

M(11) – 25 NOVEMBER 2025

# Ordinary Council Meeting

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Minutes

Notice is hereby given that the next **Ordinary Council Meeting** of the **Alpine Shire Council** was held in the Bright Council Chambers, 2 Churchill Avenue, Bright on **25 November 2025** commencing at **5:00 pm**.

## **PRESENT**

### **COUNCILLORS**

Cr John Andersen

Cr Dave Byrne

Cr Gareth Graham

Cr Sarah Nicholas

Cr Jean-Pierre Ronco

Cr Peter Smith

Cr Noah Tanzen

### **OFFICERS**

Will Jeremy - Chief Executive Officer

Sarah Buckly - Director Assets

Nathalie Cooke - Director Corporate and Community

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# 1 Interim Chairperson

## 1.1 INTERIM CHAIRPERSON

Section 25(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (LGA 2020) states that the election of Mayor must be chaired by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and be conducted in accordance with the Governance Rules.

Chapter 2 of Council's Governance Rules further steps out the process for the Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor, including the requirement for the CEO to preside at the election of a Councillor to the office of Mayor. The elected Mayor will then preside over the election of Deputy Mayor.

The Chief Executive Officer will assume the role of Interim Chairperson to deal with Items 2 to 9.1.2 of this Agenda.

## 2 Recording and livestreaming of Council meetings

*The CEO will read the following statement:*

All council meetings are filmed with both video and audio being recorded.

Video is focused on a specific area however audio from the entire room is captured.

In common with all narrative during Council meetings, verbal responses to congratulations, obituaries and question time will not be recorded in the written minutes. By submitting a question, you consent to your question being read aloud at the meeting.

The reasoning behind recording council meetings is to hold us more accountable and improve transparency of Council's decision-making to our community.

The full meeting is being streamed live on Council's YouTube channel which is "Alpine Shire Council" and will also be available on the YouTube channel shortly after this meeting.

## 3 Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians and recognition of all people

*All to stand, the CEO will read the following statement:*

Alpine Shire Council acknowledges the Taungurung peoples as the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we are meeting today. Council also acknowledges all of the Traditional Owners of the wider lands of the area known as the Alpine Shire.

We also acknowledge those people who have contributed to the rich fabric of our community and strive to make wise decisions that will improve the quality of life for all.

## 4 Confirmation of minutes

### 4.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING M(10) HELD ON 28 OCTOBER 2025

*Cr Byrne*

*Cr Andersen*

*That the minutes of M(10) 28 October 2025 as circulated be confirmed.*

*Carried Unanimously*

## 5 Apologies

## 6 Obituaries / Congratulations

Refer to Alpine Shire Council's website [www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au) for its YouTube live-streaming recording for responses to obituaries and congratulations.

## 7 Declarations by Councillors of Conflict of Interest

Regulation 7 of the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020 provides the following exemptions from conflict of interest requirements for matters being considered at this meeting:

- (1) For the purposes of section 129(g) of the LGA 2020, the following matters are prescribed to be exempt -
  - a) the nomination or appointment by the Council of a Councillor to a position for which the Councillor will not be remunerated;
  - b) the nomination or appointment by the Council of a Councillor to a position in the Municipal Association of Victoria or in another body that has the purpose of representing the interests of Councils;
  - d) the nomination of a Councillor for election to the office of Mayor or Deputy Mayor;
  - e) the election of a Councillor to the office of Mayor or Deputy Mayor under section 25 or 27 of the LGA 2020;
  - f) the appointment of a Councillor to the office of Acting Mayor under section 20B of the LGA 2020.
  - k) the appointment of a Councillor as a member or chairperson of a delegated committee
- (2) For the purposes of section 129(g) of the LGA 2020, the circumstances in which a Councillor carries out a function in any of the following positions are prescribed to be exempt -
  - e) as a representative of the Council, or Councils, to the Municipal Association of Victoria or in another body that has a purpose of representing the interests of a Council or Councils;
  - g) as a representative of the Council (with the Council's approval) to an organisation if the Councillor receives no remuneration as that representative.

## 8 Public Questions

Public Question time will be held in accordance with the following provisions of Council's Governance Rules:

### G5 Public Question Time

GS3. Questions submitted to Council may be:

Submitted as a "Question on Notice" to the Chief Executive Officer in writing by 5pm on the day prior to the Council meeting, stating the name and contact details of the person submitting the question; or

During meetings held wholly in-person, at the Chairperson's discretion, asked directly by a member of the public gallery at the Council meeting during public question time.

GS4. No person may submit or ask more than two questions at any one meeting.

GS7. Questions should be limited to items of public interest, and are not intended to replace Council's ordinary Customer Request process. A question may be disallowed by the Chairperson if the Chairperson determines that it:

- is not related to an item on the agenda;
- relates to a matter outside the duties, functions and powers of Council;
- is defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable in language or substance;
- deals with a subject matter already answered;
- is aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or a member of Council staff;
- relates to confidential information as defined in s3 of the Act;
- relates to the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer; or
- relates to any other matter which the Council considers would prejudice the Council or any person.

Refer to Alpine Shire Council's website [www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au); for its YouTube live-streaming recording for responses to questions.



## 9 Presentation of reports by officers

### 9.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - WILL JEREMY

#### 9.1.1 Mayoral Term

##### INTRODUCTION

The *Local Government Act 2020* (LGA 2020) sets out several requirements for the election of Mayor including the timing of the election of Mayor and the length of the term.

Section 26(1) of the LGA 2020 requires the Mayor to be elected no later than one month after the date of a general election.

Section 26(3) further requires Council to resolve to elect a Mayor for a term of either one year or two years before electing the Mayor. Whether a Mayor is elected for a one year or two year term, the next election of the Mayor must be held on a day that is as close to the end of that term as is practicable. It is likely that the election of the Mayor will be considered at the relevant November Ordinary Council Meeting.

Chapter 2 of Council's Governance Rules further support the requirement to set the term of office prior to electing the Mayor.

The Chief Executive Officer will call for a motion to set the term of the Office of the Mayor (one year or two years).

*Cr Nicholas*

*Cr Andersen*

*That the term of office of the Mayor be set for a one year term.*

*Carried Unanimously*

## 9.1.2 Election of Mayor

### INTRODUCTION

The Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020) sets out the requirements for the election of Mayor.

Section 25(1) of the LGA 2020 requires the meeting to elect the Mayor to be open to the public.

Any Councillor is eligible for election or re-election to the office of Mayor.

### *Role of the Mayor*

Section 18 of the LGA 2020 sets out the role of the Mayor:

1. The role of the Mayor is to -
  - a. chair Council meetings; and
  - b. be the principal spokesperson for the Council; and
  - c. lead engagement with the municipal community on the development of the Council Plan; and
  - d. report to the municipal community, at least once each year, on the implementation of the Council Plan; and
  - e. promote behaviour among Councillors that is consistent with the Model Councillor Code of Conduct; and
  - f. assist Councillors to understand their role; and
  - g. take a leadership role in ensuring the regular review of the performance of the Chief Executive Officer; and
  - h. provide advice to the Chief Executive Officer when the Chief Executive Officer is setting the agenda for Council meetings; and
  - i. perform civic and ceremonial duties on behalf of the Council.
2. The Mayor is not eligible to be elected to the office of Deputy Mayor.

### *Specific powers of the Mayor*

Section 19 of the LGA 2020 sets out the specific powers of the Mayor:

1. The Mayor has the following specific powers -
  - a. to appoint a Councillor to be the chair of a delegated committee;
  - b. to direct a Councillor, subject to any procedures or limitations specified in the Governance Rules, to leave a Council meeting if the behaviour of the Councillor is preventing the Council from conducting its business;
  - c. to require the Chief Executive Officer to report to the Council on the implementation of a Council decision.
2. An appointment under subsection (1)(a) prevails over any appointment of a chair of a delegated committee by the Council.

*The Chief Executive Officer will call for nominations and a seconder for the Office of Mayor in accordance with Chapter 2 of Council's Governance Rules.*

*Cllr Tanzen*

*Cllr Byrne*

*Nominate Cllr Graham*

*Accepted*

*Cllr Andersen*

*Cllr Tanzen*

*Nominate Cllr Nicholaas*

*Accepted*

*Carried, majority vote. Cllr Graham elected to Mayor.*

*The Chief Executive Officer will invite the newly elected Mayor to address the meeting.*

Chief Executive Officer to vacate the role as Interim Chair and the Mayor to assume role as Chairperson.

### 9.1.3 Office and term of Deputy Mayor

#### INTRODUCTION

Section 20A of the Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020) provides that Council may establish an office of Deputy Mayor.

The LGA 2020 requires Council to establish the term of office of Deputy Mayor for either one year or two years prior to electing the Deputy Mayor.

As for the Mayor, the next election of Deputy Mayor must be held on a day that is as close to the end of that term as possible.

The election of the Deputy Mayor will be considered at the relevant November Ordinary Council meeting.

Where Council chooses not to appoint a Deputy Mayor, it must follow the provisions of 20B of the LGA 2020, and appoint an Acting Mayor where:

- a. The Mayor is unable for any reason to attend a Council meeting or part of a Council meeting; or
- b. The Mayor is incapable of performing the duties of the office of Mayor for any reason, including illness; or
- c. The office of Mayor is vacant.

Where Council appoints a Deputy Mayor under s20A of the LGA 2020, the Deputy Mayor must perform the role of the Mayor, and may exercise any of the powers of the Mayor in the situations a-c above.

Council has historically set the term of Deputy Mayor to match the term of the Mayor.

The Chief Executive Officer will call for a motion to create an office of Deputy Mayor, and set the term of the Office of the Deputy Mayor (one year or two years).

The purpose of the report should be stated, along with the reasons it is being put to Council.

*Cr Ronco*

*Cr Smith*

*That Council:*

- 1. Establishes an office of Deputy Mayor; and*
- 2. The term of office of the Deputy Mayor be aligned to the term of office of the Mayor.*

*Carried Unanimously*

## 9.1.4 Election of Deputy Mayor

### INTRODUCTION

The *Local Government Act 2020* (LGA 2020) requires that the steps for election of Deputy Mayor must follow the same process as for the election of Mayor.

Any Councillor is eligible for election or re-election to the office of Deputy Mayor.

### *Role of the Deputy Mayor*

Section 21 of the LGA 2020 sets out the role and powers of the Deputy Mayor:

The Deputy Mayor must perform the role of the Mayor and may exercise any of the powers of the Mayor if—

- a. the Mayor is unable for any reason to attend a Council meeting or part of a Council meeting; or
- b. the Mayor is incapable of performing the duties of the office of Mayor for any reason, including illness; or
- c. the office of Mayor is vacant.

The role of Mayor is set out in item 9.1.2 of this meeting.

*The Mayor will call for nominations and a seconder for the Office of Deputy Mayor in accordance with Chapter 2 of Council's Governance Rules.*

*Nominate Cllr Ronco*

*Moved: Cllr Byrne*

*Seconded: Cllr Andersen*

*Accepted*

*Nominate Cllr Nicholas*

*Moved: Cllr Smith*

*Seconded: Cllr Andersen*

*Accepted*

*Carried, majority vote. Cllr Nicholas elected to Deputy Mayor.*

### 9.1.5 Contracts approved under delegation by the CEO

*Cr Nicholas*

*Cr Smith*

*That the Capital Project Contracts approved under delegation by the CEO be noted.*

*Carried Unanimously*

Quotation Recommendation		Process: RFQ
Title:	Riverside Park Upgrade	
Tenderer:	McPhersons Earthmoving, Myrtleford	
Budget (\$ excl GST):	\$100,000.00	
Contract (\$ excl GST):	\$90,256.50	

Quotation Recommendation		Process: RFQ
Title:	Dinner Plain Tennis Court Resurface	
Tenderer:	Total Sports and Floor, Albury	
Budget (\$ excl GST):	\$60,000.00	
Contract (\$ excl GST):	\$80,072.12	

Quotation Recommendation		Process: RFQ
Title:	Asphalt Overlay 25-26	
Tenderer:	Pavecon, Albury/Wodonga	
Budget (\$ excl GST):	\$133,000.00	
Contract (\$ excl GST):	\$120,942.65	

## 9.1.6 Schedule of Ordinary Council Meetings for 2026

### INTRODUCTION

This report seeks Council's endorsement of the proposed ordinary meeting schedule for the 2026 calendar year.

*Cr Tanzen*

*Cr Andersen*

*That Council:*

1. *Endorses the schedule of Ordinary Council Meetings to be held in 2026 as follows:*

<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>
<i>27 January 2026</i>	<i>5pm</i>	<i>Bright</i>
<i>24 February 2026</i>	<i>5pm</i>	<i>Bright</i>
<i>31 March 2026</i>	<i>5pm</i>	<i>Mount Beauty</i>
<i>28 April 2026</i>	<i>5pm</i>	<i>Bright</i>
<i>26 May 2026</i>	<i>5pm</i>	<i>Myrtleford</i>
<i>30 June 2026</i>	<i>5pm</i>	<i>Bright</i>
<i>28 July 2026</i>	<i>5pm</i>	<i>Bright</i>
<i>25 August 2026</i>	<i>5pm</i>	<i>Bright</i>
<i>29 September 2026</i>	<i>5pm</i>	<i>Bright</i>
<i>27 October 2026</i>	<i>5pm</i>	<i>Bright</i>
<i>24 November 2026</i>	<i>5pm</i>	<i>Bright</i>
<i>15 December 2026</i>	<i>5pm</i>	<i>Bright</i>

2. *Publishes the notice of Council's 2026 ordinary meeting schedule on its website;*
3. *Notes that notice of any change required to the 2026 ordinary meeting schedule (date or location) be given at least six (6) days prior to the earlier of the originally scheduled or revised date; and*
4. *Notes that meetings held outside of the Council Chambers in Bright may be recorded and not livestreamed and the recordings will be made available on its website the day after the meeting.*

*Carried Unanimously*

### BACKGROUND

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules Chapter 3 section C1, Council must set the date, time, and locations of Ordinary Council Meetings.

## ISSUES

### *Scheduling of meetings for 2026 Ordinary Council Meetings*

In 2023 Council moved its regular ordinary meeting cycle from the first Tuesday of the month to the last Tuesday of the month to better align the timings with administrative deadlines, many of which fall at the end of the month. Council will continue to hold its Ordinary Council Meetings on the last Tuesday of the month except for December when it will be held on the third Tuesday of the month.

### *Timing of December meeting*

The December ordinary meeting be held on the third Tuesday of the month prior to the office closure for 2026.

### *Start time for Ordinary Council meetings*

Council will continue to commence meetings at 5pm.

### *Alternative locations*

Council will host one meeting in Myrtleford and one meeting in Mount Beauty during 2026.

### *Special meetings of Council*

In accordance with Council's Governance Rule C2 a Special Council Meeting may be called in the following manner:

- By resolution of the Council; or
- By written notice from the Mayor; or
- By written notice from at least three Councillors; or
- By the Chief Executive Officer immediately following a general election to allow:
  - i. Councillors to take their oath or affirmation of office, or
  - ii. An election of Mayor or Deputy Mayor.

When calling for a Special Council Meeting, the date and time of the meeting and the business to be transacted at the meeting must be specified. On this basis a schedule for Special Council Meetings cannot be prepared.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The recommendation is in accordance with the following Priorities of the Council Plan 2025-2029:

- 1.1 Our highest priority is improving our communication – both listening and providing information and feedback
- 2.11 We prioritise effective governance to ensure transparent oversight of our operations



## FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The cost to host and livestream / record Council meetings is funded from Council's operational budget.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

The key risks and mitigation actions/controls are:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Inability to achieve or maintain a quorum	Unlikely	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Executive Officer to adjourn the meeting to another date and time in accordance with Council's Governance Rule E2.</li> </ul>
Connectivity issues	Possible	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All meetings are recorded and will be made available on Council's YouTube Channel as soon as practically possible.</li> </ul>

## CONCLUSION

That the schedule of proposed meeting dates, locations, and times for 2026 be endorsed by Council.

## DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and Chapter 7 section A6 of Council's Governance Rules, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Executive
- Manager Executive
- Executive Assistant (CEO)

## ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

## 9.1.7 Appointment of Councillors to represent Council on Committees and Boards

### INTRODUCTION

Council operates and participates in a range of special, advisory and external committees and groups. Appointment of Councillors to the various committees and groups will enable good governance and decision making for the 2025-26 year.

*Cr Tanzen*

*Cr Smith*

*That Councillors be appointed as Council's delegate on the following groups and committees:*

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Councillor representative(s) to November 2026</i>
<i>Municipal Association of Victoria</i>	<i>Mayor – Cr Gareth Graham Deputy Mayor – Cr Sarah Nicholas</i>
<i>Hume Region Local Government Network</i>	<i>Mayor - Cr Gareth Graham</i>
<i>CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee</i>	<i>Mayor – Cr Gareth Graham Deputy Mayor - Cr Sarah Nicholas Cr John Andersen</i>
<i>Rural Councils Victoria (RCV)</i>	<i>Mayor – Cr Gareth Graham</i>
<i>Taungurung - Local Government Forum</i>	<i>Mayor – Cr Gareth Graham</i>
<i>Alpine Shire Council – Audit and Risk Committee</i>	<i>Cr Dave Byrne Cr Peter Smith</i>
<i>Alpine Children's Services Inc.</i>	<i>Cr John Andersen</i>
<i>Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance</i>	<i>Cr Gareth Graham Cr John Andersen</i>
<i>Alpine Resilience Partnership</i>	<i>Cr Jean-Pierre Ronco Cr Noah Tanzen</i>
<i>North-East Local Government Waste and Recovery Forum</i>	<i>Mayor - Cr Gareth Graham</i>

*Carried Unanimously*

## BACKGROUND

### *Council Representation*

Councillor representation on committees is required for Council's own committees / groups, as well as other external committees.

### *Appointments*

Delegate and committee appointments are focussed on councillors' experience and areas of interest, and in some cases, appointments may be made on the basis of maintaining consistency.

### *Roles and Responsibilities*

The roles and responsibilities of councillors will vary depending on the position they are appointed to.

### *External Legal Entities*

Where a councillor is nominated to the board or executive of a separate legal entity, the nominee may take on fiduciary responsibilities in accordance with the *Corporations (Victoria) Act 1990*, and they are required to act in the best interests of that company or entity.

### *Council Advisory Committees*

There is no formal decision making that can be made in an advisory capacity on behalf of Council, but rather, recommendations arising from the deliberations of the committee may be presented to Council for consideration, deliberation and final adoption.

### *Responsibilities*

Regardless of the type of appointment, councillors are bound by the Model Councillor Code of Conduct and must comply with requirements relating to:

- Declaring conflicts of interest.
- Maintaining confidentiality of information.
- Recognising and abiding by their extent of authority i.e., not making decisions on behalf of Council.

Council appointed delegates to groups and committees	
Committee	Overview
Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)	Each member council of the MAV must appoint a representative to attend State Council meetings, exercise their council's vote and provide regular reports to their council on MAV activities. Appointments for MAV representatives are made annually by each council. MAV is represented by the Mayor, and by the Deputy Mayor if the Mayor is unavailable.

Hume Region Local Government Network (HRLGN)	HRLGN is comprised of 12 member councils in the Hume Region. It represents a shared regional perspective on local government issues and can provide advocacy and submissions on issues of joint interest. The CEO and Mayor from each council participate in the HRLGN.
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Council appointed delegates to groups and committees	
Committee	Overview
CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee	The purpose of the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee is to consider and make recommendations to Council with respect to performance monitoring of the CEO's key performance indicators, CEO remuneration, and if required, appointment of an Acting CEO or recruitment / appointment of a CEO. The Committee consists of an Independent Chairperson, and at least three Councillors, one of whom must be the Mayor.
Taungurung - Local Government Forum	The Taungurung Land and Waters Council Aboriginal Corporation (TLaWC) is the recognised Traditional Owner group for an area of land within the Alpine Shire municipal boundaries. The purpose of this Forum is to foster and govern a constructive and meaningful operational partnership between TLaWC and local government authorities on Taungurung County. Mayor and CEO to attend a minimum of two meetings per year.
Rural Councils Victoria (RCV)	Rural Councils Victoria represents Victoria's 37 rural councils, supporting and promoting sustainable, liveable, prosperous rural communities.
Alpine Shire Council – Audit and Risk Committee	An advisory committee of Council responsible for:  Monitoring compliance of Council policies and procedures with the LGA 2020, regulations, governance principles and Ministerial directions.  Monitoring Council's financial and performance reporting.  Monitoring and providing advice on risk management and fraud prevention systems and controls.  Overseeing internal and external audit functions.
Alpine Children's Services Inc.	A not-for-profit organisation that provides early childhood services to families throughout the Alpine Shire.

Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance	The Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance was established in 2007 to promote regional action on climate change and consists of representatives from regional Catchment Management Authorities, DEECA and thirteen local government municipalities and Alpine Resorts Victoria.
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Council appointed delegates to groups and committees	
Committee	Overview
Alpine Resilience Partnership	<p>The Alpine Resilience Partnership (ARP) is a partnership of emergency management agencies, health and social welfare agencies plus community representatives that is hosted by Alpine Shire Council with a focus on planning to increase community resilience and preparedness for response and recovery.</p> <p>ARP is the forum for government and non-government agencies and community representatives to develop strategies and frameworks to support coordinated resilience planning for Alpine Shire communities and the adjoining alpine resorts.</p>
North-East Local Government Waste and Recovery Forum	<p>The North-East Local Government Waste and Recovery Forum (NELGWRF) was established to continue collaboration between councils and peak bodies within the North-East Region, providing joint advocacy to State Government when needed on common issues and challenges for the industry and region. NELGWRF is a collaboration between the seven local councils and Alpine Resorts Victoria who make up the municipal districts constituting the previous NEWRRG Region in section (4)1 of the <i>Environment Protection Act 1970</i>.</p> <p>The aim of this NELGWRF is to enhance local governments' and Alpine Resorts Victoria's ability to deliver sustainable waste and resource recovery across the North-East Region, collaborating with industry, government, and communities to improve planning and management.</p> <p>Each member council and Alpine Resort shall nominate one staff member, or one staff member and one elected member to be a representative on the NELGWRF.</p>

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The recommendation is in accordance with the following Priorities of the Council Plan 2025-2029:

- 1.4 Our continued engagement will promote community understanding and contribution to decisions that bring positive change across Alpine Shire
- 2.11 We prioritise effective governance to ensure transparent oversight of our operations

## FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Councillors receive an annual allowance and do not receive additional payment for their involvement on Council-appointed committees. Resourcing of councillors attending meetings and participating in the activities of these committees is supported by Council's annual budget.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Councillor circumstances change and they become unable to commit sufficient time to appropriately represent Council's interests as a delegate on a Committee or Board.	Possible	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where a councillor becomes unable to appropriately represent Council, Council will appoint a new delegate based on experience and areas of interest to maintain continuity.</li> </ul>

## CONSULTATION

Once Council has appointed its representatives, appropriate communication actions will be undertaken.

## CONCLUSION

Appointment of councillors as Council's representative on its own advisory committees and project / working groups as well as external entities, associations, advisory and advocacy groups committees must now be made.

## DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and Chapter 7 section A6 of Council's Governance Rules, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Chief Executive Officer
- Executive Assistant (CEO)

## ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

*Councillors Ronco and Councillors Byrne left the room at 6:29pm.*

## 9.2 DIRECTOR ASSETS - SARAH BUCKLEY

### 9.2.1 Supporting the Porepunkah Community and Alpine Region

#### INTRODUCTION

This report provides background information relating to the Alpine Shire Council's allocation of funding through the Supporting the Porepunkah Community and Alpine Region package from the Victorian government.

*Cr Nicholas*

*Cr Tanzen*

*That Council notes the following recommendations for allocation of the Supporting the Porepunkah Community and Alpine Region support package from the Victorian Government to support community activities and events across the Alpine Shire, broadly as follows:*

- 1. Increasing economic resilience \$60,000*
- 2. Increasing local tourism \$20,000*
- 3. Supporting local business economy \$20,000*

*Carried Unanimously*

#### BACKGROUND

On the morning of Tuesday, 26 August 2025, at a rural property in Porepunkah, two Victoria Police officers were fatally shot, and a third officer was seriously injured while executing a search warrant.

The incident prompted a lockdown of local schools, kindergartens and childcare centres; the shutdown of Council facilities; a public safety alert advising residents to remain indoors; and the closure of Mount Buffalo National Park.

Despite an extensive manhunt involving over 450 Victoria Police officers, the alleged perpetrator remains at large. A \$1 million reward has been offered for information leading to his arrest.

The shooting deeply shocked the communities of Porepunkah and surrounding towns, disrupting daily life, and creating a sense of fear and grief, with many residents expressing concern that the town could be permanently associated with the tragedy.

Following the shooting, travel advisories led to a dramatic drop in tourism numbers, with some businesses in Porepunkah, Bright, Harrietville, Myrtleford and Mount Beauty reporting revenue losses of up to 70–80%.

To mitigate the economic fallout, the Victorian government announced a \$2.5 million support package, including:

- Grants of \$5,000 for eligible businesses that have experienced significant disruptions and revenue losses following the incident;
- A grant of \$100,000 to Alpine Shire Council to support community activities and



events;

- A grant of \$50,000 to the Bright and District Chamber of Commerce Inc. to support community activities and events;
- A grant of \$50,000 to Tourism North East as an investment in tourism marketing to restore visitor confidence; and
- A \$1.5 million grant to Tourism North East to support long-term tourism development initiatives.

Council officers have considered the intent of the funding allocation provided to Council and have nominated the following initiatives to be considered by the Victorian Government for funding:

- **Increasing Economic Resilience initiatives \$60,000**
  - Including business photography and promotion support
  - Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) subscription subsidy
  - Small Business Counselling Support
  - Voucher campaign to promote local businesses
- **Increasing local tourism \$20,000**
  - Cinema and radio advertising in Wangaratta and Albury
- **Supporting local business economy \$20,000**
  - Financial contribution to the Mount Beauty Chamber of Commerce Inc. and the Myrtleford Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. to facilitate a local approach to recovery and resilience.

## ISSUES

Alpine Shire has a high number of tourism-dependent businesses and supporting their resilience will help to protect the region's reputation as a safe and reliable destination.

Whilst the Bright and District Chamber of Commerce Inc. was awarded a grant of \$50,000 to aid recovery, other chambers of commerce in the shire did not receive a similar financial support package. Council officers recognise that businesses across the shire have been impacted by this event and recommend sharing the available support across the entire shire.

This support plan will help businesses build resilience for future emergencies and disasters, and also support the broader community wellbeing.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The recommendation is in accordance with the following Priorities of the Council Plan 2025-2029:

- 1.3 We use our resources responsibly to deliver efficient, evidence-based services, facilities, and projects that benefit our communities and meet our customer commitments

- 2.7 Our communities will be resilient and well prepared to withstand natural disasters and economic changes
- 2.9 We support a strong and sustainable economy across Alpine Shire

## FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

This report refers to unbudgeted income and expenditure of the \$100,000 allocated to Alpine Shire Council. The Victorian Government, through Small Business Victoria and Regional Development Victoria within the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions, has awarded Alpine Shire Council a grant of \$100,000 to support community activities and events following the Porepunkah Police Shooting Incident.

This funding must be acquitted in the 2025/26 financial year.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Council is unable to allocate part of all of the support funding.	Unlikely	Minor	Council officers will engage with the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions to ensure all activities, events and programs allocated funding can be realised before 30 June 2026.

## CONSULTATION

Council officers have undertaken engagement with businesses across the shire and the three chambers of commerce to better understand the impact of the incident on the local business economy.

Small Business Victoria deployed its mobile unit to Bright and Porepunkah to offer business counselling support to businesses shortly after the incident and identified that businesses would benefit from additional support.

Alpine Shire Council, with the support of Emergency Recovery Victoria, leads Relief and Recovery meetings, which have further identified impacts on the community from the incident.

The Victorian Government has identified a need to support community and business recovery following the incident.

## CONCLUSION

This report outlines that Council's grant allocation of \$100,000 is best utilised to support the resilience of businesses across the Alpine Shire.

## DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Chapter 7 section A6 of Council's Governance Rules, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Corporate and Community
- Manager Community Development
- Manager Growth and Future

## ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

*Cllr Ronco and Cllr Byrne reentered the room at 6:35pm.*

## 9.2.2 Lease of Crown Allotments 2011 and 2019 (Township of Bright) at the Bright Riverside Holiday Park

### INTRODUCTION

This report relates to two (2) new leases for the land known as Crown Allotment 2011 and Crown Allotment 2019, Township of Bright. This lease seeks to document the terms and conditions under which the property is used, ensuring clarity on obligations and legal compliance for Council and the proposed lessee, Sachton Mist Pty Ltd.

#### *That Council:*

- 1. Approves and executes a lease for Crown Allotment 2011, Township of Bright;*
- 2. Approves and executes a lease for Crown Allotment 2019, Township of Bright; and*
- 3. Signs and seals the leases for Crown Allotment 2011, Township of Bright and Crown Allotment 2019, Township of Bright at the appropriate stage of the meeting.*

*Deferred. Not voted on.*

### BACKGROUND

The land is Crown Land reserved under Section 4 of the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*. Alpine Shire Council, as committee of management, is the appointed land manager for Crown Allotment 2011 (CA2011) and Crown Allotment 2019 (CA2019), Township of Bright.

Refer to figure one as shown in the image below.

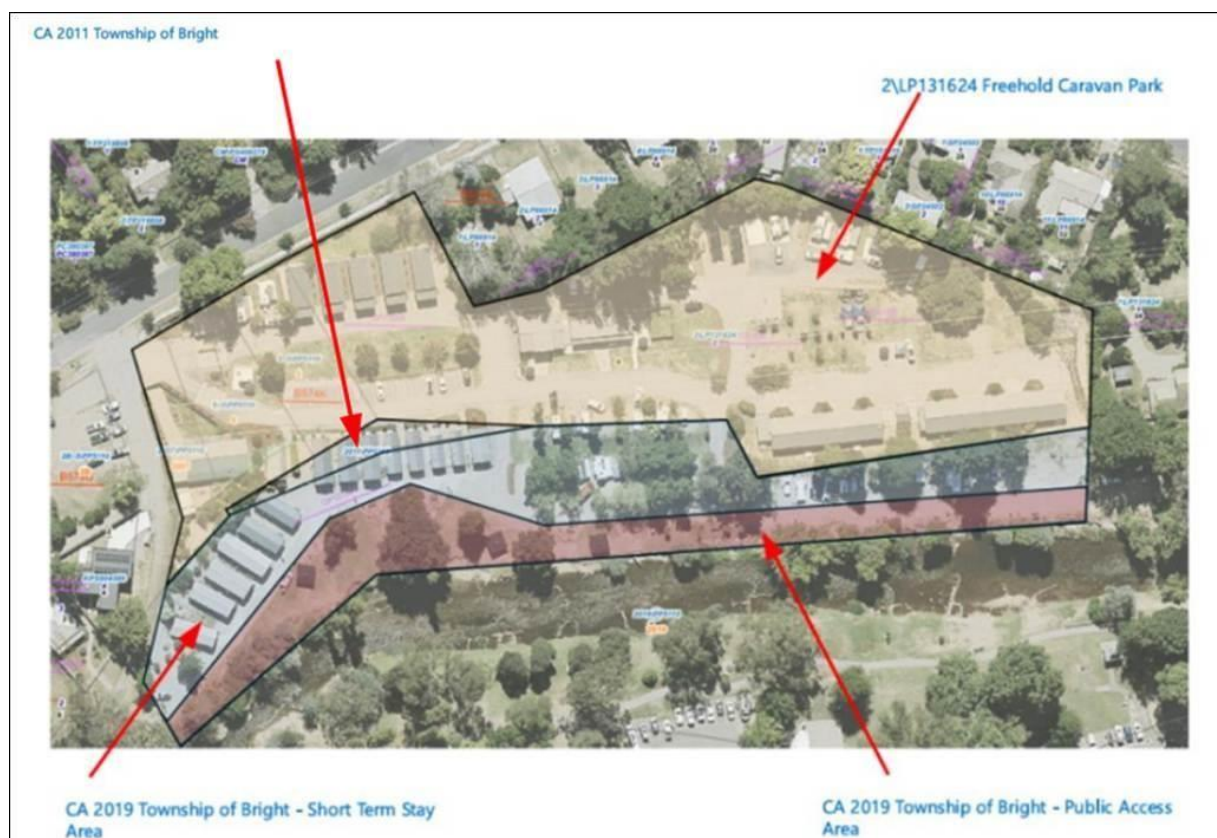


Figure One: Crown Allotment 2011 (CA2011), Township of Bright and Crown Allotment 2019 (CA2019), Township of Bright (this includes both the Short Term Stay Area and the Public Access Area).

Direct negotiations were undertaken with the current tenant, Sachton Mist Pty Ltd to establish a new lease agreement in accordance with the provisions of the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*.

## ISSUES

CA2011 is landlocked by freehold land owned by Sachton Mist Pty Ltd. There are no other viable tenants that could have been considered for this parcel. At the request of Sachton Mist Pty Ltd, Council officers investigated the sale of this land; however, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) did not support this outcome.

CA2019 is situated between the Ovens River and the freehold land owned by Sachton Mist Pty Ltd. Limited access and no infrastructure restrict the ways in which this parcel can be utilised; as such, Council negotiated directly with Sachton Mist Pty Ltd to maintain the existing arrangement. Part of this agreement ensures that Sachton Mist Pty Ltd is responsible for maintaining the public walking track that traverses the parcel.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The process adopted by Council for the awarding of a lease was in accordance with obligations under the Local Government Act 2020 and Alpine Shire Council's Community Engagement Policy 2024.

The recommendation is in accordance with the following Priorities of the Council Plan 2025-2029:

2.9 We support a strong and sustainable economy across Alpine Shire

## FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The annual lease fee for CA2011 is \$665 and for CA2019 is \$3,142.

The proposed lessee has managed the site successfully to date with minimal impact to Council's resources. The proposed lease term is 10-years, with a further 10-year option to extend.

Both lease agreements are subject to annual CPI increase. There is no known financial commitment by Council.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Lessee is unable to fulfill their obligations	Rare	Minor	Council follows EOI process for new tenant or takes on management of the land.

## CONSULTATION

Section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states:

- (1) A Council's power to lease any land to any person is limited to leases for a term of 50 years or less
- (2) Subject to any other Act, and except where Section 116 applies, if a Council leases any land to any person subject to any exceptions, reservations, covenants and conditions, it must comply with this section.
- (3) A Council must include any proposal to lease land in a financial year in the budget, where the lease is—
  - (a) for one year or more and
    - (i) the rent for any period of the lease is \$100,000 or more a year; or
    - (ii) the current market rental value of the land is \$100,000 or more a year; or
  - (b) for 10 years or
  - (c) more.
- (4) If a Council proposes to lease land that is subject to subsection (3) and that was not

included as a proposal in the budget, the Council must undertake a community engagement process in accordance with the Council's community engagement policy in respect of the proposal before entering the lease.'

In May 2025, in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy 2024, notice was given to inform the public that Council intended to enter into direct negotiation with the current lessee for the purpose of securing a Crown lease over a part of permanently reserved land, abutting the Bright Riverside Holiday Park being part of Allotment 13A Section 5, situated in Bright and that there were no changes to public access.

The intent of the notice was to inform the community and provide an opportunity to comment prior to the lease being executed. No formal submissions were received.

DEECA was consulted and is supportive of issuing the two leases.

## **CONCLUSION**

Council has met its obligations under Section 115 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and further community engagement is not required. This lease can now be considered by Council.

## **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Chapter 7 section A6 of Council's Governance Rules, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Assets
- Manager Growth and Future
- Property and Contracts Coordinator

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Nil

## 9.3 DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY - NATHALIE COOKE

### 9.3.1 Bushfire Place of Last Resort Commissioning

#### INTRODUCTION

This report relates to the finalisation of the review and assessment of a potential site for a Bushfire Place of Last Resort in Harrietville and a recommendation to commission the site.

*Cr Ronco*

*Cr Nicholas*

*That Council:*

*1. Endorses the commissioning of one Bushfire Place of Last Resort;*

*a. Tavare Park, Harrietville*

*Carried Unanimously*

#### BACKGROUND

In its Interim Report, the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission recommended that 'Neighbourhood Safer Places' (NSP) be identified and established to provide persons in bushfire affected areas with a place of last resort during a bushfire.

In 2015, Emergency Management Victoria added the use of the terminology 'Bushfire Place of Last Resort' (BPLR). Alpine Shire Council has chosen to use the term BPLR as the term better reflects how these sites are to be used.

The responsibility for identifying and maintaining BPLRs is established under the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958*, which states that councils are responsible for designating, establishing, and maintaining BPLRs within their municipal area.

At the October 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting Council adopted the Municipal Bushfire Place of Last Resort Plan ('BPLR Plan'). The is an operational plan of Council complementary to the Alpine Shire Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) and the Northern Alpine Fire Management Plan (NAFMP).

The BPLR Plan provides clear guidance for designation, maintenance and de-commissioning of BPLRs and gives clarity on the obligations and risk management requirements of Council.

Following consultation and engagement with the Harrietville community and CFA, Tavare Park has been assessed as compliant with CFAs Neighbourhood Safer Place - Bushfire Place of Last Resort Assessment Guideline (2020).



## ISSUES

BPLRs may provide last resort shelter during the passage of a bushfire when all other survival plans have failed. A BPLR is a location that may provide some protection from direct flame and heat from a fire, but they do not guarantee safety.

A BPLR may provide protection to people from lethal levels of radiant heat through an appropriate separation distance between the bushfire hazard (vegetation) and the outer edge of the BPLR. The determination of acceptable distances from the hazardous vegetation producing the radiant heat is based on a specific fire design.

BPLRs are often simply a clearing that provides separation distance from a bushfire hazard and should not be confused with a Community Fire Refuge, Relief Centre, Recovery Centre or Assembly Area, each of which has a different and specific purpose.

Council officers identify potential sites and undertake initial assessments of potential BPLRs within the Alpine Shire to determine their suitability based on location, accessibility, and safety considerations. Proposed sites are then referred to the CFA for assessment against the Neighbourhood Safer Place – Bushfire Place of Last Resort Assessment Guideline (2020).

Location of BPLRs can be found on Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Council websites.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The recommendation is in accordance with the Priorities of the Council Plan 2025-2029:

- 2.7 Our communities will be resilient and well prepared to withstand natural disasters and economic changes

## FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

It is essential for community safety and resilience during bushfire events that Council incorporates BPLR responsibilities into its emergency management planning.

As all BPLRs are on established sites, general maintenance is undertaken as part of a regular schedule.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Operating outside legislative / regulatory / statutory / policy obligations - BPLR not accessible to community when it is required	Possible	Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not designate a BPLR which cannot have guaranteed access during times of need</li> <li>Support provision of education to community about preparing for bushfires including having a bushfire plan</li> </ul>
BPLRs are not fit for purpose	Unlikely	Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council undertakes an annual program of maintenance and assessments as stated in BPLR Plan</li> <li>BPLRs are assessed by CFA against Neighbourhood Safer Place-Bushfire Place of Last Resort Assessment Guideline (2020)</li> <li>Council adopts BPLR Plan to guide operational requirements of BPLRs</li> </ul>

**CONSULTATION**

All BPLR sites undertake a risk assessment by Council officers, have been endorsed by MEMPC and assessed by CFA for compliance with relevant guidelines.

This recommendation is made following consultation and engagement with the Harrietville community.

## CONCLUSION

Council holds the responsibility for designating and maintaining appropriate BPLRs to support community safety during bushfire emergencies. It is important to note that a BPLR is intended to be a last resort option when all other plans have failed or are no longer safe. Not all towns or localities will be suitable for a BPLR due to site limitations or risk factors. Community members should be actively encouraged to develop comprehensive bushfire survival plans that do not rely on the presence of a BPLR, ensuring preparedness and resilience in the absence of such facilities.

An assessment has been finalised for the Tavaré Park site in Harrierville in line with legislative requirements and obligations under the Bushfire Place of Last Resort Plan.

## DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and Chapter 7 section A6 of Council's Governance Rules, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Corporate and Community
- Manager Regulatory Services

## ATTACHMENT(S)

Nil

## 9.3.2 Dinner Plain Event Funding Round 2

### INTRODUCTION

This report relates to the recommended allocation of funding through Round Two of Alpine Shire Council's 2025/26 Dinner Plain Event Funding Program. This funding aims to support the delivery of events in Dinner Plain for the 2025/26 financial year.

*Cr Nicholas*

*Cr Ronco*

*That Council:*

- 1. Allocates financial sponsorship to the successful applicant as follows:*

<i>Event Description</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Requested</i>	<i>Recommended Funding</i>
<i>Dinner Plain Sled Dog Sprint</i>	<i>Dinner Plain Sled Dog Sprint</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>

*Noting that due to the timing of the event the \$5,000 funding will be provided in two payments made over the end of financial year; and*

- 2. Delegates authority to the CEO to distribute residual, or unspent funds.*

*Carried Unanimously*

### BACKGROUND

Events are a key driver of visitation to Dinner Plain and investment in event activities is essential to support the Dinner Plain economy. Council provides annual financial support to events across the Alpine Shire through its Event Funding Program.

Round One of the Dinner Plain Event Funding Program opens in May each year. Considering the program's proximity to the start of the snow season, a second round of Dinner Plain Event Funding is opened post-snow season to ensure businesses, event operators and community members can apply for support for their event.

Funding eligibility criteria, including consideration of the anticipated social, environmental, and economic impact of each event have been applied to the assessment of these events, and underpin the recommendation for funding amounts.

It's a Long Way to the Top was supported in Round One of the Dinner Plain Event Funding. This recommendation, adopted in the July OCM, also agreed to continue support for two existing cornerstone events that celebrate Easter and the annual opening of the ski season.

This year, Round Two was open from October 8 to November 4, 2025. Two applications were received during Round Two. These were the Dinner Plain Sled Dog Sprint and Dinner Plain Polo.

The applications were assessed by a panel comprising:

- Director Corporate and Community
- Manager Customer Experience
- Development Officer (Tourism)
- Events Coordinator

The panel recommended that the Dinner Plain Sled Dog Sprint receives support through the Dinner Plain Event Funding Program, totalling \$5,000 in sponsorship.

Dinner Plain Polo was not recommended for funding, due to not meeting eligibility criteria as the event is held outside of the Alpine Shire.

## ISSUES

Dinner Plain Event Funding Program for the 2025/26 financial year was open for applications:

- Between May 5 to June 16, 2025
- Between October 28 to November 24, 2025.

A total of \$30,000 in funding is available through this program, including funding for events allocated in Round One, and those delivered in-house.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Funding recommendations in this report are aligned with the Event Permitting and Funding Framework in the Alpine Shire Events Strategy.

The recommendation is in accordance with the following Priorities of the Council Plan 2025-2029:

- 1.4 Our continued engagement will promote community understanding and contribution to decisions that bring positive change across Alpine Shire
- 2.9 We support a strong and sustainable economy across Alpine Shire

## FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

A total budget of \$30,000 has been approved for Dinner Plain events in 2025/26.

Of this total, \$25,140 has been spent or committed:

- \$21,000 committed to Easter, Opening Weekend Snow Dance and Fireworks and funding for It's a Long Way to the Top.
- \$4,140 spent on outstanding invoices for the 2025 Opening Weekend, which was rescheduled from June to July due to inclement weather. This rescheduling resulted in invoices being processed in the 2025/26 financial year.

Budget of \$4,860 remains. The recommended allocation for Dinner Plain Sled Dog Sprint will be paid in two payments, with \$2,500 paid in the 2025/26 financial year and the remaining \$2,500 to be paid in 2026/27 financial year. This will mean the total committed spend for 2025/26 is \$27,640, leaving \$2,360 for contingencies.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Events unsupported by funding may not operate.	Unlikely	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fund local and community events</li> </ul>

**CONSULTATION**

The Dinner Plain Event Funding Program was promoted through local media, on Council's website and social media. Details were emailed directly to existing event organisers, Dinner Plain businesses, and community groups.

**CONCLUSION**

Events are a key driver of visitation to Dinner Plain and investment in event activities is essential to support the Dinner Plain economy. The recommendations for funding contained in this report will support key cornerstone events continuing in Dinner Plain and support local community members and businesses to bring new events and visitors to the village.

**DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

In accordance with section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, and Chapter 7 section A6 of Council's Governance Rules, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Corporate and Community
- Manager Customer Experience
- Events Coordinator

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

Nil

## 10 Informal Meetings of Councillors

### INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Chapter 8, section A1 of Council's Governance Rules, if there is a meeting of three or more Councillors that:

- is scheduled or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors;
- is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
- is not a Council meeting, Delegated Committee meeting, or Community Asset Committee meeting.

The Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a summary of the matters discussed at the meeting are tabled at the next convenient Council meeting, and are recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting.

*Cr Nicholas*

*Cr Andersen*

*That the summary of informal meetings of Councillors for October / November 2025 be received.*

*Carried Unanimously*

### BACKGROUND

The written records of the informal meetings of Councillors held during the previous month are summarised below. Detailed records can be found attached to this report.

Date	Meeting
28 October	Briefing Session
11 November	Briefing Session
18 November	Briefing Session

### ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **10.1.1** Informal Meeting of Councillors 20251028
2. **10.1.2** Informal Meeting of Councillors 20251111
3. **10.1.3** Informal Meeting of Councillors 20251118

## 11 General business

## 12 Motions for which notice has previously been given

## 13 Presentation of reports by delegates

## 14 Documents for signing and sealing

*Deferred*

*That the following documents be signed and sealed.*

- 1. Leases for Crown Allotment 2011, Township of Bright; and*
- 2. Crown Allotment 2019, Township of Bright.*

## 15 Reception and reading of petitions

## 16 Confidential reports

*Cr Nicholas*

*Cr Andersen*

*That in accordance with the provisions of s66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020, to consider a confidential report defined by s3 of the Local Government Act 2020, as:*

- (a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released*
- (g) (ii) Private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that, if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage*

*Carried Unanimously*

## 17 Closure of meeting

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 6.51 pm.