

M(3) – 31 MARCH 2026

# Ordinary Council Meeting

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Minutes

The **Ordinary Council Meeting** of the **Alpine Shire Council** was held in the Mount Beauty Community Centre, 21 Kiewa Crescent, Mount Beauty on **31 March 2026** commencing at **5:00 pm**.

## **PRESENT**

### **COUNCILLORS**

Cr Sarah Nicholas - Mayor

Cr Gareth Graham - Deputy Mayor

Cr Dave Byrne

Cr Jean-Pierre Ronco

Cr Peter Smith

Cr Noah Tanzen

### **OFFICERS**

Will Jeremy - Chief Executive Officer

Nathalie Cooke - Director Corporate and Community

Sarah Buckley - Director Assets

### **APOLOGIES**

Cr John Andersen

# Minutes

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# 1 Recording and livestreaming of Council meetings

*The CEO 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.

# 2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians and recognition of all people

*All to stand, the Mayor read the following statement:*

Alpine Shire Council acknowledges 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.

# 3 Confirmation of minutes

## 3.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING M(2) HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY 2026

### **RESOLUTION**

***Cr Ronco***

***Cr Smith***

***That the minutes of M(2) 24 February 2026 as circulated be confirmed.***

***Carried Unanimously***

# 4 Apologies

Cr Andersen

## 5 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.

## 6 Declarations by Councillors of Conflict of Interest

Nil

## 7 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.

## 8 Presentation of reports by officers

### 8.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - WILL JEREMY

#### 8.1.1 Contracts approved under delegation by the CEO

**RESOLUTION**

***Cr Smith***

***Cr Byrne***

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

***Carried Unanimously***

<b><i>Contract No: 26206</i></b>		<b><i>Process: RFQ</i></b>
<b><i>Title:</i></b>	<b><i>Solar PV System Upgrades for Council Buildings</i></b>	
<b><i>Tenderer:</i></b>	<b><i>Alps Industries - Myrtleford</i></b>	
<b><i>Budget (\$ excl GST):</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$150,000 Allocated in the 2025/26 Budget</li> <li>• \$48,300 Unbudgeted expenditure. Funding secured through a successful Ausnet Energy Resilience Fund grant application following adoption of the 2025/26 Budget.</li> </ul>	
<b><i>Contract (\$ excl GST):</i></b>	<b><i>\$163,944.55</i></b>	

## 8.1.2 Audit and Risk Committee 2025/26 Bi-annual Report

### **INTRODUCTION**

This report presents the 2025/26 Bi-annual Report on the activities of the Alpine Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee. The Bi-annual Report is a requirement of section 54 (5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

### **RESOLUTION**

***Cr Byrne***

***Cr Smith***

***That Council notes the Alpine Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee 2025/26 Bi-annual Report for the period 1 July to 31 December 2025 provided to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with section 54(5) of the Local Government Act 2020.***

***Carried Unanimously***

### **BACKGROUND**

The Alpine Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee (the Committee) is established under section 53(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) as an Advisory Committee to Council.

The Committee's primary purpose is to assist Council in the effective discharge of its responsibilities under the Act by providing oversight, advice and guidance on Council's frameworks, systems and controls relating to:

- legislative and good governance compliance;
- financial and performance reporting;
- risk management; and
- internal and external audit.

Section 54 (5) of the Act stipulates that:

*'An Audit and Risk Committee must:*

- a. prepare a biannual audit and risk report that describes the activities of the Audit and Risk Committee and includes its findings and recommendations; and*
- b. provide a copy of the biannual audit and risk report to the Chief Executive Officer for tabling at the next Council meeting.'*

This report addresses the requirements of section 54(5) of the Act.

### **ISSUES**

The Committee's Annual Report provides Council with information on:

- Committee membership
- meetings and attendance

- the achievement of the Committee’s Annual Work Program, which outlines the activities it monitors and reviews to ensure it complies with its requirements under the Committee Charter.

***Committee membership***

The 2025/26 Committee comprises six members - two councillors and four independent members:

Councillors	Independent Members
Cr Dave Byrne	Julie Guest, Chair
Cr Peter Smith	Craig Covich
	Gerard Moore
	Jason Young

**Note: Councillors are appointed by Council in November each year**

***Member attendance at Committee meetings***

Meeting attendance by Committee Members from 1 July to 31 December 2025 is summarised in the table below:

Member	Member Type	Eligible to Attend	Attended
Gerard Moore	Independent	3	2
Craig Covich	Independent	3	3
Jason Young	Independent	3	2
Julie Guest	Independent	3	2
Cr Peter Smith	Councillor	3	3
Cr Dave Byrne	Councillor	3	2

In addition to the appointed members of the Committee, section 5.3 of the Charter provides for the Mayor or any other Councillor to attend a meeting of the Committee as an observer. Between 1 July and 31 December 2025, Cr Sarah Nicholas, Mayor and Cr Gareth Graham attended one meeting and Cr Jean-Pierre Ronco attended three meetings.

***Bi-annual report on the activities of the Committee***

Key activities and reviews undertaken by the Committee during the period 1 July to 31 December include:

- endorsing the Committee's 2025/26 Annual Work Program and monitoring adherence to the plan;
- reviewing the Annual Financial Report and Victorian Auditor General's Audit for the year ending 30 June 2025;
- reviewing the Performance Statement for the year ending 30 June 2025;
- conducting "in-camera" sessions with the external auditors;
- reviewing the quarterly Budget reports;
- considering the development and review of Council's financial documents: Financial Plan 2025-2035, Financial Sustainability Strategy 2025-2029, and annual budget;
- monitoring the implementation of actions outstanding from audits, various integrity agency recommendations, and Committee recommendations;
- monitoring councillor and committee expenses, CEO credit card use and purchasing audits;
- reviewing health and safety reports, including analysis of trends and data, as well as WorkSafe incidents;
- receiving regular updates on the ICT Cyber Security Program; Asset Management Steering Group Activities, insurance claims, capital projects and investments;
- providing feedback on the review of key governance, risk, and financial policies; and
- endorsing the 2026-2028 Internal Audit Plan;
- receiving the first audit report from the internal auditors on Council's procurement procedures and practices.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

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

2.11 We prioritise effective governance to ensure transparent oversight of our operations

### **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Resources to fund the operation of the Audit and Risk Committee are allocated in Council's annual budget and the administration of the Committee is accounted for in the Risk Management Officer's role.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Operating outside legislative / regulatory / statutory / policy obligations	Unlikely	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee Charter endorsed by Committee and approved by Council.</li> <li>• Committee Annual Work Program.</li> <li>• Committee annual and bi-annual reports.</li> </ul>

**CONSULTATION**

The report is prepared in consultation with the Committee Chair. The Chair briefed the Committee on the Bi-annual Report at the Committee's meeting in February 2026.

