on staggered dates to maintain a level of continuity in knowledge.

The current Chair and independent member, Lisa Tripodi, will conclude her third three-year term on 31 October 2026. Ms Tripodi is unable to have her position extended, as the ARC Charter (the Charter) (Attachment 1) limits members to a maximum of three x three-year terms (a total of nine years).

Council also appoints the Chair of the Committee. It is proposed that Council will recruit for a Chair of the Committee, who will also be appointed as one of the three independent members.

A revised ARC Charter is provided for Council approval: a 'marked up' version of the draft Charter is provided as Attachment 2 and a clean copy of the draft Charter as Attachment 3.

The revised Charter:

- Articulates the broad role of the Chair
- Outlines the process by which Council appoints an Evaluation Panel to recommend a preferred candidate for Council appointment
- Updates the process for minutes to be confirmed before being presented to Council for noting

4.8 (Cont.)

- Notes the Committee's formal role under the *Local Government Act 2020* to receive reports on the reimbursement of expenses to Councillors and members of delegated Committees
- Requires independent committee members to complete an annual personal interest return, similar to Councillors and senior Shire officers, though for independent members this would not be made public.

Council is requested to appoint members of an Evaluation Panel who will oversee the recruitment process culminating in the recommendation of a preferred candidate for Council appointment.

RECOMMENDATION**That Council:**

- 1. Rescinds the Audit and Risk Committee Charter 17 February 2026 (Attachment 1)**
- 2. Adopts the revised Audit and Risk Committee Charter June 2026 (Attachment 3)**
- 3. Endorses the creation of an Evaluation Panel to consider applications for the position of Audit and Risk Committee Chair and recommend a preferred candidate to Council**
- 4. Appoints the Mayor, current Audit and Risk Committee Chair and the Manager Governance and Risk to the Evaluation Panel.**

COUNCIL PLAN

This aligns with the Council Plan 2025–2029, in particular:

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

- Strategic Objective 4.1: A financially sustainable, high-performing and well-governed Council.

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (LGA 2020) states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles. This report aligns with principle B which is:

4.8 (Cont.)

- B. Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

RELEVANT COUNCIL DECISIONS AND POLICIES

- 17 February 2026: Council adopted the current ARC Charter.

DISCUSSION**Purpose**

This report outlines the proposed process to recruit for the vacancy created when Lisa Tripodi's term as an independent member, and as Chair of the Committee is completed on 31 October 2026.

Background

In reviewing the proposed process to recruit of an independent member, Councillors suggested this process could be combined with the recruitment of the Chair.

The current Charter is largely silent on the process to appoint an independent member and / or a Chair of the Committee. Section 4.12 notes that Council will appoint the Chair, and section 4.11 that the Chair must be an independent member. Logically this implies a person needs to be appointed as an independent member first and then appointed as a Chair. However, this could be achieved in the one recruitment process and one Council report.

More importantly, the broader role of the Chair is not described in the current Charter outside chairing ARC meetings. The revised Charter is recommended to clarify the Chair's role, appointment and address other gaps.

Options for Consideration

The proposed changes incorporated into the revised ARC Charter are discussed below.

Role of Chair

The current Charter only notes the Chair's role during ARC meetings, however the Chair performs critical roles outside this, liaising widely with members and stakeholders of the ARC between meetings, and working with Shire officers on the operations of the ARC including the Work Plan, meeting agendas, papers and minutes, the bi-annual Report on Operations, and reviewing the ARC's performance and recommending improvement actions.

4.8 (Cont.)

Being able to refer to the section of the Charter that describes the Chair's role would support the recruitment process, both the range of responsibility as well as the work outside ARC meetings. The updated Section 4.14 describes the Chair's role.

Recruitment of Chair and Independent Members

Section 4.12 notes that the Chair role will be recruited for, as opposed to appointed from an existing independent member. Additionally, it calls out that a Chair will be sought, based on their leadership experience in a comparable role, which is over and above the skills and experience sought for an independent member.

The current Charter is silent about the recruitment process for the Chair and independent members. Section 4.14 to 4.16 explain the creation of an Evaluation Panel by Council, its composition and role to recommend a preferred candidate. This is intended to outline a basic, rather than prescriptive, process.

ARC Minutes

The May 2026 ARC meeting endorsed a change in the process for minutes to be presented to Council. Currently, Council are provided draft ARC minutes to note and advised that they would be notified if there were any significant changes once the minutes are presented at the next ARC meeting for confirmation.

Section 6.2 and 6.3 of the revised Charter, review the process such that the ARC would review and confirm the minutes 'out of session' and then provide these to Council as confirmed minutes.

Reporting on Reimbursement of Expenses of Councillors

Section 40 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires the ARC to be provided the details of all reimbursements of expenses to Councillors and members of delegate committees. Although the Committee has been receiving these reports, its inclusion in the ARC Charter has been overlooked as it is raised in part of *the Act* separate to the ARC (S53 and %4).

Personal Interest Returns

Independent ARC members are accountable under *the Act* for declaring conflicts of interest. There is however no provision in the Charter for how these conflicts are managed other than being raised individually at the beginning of each ARC meeting (S6.6).

Given the wide range of matters discussed at an ARC meeting, and that those reporting and presenting to the ARC will be unaware of any 'interests' an independent member may have, it is proposed that independent members would

4.8 (Cont.)

complete a personal interest return annually, which would not be made public as is the case for Councillors and Shire officers. This would enable the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to foresee potential conflicts and manage these with members prior to the ARC meeting and papers being circulated.

ENGAGEMENT

The proposed changes incorporated into the draft Charter have been discussed with the ARC members and Council.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

A communications plan is not required for this decision as the ARC is an advisory committee of Council. Regular attendees will be advised of the decision and recruitment through the usual ARC meeting papers.

LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The ARC is an advisory committee to Council. Members are appointed by Council: three independent members for staggered three-year terms and two Councillors for one calendar year each December. The ARC is governed by the ARC Charter adopted by Council.

The ARC's establishment, responsibilities and operations are consistent with the requirements of sections 53 and 54 of *the Act*.

CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

There are no climate and sustainability considerations in this report.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial considerations in this report.

OFFICER DECLARATION

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a General or Material interest requiring disclosure.

5 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

6 URGENT BUSINESS

Under Council's Governance Rules, no business may be admitted as urgent business unless it:

1. Relates to a matter which has arisen since distribution of the Agenda.
2. Cannot because of its urgency, be reasonably listed in the Agenda of the next Council Meeting.
3. Councillors by a majority vote, vote in favour of a matter being dealt with as urgent business.

7 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil.