

M(6) – 30 JUNE 2026

# Ordinary Council Meeting

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Agenda

Notice is hereby given that the next **Ordinary Council Meeting** of the **Alpine Shire Council** will be held in the Bright Council Chambers, 2 Churchill Avenue, Bright on **30 June 2026** commencing at **5:00 pm**.

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# 1 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.

# 2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians and recognition of all people

*All to stand, the Mayor 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.

# 3 Confirmation of minutes

## 3.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING M(5) HELD ON 26 MAY, 2026

### **RECOMMENDATION**

***That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting M(5) held on 26 May, 2026 as circulated be confirmed.***

# 4 Apologies

# 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

Cr Ronco - Item 8.2.2 - P.2023.149 - 17, 19A and 19B McGeehan Crescent, Myrtleford

## 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 DIRECTOR ASSETS - SARAH BUCKLEY

#### 8.1.1 Award of Contract No. 26/7364 - Provision of Swimming Pools Management Services in Alpine, Indigo and Towong Shires

##### **INTRODUCTION**

This report relates to the award of a contract for the management and operation of the Bright Sports Centre and the seasonal pools (the Bright River Pool, the Mount Beauty Swimming Pool, the Myrtleford Swimming Pool and Porepunkah River Pool). The contract term is for three years, with the option to extend for up to three additional one-year periods.

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

###### ***That Council:***

- 1. Notes that Alpine, Indigo and Towong Shire Councils have chosen to conduct a joint procurement process for the provision of swimming pools management services across all three shires, and that a successful contract outcome is conditional on Indigo and Towong Shire Councils each awarding a contract to the same operator;***
- 2. Conditional on similar decisions by Indigo and Towong Shire Councils, awards Contract No. 26/7364 for the Provision of Swimming Pools Management Services in Alpine Shire to Belgravia Leisure Pty Ltd for a three-year period commencing 1 September 2026 with three one-year extension options at a contract price for the initial three-year term of \$1,361,881 (excl. GST); and***
- 3. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise the details and to execute the contract documents on its behalf.***

##### **BACKGROUND**

Council operates the Bright Sports Centre, two seasonal pools at Mount Beauty and Myrtleford, and provides lifeguard supervision at the Bright and Porepunkah River Pools (Summer holiday period only).

Up to 2021, Council directly managed these facilities through a labour hire agreement with MomentumOne Shared Services Pty Ltd.

Section 109 of the *Local Government Act 2020* mandates that Victorian councils actively explore collaborative procurement opportunities. Councils are now legally required to seek collaboration with other councils, public bodies, or peak procurement agencies to achieve economies of scale and operational efficiencies. In this instance, Alpine, Indigo and Towong Shire Councils have chosen to work together to achieve economies of scale and operational efficiencies for one of Council's largest service provision contracts.

In 2021, Council conducted a joint tender with Indigo Shire Council to assess the operation and management options for the seasonal pools and the Bright Sports Centre in Alpine Shire. At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 3 August 2021, Council awarded Contract No. CT21070 to Belgravia Leisure Pty Ltd (Belgravia) for the provision of swimming pools, and management and operation of the Bright Sports Centre for a three-year term. The contract commenced in September 2021 for an estimated cost of \$1,455,758.

The contract included an initial three-year term with three optional one-year extensions. In accordance with these provisions, Council undertook annual reviews with Belgravia in June 2024, 2025 and 2026 to consider each extension. During negotiations, it was identified that operating costs, particularly staffing and other operational requirements, had increased beyond CPI, requiring a variation to the contract amount.

In late 2025, Alpine, Indigo and Towong Shire Councils met to discuss synergies in the management of their aquatic facilities across the three shires acknowledging that Alpine Shire Council also operates the year-round Bright Sports Centre. Recognising the benefits of a regional approach and building on the work that Alpine and Indigo Shire Councils have undertaken in recent years, the three councils agreed to undertake a joint procurement process for aquatic facility operations.

The joint procurement of swimming pool management services across Alpine, Indigo and Towong Shires delivers benefits that extend well beyond cost savings. The aim of this collaboration is to establish a consistent, high-quality approach to swimming pool operations achieving operational efficiencies that deliver cost savings, and ensure residents receive the same standard of service regardless of the community they live in. By taking a regional approach, the three councils aim to strengthen their collective bargaining position and reduce administrative duplication. Aligned key performance indicators, coordinated reporting and shared contract conditions ensure consistent, accountable management across all facilities.

A memorandum of understanding was developed for the joint procurement process, which outlines the intent and key roles and responsibilities of each party, with Indigo Shire council acting as the lead for procurement.

A Tender Evaluation Panel (the Panel) comprising Alpine Shire Council's Director Assets, Indigo Shire Council's Manager Assets and Property, and Towong Shire Council's Director of Community and Planning reviewed and evaluated all submissions received in response to the advertised Request for Tender (RFT). Council officers from each council with subject matter expertise were available to provide technical support to the Tender Evaluation Panel; however, they did not participate in the tender evaluation process.

## **EVALUATION**

The Request for Tender for Contract No. 26/7364 - Provision of Swimming Pools Management Services opened on 13 April 2026 and closed on 18 May 2026.

A total of eight organisations registered interest in the opportunity and three submissions were received.

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

- Price
- Industry qualification, experience, capability and organisational capacity
- Proposed program, operating systems, management, sustainability and safety systems
- Ability to recruit, retain, develop qualified staff, including commitment to local staff

The panel reviewed and evaluated each of the submissions received. Following this assessment process, it has been determined that the tender from Belgravia Pty Ltd for the operation and management of the Bright Sports Centre, the river pools and the seasonal pools best met the key selection criteria outlined above.

## **ISSUES**

### ***Impacts of this contract***

Public swimming pools in small rural and regional communities offer significant health and wellbeing benefits, serving as vital hubs for social and physical connection; however, these facilities consume substantial amounts of water, chemicals and electricity. The appropriate management and operation of these facilities is important as they have significant economic development, environmental and social impacts.

### ***The need for a single operator***

As this procurement seeks to appoint a single operator across all three shires, failure to identify a single suitable operator would mean a contract could not be awarded. There are no alternative arrangements available under this joint process, as a successful outcome is contingent on Alpine, Indigo, and Towong Shire Councils all awarding the contract to the same operator.

Council could choose not to award this contract as recommended in this report. This would mean that a further procurement process would be required to identify a suitable operator.

### ***Individual contracts***

If the three councils approve the award of the contract to the same operator, individual contracts will be negotiated between the operator and the relevant council, which is responsible for its own contracts, and payment of contract and operating costs over the life of the contract. Similar key performance indicators will see the three councils work closely with the successful operator to ensure consistent service and outputs across the three shires.

All three councils agreed to enter into individual contracts for the provision of pool management services due to the variation in management service models, the requirement for staggered contract start dates and based on advice from legal services engaged to assist with the management of the tender and development of the contract.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

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

2.9 We support a strong and sustainable economy across Alpine Shire

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

**FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The initial three-year term commencing 1 September 2026 will have a total cost to Council of \$1,361,881 (ex GST) with three one-year extension options.

Year One of this contract, covering the period from 1 September 2026 to 31 August 2027, is valued at \$456,000. This cost does not include utilities for running each pool and sports centre. This has been removed from the contract and will be paid directly by Council to an energy provider.

For the 2026/27 financial year, the total cost is \$421,544. This comprises \$41,544 for the remaining period of the current contract (1 July 2026 to 31 August 2026) and \$380,000 for the new contract period (1 September 2026 to 30 June 2027).

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Failure to select a single operator across all three shires.	Unlikely	Major	Undertake a thorough evaluation process with representatives from the three councils. Conduct briefings with the Executive Leadership Group and Councillors on the recommendation to appoint the preferred operator as identified by the evaluation panel.
Dissatisfaction with the approved operator.	Possible	Minor	Undertake a comprehensive communication campaign in partnership with the approved operator to inform the community of the outcome of the tender process and the new management model.

## **CONSULTATION**

The tender enabled Alpine, Indigo and Towong Shire Councils to make separate determinations regarding which, if any, of the tendered options to recommend. The tender was advertised on Indigo Shire Council's tender platform, and three submissions were received.

As there will be no change to the operator in the event that Council accepts the recommendations in this report, Council will continue to work with the provider to ensure appropriate communication and community engagement regarding operations. The contract includes key performance indicators requiring the operator to develop and deliver annual engagement plans for pool operations and activations over the life of the contract.

## **CONCLUSION**

Following a comprehensive assessment, the tender from Belgravia is deemed to present the best value for Council for the management and operation of the Bright Sports Centre and the seasonal pools (the Bright River Pool, the Mount Beauty Swimming Pool, the Myrtleford Swimming Pool and Porepunkah River Pool).

This report recommends that Council awards a contract to Belgravia for a three-year contract with three one-year extension options.

## **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

## 8.1.2 Community Energy Upgrades Fund (Round 2) Program - Council Co-contribution Commitment

### INTRODUCTION

Alpine Shire Council (Council) has been successful in its application for the Australian Government's Community Energy Upgrades Fund (CEUF) Round 2 program for grant funding of \$350,000 with a \$350,000 co-contribution from Council for project completion by 31 March 2028. The original funding application was put forward in June 2025 to install solar photovoltaic (PV) generation and battery storage systems across multiple Council facilities. The project list requires re-scoping as several of the projects proposed in the initial grant application have now been completed or commenced and are, therefore, no longer eligible for funding.

Given this, this report recommends that Council officers engage with the grant funding authority to finalise the preferred list of projects and delegates the future signing of the funding agreement to the Chief Executive Officer.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### ***That Council:***

- 1. Notes that Council's grant application to the Australian Government's Community Energy Upgrades Fund (CEUF) Round 2 program was successful;***
- 2. Commits to a co-contribution of up to \$350,000 (excl. GST) of Council funding to secure up to \$350,000 (excl. GST) of funding under this grant funding program, resulting in a total project budget of up to \$700,000 to deliver 'energy upgrades' to Council-owned buildings over the 2026/27 and 2027/28 financial years;***
- 3. Notes the inclusion of \$200,000 in the Alpine Shire Council Budget 2026/27, subject to a decision later in this meeting, which will serve as a co-contribution to this grant application;***
- 4. Notes an allocation of \$150,000 will be required and considered for inclusion in the Alpine Shire Council Budget 2027/28 as a co-contribution to this grant application;***
- 5. Notes that Council officers are engaging with the grant funding authority to finalise the list of projects for inclusion in the grant funding agreement; and***
- 6. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise the list of preferred projects and to execute the funding agreement on its behalf.***

### BACKGROUND

Council applied to the Australian Government's Community Energy Upgrades Fund (CEUF) Round 2 program in June 2025. The application sought funding of \$350,000 with a \$350,000 co-contribution from Council to realise the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) generation and battery storage systems across multiple Council facilities to enhance grid stability, reduce energy costs and strengthen local energy resilience. Council's

application was assessed and placed on a reserve list; this determination was subsequently revised by the funding body as additional funding became available.

Council has an ongoing renewable energy generation and storage installation program per commitments made in the Alpine Shire Climate Action Plan 2021-2025 and the Alpine Shire Climate Action Plan 2025-2029(CAP). Action 1 Low Impact Facilities of the CAP states that Council owns and manages facilities that are a range of ages and condition. There is an opportunity for Council to make significant energy efficiency improvements that ensure facilities are comfortable and efficient year-round. The following actions seek to achieve this:

- 1.1 Council-owned buildings are energy efficient:
  - 1.1.2 Deliver energy efficiency assessments and upgrades to Council facilities as resources allow

Action 3 Renewable Energy of the CAP states that Council has been installing solar PV systems on its facilities periodically since 2014 and recommends that this should continue to reduce our reliance on grid-delivered electricity in order to reduce our vulnerability to grid volatility and disruptions. Installing solar PV generation and storage systems at our facilities is a viable and cost-effective way to produce local renewable energy, reduce our electricity costs, and improve our energy resilience. The following actions seek to achieve this:

- 3.1 Council generates, stores and uses renewable energy:
  - 3.1.1 Continue to install solar PV and battery systems at facilities owned and/or managed by Council
  - 3.1.2 Contract solar viability assessments on Council facilities to prioritise facilities for solar installations

Supporting this grant funding opportunity will assist in delivering a significant amount of the recommendations of the CAP.

In the current financial year, five of the 12 facilities originally proposed for solar PV and/or battery installation have either commenced or been completed and are therefore ineligible for this funding. Given this, Council officers are finalising a preferred list of projects with the grant funding authority that satisfies the grant funding program's criteria. It is expected that this list will be completed over the coming months and be subject to approval by the grant funding authority.

To prioritise the revised list of projects for this funding opportunity, consideration will be given to facilities with high energy bills, facilities with gas usage and facilities with ageing, inefficient, and unreliable equipment and appliances. The proposed projects list is expected to comprise a combined capital expenditure estimate that will meet the full \$700,000 total project cost amount including a 10% contingency.

Once complete, the funding agreement can be signed by the Chief Executive Officer.

Should the finalised projects be completed under budget, there are also other projects of varying scale that have been assessed as offering a suitable return on investment.

Council officers will engage with the grant funding authority to advance these projects should it be required.

## **ISSUES**

The solar PV and battery systems installed this financial year have reduced the number of Council-managed facilities still paying electricity bills without solar PV, leaving a smaller group of sites that present the most straightforward opportunities for stronger financial returns on investment. To maximise the grant opportunity and ensure the resulting energy cost savings are shared across the community, tenanted facilities for which Council is not directly responsible for utility payments may also be included.

As well as offering reduced electricity bills for the tenants, and in-turn reduced fees for users, any energy efficiency enhancements at these facilities will reduce Council's scope 3 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions - the baselining of which Council has committed to through the Alpine Shire Climate Action Plan 2025-2029.

### *Solar PV and Battery Installations*

Several facilities that have had an assessment conducted by certified solar and battery providers, which includes an optimised system size and quote, remain outstanding. There are also facilities that have yet to be assessed or have had electrification projects and/or significant changes to usage patterns since the assessment was completed. For these facilities the estimate of system size, cost and return on investment is based on the system designs received for facilities with similar electricity usage, as well as consideration of unobstructed roof space availability, with cost estimates apportioned accordingly. Final system design using the latest electricity and gas usage patterns for all facilities will be conducted prior to project commencement.

### *Gas Hot Water and Heating*

Gas appliances have been phased out across many facilities in recent years by attrition; however, several facilities still rely on gas for heating and hot water. Replacement of gas systems with energy efficient heat pump technology will both reduce GHG emissions and reduce operational costs.

### *LED Lighting*

LED lighting costs about 50% less to operate compared to traditional light globes. As incandescent and halogen lights have failed across facilities, they have been replaced by LED equivalents; however, many of the more costly replacements such as stadiums and sports fields and courts have yet to be replaced. This funding provides the opportunity to reduce the capital expenditure of these more costly replacements by half and, therefore, improve the return on investment.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### ***Alpine Shire Council Plan 2025-2029***

The recommendation is in accordance with the 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
- 2.1 New capital projects and works will be strategically aligned and planned to support long-term sustainability
- 2.6 We take action on climate change and its impacts on our communities, biodiversity, and the environment, while supporting circular economy initiatives that help reduce waste and improve recycling

### ***Local Government Act 2020***

The recommendations are consistent with section 9(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 2020, 'councils are required to promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks.'

### ***Alpine Shire Council Climate Action Plan 2025 - 2029***

Council has committed to enhancing facility energy efficiency in the Alpine Shire Climate Action Plan 2025-2029. The following actions support the recommendations of this report:

- 1.1.2 Deliver energy efficiency assessments and upgrades to Council facilities as resources allow
- 3.1.1 Continue to install solar PV and battery systems at facilities owned and/or managed by Council

## **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The funding amount awarded in the CEUF Round 2 program is \$350,000 with a co-contribution requirement from Council of \$350,000 and a project completion date of 31 March 2028. It is proposed that the co-contribution expenditure be spread over two financial years, with \$200,000 included in the Alpine Shire Council Budget 2026/27 and the remaining \$150,000 considered as part of the preparation of the Alpine Shire Council Budget 2027/28.

A final prioritised list of projects for the grant funding will consider capital expenditure, predicted annual savings, GHG emissions reduction, energy efficiency improvements as well as maintenance and user comfort enhancements.

Where costs have not previously been sourced, it is expected that the final estimates of capital expenditure and annual savings will be conservative. Once the prioritised list of projects is complete the request for quote (RFQ) process for each project will include

more detailed design, where required, to ensure energy efficiency and return on investment optimisation.

It is expected that project management of the projects listed will be conducted internally using existing resources from the Capital Works Team and/or the Sustainability Team.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
There is a risk that the solar PV and battery system sizing estimated is not optimal for some facilities	Very likely	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customised design and modelling will be conducted for each facility prior to project commencement</li> <li>• Various spare projects that meet the grant guidelines have been identified for use of any unspent funds</li> <li>• Estimated overspend will be mitigated by removing some projects from the final list, if required</li> </ul>
There is a risk that advice from Council's Heritage Adviser for those properties in the Heritage Overlay may restrict or require mitigation measures to realise such infrastructure	Possible	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation is typically exempt from a planning permit if done by Council</li> <li>• Early consultation with the heritage adviser has informed consideration of heritage significance</li> <li>• Council's Heritage Adviser will provide ongoing advice for works within Heritage Overlay areas</li> </ul>

## CONSULTATION

In developing the prioritised list of facilities for inclusion in the re-scoped funding submission, internal engagement will be conducted with relevant Council stakeholders.

This will include staff from Council's Building Maintenance Team, Capital Works Team, Property and Contracts Team and Strategic Planning Team, and consideration was also given to feedback these staff have received from the various committees of management, tenants and users of facilities.

The Statutory Planning Team and Heritage Adviser have been engaged with regarding the installation of solar PV on the roof of properties in the Heritage Overlay with further engagement with the Heritage Adviser to be conducted during detailed design finalisation.

## **CONCLUSION**

This funding opportunity is expected to halve the capital expenditure required to implement a significant amount of identified energy efficiency initiatives. Initiatives that will see multiple benefits for Council and the community including operational savings, GHG emissions reduction, enhancement of energy resilience, obsolescence contingency of ageing equipment and user comfort. Committing the co-contribution in the 2026/27 and considering it for inclusion in the 2027/28 financial year budgets brings forward the planned capital expenditure to implement actions in the Alpine Shire Climate Action Plan 2025-2029 and, therefore, brings forward the realisation of the operational savings and GHG emissions reduction of these initiatives.

Given this, this report recommends that Council supports this initiative, notes that Council officers will continue to engage with the grant funding authority to finalise the preferred list of projects and delegates the future signing of the funding agreement to the Chief Executive Officer.

## **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
- Sustainability Coordinator

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Nil

8.2 DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY - NATHALIE COOKE

8.2.1 P.2022.146 - Corner of Martley Street and Nicholson Street, Porepunkah

Application number:	P.2022.146
Proposal:	Redevelopment of the Porepunkah Panthers Baseball Club Clubrooms
Applicant’s name:	John Carter (Carter Perspective)
Owner’s name:	Secretary to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
Address:	Corner of Martley Street and Nicholson Street, Porepunkah
Land size:	Approx. 11,400sqm
Current use and development:	Porepunkah Recreation Reserve
Site features:	<p>As applicable to the current application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Porepunkah Recreation Reserve contains outdoor sporting fields (tennis, cricket, baseball) and a number of ancillary buildings and structures. The Reserve also contains the Porepunkah Hall. The majority of the reserve is grassed and the topography of the reserve is predominantly flat.</li> <li>the Nicholson Street Road Reserve contains a two-way road pavement and established canopy vegetation. Part of the road reserve (now formally closed, refer discussion below) is currently used and developed for recreation purposes.</li> <li>the Martley Street Road Reserve contains a two-way road pavement, a single footpath (south side), a mix of informal and formal car parking areas and established canopy vegetation. Part of the road reserve (now formally closed, refer discussion below) is currently used and developed for recreation purposes.</li> </ul>

<p>Why is a permit required?</p>	<p><b>Part Porepunkah Recreation Reserve</b>  <u>Public Park and Recreation Zone</u>                      36.02-2: a permit is required to construct a building or construct or carry out works.</p> <p><b>Part Former Martley Street Road Reserve</b>  <u>Township Zone</u>                      32.05-11: A permit is required to construct a building or construct or carry out works for a use in Section 2 of Clause 32.05-2.</p> <p><b>Part Former Nicholson Street Road Reserve</b>  <u>Transport Zone Schedule 2</u>                      36.04-2: A permit is required to construct a building or construct or carry out works for any use in Section 2 of Clause 36.04-1.</p> <p><b>Bushfire Management Overlay</b>                      44.06-2: a permit is required to construct a building or construct or carry out works associated with a leisure and recreation use.</p>
<p>Zoning:</p>	<p>Part Public Park and Recreation Zone                      Part Township Zone                      Part Transport Zone Schedule 2</p>
<p>Overlays:</p>	<p>Bushfire Management Overlay Schedule 1 (BMO1)</p>
<p>Restrictive covenants on the title?</p>	<p>None applicable</p>
<p>Date received:</p>	<p>20 October 2022</p>
<p>Statutory days:</p>	<p>47</p>
<p>Planner:</p>	<p>Chris Mason, Senior Statutory Planner</p>

**RECOMMENDATION**

***That Council:***

***Issues a planning permit for buildings and works associated with Minor sports and recreation facility and the construction and display of a business identification sign in accordance with the conditions outlined in Attachment 8.2.1.3 and for the following reasons:***

- 1. The proposal generally supports and implements the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.***

- 2. Subject to conditions, the proposal acceptably respects and reflects the existing scale and bulk of buildings in the surrounding area and acceptably responds to Porepunkah's established character and the recreation and open space values of the Reserve.**
- 3. The proposal is generally consistent with the purpose and decision guidelines of the Public Park and Recreation Zone and the Township Zone.**
- 4. The public land manager has conditionally consented to the proposal.**
- 5. The Committee of Management for the Porepunkah Recreation Reserve has conditionally consented to the proposal.**
- 6. The Head, Transport for Victoria, has consented to the application being made and in doing so, confirmed that the Transport Zone Schedule 2 that applies to land affected by the application is a zoning anomaly, with the land in question not being an arterial road and not being under the management of the Department of Transport and Planning. On this basis the proposal is generally consistent with the purpose and decision guidelines of the Transport Zone Schedule 2.**
- 7. It has been demonstrated that bushfire risk can be acceptably mitigated.**
- 8. It has been acceptably demonstrated that potential impacts to waterways and water quality within a Special Water Supply Catchment Area can be appropriately mitigated.**
- 9. It has been acceptably demonstrated that requisite services are available to the site and can be provided to support development in accordance with the requirements of the relevant authorities, while at the same time protecting community amenity, human health and safety.**

## **PROPOSAL**

Council has received a planning permit application that seeks approval for the redevelopment of the Porepunkah Panthers Baseball Club Clubrooms.

The proposed redevelopment involves the construction of a two-storey building incorporating the following features:

- The lower level consists of a canteen, scorers room, covered viewing area, storage area, clubroom/multi use space and amenities.
- The upper level consists of a scorer's room and viewing deck.
- To construct and put up for display a business identification sign, detailing the Porepunkah Panthers logo and name.

The Applicant has confirmed that the "multi use space" located within the proposed clubrooms building:

- Would be utilised as ancillary support infrastructure for the recreation reserve:
- Is intended to host routine, low-impact activities such as committee meetings, minor community group gatherings and basic match-day administrative support (e.g., scoring and official operations):

- Is not intended to be used as a commercial function centre or an independent entertainment venue; and
- Would be used within standard reserve hours and would not be utilised concurrent with peak game-day turnouts.

The proposed building has a maximum height of 6.6m and is of a modern design, incorporating a range of external materials such as Colorbond sheet metal, cement sheet and bushfire resistant hard wood. The proposed building would be physically integrated with the existing 'home' and 'visitor' team seating areas ("dugouts").

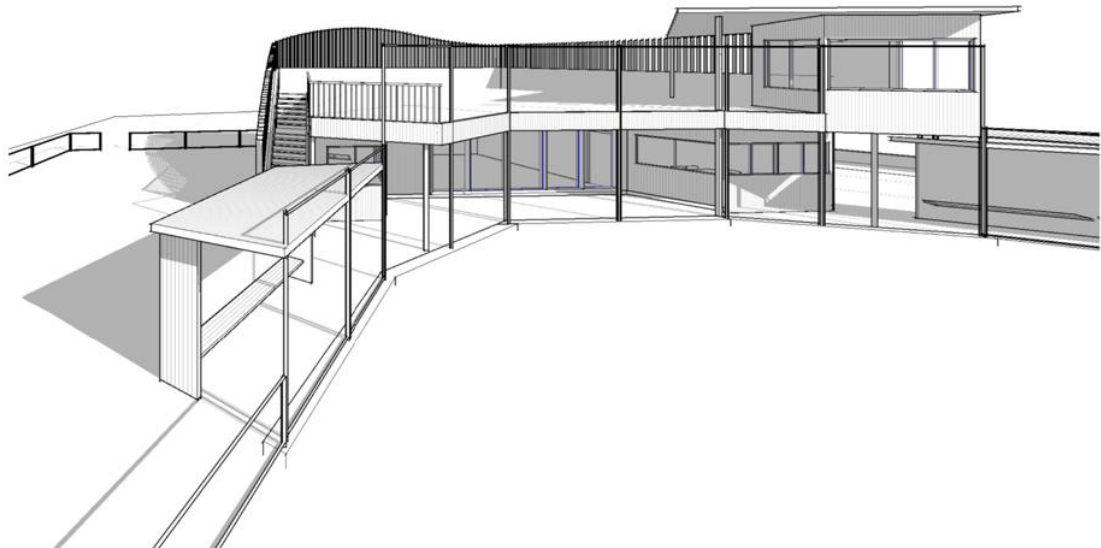
The proposed redevelopment also includes demolishing / removing the existing 'store', extending the 900mm-high chainmesh ball stop fence for 10m each side of the existing "dugouts", and widening the southern end of the existing batting cage to provide for both left and right hand batters.



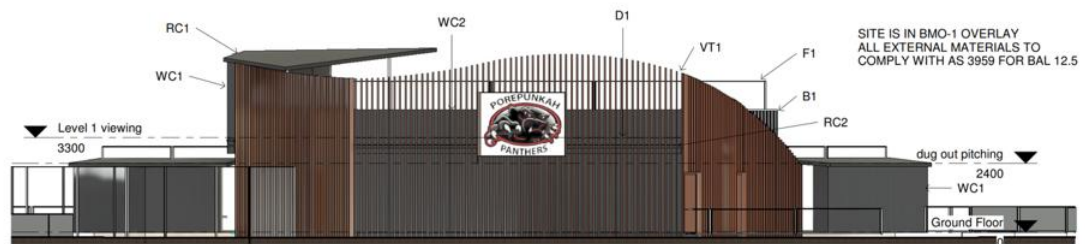
Figure 1: Partial Existing Site Plan (source: application documents)



**Figure 2: partial proposed Site Plan (source: application documents)**



**Figure 3: 3D Elevation front (from Reserve)**



**Figure 4: South Elevation (from the corner of Martley & Nicholson Streets)**

The full set of plans are included at Attachment 8.2.1.2.

## **SUBJECT LAND AND SURROUNDS**

The land affected by the application comprises the Porepunkah Recreation Reserve and parts of the former Martley Street and Nicholson Street road reserves.

As a direct consequence of the current application, on 5 November 2025 the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action notified Council that those parts of the Martley and Nicholson Street road reserves affected by the current proposal had been formally closed as road reserves and included as part of the broader Porepunkah Recreation Reserve. In addition, the Department also advised that the Committee of Management for the broader Porepunkah Recreation Reserve had been appointed as delegated manager for those parts of the former Martley Street and Nicholson Street road reserves affected by the current application.

Also as a direct consequence of the current application, the Department of Transport and Planning notified Council that the Transport Zone Schedule 2 (TRZ2) zoning of that part of the (now former) Nicholson Street road reserve affected by the current proposal is a zoning anomaly, with that part of the now former road reserve not an arterial road and not under the management of the Department.

The Porepunkah Recreation Reserve (now inclusive of the two former road reserves referenced above) contains outdoor sporting fields (tennis, cricket, baseball) and a number of ancillary buildings and structures, including the Porepunkah Hall. The majority of the reserve is grassed and the topography of the reserve is predominantly flat.

The land affected by the application is situated within the residential Township of Porepunkah, approximately 5.5km to the north west of Bright. A variety of land uses are observed within the surrounding area, namely, a Primary School to the south east, dwellings to the north and a public reserve and playground to the west. The Ovens River is located approximately 80m to the west of the site. The site and surrounding area are highlighted within the aerial image on the following page.



**Figure 5: Subject land and surrounds (source: Land and Survey Spatial Information)**

## **PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

The application was advertised in accordance with Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* by way of:

- Sending notices to the owners and occupiers of adjoining land; and
- Placing a sign on site at the property frontage.

No submissions were received.

## REFERRALS

Referrals / Notice	Advice / Response / Conditions
Section 55 referrals:	<p>The CFA does not object to the proposal subject to conditions requiring the submission and approval of an amended Bushfire Management Plan and a Bushfire Emergency Plan.</p> <p>GMW does not object to the proposal subject to conditions requiring construction activities, wastewater and stormwater and managed in accordance with recognised standards and requirements.</p>
Section 52 referrals:	<p>The Department of Energy, Environment &amp; Climate Action (DEECA) provided provisional landowner consent and does not object to the proposal, subject to compliance with any permits, licences and/or statutory requirements that may apply.</p> <p>In providing its provisional landowner consent, DEECA noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal extends beyond the footprint of the Crown Land Reserve:</li> <li>• DEECA is working through a road closure process so that additional land impacted by the proposal can be added to the reserve’s footprint; and</li> <li>• DEECA's provisional landowner consent is therefore subject to this road closure and reservation process being completed.</li> </ul> <p>On 5 November 2025 the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action advised Council that the road closure and reservation process had been completed.</p>
Internal / external referrals:	<p>Council's Development Engineer is supportive of the proposal subject to conditions that will be included in any permit issued.</p>

## ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ACT

All land affected by the application is contained within an Area of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity.

Under Division 5, Regulation 46 of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulations 2018, the construction of a building or the construction or carrying out of works on land is a high impact activity if the construction of the building or the construction or carrying out of the works:

- Would result in significant ground disturbance; and
- Is for or associated with (as applicable to the current proposal) the use of land for "a minor sports and recreation facility".

Regulation 7 of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulations 2018 specifies that a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) is required for an activity if:

- a. All or part of the activity area for the activity is an area of cultural heritage sensitivity; and
- b. All or part of the activity is a high impact activity.

Pursuant to Section 52(1) of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, when a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) is required, Council must not grant a statutory authorisation (i.e. planning permit) for the activity unless and until a CHMP has been first approved.

With reference to the Porepunkah Recreation Reserve as affected by the current application, the buildings and works proposed is not a high impact activity (and therefore do not trigger a Cultural Heritage Management Plan requirement) because, pursuant to Regulation 46(3) of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulations 2018, those buildings and works are for or associated with "a minor sports and recreation facility" and the Porepunkah Recreation Reserve was being lawfully used for that purpose immediately before 28 May 2007.

With reference to the parts of the former Martley Street and former Nicholson Street road reserves as affected by the current application, the Applicant submitted a Preliminary Aboriginal Heritage Test (PAHT) to the Secretary to the Department of Premier and Cabinet, with the Secretary subsequently confirming that a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) is not required for those aspects of the proposal proposed to be located within those former road reserves.

## **BUILDING AND WORKS ON PUBLIC LAND**

Plans submitted as part of the planning permit application indicate that the proposed clubhouse redevelopment would include buildings and works on the Porepunkah Recreation Reserve as well as within the former Martley Street and former Nicholson Street road reserves.

Specifically, the submitted plans indicate that:

- Part of the proposed clubrooms building, part of the proposed widened end of the batting cage and part of a 10m long, 900mm-high chainmesh ball stop fence extension would be constructed within the Porepunkah Recreation Reserve.
- Part of the proposed clubrooms building and a 10m long, 900mm-high chainmesh ball stop fence extension would be constructed within the former Martley Street road reserve.
- Part of the proposed widened end of the batting cage and part of a 10m long, 900mm-high chainmesh ball stop fence extension would be constructed within the former Nicholson Street road reserve.

In addition, Council's Development Engineer granted conditional consent to the proposal on the condition that the currently informal car parking area at the intersection of Martley and Nicholson Streets is formalised (i.e. sealed, properly drained, line marked, illuminated and signed).

As noted above, those parts of the Martley and Nicholson Street road reserves affected by the current proposal have recently been closed as road reserves and included as part of the broader Porepunkah Recreation Reserve, with the Committee of Management for the broader Porepunkah Recreation Reserve appointed as delegated manager for those parts of the former Martley Street and Nicholson Street road reserves affected by the current application.

The Committee of Management has formally advised Council in writing that it supports the proposal subject to the following conditions:

- Approval of the required Planning Permit by Alpine Shire Council.
- Public Land Managers Consent (PLMC) being granted by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).
- Compliance with all conditions imposed by Alpine Shire Council, DEECA and any other relevant statutory authority.
- Any additional approvals, permits or consents required under relevant legislation being obtained prior to the commencement of works.
- No works commencing until all statutory approvals, including the Planning Permit and Public Land Managers Consent, have been granted.
- The project remaining substantially consistent with the plans submitted as part of the planning and PLMC approval processes unless otherwise approved.
- The Porepunkah Panthers Baseball Club remaining responsible for delivering the project in consultation with the Committee of Management and complying with all approval conditions.
- Ownership and ongoing management arrangements being confirmed by DEECA.

#### **Porepunkah Recreation Reserve (PPRZ)**

The Porepunkah Recreation Reserve is contained within the Public Park and Recreation Zone. Within this Zone and pursuant to Clause 36.02-3, an application for a permit by a person other than the relevant public land manager must be accompanied by the written consent of the public land manager, indicating that the public land manager consents generally or conditionally either:

- To the application for permit being made.
- To the application for permit being made and to the proposed use or development.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), as 'Public Land Manager' provided formal consent to an application being made for a planning permit for buildings and works associated with a minor sports and recreation facility, subject to conditions being included on any planning permit granted. DEECA's required conditions are included in Attachment 8.2.1.3.

#### **Former Nicholson Street Road Reserve (TRZ)**

Despite the former road reserve being recently closed and included as part of the broader Porepunkah Recreation Reserve, that part of the former Nicholson Street road reserve affected by the proposal is still contained within the Transport Zone Schedule 2 (Principal Road Network).

Within this Zone and pursuant to Clause 36.04-3 of the Alpine Planning Scheme, an application by a person other than a relevant transport manager must be accompanied by the written consent of the Head, Transport for Victoria, indicating that the Head, Transport for Victoria consents generally or conditionally to either:

- The application being made.
- The application being made and to the proposed use or development.

The Head, Transport for Victoria has provided written consent to the application being made. In providing the requisite written consent, the Department of Transport and Planning also advised that the Transport Zone Schedule 2 (TRZ2) zoning of that part of the (now former) Nicholson Street road reserve affected by the current proposal is a zoning anomaly, with that part of the now former road reserve not being an arterial road or under the management of the Department. On this basis, the Head, Transport for Victoria did not require any conditions to be included on any planning permit granted.

## **PLANNING ASSESSMENT**

All applicable policy and decision guidelines can be found in Attachment 8.2.1.1.

## **MUNICIPAL PLANNING STRATEGY AND PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK**

The Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and the Planning Policy Framework (PPF give support to the proposal with the following policy listed:

02.03-1 Settlement

02.03-5 Built environment and heritage

02.03-8 Transport

02.03-9 Infrastructure

11.01-1L-01 Settlement

11.01-1L-06 Porepunkah

12.05-2L Landscapes

13.02-1S Bushfire planning

14.02-1S Catchment planning and management

14.02-1L Catchment planning and management

14.02-2S Water quality

14.02-2L Water quality

15.01-1S Urban design

15.01-1L-01 Urban design

15.01.1L-02 Signs

15.01-2S Building design

18.01-1S Land use and transport integration

18.02-2S Cycling

18.02-4S Roads

19.02-6S Open space

19.03-2S Infrastructure design and provision

19.03-3S Integrated water management

The above policy gives clear support to the proposal. The following response can be provided:

- Policy (02.03-1, 11.01-1L-01, 11.01-1L-06) seeks to focus urban land use and development within the Shire's townships, including Porepunkah, and to avoid urban development outside of defined settlement boundaries. The current proposal represents acceptable urban development of zoned land within the defined settlement boundary of Porepunkah.
- Policy (11.01.1L-06, 12.05-2L, 15.01-1S, 15.01-2S) seeks to ensure development appropriately responds to its context and contributes to the strategic and cultural context of its location, The current proposal acceptably respects and reflects the existing scale and bulk of buildings in the surrounding area and acceptably responds to Porepunkah's established character and recreation and open space values. The proposed building is positioned on a highly prominent corner at the intersection of Martley and Nicholson Streets, adjacent to the Ovens River and surrounding parkland. The building has been designed to present an interesting façade to the public realm, with the use of vertical hardwood cladding at varying lengths to achieve a curved form. The external cladding will add articulation and visual appeal to the building and will acceptably integrate with the surrounding open space environment. Subject to the inclusion of conditions on any permit granted requiring the provision of landscaping to soften the visual impacts of proposed built form when viewed from the Martley and Nicholson Street road reserves and the protection of established trees which significantly contribute to the visual amenity of the area, the visual impacts of the proposed building are assessed as acceptable, and proposed built form is assessed as being reasonably respectful of the character of the area, inclusive of the areas' open space and recreation values.
- Policy (15.01-1L-02) seeks to restrict promotional signage along the main tourist and traffic routes in the Shire. The proposal includes a large "Porepunkah Panthers" sign in a visually prominent location at the intersection of Martley Street and Nicholson Street (a main tourist and traffic route). As is detailed in the discussion on signage below, it is recommended that the size of the "Porepunkah Panthers" sign be limited to 3sqm and for the sign to be repositioned, such that it displays inward to the reserve and is not visible beyond the boundaries of the reserve. Subject to such measures, the proposed signage associated with the proposal is unlikely to detrimentally impact upon the visual amenity of the Shire's main tourist and traffic routes.
- Policy (02.03-8, 18.01-1S, 18.02-2S, 18.02-4S) seeks to ensure that development does not detrimentally impact upon the role and function of the Principal Transport

Network and provides an appropriate level of car parking and bicycle facilities. In providing the written consent of the Head, Transport for Victoria to the application being made, the Department of Transport and Planning confirmed that the Transport Zone Schedule 2 (TRZ2) zoning of that part of the (now former) Nicholson Street road reserve affected by the current proposal is a zoning anomaly, with that part of the now former road reserve not being an arterial road or under the management of the Department. On this basis, it has been acceptably demonstrated that the proposal will not detrimentally impact upon the role and function of the Principal Transport Network and, subject to conditions, it has been acceptably demonstrated that the proposal can provide an acceptable level of car parking and bicycle facilities.

- Policy (02.03-9, 19.03-2S, 19.03-3S) seeks to ensure that requisite infrastructure is provided in a timely, efficient and cost effective manner, that development can sustainably manage water resources such as wastewater and drainage, and that development in areas subject to infrastructure limitations is avoided. The subject site is situated within an urban area with access to reticulated services. Council's Development Engineer has reviewed the proposal and has issued conditional consent, subject to (amongst other matters) the formalisation of the existing car parking area at the corner of Martley Street and Nicholson Street and the inclusion on any permit issued of conditions pertaining to the management of stormwater and surface water discharge.
- Policy (13.01-1S) seeks to strengthen the resilience of settlements and communities to bushfire through risk-based planning that prioritises the protection of human life. It has been satisfactorily demonstrated that the risk to life and property can be mitigated to an acceptable level, noting that the CFA (determining referral authority) has issued conditional consent to the proposal.
- Policy (14.02-1S, 14.02-1L, 14.02-2S, 14.02-2L) seeks to protect catchments and waterways and to protect water quality in designated catchments. It has been satisfactorily demonstrated that potential impacts to catchments, waterways and water quality can be acceptably mitigated, noting that GMW (determining referral authority) has issued conditional consent to the proposal.
- Policy (19.02-6S) seeks to establish, manage and improve a diverse and integrated network of public open space that meets the needs of the community. The proposal represents an acceptable enhancement of the existing open space network that will facilitate its' ongoing use for sport and social interaction in a manner that is unlikely to detrimentally impact upon other activities within the reserve.

## **ZONING**

The land affected by the application is contained within three separate land use zones:

### **Porepunkah Recreation Reserve - Public Park and Recreation Zone**

The proposal is assessed as being consistent with the purpose and decision guidelines of the Public Park and Recreation Zone for the following reasons:

- The proposal generally supports and implements the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework, as noted above.
- The proposal facilitates public recreation in an area strategically identified to accommodate public recreation and open space land use and development.
- The public land manager has consented to the proposal.

### **Former Martley Street Road Reserve - Township Zone**

As noted above, the Committee of Management for the adjoining Porepunkah Recreation Reserve has recently been appointed as delegated manager for that part of the former Martley Street road reserve affected by the proposal, and that Committee of Management conditionally supports the proposal.

On this basis, the proposal is assessed as being consistent with the purpose and decision guidelines of the Township Zone for the following reasons:

- The proposal generally supports and implements the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework, as noted above.
- The proposal represents a non-residential use serving local community needs in an acceptable location.
- Through its design, height, setback and appearance, including proposed external materials, subject to conditions that ensure this visual impacts of the proposal are acceptably mitigated, the proposal would acceptably protect and enhance the character of the township.
- Requisite urban services are available to the subject land.
- Subject to the existing informal car parking area at the intersection of Martley Street and Nicholson Street being upgraded in accordance with the recommendations of Council's Development Engineer and bicycle parking facilities being provided in accordance with the requirements of Clause 52.34 of the Alpine Planning Scheme, the proposal would provide an acceptable level of car parking and bicycle facilities.
- The scale and intensity of the development is commensurate to the role and function of the existing recreation reserve as well as the small-scale residential nature of the Porepunkah township.

### **Former Nicholson Street Road Reserve - Transport Zone Schedule 2**

As a consequence of the current application, that part of the Nicholson Street road reserve affected by the current proposal has recently been closed as a road reserve and included within the broader Porepunkah Recreation Reserve.

The application has been accompanied by the requisite written consent of the Head, Transport for Victoria to the application being made. The Department of Transport and Planning has confirmed that the Transport Zone Schedule 2 (TRZ2) zoning of that part of the (now former) Nicholson Street road reserve affected by the current proposal is a zoning anomaly, with that part of the now former road reserve not being an arterial road or under the management of the Department.

On this basis, the proposal is assessed as being consistent with the purpose and decision guidelines of the Transport Zone Schedule 2 for the following reasons:

- The proposal generally supports and implements the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework, as noted above.
- The proposal would not detrimentally impact upon the development, operation or safety of the transport system.

**OVERLAYS**

The subject land is wholly contained within the Bushfire Management Overlay Schedule 1 (BMO1).

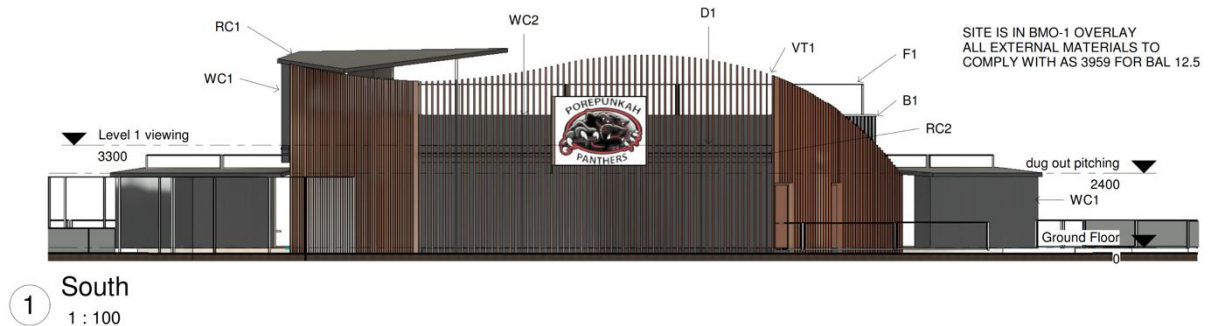
The proposal is assessed as being consistent with the purpose and decision guidelines of the Bushfire Management Overlay for the following reasons:

- The proposal generally supports and implements the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework, as noted above.
- It has been acceptably demonstrated that the risk to life and property from bushfire can be reduced to an acceptable level.
- The Country Fire Authority (CFA) has issued conditional consent to the proposal.

**PARTICULAR PROVISIONS**

**Clause 52.05 Signs**

The submitted application documentation indicates that a large "Porepunkah Panthers" sign is proposed to be located upon the southern façade of the proposed building, facing the intersection of Martley and Nicholson Streets, which is a visually prominent location.



**Figure 6: South Elevation Showing Proposed Sign (from the corner of Martley & Nicholson Streets)**

The proposed sign is located within the Public Park and Recreation Zone and within this Zone, the maximum limitation on signs apply. For a Business identification sign (which is considered to be the 'best fit' definition for the sign as proposed), the total display area must not exceed 3sqm (otherwise the sign is prohibited).

As noted above, the proposed clubrooms building is located on a visually prominent corner within Porepunkah, and the location of the sign as proposed would result in that sign being highly visible from the public realm.



**Figure 7: view to site of proposed clubrooms building and sign from the intersection of Martley & Nicholson Streets (Source: Google Street View)**

Generally speaking, advertising and promotional signage that is visible from beyond recreation reserves is discouraged. Reserves are shared spaces utilised by multiple tenants and the community. Advertising and promotional signage visible beyond a reserve can suggest the ownership / predominance of a particular tenant (or tenants) of a shared community space, and detract from the visual amenity of reserves. In addition, local policy (at Clause 15.01.1L-02) specifically seeks to restrict promotional signage along main tourist and traffic routes.

For these reasons, it is recommended that if the current application is ultimately approved, any permit granted includes conditions requiring the size of the "Porepunkah Panthers" sign to not exceed 3sqm and for the sign to be repositioned such that it displays inward to the reserve and is not visible beyond the boundaries of the reserve.

### **Clause 52.06 Car parking**

Pursuant to Clause 52.06-6, where a use of land is not specified in Table 1 of Clause 52.06-5 or where a car parking requirement is not specified for the use in another provision of the Planning Scheme, parking spaces must be provided to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. Minor Sports and Recreation Facility is not located in Table 1 of Clause 52.06-5 and as such, Clause 52.06-6 applies.

No on-site car parking spaces are currently provided for the recreation reserve and no car parking spaces are proposed as part of this application.

Via conditional consent, Council's Development Engineer has specified that the existing informal car parking area at the intersection of Martley Street and Nicholson Street should be upgraded to formalise the existing car parking facilities that are currently utilised by spectators and players.

It is considered reasonable to require the existing informal car parking area to be upgraded to meet applicable design standards, thereby ensuring safe, efficient and useable car parking facilities for players and spectators.

### **Clause 52.34 - Bicycle Facilities**

Clause 52.34 applies and **Minor sports and recreation facility** is listed in Table 1 to 52.34-5. An extract is contained below.

Use	Employee/Resident	Visitor/Shopper/Student
<b>Minor sports and recreation facility</b>	1 per 4 employees	1 to each 200 sq m of net floor area

The net floor area of the proposed building is approximately 292sqm and it is anticipated that no permanent staff will be based on-site. As a result, 1 bicycle space is required for visitors and one bicycle parking space will be required for employees. Conditions will be included on any permit issued for the provision of requisite bicycle spaces.

**Clause 53.02 Bushfire planning**

As the proposal does not involve the construction of a single dwelling, the requirements of Clause 53.02-1 apply. This requires the Responsible Authority to consider the following measures:

Clause 53.02-4.1 Landscape, siting and design objectives

The application has satisfactorily demonstrated compliance with the approved measures, specifically:

- While landscape risk cannot be eliminated, the bushfire risk to the development from the landscape beyond the site can be mitigated to an acceptable level (AM 2.1).
- The building has been sited to maximise separation distance between the building and bushfire hazard, is located close to public roads with access for emergency service vehicle readily provided (AM 2.2).
- The building has been designed to a BAL 12.5 standard, in order to be responsive to the landscape risk and to reduce the impact of bushfire on the building (AM 2.3).

Clause 53.02-4.2 Setbacks, defendable space and construction objective

The application has satisfactorily demonstrated compliance with the approved measures, specifically:

- The building is setback from the bushfire hazard in accordance with the vegetation type and slope set out in Table 1 to clause 53.02-5 and the Column O setback distance is met and provided wholly within the title boundaries of the land (AM 3.1).
- The setback between the building and the bushfire hazard is to be managed as defendable space in accordance with the vegetation management requirements specified at Table 4 to clause 53.02-5 and the area (including adjoining land not wholly contained within the boundaries of the subject site) is capable of being maintained in accordance with these requirements (AM 3.2, AltM 3.4, AltM 3.5).
- The building is proposed to be constructed to BAL 12.5 which corresponds to the setback that satisfies approved measure 3.1 (AM 3.3).

Clause 53.02-4.3 Water supply and access objectives

The application has satisfactorily demonstrated compliance with the approved measures, specifically:

- The building is provided with an accessible static water supply for firefighting and property protection purposes of 10,000 litres per 1,500 square metres of floor space up to 40,000 litres (AM 4.3).
- The site immediately adjoins two existing roads providing appropriate vehicular access.

#### Clause 53.02-4.5 Planning for vulnerable people objective

This is a new bushfire planning objective that was implemented into the Alpine Planning Scheme on 4 May 2026 via Amendment VC248. The CFA was consulted in relation to this recently introduced objective, and advised that appropriate bushfire emergency management planning measures could be implemented via conditions of permit, should the current application be approved. The CFA's recommended conditions are included in the conditions appended to this report.

#### Clause 53.02-4.6 Decision guidelines

When considered against the applicable decision guidelines, the proposal represents an acceptable planning outcome for the following reasons:

- The proposal generally supports and implements the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework, refer to discussion above.
- It has been satisfactorily demonstrated that the risk arising from the broader landscape can be mitigated to an acceptable level.
- The subject site has reliable access to areas of land where human life can be better protected from the effects of bushfire.
- The proposed development meets the objectives of clause 53.02-4 as noted above, and it has been satisfactorily demonstrated that proposed bushfire protection measures can be practically implemented and maintained in conjunction with the ongoing use of the land.
- Proposed water supply and access arrangements are assessed as being appropriate for the bushfire risk.
- The CFA have advised that appropriate emergency management planning measures to address the risk of bushfire to vulnerable occupants can be addressed via conditions of permit.

#### **Clause 53.18 – Stormwater Management in Urban Development**

Clause 53.18 applies to this application and has the purpose to ensure that stormwater in urban development, including retention and reuse, is managed to mitigate the impacts of stormwater on the environment, property and public safety, and to provide cooling, local habitat and amenity benefits.