**CONCLUSION**

The Committee is meeting in accordance with its Charter, being provided with quality information and reports in accordance with its annual work program and benefits from a strong relationship between members and management which ensures the effective functioning of the Audit and Risk Committee.

The Committee provides its Bi-annual Report to Council in accordance with section 54(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020* for noting.

**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
- Director Corporate and Community
- Manager Corporate
- Risk Management Officer

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. **8.1.2.1** 2025-26 Audit and Risk Committee Bi-annual Report to Council

## 8.2 DIRECTOR ASSETS - SARAH BUCKLEY

### 8.2.1 Bright Valley Development - Road Deviation and Land Exchange

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This report seeks Council's approval to deviate parts of a government road between Great Alpine Road and Stackey Gully Road, Bright and to carry out a land exchange with the adjoining owner.

#### **RESOLUTION**

*Cr Smith*

*Cr Graham*

*That Council:*

*Having followed the required statutory procedures under clause 2 of Schedule 10 and sections 207A and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 (LGA1989) and section 114 of the Local Government Act 2020, and having considered the submissions received in response to its public notice of the proposal:*

- 1. resolves to deviate part of the government road between Great Alpine Road and Stackey Gully Road, Bright, which comprises the:*
  - a. road shown hatched on the plan attached to this report as Attachment 2 (Unused Road), which will be discontinued and vest in Council; and road shown cross-hatched on the plan attached to this report as Attachment 2 (New Road), which will be designated as a "road" and vest in Council, (together, the Road Deviation); and*
- 2. subject to Council first resolving to proceed with the Road Deviation, resolves to complete the following land exchange:*
  - a. the Unused Road will be transferred from Council to the owner of the adjoining properties, being the land contained in certificates of title volume 12344 folios 348 and 350 (Adjoining Owner);*
  - b. the title to the New Road will be registered in Council's name; and*
  - c. the parties will submit an application in a form required by the Land Registry with effect that the title boundaries of the Adjoining Owner's properties will be realigned to reflect the new boundaries between the Adjoining Owner's properties and the New Road, (together, the Land Exchange);*
- 3. directs that a notice under clause 2(3) of Schedule 10 of the LGA1989 be published in the Victorian Government Gazette to give effect to the Road Deviation; and*
- 4. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to sign any documents necessary to give effect to the Road Deviation and the Land Exchange.*

***Carried Unanimously***

**BACKGROUND**

In 2005, the subject site, along with land on the northern side of the Great Alpine Road was identified through the Alpine Residential Land Review as the preferred area for the urban growth of Bright in order to facilitate additional residential development.

On 20 January 2011, Amendment C15 to the Alpine Planning Scheme was approved by the Minister for Planning and included in the Victoria Government Gazette.

The Bright Valley Development Plan was approved by Council on 5 May 2022.

Stage 1 and 2 Planning Permit was approved by Council on 30 November 2023.

A Plan of Sub-division was lodged on 19 December 2023 but could not include Stage 2 due to the existing Government Road alignment.

In order to align with the Bright Valley Development Plan it is required that the existing unused government road traversing through the freehold land is deviated to the necessary alignment.

The reason for the proposed deviation is to improve the connection angle at Great Alpine Road intersection, avoid various constraints preventing the construction of a road within the existing Road Reserve, notably the gradient at several points along the reserve, and to avoid a cluster of native vegetation and gradient at the southern end of reserve.

At its Ordinary Council Meeting on 9 September 2025, Council resolved to commence the statutory procedures in respect of the proposed Road Deviation and Land Exchange.

**ISSUES**

***Road***

The existing government road (**Road**) is:

- a. Crown land set aside as a government road;
- b. not currently constructed as a road.

A copy of the manual search of the Road is attached to this report as Attachment 1.

It is proposed that the Road be deviated as follows:

- c. to discontinue those parts of the Road which are shown hatched on the plan attached to this report as Attachment 2 (**Unused Road**); and
- d. to designate the land shown cross-hatched on the plan attached to this report as Attachment 2 as a "road", comprising parts of the land contained in certificates of title volume 12344 folios 348 and 350 (**New Road**),

(together, the **Road Deviation**).

Council has agreed to consider undertaking the Road Deviation by exercising its power under clause 2 of Schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (**LGA1989**).

Council's power to deviate roads under clause 2 of Schedule 10 of the LGA1989 is subject to Council complying with its statutory obligations under section 223 of the LGA1989 in respect of the Road Deviation.

As the Roads are government roads (which if the Road Deviation is completed would result in the vesting of former Crown land in Council pursuant to section 207B(2A) of the LGA1989, Council is required to obtain the consent of the Minister administering the Land Act 1958, pursuant to clause 2(2) of Schedule 10 to the LGA1989.

Council has obtained the consent of the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA), as delegate for the Minister for Environment, to the Road Deviation. A copy of the letter of consent is attached to this report as Attachment 3.

If the Road Deviation is completed, its effect will be to:

- e. designate the New Road as a "road" for the purpose of the LGA1989, which will vest in Council at law; and
- f. vest the Unused Road in Council at law, pursuant to section 207B(2A) of the LGA1989.

Subject to Council making a decision to undertake the Road Deviation, the parties have agreed to realign the title boundaries of the adjoining properties, so that they are consistent with the location of the New Roads, as follows:

- g. the Unused Road will be transferred from Council to the owner of the adjoining properties (Adjoining Owner);
- h. the title to the New Road will be registered in Council's name; and
- i. the parties will submit an application in a form required by the Land Registry with effect that the title boundaries of the Adjoining Owner's properties will be realigned to reflect the new boundaries between the Adjoining Owner's properties and the New Road,

(together, the **Land Exchange**).

A copy of the proposed survey plan which shows the Road Deviation and Land Exchange is attached to this report as Attachment 2.

Council has the power to complete the Land Exchange, subject to complying with its statutory obligations under section 114 of the Local Government Act 2020 (**LGA2020**).

#### ***Unused road licence***

On 29 July 2025 submitted a request to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (**DEECA**), to seek the cancellation of unused road licence no. 1101898 (**Licence**) over the Road, in order to facilitate the Road Deviation and Land Exchange.

On 26 August 2025 Council received a copy of a letter from DEECA, confirming that the Licence had been cancelled.

A copy of the correspondence received from DEECA and the cancelled Licence are attached to this report as Attachment 4.

### ***Public notice and submissions***

On 10 September 2025, Council gave public notice on its website, Facebook and Instagram pages, and on Council's engagement platform, Engage Alpine.

Council received 4 submissions in response to the public notice, as follows:

- j. 3 submissions seeking further information about the details of the proposal; and
- k. 1 submission in support of the proposal.

A summary of the submissions received and Council's officer's responses to those submissions is attached to this report as Attachment 5.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The recommendation is in accordance with the Priorities of the Council Plan 2025-2029, and the required statutory procedures under clause 2 of Schedule 10 and sections 207A and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 (LGA1989) and section 114 of the Local Government Act 2020

- 2.4 We advocate for, and work towards, the long-term delivery of appropriate housing for residents and workers of Alpine Shire.

### **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Council and the Adjoining Owner have agreed that no monetary consideration is payable for the transfer of the Unused Road to the Adjoining Owner on the basis that the:

value of the New Road is \$970,250.

value of the Unused Road is \$970,125.

- l. consideration payable for the transfer of the Unused Road to the Adjoining Owner is the Adjoining Owner agreeing to the New Road vesting in Council under the Road Deviation.

The Adjoining Owner has agreed to bear the following costs in connection with the Road Deviation and Land Exchange:

- m. stamp duty;
- n. lodging and PEXA fees; and
- o. valuation fees in connection with any land which is the subject of the Road Deviation and Land Exchange.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
There is a risk that the proposed road deviation may be subject to legal challenge if the statutory procedures are not fully complied with.	Rare	Moderate	Ensure all statutory processes are undertaken in accordance with legislative requirements and Council resolutions.
There is a risk that Council may inherit road infrastructure that does not align with Council’s design or construction standards, potentially resulting in increased future maintenance or upgrade requirements.	Unlikely	Moderate	Council will ensure assessment of asset condition prior to vesting and ensuring any new or altered infrastructure complies with Council standards.

**CONSULTATION**

Council has entered into an agreement with the Adjoining Owner to document the "in principle" agreement between Council and the Adjoining Owner regarding the Land Exchange, which is subject to Council carrying out the necessary statutory procedures required by Council to proceed with the proposed Road Deviation and Land Exchange.

On 10 September 2025 Council gave public notice of the proposed Road Deviation and Land Exchange.

**CONCLUSION**

It is recommended that Council proceed with the Road Deviation and Land Exchange for the reasons set out in this report.

## **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 Assets and Waste
- Project Manager

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Attachment 1 - Manual search of government road

Attachment 2 - Plan of road deviation

Attachment 3 - Ministerial Consent

Attachment 4 - DEECA letter (cancellation of unused road licence)

Attachment 5 - Summary of public notice submissions and officer responses

1. **8.2.1.1** Second Report - Bright Valley Road Deviation - Attachment 1 ( Manual Search of Road)(51972736.1)
2. **8.2.1.2** Second Report - Bright Valley Road Deviation - Attachment 2 ( Road Deviation Plan)(51972782.1)
3. **8.2.1.3** Second Report - Bright Valley Road Deviation - Attachment 3 ( Ministerial Consent)(51972810.1)
4. **8.2.1.4** Second Report - Bright Valley Road Deviation - Attachment 4 ( DEECA Letter - Cancellation of unused
5. **8.2.1.5** Second Report Bright Valley Road Deviation Attachment 5 Summary of submissions 5

## 8.2.2 Mount Beauty Pondage Walk Renewal

### **INTRODUCTION**

This report relates to the award of a contract for the Renewal of the Mount Beauty Pondage Walk.

### **RESOLUTION**

*Cr Tanzen*

*Cr Smith*

*That Council:*

- 1. Awards Contract No. 26201 for Mount Beauty Pondage Walk Renewal to Richardson Earthworks and Maintenance for the lump sum price of \$237,855 (GST Exclusive); and*
- 2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to sign and seal the contract at the appropriate time.*

*Carried Unanimously*

### **BACKGROUND**

The Mount Beauty Pondage Walk is a vital recreational loop providing scenic views of the Kiewa Valley and access to local facilities. The trail carries consistent pedestrian and cyclist traffic, hosts park run events and is very popular during peak tourist times. For this trail to continue servicing the community and visitors in this capacity renewal is required including but not limited to: approximately two kilometres of profiling of the existing pavement to form a 2.5m wide base, a new 2m wide asphalt wearing course and reinstatement of the path shoulders with topsoil and grass seed.

### **EVALUATION**

The Tender was advertised on Tenders.net and the Alpine Shire Council website.

A total of 22 prospective tenderers downloaded the document and 2 submissions were received.

The key selection criteria listed in the Invitation to Tender were:

1. Price
2. Qualifications and previous performance
3. Delivery
4. Social
5. Environmental Sustainability

**ISSUES**

The timeline of the works taking place is critical to ensure there is no escalation in construction costs due to weather delays, rising material costs or conflict with planned events.

The path is located within land that is managed by AGL and is considered as a tenant improvement as part of the existing lease. The path is a Council asset with responsibility for associated renewal and maintenance costs.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

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

- 3.5 We recognise the importance of high-quality facilities, outdoor spaces, and connected footpaths, tracks, and trails to provide access to key services and support the wellbeing of our communities

**FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

A total budget of \$250,000 has been allocated for the 2025/2026 footpath renewal program. The total contract value of this renewal is \$237,855 (GST Exclusive) and is inclusive of all works specified within the tender.

Council officers have weighed up the options of a spray seal or an asphalt wearing course for this renewal project, both of which are considered appropriate technical solutions. Whilst the upfront delivery costs of an asphalt wearing course is considerably higher than a spray seal, the lifecycle cost for an asphalt surface is lower than that for a spray seal surface due to the significant difference in useful life - 40 years for an asphalt surface compared to 15 years for a spray seal solution.

In addition to a lower lifecycle cost, community feedback about the user experience is consistently more positive when shared trails and footpaths are delivered with asphalt surfaces compared to spray seal surfaces.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Delay of works due to inclement weather	Possible	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strict program management of the contractors schedule that has allowances for inclement weather.</li> </ul>

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Timing constraints of planned community events and peak tourism holiday periods	Possible	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain communication with community groups holding events.</li> <li>• Works will commence after the Easter holidays.</li> <li>• Preparation of a contingency schedule to minimise restricted access where possible.</li> </ul>

**CONSULTATION**

As AGL is the land manager of the dam wall where the trail is constructed, they have been consulted about the planned works and have issued their consent to carry out the works. Broader notification of the works will be advertised on Council's Facebook page and website. Any impacted residents and businesses will be directly contacted prior to works commencing.

**CONCLUSION**

Following a tender evaluation assessment, site visits and reference checks, the tender from Richardson Earthworks & Maintenance is considered the best option due to their price, experience and knowledge of path construction works.

**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 Assets and Waste
- Project Manager

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

Nil

## 8.2.3 Alpine Shire Aquatics and Indoor Stadium Feasibility Study: Final Options and Feasibility Report 2026

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to seek adoption of the Alpine Shire Aquatics and Indoor Stadium Feasibility Study: Final Options and Feasibility Report 2026 (the Study) following completion of the draft community consultation phase.

### **RESOLUTION**

*Cr Byrne*

*Cr Ronco*

*That Council:*

- 1. Receives and notes the Draft Alpine Shire Aquatics and Indoor Stadium Feasibility Study Engagement Report 2026 (Attachment 1);*
- 2. Adopts the Alpine Shire Aquatics and Indoor Stadium Feasibility Study: Final Options and Feasibility Report 2026 (Study) (Attachment 2);*
- 3. Notes that the Study provides long-term strategic recommendations only and does not commit Council to the delivery of any specific project;*
- 4. Notes that the preferred site for any future aquatic or indoor stadium facility will be identified through future structure planning processes for the relevant township;*
- 5. Notes that the final scope, timing and staging of any facility upgrades will be determined through future scoping exercises anticipated to occur within the next 10–15 years; and*
- 6. Notes that the recommendations of the Study will inform future asset management planning, infrastructure prioritisation and external funding advocacy.*

*Carried Unanimously*

### BACKGROUND

Council currently operates three aquatic facilities located in Bright, Mount Beauty and Myrtleford, and indoor stadium facilities in Mount Beauty and Myrtleford, with limited access to Bright P-12 College courts.

These facilities play a critical role in supporting community health, sport participation and recreation across the Alpine Shire; however, many of the facilities are ageing and have not been upgraded to meet current participation trends or service expectations.

The need for a comprehensive feasibility study was identified in the Alpine Shire Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2022. To respond to this need, Alpine Shire Council (Council) commissioned Solucio Pty Ltd to prepare the Aquatics and Indoor Stadium Feasibility Study: Final Options and Feasibility Report 2026 (the Study).

The Study examined:

- the current condition and functionality of existing facilities;
- participation trends and community demand;
- benchmarking against comparable regional facilities;
- potential upgrade and redevelopment options; and
- indicative cost estimates and long-term planning considerations.

## **ISSUES**

The Study provides a comprehensive evaluation of Alpine Shire’s aquatic and indoor stadium infrastructure, identifying significant gaps in functionality, capacity, and condition. It finds that while most facilities are still operational, they are ageing and face mounting maintenance demands.

The Options Analysis explores a range of potential upgrade and redevelopment scenarios for each aquatic and indoor stadium site, evaluating them against criteria such as cost, functionality, community impact, and deliverability. For each facility, a list of line-item upgrade costs is presented, including renewal and lifecycle estimates.

The Study highlights several key issues affecting the performance and long-term sustainability of Alpine Shire’s aquatic and stadium infrastructure.

### ***Aquatic Facilities***

Existing aquatic facilities remain structurally sound with approximately 20 years of remaining useful life; however, increasing maintenance and ageing plant infrastructure will require investment over time.

Access to aquatic services across the shire is currently limited due to the seasonal nature of the outdoor pools. This restricts opportunities for:

- year-round lap swimming;
- learn-to-swim programs;
- aquatic rehabilitation; and
- community health programming.

Council currently spends approximately \$600,000 per year operating aquatic facilities, representing a community subsidy of approximately \$18 per visit.

### ***Indoor Stadiums***

Indoor court capacity does not currently meet demand across the shire, particularly in Bright where access to courts is constrained.

Participation growth in sports such as basketball and netball is placing increasing pressure on existing facilities. Local clubs frequently report difficulty accessing sufficient training and competition space.

The Study found that benchmarking against comparable regional communities supports the provision of additional indoor court infrastructure in the shire.

### ***Next Steps***

The Study provides the evidence base and strategic rationale to inform future capital planning, asset management plan updates, investment priorities and advocacy for external funding. The identification of a preferred site for any future aquatic or indoor stadium facility will be confirmed through a future structure planning processes for each the relevant townships. At an appropriate future time, Council can then move towards concept design and business case development for high-priority sites.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

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

3.2 We support healthy lifestyles, including movement and access to healthy food.

3.5 We recognise the importance of high quality facilities, outdoor spaces, and connected footpaths, tracks, and trails to provide access to key services and support the wellbeing of our communities.

The study aligns with the following Council strategies:

- Alpine Shire Sport and Recreation Plan 2023-2033;
- Draft Alpine Shire Community Infrastructure Needs Assessment (CINA) 2025;
- Alpine Shire Sport and Recreation Master Plan 2024; and
- Draft Alpine Shire Council Access and Inclusion Plan 2026-2029.

### **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The Study provides long-term strategic recommendations regarding potential upgrades and redevelopment of aquatic and indoor sports facilities across the shire. At this stage, no capital funding has been allocated for the implementation of any recommended works.

The Study identifies indicative capital investment scenarios across the three townships over a long-term horizon; however, these recommendations are conceptual and strategic only.

Future infrastructure planning will consider:

- the preferred site for any facility, which will be determined through a future structure planning process for the relevant township;
- the final scope and scale of facilities, which will be defined through detailed project scoping, is anticipated within the next 10–15 years;
- the availability of external funding opportunities;
- opportunities to deliver projects in a staged approach; and
- the results of future modelling of long-term maintenance and operating costs and financial impacts on Council.

Detailed financial modelling will be required at the time any project progresses to concept design and business case development to determine whether the recommendations of the study remain feasible, viable and desirable within Council's financial capacity.

Council will continue to pursue Australian and Victorian government funding opportunities to support future infrastructure delivery.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Ageing assets - ageing aquatic and stadium facilities will continue to deteriorate, increasing maintenance costs and decreasing service quality.	Very likely	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritise renewal works in asset management planning.</li> <li>• Secure external funding to offset high capital costs.</li> </ul>
Service gaps - no year round swimming or hydrotherapy programming offering.	Very likely	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the Study's findings and recommendations to guide advocacy and planning for improved facilities.</li> </ul>
Safety - plant/facility issues were identified across sites, some requiring attention.	Possible	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address urgent actions through operational budgets and flag within asset management planning for staged upgrades.</li> </ul>

## CONSULTATION

The Study was informed by a comprehensive stakeholder and community engagement process designed to capture the needs, priorities and usage patterns of residents, user groups and key stakeholders across Alpine Shire.

Engagement undertaken throughout the Study's development included:

- 232 community survey responses providing insight into current facility use and community aspirations;
- seven targeted stakeholder interviews with user groups and facility stakeholders;
- three Council officer workshops to explore infrastructure options, operational considerations and strategic alignment;
- project team site visits and technical reviews; and
- public consultation on the draft Study.

Survey responses and stakeholder interviews highlighted strong community interest in aquatic and indoor sports infrastructure across the shire. Many respondents emphasised the importance of improving access to aquatic facilities throughout the year, particularly for lap swimming, rehabilitation and learn-to-swim programs. Participants also noted limitations associated with the seasonal nature of some pools and concerns regarding ageing plant and infrastructure.

Stakeholder interviews reinforced these themes and provided additional insights into operational constraints, facility condition and opportunities for future upgrades. A recurring theme was the increasing demand for aquatic programs and indoor court space, with several clubs and user groups reporting that facilities are operating at or near capacity.

Key themes emerging from the pre-draft consultation process included:

- high community utilisation of aquatic facilities and indoor stadiums across the shire;
- limited availability of indoor court space, particularly in Bright;
- increasing demand for learn-to-swim programs, aquatic fitness and rehabilitation opportunities;
- lack of year-round swimming access in parts of the shire;
- ageing plant infrastructure and maintenance requirements across several facilities; and
- the need for facilities that support accessibility, community health and growing sport participation.

Public consultation on the draft Study provided additional feedback, including:

- strong support for improved aquatic infrastructure in Bright;
- concerns regarding travel distances required to access larger swimming facilities outside the shire;
- requests for equitable consideration of infrastructure investment across all townships; and
- consideration of site constraints and long-term expansion capacity in Bright.

Overall, the consultation process has provided Council with a strong evidence base to inform future infrastructure planning, funding advocacy and asset management planning decisions. All feedback received during pre-draft and draft consultation was reviewed as part of the finalisation of the Study, and no changes were required to the strategic recommendations of the report.

All feedback on the draft consultation can be found in the Draft Alpine Shire Aquatics and Indoor Stadium Feasibility Study Engagement Report 2026 (Attachment 1).

## **CONCLUSION**

The Aquatics and Indoor Stadium Feasibility Study: Final Options and Feasibility Report 2026 provides Council with a comprehensive evidence base to guide the long-term planning of aquatic and indoor sports infrastructure across Alpine Shire. The Study confirms that while existing aquatic facilities remain serviceable, increasing maintenance

requirements and growing community demand will require strategic investment over time.

Council officers recommend that Council adopts the Study, which will enable Council to:

- incorporate recommendations into future asset management planning;
- strengthen advocacy for Australian and Victorian government funding;
- guide future infrastructure planning through the structure planning process for relevant townships; and
- ensure that long-term decisions regarding aquatic and indoor sports facilities are informed by robust evidence and community input at the relevant time.

### **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
- Project Officer (Strategic Planning)

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. **8.2.3.1** Draft Alpine Shire Aquatics and Indoor Stadium Feasibility Study Engagement Report 2026
2. **8.2.3.2** Alpine Shire Aquatics and Indoor Stadium Feasibility Study: Final options and Feasibility Report 2026

## 8.2.4 Lease of part of the land known as Crown Allotment 17 Section 9A, parish of Myrtleford (Myrtleford Indoor Stadium)

### **INTRODUCTION**

This report relates to a new lease for part of the land known as Crown Allotment 17 Section 9A, parish of Myrtleford. This lease seeks to document the terms and conditions under which the property has been used to date, ensuring clarity on obligations and legal compliance for both Myrtleford Recreation Reserve Inc., as landlord and Council as tenant.

### **RESOLUTION**

*Cr Ronco*

*Cr Smith*

*That Council:*

- 1. Approves and executes a lease for part of Crown Allotment 17 Section 9A, Parish of Myrtleford; and*
- 2. Signs and seals the lease for part of Crown Allotment 17 Section 9A, Parish of Myrtleford at the appropriate stage of the meeting.*

*Carried Unanimously*

### **BACKGROUND**

The Myrtleford Indoor Stadium is an Alpine Shire Council (Council) asset located on Crown land managed by a Department of Energy, Environment and climate Action (DEECA) appointed committee of management known as the Myrtleford Recreation Reserve Inc. (MRR).

Consent was provided by the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation in 1979 following a request from Council for the stadium to be constructed.

The Shire of Myrtleford appointed the Myrtleford Indoor Sports Centre as committee of management to manage the stadium on its behalf in 1991.

In 2019, the stadium was expanded through funding of \$1.3 million from the Victorian Government's Better Indoor Stadiums Fund, \$1.25 million from Council, and a \$50,000 contribution from the Myrtleford and District Basketball Association.

The management of the stadium is currently the responsibility of the Myrtleford Indoor Stadium Committee, which was appointed by Council.

This lease seeks to correct the absence of a binding agreement for the land on which this important regional facility is located.

## ISSUES

The Myrtleford Stadium has been located on this parcel of land since approximately 1979. Historical records show that Council built and subsequently upgraded the stadium. A lease for Council to occupy the land was never finalised, see Figure 1.



**Figure 1: The proposed lease applies to part of the land known as Crown Allotment 17 Section 9A, parish of Myrtleford as outlined in orange above.**

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The process adopted by Council to enter into a lease is in accordance with the Alpine Shire Council Community Engagement Policy 2024. In accordance with Section 115 of the Local Government Act 2020, a Council decision is required to enter into a lease of land for more than 10 years, regardless of value, and this decision cannot be delegated.

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

- 3.6 We support local community groups, programs, events, and initiatives that activate and celebrate Alpine Shire, build stronger, inclusive, more connected, and resilient communities, and enrich the lives of our diverse community members

### **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The proposed lease fee includes water charges incurred in respect to the stadium during the term of this lease. This fee is paid for by the Myrtleford Indoor Stadium Committee.

The lease term is proposed to be twenty (20 years), with the permitted use being for 'sport or activities in relation to supporting clubs, inclusive of stadium function hire.'

This facility is included on Council's Asset Register. As the building is a Council asset, Council will continue to bear the major maintenance and renewal costs. There is no additional cost to Council beyond the existing asset costs.

Council will continue to work with the Myrtleford Indoor Stadium Committee to ensure the effective operation of the facility.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Myrtleford Indoor Stadium committee Inc. disband	Unlikely	Moderate	Council takes on responsibility for the management of the stadium.

### **CONSULTATION**

Council officers undertook targeted engagement with all relevant stakeholders regarding the proposed lease of land within the Myrtleford Recreation Reserve to correct this historical anomaly.

As the landowner, DEECA was consulted and has provided in-principle support for the proposed leasing arrangement. Council officers also consulted with the Myrtleford Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Inc., which has indicated its agreement in-principle to the proposal and the general terms of the lease. This consultation has informed the development of the proposed lease.

### **CONCLUSION**

Council has met its obligations and further community engagement is not required. This lease can now be considered by Council and Council officers recommend that a new lease for part of the land known as Crown Allotment 17 Section 9A, parish of Myrtleford be approved and executed.

## **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

## 8.3 DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY - NATHALIE COOKE

### 8.3.1 Domestic Animal Management Plan

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of the report is for Council to consider the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan and commence community consultation for a period of four weeks. A key change within the Plan includes the establishment of a Section 25 Cat Confinement Order, introducing 24-hour confinement with a 12-month education and transition period.

#### **RESOLUTION**

***Cr Graham***

***Cr Byrne***

***That Council:***

- 1. Endorses the draft Domestic Management Animal Plan to be placed on public exhibition for a period of four (4) weeks, and in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy;***
- 2. Invites public submissions regarding the draft Domestic Management Animal Plan; and***
- 3. Notes that submissions received as part of the exhibition of the draft Domestic Management Animal Plan will be considered and the final Policy will be presented to be adopted at a future meeting of Council.***

***Carried Unanimously***

#### **BACKGROUND**

Under section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the Act), councils must prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan every four years. The current Alpine Shire Domestic Animal Management Plan is due for review.

The plan outlines programs, services and strategies to:

- Promote compliance with the Act and other domestic animal related laws and regulations, such as the *Community Local Law 2019*;
- Improve community education and awareness on responsible pet ownership;
- Minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals;
- Manage the risk of over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats;
- Encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats;
- Minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance;
- Effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with the Act and the Regulations; and

- Evaluate animal control services and programs.

The Domestic Animal Management Plan only relates to dogs and cats and does not apply to other types of pets, livestock or native animals.

### **SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS TO PLAN**

The review of the Domestic Animal Management Plan has led to the following amendments:

- Inclusion of pet statistics contained within the Agriculture Victoria Pet Census;
- Inclusion of proposed introduction of a cat confinement order; and
- Deletion of information which is duplicated in other documents including organisational charts and processes which have been relocated to the draft Dog Incident Policy.

### **PROPOSED CAT CONFINEMENT ORDER**

Under Section 25 of the Act, a council may make an order that makes it an offence for a cat to be found 'at large', meaning it is away from the property where it is normally kept. This is formally known as a cat confinement order, and is commonly referred to as a 'cat curfew'.

In 2025 Council conducted an internal review of the potential benefits and issues with the introduction of a cat confinement order. As a result of the review, and following consistent feedback from a wide range of community groups and community members, it is believed that a cat confinement order is an appropriate management tool to be applied to achieve the following:

- Protection of native wildlife from predation by cats;
- Reduction in nuisance activity by cats;
- Protection of cats from becoming lost or injured due to wandering at large; and
- Reduction in unwanted litters of kittens.

The draft Domestic Animal Management Plan therefore outlines the intent to introduce such an order on the adoption of the Plan. This would make it an offence for a cat to be outside the property boundary where it resides. Cats can still enjoy outdoor time, as long as they stay within the boundaries of the owner's property.

Council recognises that the introduction of a cat confinement order may impact on some cat owners, who may have to transition their cats to being indoors, or to construct enclosures or fencing to enable safe outdoor play.

On adoption of the Plan it is proposed that a transition period is undertaken for a period of 12 months to focus on providing education and guidance to the community to assist in a smooth and practical transition to this requirement. The following actions are proposed:

- Providing verbal and written information to owners, and access to Council Officers for advice;
- Providing information relating to providing safe outdoor spaces;

- Promoting available State Government campaigns and information;
- Encouraging the de-sexing of cats to reducing straying; and
- Increasing engagement on responsible cat ownership through social media, signage and media articles.

It is proposed that a more compliance focussed approach is only applied after the transition period.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The recommendation is in accordance with the 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.
- 3.8 We support compliance with regulations to help our community enjoy lifestyles and spaces that are safe and welcoming for all.

**FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Costs associated with the development of the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan and community engagement have been accommodated within the current approved Budget.

Council's current resourcing levels are sufficient to deliver all Year 1 activities, including education campaigns and community transition support. It is proposed that enforcement of the cat confinement order would not commence until Year 2 of the Plan and this compliance would be accommodated within the Regulatory Services operational budget at that time.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Domestic Animal Management Plan is not adopted and submitted to DEECA by 30 June 2026.	Possible	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous community feedback has been considered and has informed draft development.</li> <li>• Draft being presented for endorsement to proceed to community consultation at March Ordinary Council Meeting.</li> </ul>

## **CONSULTATION**

It is recommended that the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan be put on public exhibition for a period of four (4) weeks. The community engagement processes provide an important opportunity to obtain the views of our community in relation to the content of the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan and in particular the introduction of a Cat Confinement Order.

Upon completion of the exhibition period, all feedback and submissions will be considered prior to the Domestic Animal Management Plan being presented to Council for final adoption.

## **CONCLUSION**

Animal management is an important aspect of Council's function in the community. The operation of Council's animal management service is guided by the Domestic Animal Management Plan as well as a range of other legislation, including the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

The Domestic Animal Management Plan is Council's individual statement of its position on animal management and approach to working with the community in relation to pet ownership and expectations.

The significant majority of enforcement options are set by legislation and not open to change, however there are options available to Council to alter some of the operational details or level of resourcing that Council allocates to education or proactive monitoring.

The current Domestic Animal Management Plan requires review and approval. The document has been revised and updated in preparation for community engagement.

Beyond the proposed introduction of a cat confinement order, the updated Plan does not propose to significantly alter Council's practices in this service.

## **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
- Manager Regulatory Services

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. **8.3.1.1** Alpine Shire Domestic Animal Management Plan

## 8.3.2 Dog Incident Policy

### **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this report is to present the Dog Incident Policy to Council for consideration to commence community engagement for a period of four weeks. This is an operational policy which provides the framework for authorised officers to investigate and respond to dog attacks and incidents within the Alpine Shire.

### **RESOLUTION**

*Cr Ronco*

*Cr Graham*

*That Council:*

- 1. Endorses the draft Dog Incident Policy to be placed on public exhibition for a period of four (4) weeks, and in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy;*
- 2. Invites public submissions regarding the draft Dog Incident Policy; and*
- 3. Notes that submissions received as part of the exhibition of the draft Dog Incident Policy will be considered and the final Policy will be presented to be adopted at a future meeting of Council.*

*Carried Unanimously*

### **BACKGROUND**

This Dog Incident Policy sets out the framework, criteria and measures that Council will use to enforce the provisions of the *Domestic Animal Management Act 1994*. The document seeks to provide transparency and consistency in relation to the approach through which authorised officers will undertake investigations and respond to dog attacks and related incidents.

### **ISSUES**

A clear and consistent response to dog attacks and related incidents is essential for protecting individuals and the broader community, as well as maintaining community confidence and trust.

The draft Dog Incident Policy sets out the framework and processes by which authorised Council Officers will operate when responding to dog attacks and related offences, such as dogs wandering at large. The Policy provides for transparency and consistency regarding the way Council investigates and responds to dog incident and attacks and outlines the outcomes and consequences of these investigations.

Definitions relating to dog related incidents are defined and the Policy articulates consequences facing owners of dogs responsible for attacks within the Alpine Shire. Outcomes of dog related incidents can include a dog being declared menacing or

dangerous; and penalties for dog attacks can include significant fines, criminal convictions, payment of Council and victim costs, imprisonment and in some cases the dog being ordered to be destroyed.

The legislation which underpins this policy is the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. The Act should be referred to whenever additional details or information regarding penalties is required.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The recommendation is in accordance with the 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
- 3.8 We support compliance with regulations to help our community enjoy lifestyles and spaces that are safe and welcoming for all

**FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no additional financial or resource implications by the adoption of the Dog Incident Policy.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Lack of understanding of process pertaining to the reporting and investigation of dog related incidents and attacks	Possible	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate staff and community of Policy requirements under <i>Domestic Animal Management Act</i>.</li> <li>• Policy publicly available on the website.</li> </ul>
Inconsistent approach undertaken in the investigation of dog related incidents and attacks.	Possible	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake staff awareness training of Policy.</li> </ul>

**CONSULTATION**

While the draft Dog Incident Policy is operational in nature and bound by the legislative framework of the *Domestic Animal Act 1994*, the consultation processes provide an important opportunity to obtain the views of our community in relation to the content of the Policy and amend as appropriate.

It is recommended that the draft Dog Incident Policy be put on public exhibition for a period of four (4) weeks.

Upon completion of the exhibition period, all feedback and submissions will be considered prior to the Dog Incident Policy being presented to Council for final adoption.

## **CONCLUSION**

The adoption of the Dog Incident Policy provides the opportunity to establish a transparent framework which articulates the processes in which authorised officers will investigate and respond to dog attacks and incidents within the Alpine Shire. Community engagement is being undertaken on the draft Policy prior to the Policy being finalised.

## **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
- Manager Regulatory Services

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. **8.3.2.1** Draft Dog Incident Policy

### 8.3.3 Performance Report - Council Plan

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Alpine Shire Council Plan 2025-2029 was adopted by Council in September 2025, and set out Council's direction for the following four years. This Performance Report is the first update on progress, in the first year of this plan.

#### **RESOLUTION**

*Cr Smith*

*Cr Graham*

***That Council receives and notes the Performance Report which reports progress to 31 January 2026.***

***Carried Unanimously***

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Alpine Shire Council Plan 2025-2029 was adopted in September 2025, with the plan having effect from 1 July 2025.

The Council Plan lists strategic directions, objectives, priorities, major initiatives, and indicators for measuring progress, which along with guiding legislation and plans, collectively provide direction to Council during its term. The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and an Advocacy Plan are also key items contained within the Council Plan document.

The Governance and Management Checklist that forms part of the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) suggests that it is best practice to report on Council Plan progress at least on a six-monthly basis.

Where interim progress reporting of indicators does not generate meaningful results, these are reported at end of financial year as part of the annual report.

#### **ISSUES**

This Quarterly Performance Report represents progress between 1 July 2025 to 31 January 2026. In the first year of reporting, initiatives and actions that were outlined in Council's Budget (adopted in June 2025), Council Plan (adopted in September 2025) and Council Plan Action Plan (adopted in September 2025) have been combined and reported in one single report.

Due to the different dates of adoption of each document, some of the major initiatives and actions identified in the Budget were slightly amended by the time the Council Plan and Action Plan were adopted. However, all items are included in this first year of reporting to ensure that all commitments to the community are reported on.

In the second year of the Council Plan, the major initiatives and actions identified in year two of the Council Plan will flow directly into the draft 2026/27 Budget.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### ***Objective 1: Customer Focused Alpine***

- Internally conducted customer surveys commenced in late January, requesting feedback from customers who have recently interacted with Council. This is being undertaken separately to the wider Community Satisfaction Survey being conducted by external survey providers in February and March and will directly inform the drafting of Council's Customer Charter.
- A capital works ongoing project dashboard is in development, and once presented to Councillors, will be made available for the community later in the year.
- Overdue customer requests have been prioritised and actioned across the organisation, and are reported regularly to the Leadership Team.
- The Asset Plan was adopted by Council in October 2025, and ongoing project prioritisation will be guided by this Plan.

### ***Objective 2: Sustainable and Resilient Alpine***

- Capital work and project prioritisation is being improved by ensuring inputs are being considered from all parts of the organisation and community groups.
- Grant applications have been made for several capital works projects including the Bright to Wandiligong Trail, and Kiewa River Trail.
- An engagement plan for the Community Climate Action Plans for townships has been prepared, and community engagement has commenced via Council's Engage platform, with market pop-up opportunities planned.
- The Financial Sustainability Strategy and Financial Plan were adopted by Council in October 2025.

### ***Objective 3: Vibrant and Healthy Alpine***

- 2025/26 Community and Event Funding grants were allocated in July 2025 to support initiatives and events that promote healthy lifestyles including increased participation in physical activity, as well as promoting inclusion, connectedness, resilience and sustainability.
- Community engagement was undertaken to inform the development of Council's draft Access and Inclusion Plan.
- Projects were progressed which assist in supporting participation in sport and physical activity. These include the opening of the Myrtleford Splash Park and upgrades to the Bright Skate Park, with several other projects already delivered, or on track, for completion.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The development of a Council Plan is a requirement of the *Local Government Act 2020* and is a guiding document for Council until 30 June 2029.

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

- 1.1 Our highest priority is improving our communication – both listening and providing information and feedback
- 1.2 Our systems and processes are designed, implemented, and reviewed to support a customer focussed culture
- 2.11 We prioritise effective governance to ensure transparent oversight of our operations

**FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The Council Plan is a key document informing the financial and human resources required to achieve Council's objectives. Resources to support the Council Plan are detailed in the Financial Plan and Annual Budget.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Failure to deliver annual Council Plan commitments	Possible	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress reporting ensures that the annual Council Plan commitments are regularly raised as priorities during the year, ensuring that their delivery is prioritised.</li> </ul>

**CONSULTATION**

The Council Plan was established through deliberative engagement with the community and then subject to public exhibition prior to being adopted by Council. Annual actions are detailed in Council's Budget, which is also subject to public exhibition prior to adoption.

Many of the individual initiatives and activities included in the Council Plan are subject to their own community participation and consultation processes.

**CONCLUSION**

This report provides an update on the progress that is being made in the delivery of key Council Plan actions.

## **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.

- Directors
- Managers
- Governance Officer

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. **8.3.3.1** Performance Report - July 2025 to January 2026

### 8.3.4 Reappointment of Independent Audit and Risk Committee Member

#### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the report is to recommend the reappointment of an independent member to Council's Audit and Risk Committee for a further three-year term.

#### **RESOLUTION**

***Cr Byrne***

***Cr Smith***

***That Council reappoints Julie Guest to the Audit and Risk Committee for a three-year term expiring 27 June 2029.***

***Carried Unanimously***

#### BACKGROUND

Alpine Shire Council's Audit and Risk Committee established under section 53(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) comprises councillor and independent members.

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter (the Charter) requires that the Committee comprises a minimum of five members, being:

- no more than two councillors nominated and appointed by Council; and
- at least three or more independent persons.

The Audit and Risk Committee currently comprises six members: two councillors and four independent members.

The Charter provides for independent members to be appointed for an initial term of up to three years. At the completion of an appointed term, section 3.4 of the Charter provides for independent members to apply for reappointment to the Committee with a maximum of three consecutive terms.

#### ISSUES

Independent member Julie Guest was first appointed in July 2021 for a two-year term and then reappointed in July 2023, for a second term expiring 27 June 2026. Julie has expressed her desire to continue to serve on the Alpine Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee for a third (and final) term.

#### ***Expertise and experience***

Section 53(b) of the Act specifies that independent Committee members have, collectively, expertise in financial management and risk, and experience in public sector management. The Charter further specifies collective knowledge and strategic skills in the areas of audit, governance, control, and compliance and preference for at least one

independent member to be a member of CPA Australia (CPA status), the Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia (CA status) and/or the Institute of Internal Auditors.

As the focus and responsibilities of the Committee respond to emerging needs and regulatory, economic, and reporting developments, members’ competencies, and the overall balance of skills on the Committee is re-evaluated in the appointment of new and returning members.

Julie Guest has been a valuable member of the Committee over the past five years, including Chair for the last three financial years. Julie brings direct finance, accounting, and local government audit and risk committee experience to the Committee.

***Terms of appointment***

The terms of appointment for each member are, where possible, arranged to provide an orderly rotation of membership. Current independent member terms expire in April 2027 and September 2028. The reappointment of Julie Guest for a further three-year term will provide for stability and continuity on the Committee going forward.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

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

2.11 We prioritise effective governance to ensure transparent oversight of our operations

**FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Independent Audit and Risk Committee members receive a set fee for each meeting attended in accordance with the Audit and Risk Committee Charter and as set by Council in its annual budget. The fee is indexed annually by the Essential Services Rate Cap.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Operating outside legislative / regulatory / statutory / policy obligations	Unlikely	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit and Risk Committee Charter reviewed to maintain currency and establish member recruitment practices.</li> <li>Monitoring current member terms at each meeting to enable proactive and timely recruitment / reappointment of members.</li> </ul>

## **CONSULTATION**

The Audit and Risk Committee was informed about the expiry date of Julie Guest's current term at the Committee's February 2026 meeting. At the meeting, Julie indicated her interest in seeking reappointment and formalised her application in seeking reappointment to the Committee on 21 February 2026.

## **CONCLUSION**

Julie Guest is a valuable member of the Alpine Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee, and it is recommended that she be reappointed for a further three-year, and final, term ending 27 June 2029.

## **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 Corporate
- Risk Management Officer

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Nil

## 8.3.5 Audit and Risk Committee - Minutes of Meeting No.2025/26-4

### **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of the report is to present to Council the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting No. 2025/26-4 held on 20 February 2026.

### **RESOLUTION**

*Cr Byrne*

*Cr Graham*

***That Council receives and notes the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting No.2025/26-4 held on 20 February 2026.***

***Carried Unanimously***

### **BACKGROUND**

The Audit and Risk Committee (the Committee) minutes, and a report summarising the meeting content, must be reported to a meeting of Council within two months of the Committee meeting in accordance with section 5.2 of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter. As the Committee has yet to confirm the minutes, they are presented to Council for noting as unconfirmed.

### **ISSUES**

The Committee met on 20 February 2026 and considered several key items as well as regular quarterly reports and standing items. An overview of the key items considered by the Committee is outlined below.

#### ***Internal Audit - Contract Management***

The Committee received the findings of the 2026 internal audit on Council's contract management processes and controls undertaken by Council's internal audit provider, Crowe. The contract management audit is the second internal audit for 2025/26.

While the audit identified positive contract management controls it did make five recommendations (four governance related and one process/system related) to implement additional, or improve existing, controls to reduce the identified weaknesses and exposures. Four of the recommendations had a medium risk rating to be addressed within 12 months and one recommendation had a low rating to be addressed within 18 months.

#### ***Capital Works Report***

As part of continual risk management, the Committee receives a report on the status of capital projects at regular intervals to ensure any risks associated with project delays can be identified early and solutions for mitigation discussed. The Committee noted the

efforts of Council to keep projects on time and on budget including the efforts of Council to progress the Nimmo Bridge Pedestrian Crossing project in Myrtleford.

### ***Asset Management Steering Group Report***

A regular report is provided to the Committee detailing the current focus of the Asset Management Steering Group on a range of asset matters. This meeting the Committee was briefed on Council's adoption of its Asset Plan, amongst other ongoing programs.

### ***Local Government Performance Reporting Changes***

The Committee was briefed on the changes to the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework and Government and Management Checklist that come into effect for the 2026/27 financial year reporting. The Committee was assured that Council is monitoring the additional information being released about the changes and is building the measures and targets into its 2026/27 Budget as required by the relevant legislation and regulations.

### ***Financial Sustainability Action Plan***

Council adopted its Financial Sustainability Strategy in October 2025. The Committee received a report on the status of progress towards achieving the actions outlined in the Strategy.

### ***Other reports***

The Committee was also briefed on Council's progress on the review and updating of its policies and critical documents, Council's investment portfolio, and received information on local government governance and integrity matters, AI risk management and fraud and corruption control in local government.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

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

- 2.10 We systematically identify and manage risks to support informed decision-making and organisational resilience
- 2.11 We prioritise effective governance to ensure transparent oversight of our operations

## **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial or resourcing implications associated with this report. Council's approved 2025/26 budget contains a budget allocation for the operation of the Committee.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
The oversight function of the Audit and Risk Committee is not adequately presented to a Council meeting.	Rare	Insignificant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes are prepared within two weeks of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting and tabled at the next available Ordinary Council Meeting.</li> </ul>

**CONSULTATION**

The unconfirmed minutes from the meeting are distributed to the Audit and Risk Committee members in accordance with section 5.2 of the Committee's Charter and presented formally at the following Committee meeting for ratification.

**CONCLUSION**

The Committee, being satisfied with the detail provided in its agenda and the officer reports, submits the unconfirmed minutes of its meeting No.2025/26-4 held on 20 February 2026 to Council for noting.

**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 Corporate
- Risk Management Officer

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. **8.3.5.1** Audit and Risk Committee Meeting No.2025-26-4 Minutes UNCONFIRMED

## 9 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.

### **RESOLUTION**

***Cr Ronco***

***Cr Tanzen***

***That the summary of informal meetings of Councillors for February and March 2026 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
24 February	Briefing Session
10 March	Briefing Session
17 March	Briefing Session
24 March	Briefing Session

### ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **9.1.1** Informal Meeting of Councillors 20260224
2. **9.1.2** Informal Meeting of Councillors 20260310
3. **9.1.3** Informal Meeting of Councillors 20260317
4. **9.1.4** Informal Meeting of Councillors 20260324

## **10 Presentation of reports by delegates**

Cr Ronco

## **11 General business**

Cr Ronco

Cr Graham

Cr Tanzen

Mayor

## **12 Motions for which notice has previously been given**

Nil

## **13 Reception and reading of petitions**

Nil

## **14 Documents for signing and sealing**

Lease for part of Crown Allotment 17 Section 9A, Parish of Myrtleford.

Cr Smith

Cr Ronco

Carried Unanimously

## **15 Confidential reports**

Nil

## **16 Closure of meeting**

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 6.40pm