Council's Development Engineer reviewed the application and did not raise any major issues in terms of stormwater management. Conditions were requested relating to the provision of detailed construction and drainage plans for further assessment. These conditions will be included on any permit issued.

## CONCLUSION

The application is considered to be consistent with the Alpine Planning Scheme and should be approved for the following reasons:

- The proposal generally supports and implements the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- Subject to conditions, the proposal acceptably respects and reflects the existing scale and bulk of buildings in the surrounding area and acceptably responds to Porepunkah's established character and the recreation and open space values of the Reserve.
- The proposal is generally consistent with the purpose and decision guidelines of the Public Park and Recreation Zone and the Township Zone.
- The public land manager has consented to the proposal.
- The Committee of Management for the Porepunkah Recreation Reserve has conditionally consented to the proposal.
- The Head, Transport for Victoria, has consented to the application being made and in doing so, confirmed that the Transport Zone Schedule 2 that applies to land affected by the application is a zoning anomaly, with the land in question not being an arterial road and not being under the management of the Department of Transport and Planning. On this basis the proposal is generally consistent with the purpose and decision guidelines of the Transport Zone Schedule 2.
- It has been demonstrated that bushfire risk can be acceptably mitigated.
- It has been acceptably demonstrated that potential impacts to waterways and water quality within a Special Water Supply Catchment Area can be appropriately mitigated.
- It has been acceptably demonstrated that requisite services are available to the site and can be provided to support development in accordance with the requirements of the relevant authorities, while at the same time protecting community amenity, human health and safety.

## 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
- Senior Statutory Planning Officer

## ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **8.2.1.1** Policy and decision guidelines
2. **8.2.1.2** Full set of plans
3. **8.2.1.3** Conditions

**8.2.2 P.2023.149 - 17, 19A and 19B McGeehan Crescent, Myrtleford**

Application number:	P.2023.149
Proposal:	Use and development of a service industry (commercial laundry) within 100m of land within a residential zone, and reduction in car parking requirement.
Applicant's name:	North East Survey Design Pty Ltd
Address:	17, 19A & 19B McGeehan Crescent, Myrtleford
Land size:	Approx. 3,414sqm
Current use and development:	Service industry
Site features:	Existing industrial buildings and associated infrastructure
Why is a permit required?	Clause 33.01-1: Use of the land for a Service industry (commercial laundry) Clause 33.01-4: Construct a building or construct or carry out works Clause 52.06-3: Reduction of the car parking requirement Clause 53.10 - Use of a service industry within 100m from land within a residential zone.
Zoning:	Industrial 1 Zone (IN1Z)
Overlays:	None applicable
Restrictive covenants on the title?	None applicable
Date received:	Amended application under Section 57A of the Planning and Environment Act received on 22 August 2025
Statutory days:	287 days
Planner:	Matt Novacevski, Statutory Planning Coordinator

**RECOMMENDATION**

***That a Notice of Decision to grant a planning permit be issued for use and development of a Service industry (commercial laundry) within 100m of land within a residential zone and a reduction of the car parking requirement in accordance with the conditions outlined in Attachment 1 of this report.***

## PROPOSAL

Council has received a planning permit application that seeks approval to use and develop land for the purposes of a commercial laundry and to reduce the associated car parking requirement.

Currently, the subject land consists of two separate properties containing two separate 'Service industry' land uses:

- 17 McGeehan Crescent is currently utilised to commercially iron linen (Bright Laundry);
- 19 A&B McGeehan Crescent is currently utilised to repair and service motor vehicles.

The owner of 17 McGeehan Crescent has recently been given the opportunity to purchase the adjoining site at 19 A & B McGeehan Crescent and now intends to use and develop both sites to facilitate the expansion of the established Bright Laundry business.

To this end, it is proposed to:

- Use both sites to commercially launder linen; and
- Construct buildings and carry out works to facilitate that land use.

The proposal involves the construction of two large industrial buildings connected by a centrally located open sided canopy that straddles an existing North East Water sewer, with proposed access and car parking areas provided at the front of the proposed industrial buildings fronting McGeehan Crescent. This application has been referred to Council for decision due to the quantum of car parking reduction requested, an issue addressed later in this report.

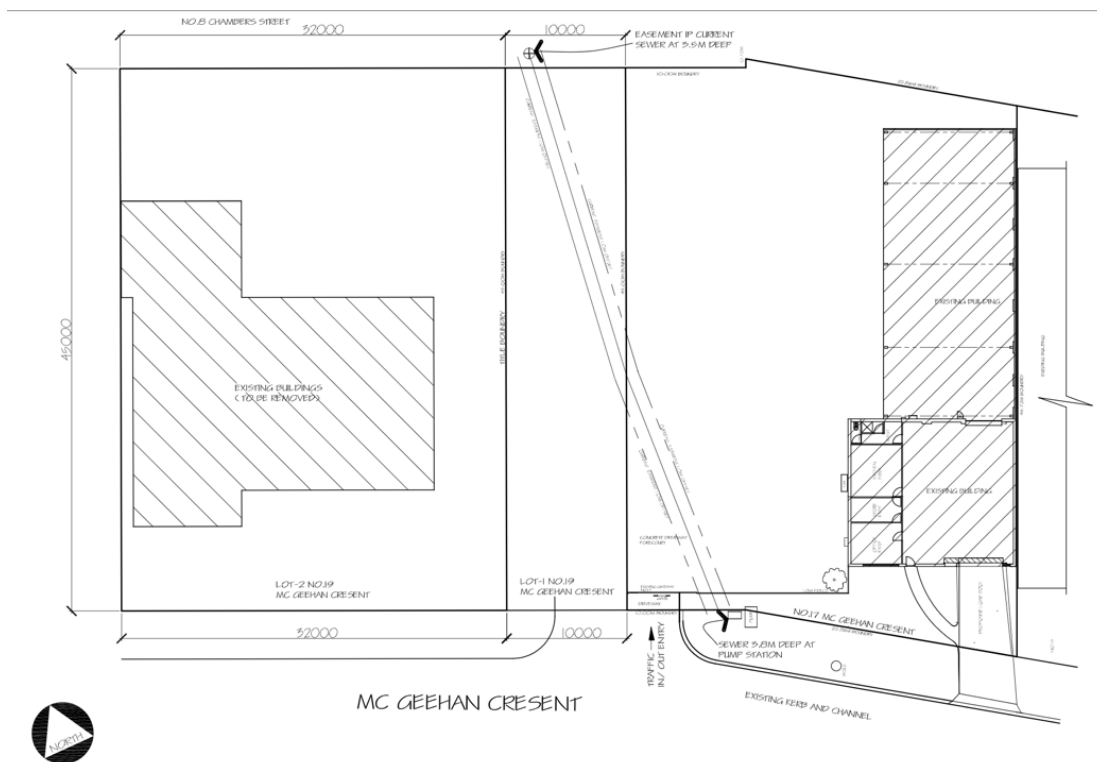


Figure 1: Existing Site Layout

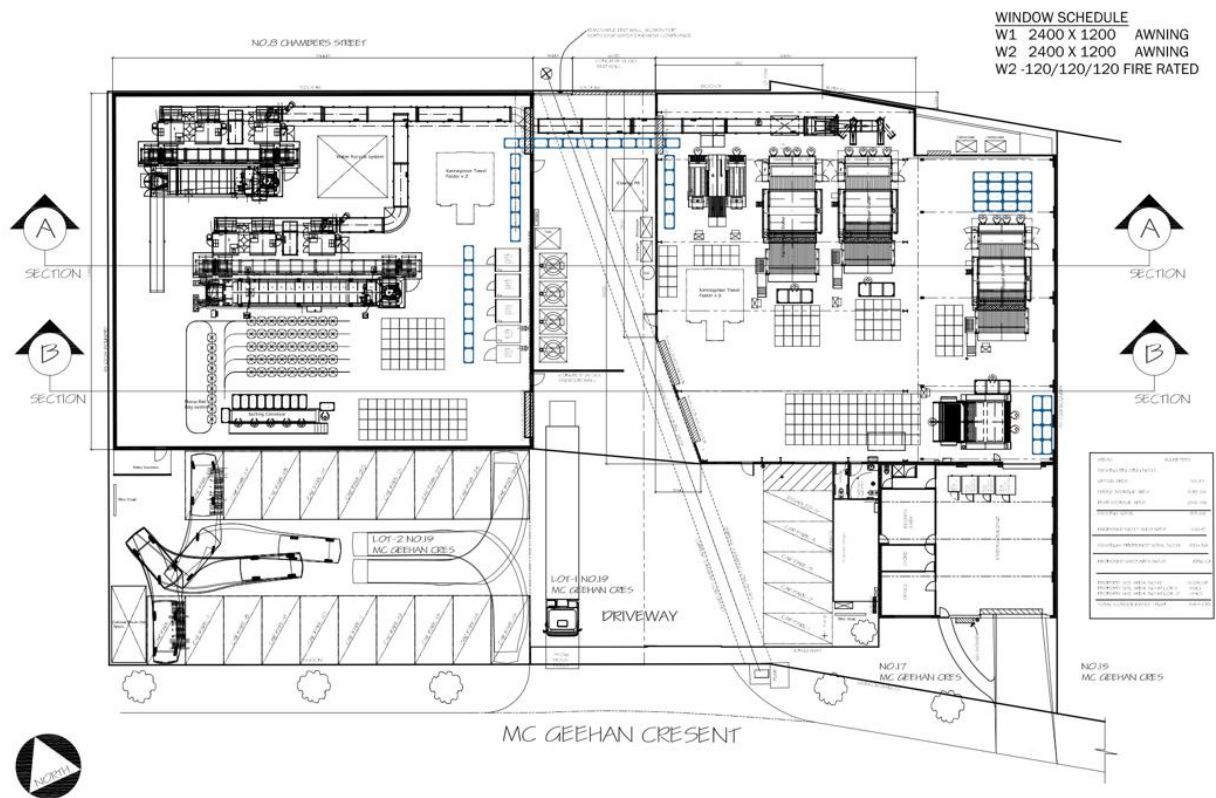


Figure 2: Proposed Site Layout

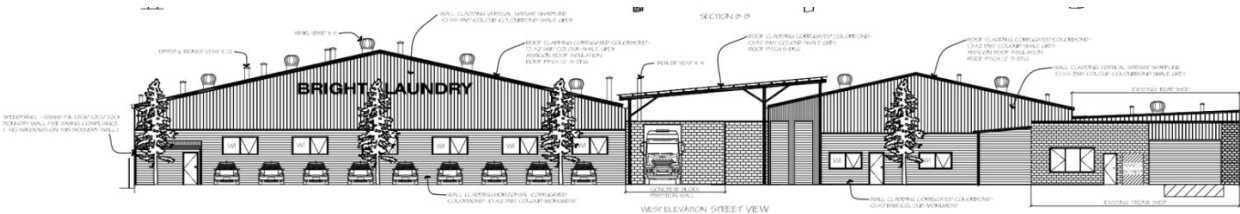


FIGURE 3: PROPOSED MCGEEHAN CRESCENT ELEVATION

**SUBJECT LAND AND SURROUNDS**

The land affected by the proposal is:

- 17 McGeehan Crescent, which is currently utilised to commercially iron linen (Bright Laundry);
- 19 A&B McGeehan Crescent, which is currently utilised to repair and service motor vehicles.

Both sites contain existing industrial buildings and associated infrastructure, and a large sewer main (which is contained within an implied easement) currently traverses the subject site.

The subject land forms part of the broader Myrtleford industrial estate, which contains a range of established industrial and commercial land uses and developments.



**Figure 4: Subject land (source: AlpineMaps).**

## **PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

The application was advertised in accordance with Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Notice of the application was sent to 30 surrounding landholders and occupiers, and a sign was displayed on the subject. Two (2) objections were received which raised the following concerns:

- Potential impacts of proposed windows on the northern elevation of the proposed building.
- Question as to whether a boundary fence is proposed along the northern and western property boundaries.
- Site security and insurance implications of proposed removable end wall section on the northern elevation of the proposed building.
- Safety impacts of existing gas boilers and new gas boilers that the proposal would necessitate.

**REFERRALS**

Referrals / Notice	Advice / Response / Conditions
<p>Section 55 referrals:</p>	<p>The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) does not object to the proposal, subject to the inclusion of a permit note on any planning permit granted. In not objecting to the proposal, the EPA encouraged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council to limit loading/unloading to daytime hours;</li> <li>• The applicant to review the type of reversing alarms used on trucks to ensure disturbance to sensitive receptors is minimised; and</li> <li>• Council and the applicant to refer to EPA guidance to minimise potential negative impacts during the demolition and construction processes.</li> </ul> <p>Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) does not object to the proposal subject to conditions requiring construction activities, wastewater and stormwater to be managed in accordance with recognized standards and requirements.</p> <p>North East Water (NEW) does not object to the proposal subject to the development being approved by Council in accordance with a Build Over Easement (BOE) Agreement that has been entered into between the developer and North East Water.</p>
<p>Internal / external referrals:</p>	<p>Council's Development Engineer did not object to the proposal subject to conditions that will be included in any permit granted.</p> <p>Council's Environmental Health Officer does not object to the proposal and required no conditions to be included on any permit granted.</p>

**ASSESSMENT AGAINST GROUNDS OF OBJECTION**

Two (2) objections were received in response to the application. An assessment of the issues raised in the objections is provided as follows:

Summary of concerns	Council Officer response
<p>Concerns regarding the potential impacts of proposed windows on the northern elevation of the proposed building.</p>	<p>The Applicant has confirmed that the windows of concern are to be removed entirely in order to meet requisite building fire rating requirements.</p> <p>Noting this, should the current application ultimately be approved by Council, the concerns raised can be reasonably and appropriately addressed via an amended plans condition of permit that require the removal of the windows in question.</p>
<p>Question as to whether a boundary fence is proposed along the northern and western property boundaries.</p>	<p>There is existing 1.8m high Colorbond fencing along the side and rear boundaries of the subject land, and the Applicant has confirmed that this existing fencing is intended to be retained as part of the development.</p> <p>Noting that the submitted plans do not clearly detail existing and proposed fencing, should the current application ultimately be approved by Council, the concerns raised can be reasonably and appropriately addressed via an amended plans condition of permit, which requires the submission of amended plans which include details of all existing and proposed fencing to all property boundaries of the subject land.</p>

<p>Concerns regarding site security and insurance implications of proposed removable end wall section on the northern elevation of the proposed building.</p>	<p>The proposed removable end wall section is required to enable North East Water to access North East Water's sewer infrastructure, which includes a large sewer main located within an implied easement on the subject site and the sewer manhole to the rear of the subject site, which is located on 8 Chambers Street.</p> <p>The Applicant has confirmed that the proposed removable end wall section is not a gate but a bolted-in fence section that would be physically affixed to the surrounding structure. The bolted-in fence section could only be removed by removing / unscrewing the bolts that would attach it to the surrounding structure, and only North East Water would be permitted to remove it.</p> <p>Pursuant to the Water (Estimation, Supply and Sewerage) Regulations 2014, North East Water is required to take all reasonable steps to maintain and keep in good working order the sewerage network.</p> <p>Given this context, the proposed removable end wall section is considered reasonable to enable North East Water to fulfil its regulatory obligations.</p> <p>Noting this, should the current application ultimately be approved by Council, the concerns raised in this objection can be reasonably and appropriately addressed via an amended plans condition of permit, which requires an annotation to be included on the endorsed plans which specifies that the removable end wall section is only be removed by North East Water in the carrying out of works to maintain and keep in good working order the sewerage network, and that the removable end wall section must remain fixed in place at all other times.</p>
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Summary of concerns	Council Officer response
Concerns regarding the potential safety impacts of existing gas boilers and new gas boilers that the proposal would facilitate.	<p>The application was referred to the EPA on the basis that the proposal is for a use with adverse amenity potential that is located within 100m of residentially zoned land.</p> <p>The EPA is a determining referral authority for the application under Section 55 of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i>, and concluded that risks associated with the proposal can be managed to an acceptable level in this location.</p>

### STATE AND LOCAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and the Planning Policy Framework (PPF) give support to the proposal with the following objectives and policy listed:

- 02.03-1 Settlement
- 02.03-2 Environmental and landscape values
- 02.03-5 Built environment and heritage
- 02.03-7 Economic development
- 11.01-1S Settlement
- 11.01-1L-01 Settlement
- 11.01-1L-03 Myrtleford
- 13.05-1S Noise management
- 13.06-1S Air quality management
- 13.07-1S Land use compatibility
- 14.02-1S Catchment planning and management
- 14.02-1L Catchment planning and management
- 14.02-2S Water quality
- 14.02-2L Water quality
- 15.01-1L-02 Design of industrial development
- 17.03-2S Sustainable industry
- 17.03-2L Sustainable industry
- 18.02-4S Roads
- 19.03-2S Infrastructure design and provision

### 19.03-3S Integrated water management

#### **ASSESSMENT**

The above policy gives clear support to the proposal. The following response can be provided:

The settlement policies at Clauses 02.03-1, 11.01-1S and 11.01-1L-01 emphasise the need to focus new development within existing urban areas, specifically within established townships such as Myrtleford to ensure efficient use of existing infrastructure and services. In this context, the proposal represents an appropriate form of urban development within the Myrtleford settlement boundary. The land is zoned for industrial purposes, and the use and development of the site for a commercial laundry aligns with the intended role of the Industrial 1 Zone.

Similarly, industrial policy at Clauses 02.03-7 and 17.03-2L seeks to retain and utilise existing industrial precincts for industrial purposes. The proposal directly responds to this strategic direction by introducing a new industrial use within an established industrial estate, thereby supporting the ongoing viability and productive use of industrial land.

A number of policies also require consideration of the protection of sensitive uses from adverse amenity or health impacts, (Clauses 02.03-7, 11.01-1L-03, 13.05-1S, 13.06-1S, 13.07-1S and 17.03-2S.) The subject land is surrounded by industrial uses, with the nearest sensitive use located approximately 93 metres away within the General Residential Zone. The primary risks associated with a commercial laundry being noise, dust and odour have been assessed and can be managed to an acceptable level through appropriate conditions. This conclusion is reinforced by the EPA, which, as a determining referral authority, has reviewed the application and raised no objection.

Policy direction relating to catchment and water protection (Clauses 14.02-1S, 14.02-1L, 14.02-2S and 14.02-2L) requires development to avoid adverse impacts on waterways and water quality. The proposal has demonstrated that wastewater and stormwater can be appropriately managed, and GMW has issued conditional consent, confirming that the development can meet the relevant environmental expectations.

In relation to built form, Clauses 02.03-5 and 15.01-1L-02 require development, including industrial development to be functional, well-designed and responsive to local character. The proposed buildings are considered to achieve an acceptable design outcome, with materials and colours that are appropriate to the industrial context, including shale grey Stramit Sharpline cladding to the gable ends and monument Colorbond to the McGeehan Crescent elevation. The height, setbacks and overall form are compatible with the established character of the industrial estate. The layout also provides suitable vehicle access, on-site storage and parking, ensuring that the development will not adversely affect the surrounding road network. To further strengthen compliance with these policies, it would be appropriate for any permit to include an amended plans condition requiring landscaping within the front setback, using indigenous species to soften the visual presentation of the site.

Car parking policy at Clause 18.02-4S seeks to ensure that adequate parking is provided having regard to the demand generated by the use. As discussed elsewhere in the assessment, the proposal has demonstrated that the number of spaces provided will satisfactorily meet the operational needs of the business.

Finally, Clauses 19.03-2S and 19.03-3S emphasise the need for development to be supported by appropriate infrastructure and to manage water resources sustainably. The site benefits from access to reticulated services; and Council's Development Engineer has issued conditional consent, including requirements for stormwater and surface water management. It is considered that the development can be appropriately serviced and will not place undue pressure on existing infrastructure.

## **ZONING AND LAND USE**

The Industrial 1 Zone (IN1Z) provides for a range of uses which can have adverse impacts on more sensitive land uses.

The proposal constitutes an appropriate industrial use that aligns with the core intent of the IN1Z, which is to facilitate manufacturing, service industry and associated uses that can operate with minimal impact on surrounding areas. As outlined in the broader policy assessment, the development also supports and implements the Municipal Planning Strategy and Planning Policy Framework, reinforcing its strategic suitability within this established industrial precinct.

In relation to amenity and off-site impacts, the proposal has demonstrated, subject to the application of appropriate conditions, that it will not adversely affect the safety or amenity of nearby communities or sensitive uses. The site is surrounded by industrial land, and the nature and scale of the proposed commercial laundry are compatible with the existing industrial context. The use is also unlikely to be compromised by the operations of surrounding industries, indicating a high degree of land-use compatibility.

The decision guidelines also require consideration of servicing and infrastructure. It has been satisfactorily shown that the land can be appropriately drained and that all necessary urban services other than reticulated gas are available to the site. This ensures that the development can operate without placing undue pressure on existing infrastructure networks.

Traffic and access considerations have similarly been addressed. Subject to compliance with recommended conditions, the proposal will not detrimentally impact the safety or function of the surrounding road network. The layout provides suitable access arrangements and is capable of accommodating the vehicle types associated with the proposed use.

Overall, the proposal is assessed as being consistent with the purpose and decision guidelines of the Industrial 1 Zone and represents an appropriate use and development outcomes within an established industrial estate.

## NORTH EAST WATER BUILD OVER EASEMENT (BOE) AGREEMENT

A Build Over Easement (BOE) Agreement has already been entered into between the proponent and North East Water. The BOE agreement provides North East Water's consent for built form to straddle a large sewer main located within an implied easement that traverses the subject site, in line with the current proposal. The BOE allows North East Water to fulfil its regulatory obligations to access the sewerage network in order to maintain and keep the network in good working order.

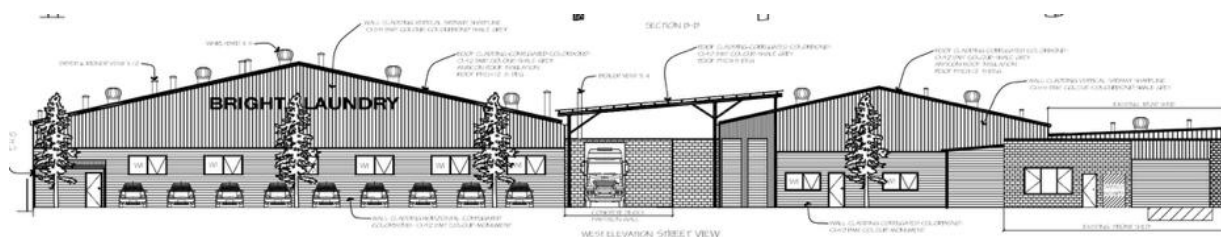
The Build Over Easement (BOE) Agreement that has been entered into includes plans that have been endorsed by North East Water. Those endorsed plans include some minor amendments to the plans that have been submitted in support of the planning permit application, specifically:

- Increase in the width of the designated BOE access area (from 2.15m to 3.30m).
- Change in the alignment of the concrete block partition wall facing McGeehan Crescent and associated positioning of doors in that wall.
- Increase in the width of the removable end wall section on east elevation (from 3.08m to 3.60m).

North East Water has required these minor amendments to satisfy its BOE requirements. The minor amendments do not fundamentally change the proposal as lodged, and can reasonably be addressed via an amended plans condition should a permit be issued.

### CLAUSE 52.03 - SIGNAGE

The submitted plans include proposed signage to the front elevation:



**Figure 5: Proposed McGeehan Crescent Elevation**

The application documentation specifies that “Business identification signage is proposed to the façade of the new shed with an area of approximately 7.2 m<sup>2</sup> and consisting of the words ‘Bright Laundry’. The signage will not be externally illuminated and being under 8m<sup>2</sup> in area, does not require a planning permit for its display”.

Pursuant to Clause 33.01-5 of the Alpine Planning Scheme, the Industrial 1 Zone (IN1Z) is in Category 2 (Office and industrial). Within this category, pursuant to Clause 52.03 of the Alpine Planning Scheme a business identification sign not exceeding 8sqm does not trigger a permit requirement, hence the proposed signage is as-of-right.

## **CLAUSE 52.06 - CAR PARKING PROVISION**

Table 1 to Clause 52.06-5 of the Alpine Planning Scheme specifies that in a 'Category 1' area such as the Alpine Shire, 'Industry' is required to provide 2.9 spaces to each 100sqm of net floor area. The submitted plans specify that the proposal would result in a total net floor area of 1,861m<sup>2</sup>. This equates to a car parking requirement (rounded down) of 53 spaces.

It is proposed to provide a total of 24 car spaces upon the subject site; a reduction of 29 spaces (i.e. 45% of the requirement) is therefore proposed. As a reduction of greater than 20% of the applicable requirement is proposed, pursuant to Council's Delegation Guidelines this triggers a requirement for the application to be determined by Council.

The submitted application documentation has specified that, on average, 10 employees per shift will be on site at any one time with an increase to a maximum of 15 employees during peak times.

With reference to the applicable decision guidelines of Clause 52.06-7 of the Alpine Planning Scheme, the proposed level of on-site car parking to be provided (24 spaces) is assessed as being sufficient to meet that anticipated car parking demand generated by the proposed use (maximum of 15 employees during peak times).

Council's Development Engineer has reviewed the proposal and granted consent subject to conditions, including conditions that:

- require detailed layout plans of proposed car parking areas and access to be submitted to and approved by Council; and
- prevent vehicles associated with the proposal from being parked within the McGeehan Crescent road reserve.

Should Council ultimately determine to support the application, it is recommended that conditions pertaining to the minimum number of car parking spaces to be provided and the maximum number of staff on site at any one time be included on any permit issued.

## **CLAUSE 52.34 - BICYCLE FACILITIES**

Pursuant to Clause 52.34 of the Alpine Planning Scheme, 'Service industry' land use is required to provide 1 bicycle space to each 800 sq m of net floor area. Based upon a total net floor area of 1861m<sup>2</sup>, this equates to 2.3 bicycle spaces (rounded down to 2 spaces which is the nearest whole number).

The proposal includes 2x proposed bike storage hoops which are located close to proposed building entrances. The provision of 2 bike storage hoops meets the applicable requirement and are considered appropriate to meet the needs of future employees.

## **CLAUSE 53.18 - STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

Clause 53.18 of the Alpine Planning Scheme applies to this application and has the purpose to ensure that stormwater in urban development, including retention and reuse,

is managed to mitigate the impacts of stormwater on the environment, property and public safety, and to provide cooling, local habitat and amenity benefits.

The application was accompanied by a Stormwater Quality Management Strategy addressing the requirements of this Clause.

Council's Development Engineer reviewed the application and did not raise any major issues in terms of stormwater management. Conditions were requested relating to the provision of detailed construction and drainage plans for further assessment. These conditions will be included on any permit issued.

## **CONCLUSION**

The application is considered to be consistent with the Alpine Planning Scheme and can be supported based on the following:

- The proposal generally supports and implements the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and the Planning Policy Framework (PPF).
- The proposal represents an acceptable industrial development in a defined industrial precinct within the settlement boundary of Myrtleford.
- It has been satisfactorily demonstrated that potential risks and off-site amenity impacts associated with the proposal can be acceptably managed.
- It has been satisfactorily demonstrated that potential impacts to catchments, waterways and water quality can be acceptably mitigated.
- It has been demonstrated that the proposal will provide an adequate supply of on-site car parking based on anticipated demand.

## **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
- Statutory Planning Coordinator

## 8.2.3 Bright Rod Run 2026 - Designation of Alcohol Restrictions

### INTRODUCTION

This report notes the Bright Rod Run 2025 debrief outcomes, proposed budget allocation for the safe operation of the informal Bright town centre event, and the review of traffic management, crowd safety and risk mitigation for the event in 2026.

This report seeks approval for proposed alcohol restrictions to be designated under *Alpine Shire Community Local Law 2019* Clause 2.2.1 taking effect from 10pm Thursday 5 November 2026, to 7am Monday 9 November 2026.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

***That Council:***

**1. Notes:**

- a. The outcomes of the Bright Rod Run 2025 post-event debrief.***
- b. That Council Officers will implement the management of the informal Bright CBD aspects of the 2026 event to improve traffic management, reduce risk and support emergency services access.***
- c. The proposed allocation of \$60,000 in the 2026/27 Budget to support traffic management, risk mitigation, facility and waste management costs in the Bright CBD.***

**2. Approves the implementation of alcohol restrictions in Bright town centre and Pioneer Park from 10pm Thursday, 5 November 2026 to 7am Monday, 9 November 2026 under Clause 2.2.1 of the Alpine Shire Community Local Law 2019, as per the attached alcohol restriction maps; and**

**3. Notes that:**

- a. Bright Rod and Kustom Club Inc. intend to host a ticketed event in Pioneer Park which is yet to be permitted by Council.***
- b. The Alpine Hotel must apply for a separate event permit to extend the red line to the front of the Hotel.***
- c. Council will work with licensed operators in the restricted area to support them to operate within their red line area in compliance with event permit requirements.***

### BACKGROUND

The Bright Rod Run is an annual event held at Pioneer Park in Bright on the first weekend following the Melbourne Cup. Running for over 33 years, the event attracts a significant number of car enthusiasts, with an estimated visitation of around 12,500 people.

The formal Bright Rod Run event is organised by the Bright Rod and Kustom Club Inc and takes place at Pioneer Park, Bright. This ticketed event includes vehicle displays, entertainment, and official activities managed by the event organisers.

Alongside the formal event, an informal gathering occurs in the Bright town centre and surrounding areas, where many attendees display their vehicles and congregate in public spaces.

This aspect of the event is not organised by the Bright Rod and Kustom Club Inc but is instead managed by Council, which oversees traffic management, waste management, facility cleaning, and local law enforcement to ensure public safety and accessibility.

In 2019, Council introduced restrictions on alcohol consumption on Council land during the event. This decision was based on recommendations from an Event Risk Assessment Panel, which includes representatives from Council, Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria, Alpine Health, and other emergency service agencies.

An event debrief is held after the event each year to assess the event and establish opportunities for improvement, including risk management and crowd and traffic control effectiveness.

## **ISSUES**

### ***2025 Bright Town Centre Event Management***

Council staff debrief with Bright Rod Run event organisers, Victoria Police and other agencies after each event.

In 2025, Council continued to manage road closures and traffic in the Bright town centre. A comprehensive review of traffic management, crowd safety, and risk mitigation was undertaken, with a particular focus on access for emergency services. Informal parking was removed; signage was used to designate no parking areas and water filled barriers used to assist traffic flow.

This approach was effective in distinguishing the formal Bright Rod Run event, organised by the Bright Rod and Kustom Club Inc at Pioneer Park, from the informal gathering of car enthusiasts in the town centre. Due to the high traffic and visitor numbers during the event, extensive traffic management measures were required to maintain public safety and ensure the smooth operation of the town centre.

### ***2026 Event Planning***

Prominent temporary signage and advertising will be used to ensure that the alcohol restriction designation is well communicated to event attendees.

A communications plan will be used again to communicate the alcohol restrictions and to discourage anti-social behaviour and hoon behaviour, as it was considered that the communications plan used to support the 2025 event was effective in reducing these behaviours.

For the 2026 event, it is recommended that Council continues to allocate funding to coordinate the town centre-based aspects of the weekend. This recognises that many attendees in the town centre are not directly connected to the ticketed Bright Rod Run event at Pioneer Park but that the town centre requires effective management to ensure public safety and accessibility. A proposed allocation of \$60,000 has been included in the 2026/27 Budget for this purpose.

**Alcohol Restriction Area**

In planning for the 2026 event, the Bright Rod and Kustom Club Inc has not requested any further changes to the alcohol consumption restricted area.

The proposed restriction area in the Bright town centre and Pioneer Park is contained in the attached maps.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

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

**FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Traffic management, facilities cleaning, waste management and staffing costs for the 2026 informal town centre aspect of the Bright Rod Run are anticipated to be approximately \$60,000. A proposed allocation of \$60,000 is included in the 2026/27 Budget.

In 2025, the actual costs incurred in managing the impact of this event on the Bright CBD are as tabulated below:

Description	Cost
Wages (Alpine Shire Council)	\$5,550
Traffic Management	\$30,204
Risk Management Plan (review documentation)	\$4,000
Waste Management	\$27,343
Damage of Council Assets	\$3,040
Incidental Costs	\$1,173
<b>Total direct cost to Council</b>	<b>\$71,310</b>

In addition to the direct costs noted above, in-kind support provided by Council staff to this operation is estimated at \$8,000.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Increase in anti-social and illegal behaviour	Possible	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designated alcohol restrictions for Bright town centre.</li> <li>• Victoria Police in Attendance.</li> <li>• Local Laws Officers on duty.</li> </ul>
Vehicle / pedestrian accidents	Possible	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designated alcohol restrictions for Bright town centre.</li> <li>• Victoria Police in attendance.</li> <li>• Review and adjust traffic management plan to maximise pedestrian safety and emergency services access.</li> <li>• Encourage use of designated road crossings.</li> </ul>
Inability for emergency services to respond quickly to an incident due to traffic congestion	Possible	Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and adjust traffic management plan to maximise pedestrian safety and emergency services access.</li> </ul>

**CONSULTATION**

Pre-planning for the 2026 Bright Rod Run commenced in December 2025, with Council officers, Victoria Police and members of the Bright Rod and Kustom Club conducting debrief meetings to discuss arrangements for both the official event at Pioneer Park and the informal gathering in the Bright town centre. Discussions have focused on defining event responsibilities, managing each section of the event, and determining the alcohol restrictions for 2026.

As in previous years, Council will provide exemptions to these restrictions for licensed premises affected by the alcohol restrictions. The Event Risk Assessment Panel will also be consulted on the event plans, business red line exemptions and councils resolution for the alcohol restrictions for the duration of the event.

The Risk Assessment Panel, comprising Council officers, Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria, the Country Fire Authority, State Emergency Services, and Alpine Health, will review the Risk Management Plan and any proposed changes to the event.

Council's proposed budget allocation will support traffic and waste management, as well as the deployment of additional Local Laws Officers. This funding will also assist in coordinating responsibilities between event organisers and venue operators, including managing designated alcohol service areas.

## **CONCLUSION**

The proposed alcohol restrictions and management measures will help ensure the safety of patrons, the public, and emergency services throughout the event.

Bright Rod and Kustom Club Inc will continue to plan and deliver their formal event at Pioneer Park, including scheduling activities and entertainment for registered attendees.

Council will oversee the coordination of traffic, compliance, waste management, and facility cleaning in the Bright town centre, with a focus on public safety and amenity.

## **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
- Acting Manager Customer Experience
- Acting Coordinator Events

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. **8.2.3.1** Town Centre, Bright
2. **8.2.3.2** Pioneer Park, Bright

## 8.2.4 Adoption of the 2026/27 Rates and Charges

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to declare the Alpine Shire Council rates and charges to be raised for the 2026/27 financial year, for the period 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council:*

1. *Notes that following advice from the Essential Services Commission, the previous resolution made at item 9.1.5 "Rate Cap Non-Compliance" at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16 December 2025, which outlined an intention to declare rates and charges for the 2026/27 financial year at an amount of \$168,713 below that which would have been raised under the Fair Go Rates system, is no longer the preferred method of rectifying the non-compliance of the 2025/26 rate cap, and will therefore not be acted upon;*
2. *Declares rates and charges for 2026/27 that returns Council to the rate base it would have achieved if it did not breach the rate cap in 2025/26;*
3. *Declares rates and charges of \$24,244,000 be raised in the 2026/27 financial year and featuring a 1.78% rate increase, for the purpose of section 94(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, based on setting the 'rate in the dollar' and 'charges' as follows:*
  - a. *General (residential) rate (0.002415)*
  - b. *Commercial/Industrial differential rate (0.003454)*
  - c. *Farm differential rate (0.001762)*
  - d. *Waste – 80 litre bin (weekly) \$135.79*
  - e. *Waste – 240 litre bin (weekly) \$407.36*
  - f. *Waste - 80 litre bin (fortnightly) \$67.89*
  - g. *Waste – 240 litre bin (fortnightly) \$203.68*
  - h. *Waste - 240 litre bin (fortnightly) Special Consideration \$67.89*
  - i. *Recycling – 140 litre bin (fortnightly) \$53.36*
  - j. *Recycling – 240 litre bin (fortnightly) \$91.47*
  - k. *Recycling – 360 litre bin (fortnightly) \$137.21*
  - l. *Recycling – 240 litre bin (weekly) \$182.94*
  - m. *Recycling – 360 litre bin (weekly) \$274.42*
  - n. *Food Organics Green Organics 240 litre bin (weekly) \$123.35*
  - o. *Dinner Plain standard waste service \$760.03*
  - p. *Dinner Plain commercial waste service \$1,708.19*
  - q. *Waste Management Charge \$298.00*
2. *Declares a rate credit to be applied to all rateable properties affected by the non-compliance of the 2025/26 rate cap based on the below differential categories to return the overpayment amount:*
  - a. *General (residential) rate (0.000022)*

**b. Commercial/Industrial differential rate (0.000031)**

**c. Farm differential rate (0.000016)**

**3. Declares that rates and charges be paid by four instalments on or before 30 September 2026, 30 November 2026, 28 February 2027 and 31 May 2027 in accordance with Section 167 of the Local Government Act 1989.**

## **BACKGROUND**

Council has prepared the 2026/27 Budget which is aligned to delivering projects and services as contained in the Community Vision, Council Plan, and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) 2025-2029. Rates and charges are a significant revenue source for Council and the collection of rates and charges is an important factor in funding Council services.

The rates and charges to be levied, and which form part of the 2026/27 Budget, provides a sound basis for Council to generate the revenue needed to support the implementation of the 2026/27 Budget and finance the objectives of the Council Plan.

## **ISSUES**

In accordance with Section 94(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council is required to declare rates and charges it intends to raise by 30 June for the following financial year.

The total quantum of rates and charges raised complies with the State Government rate cap which limits the total increase in the average rates assessment revenue to 2.75%.

In 2025/26, the Essential Services Commission (ESC) reported Alpine Shire Council as non-compliant with the rate cap by \$168,713.

At its December 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting Council resolved to address the unintentional rate cap breach by declaring rates and charges for the 2026/27 financial year at an amount that is no more than \$168,713 below the amount of the rates and charges which would have been raised if Council was to apply the full rate cap as permitted under the Fair Go Rates System.

Following further review of this approach and advice from the ESC, Council Officers are recommending a change in approach to address the rate cap breach.

A rate increase of 1.78% is designed to return Council to the rate base Council would have achieved if it did not breach the rate cap in 2025/26.

In addition, a rate credit based on differential category and valuation will be raised to return the overpayment amount to ratepayers.

Council will raise, collect, and pass on funds for the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund (replaces the Fire Services Property Levy) to the State Government in accordance with the *Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Act 2012* [formerly *Fire Services Property Levy Act 2012*].

The Annual Rate Notice will be issued to all rateable and non-rateable properties in August 2026.

The adoption of the 2026/27 Budget is to be considered as a separate report at the June 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The 2026/27 Budget is prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

The Budget covers a four-year period, including the budget year 2026/27, and the subsequent three financial years.

Rating provisions remain in the *Local Government Act 1989*. The Victorian Government has released the final report and government response on the Local Government Rating System Review; however, this has not yet translated to legislative change.

The 2026/27 Budget is aligned to the six Strategic Directions and three Objectives identified in the Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-2029. Major Initiatives are identified that will contribute to the delivery of the Strategic Objectives. These are reported against in the Council Annual Report.

Council's progress in the delivery of these major initiatives will be reported in the corresponding Annual Report.

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

2.8 We achieve long-term financial resilience to meet community needs now and into the future.

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**

Council prepares its Budget with the objective of balancing long term financial sustainability and prioritised delivery against community need. The declaration of rates and charges for 2026/27 outlines how Council intends to raise the necessary revenue to support delivery of the Budget.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Rate Cap Breach or Incorrect Modelling	Unlikely	Major	Review and validate rate setting model; perform independent checks and reconciliations; maintain audit trail of assumptions and calculations.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Legislative and Compliance Failure	Unlikely	Major	Ensure full compliance with Local Government Act, ESC requirements, and Ministerial Directions.
Data Integrity Issues (Valuations and Inputs)	Possible	Major	Validate Valuer-General data and internal inputs; perform reasonableness testing and investigate anomalies before finalisation.
Reputational Risk and Community Dissatisfaction	Possible	Moderate	Provide clear, transparent communication and community engagement; document decision-making and respond promptly to concerns.

**CONSULTATION**

Section 96(1) of *the Local Government Act 2020* provides for Council to develop the Budget in accordance with the financial management principles, and Council’s Community Engagement Policy.

Council undertook public consultation prior to drafting the Budget from December 2025 to January 2026 and placed the draft Budget on public exhibition for a four-week period following the April 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.

**CONCLUSION**

Council Officers recommend the adoption of the proposed rates and charges noting their alignment with the Alpine Shire Council Budget 2026/27 and the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025.

## **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
- Acting Manager Corporate
- Accountant
- Rates Coordinator

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Nil

## 8.2.5 Submissions to the Draft 2026/27 Budget

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to respond to the submissions received on the draft Alpine Shire Council 2026/27 Budget and outline changes reflected in the final Budget.

### RECOMMENDATION

*That Council:*

1. *Considers eight written submissions received pursuant to Council's Community Engagement Policy in relation to the draft Alpine Shire Council 2026/27 Budget;*
2. *Considers as a further submission to the draft Alpine Shire Council 2026/27 Budget a request received on 22 March 2026 from the Porepunkah Panthers Baseball Club;*
3. *Makes the following amendments to the draft Budget 2026/27:*
  - a. *Capital Expenditure*

<i>S#</i>	<i>Submission / amendment</i>	<i>Request / Change</i>	<i>Budget FY2026/27</i>
<i>a*</i>	<i>Delivery of the south-end boundary fence at Tawonga Pioneer Memorial Park.</i>	<i>\$21,000</i>	<i>\$21,000</i>
<i>b*</i>	<i>Car parking upgrade on the corner of Martley Street and Nicholson Street, Porepunkah.</i>	<i>\$60,000</i>	<i>\$60,000</i>
<i>c</i>	<i>Building Upgrade - Climate Action Plan Initiative</i>	<i>\$100,000</i>	<i>\$200,000</i>
<i>d</i>	<i>Building Upgrade Program</i>	<i>\$2,530,000</i>	<i>\$2,530,000</i>
<i>e</i>	<i>Plant and Equipment</i>	<i>-\$85,000</i>	<i>\$584,000</i>
<i>f</i>	<i>ICT Infrastructure</i>	<i>-\$87,000</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>
<i>g</i>	<i>Kiewa River Trail - Embankment Rd to Damns Rd</i>	<i>\$208,000</i>	<i>\$740,000</i>
<i>h</i>	<i>Bright to Wandiligong Trail - Centenary Park to Pioneer</i>	<i>\$275,000</i>	<i>\$925,000</i>
<i>i</i>	<i>Landfill Capping</i>	<i>\$200,000</i>	<i>\$1,500,000</i>
<i>j</i>	<i>Pebble Beach Amenity Block Carry-forward</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>

<i>S#</i>	<i>Submission / amendment</i>	<i>Request / Change</i>	<i>Budget FY2026/27</i>
<i>k</i>	<i>Mount Beauty Transfer Station Office Carry-forward</i>	<i>\$30,000</i>	<i>\$30,000</i>
<i>l</i>	<i>Bright Netball Club Storage Upgrade Carry-forward</i>	<i>\$27,000</i>	<i>\$27,000</i>
<i>m</i>	<i>Nimmo Bridge Carry-forward</i>	<i>\$390,000</i>	<i>\$390,000</i>
<i>n</i>	<i>Myrtleford McNamara Multipurpose Courts Carry-forward</i>	<i>-\$5,000</i>	<i>\$120,000</i>
<i>o</i>	<i>Tawonga Pioneer Memorial Park Multi-Purpose Court Resurfacing Carry-forward</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>	<i>\$93,000</i>
<i>p</i>	<i>Tawonga Fencing Carry-forward</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>
<i>q</i>	<i>Tawonga Picnic Area Carry-forward</i>	<i>\$15,000</i>	<i>\$15,000</i>
<i>r</i>	<i>Bright Skate Park Carry-forward</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>
<i>s</i>	<i>Capitalised Wages</i>	<i>\$226,000</i>	<i>\$965,000</i>

*\*Amendments to budget due to community submissions.*

*b. Operational Expenditure*

<i>S#</i>	<i>Submission / amendment</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Budget FY2026/27</i>
<i>a</i>	<i>Employee Costs</i>	<i>\$348,000</i>	<i>\$15,091,000</i>
<i>b</i>	<i>Materials and Services</i>	<i>\$277,000</i>	<i>\$15,121,000</i>

*c. Income*

<i>S#</i>	<i>Submission / amendment</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>Budget FY2026/27</i>
<i>a</i>	<i>Rates and Charges</i>	<i>-\$84,000</i>	<i>\$24,245,000</i>
<i>b</i>	<i>User Fees</i>	<i>\$142,000</i>	<i>\$1,389,000</i>

<i>S#</i>	<i>Submission / amendment</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>Budget FY2026/27</i>
<i>c</i>	<i>Recurrent Operating Grants</i>	<i>-\$4,105,000</i>	<i>\$1,970,000</i>
<i>d</i>	<i>Non-recurrent Operating Grants</i>	<i>\$270,000</i>	<i>\$472,000</i>
<i>e</i>	<i>Non-recurrent Capital Grants</i>	<i>\$3,368,000</i>	<i>\$4,650,000</i>
<i>f</i>	<i>Non-monetary Contributions</i>	<i>\$3,860,000</i>	<i>\$7,187,000</i>
<i>g</i>	<i>Various other movements</i>	<i>-\$23,000</i>	

- 2. Notes the addition to the final budget of Council's co-contribution to successful State Government's 'Tiny Town Fund' grant applications:**
  - a. Tawonga Pioneer Memorial Park Playground concepts design and costings: \$12,500 capital expenditure; and**
- 3. Notes the following community submissions that did not result in changes to the draft Budget 2026/27:**

<i>Submission</i>	<i>Response</i>
<p><i>Increase to bin collection charges.</i></p> <p><i>Cats are less to register than dogs.</i></p>	<p><i>Waste charges are reviewed annually on a cost recovery basis, with rising fuel and transport costs significantly impacting collection and processing.</i></p> <p><i>Lower registration fees for cats were introduced in 2024/25 to encourage higher registration rates due to historically lower numbers.</i></p>
<p><i>Increase allocation to conservation, revegetation, and habitat restoration programs.</i></p> <p><i>Strengthen investment in climate adaptation and resilience initiatives.</i></p> <p><i>Establish a clear, ongoing program for walking tracks.</i></p>	<p><i>Council maintains weed control and revegetation programs and is advancing climate planning through a Climate Adaptation Plan and climate risk register under a collaborative resilience program. It also manages and improves open spaces, including tracks, trails, and bridge maintenance.</i></p>

<b><i>Submission</i></b>	<b><i>Response</i></b>
<b><i>Allocate funding for at least one public fast charger in a central location in Mount Beauty, and to explore co-funding opportunities to reduce the cost to Council.</i></b>	<b><i>Council is progressing through a process to seek interest from commercial providers to install and operate EV chargers on Council land, and advocating for government and private investment to address local charging gaps.</i></b>
<b><i>Question regarding the figures for Works Carried Forward. Notes that Council is budgeting for a surplus of more than 10%.</i></b>	<b><i>An error in carry-forward figures in the Draft Budget has been corrected. The budget shows an underlying operating deficit for 2026/27. The overall accounting surplus includes non-cash items such as developer-contributed assets.</i></b>
<b><i>Barbecue shelter and related infrastructure in Mount Beauty on the west bank of the Kiewa River.</i></b>	<b><i>Council recommends allocating an in-kind project manager resource to review and progress existing scoping work within current resourcing.</i></b>
<b><i>The spend on Tourism relating to marketing is going down by \$47,000 compared to this year.</i></b>	<b><i>The reduction in budget is largely a result of a reduced need to print tourism-related collateral, which occurs every second year.</i></b>
<b><i>Stronger economic development focus that supports business growth, attracts investment, addresses workforce constraints and builds long-term economic resilience.</i></b>	<b><i>Council officers support increasing investment and economic activity to strengthen the Alpine Shire economy. This is being progressed through the development of a number of key strategic documents.</i></b>

***4. Notifies in writing each person, or persons, who made a submission to the draft 2026/27 Budget, setting out the decision and the reasons for that decision.***

## **BACKGROUND**

Council has prepared a Budget for 2026/27 which is aligned to the Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-2029.

Key budget information is provided in the Alpine Shire Council 2026/27 Budget, including details of the rate increase, the strategic objectives of the Council, the operating result, ongoing service provision, capital works projects and the Council's financial position.

## ISSUES

### ***Previous Community Budget Submissions***

Council undertook initial community consultation to inform preparation of the draft Budget from December 2025 to January 2026, with 97 submissions received. Submissions with recommendations were presented to the April 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.

### ***Draft Budget Submissions***

Section 96(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* provides for Council to develop a budget in accordance with financial management principles and Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Eight submissions were received and were treated in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Submitters were provided the opportunity to present their submissions to Council. On 9 June 2026, three submitters presented to Council.

One further request, received from the Porepukah Panthers Baseball Club on 22 March 2026, has also been considered through the budget submission process. This approach has been taken in order to ensure assessment is carried out consistently with other formal submissions, and to ensure that a formal response is expedited.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Budget is prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. Submission processes have been governed by Council's Community Engagement Policy.

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

- 2.8 We achieve long-term financial resilience to meet community needs now and into the future.
- 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

The net impact of submissions which are recommended for incorporation into the Budget 2026/27 is as follows:

### **Income**

- Income amendments                      Increase                      \$3,428,000

**Expenditure**

- Capital Expenditure                      Increase              \$4,078,000
- Operational Expenditure                Increase              \$625,000

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Budget adopted without community engagement.	Rare	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure wide participation through engagement campaign.</li> <li>• Engagement processes include community submission prior to budget drafting.</li> <li>• Draft budget placed on public exhibition with an invitation for feedback.</li> <li>• All submissions received considered.</li> </ul>
Adopted budget is not reflective of community needs and expectations.	Possible	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure opportunities for community engagement on the draft Budget are widely communicated.</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for submitters to present to Councillors.</li> <li>• Ensure Councillors are well-informed on the content of community submissions and how they are reflected in the final Budget.</li> </ul>

## **CONSULTATION**

The draft 2026/27 Budget was released for public exhibition following the April Ordinary Council Meeting. Public submissions formally closed on Wednesday, 27 May 2026.

Eight submissions were received. One further request for Council support was received outside of the usual submissions process and was considered for funding, making a total of nine budget submissions considered.

Three submitters sought to present their matter to Council. Two submitters presented to Council on 9 June. All submissions received were considered in the finalisation of the Budget 2026/27.

## **CONCLUSION**

All submissions have been considered by Council. This report reflects the Officers' recommendations to Council following a review of the cost and scope of each submission.

## **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
- Acting Manager Corporate

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Nil

## 8.2.6 Adoption of the 2026/27 Budget

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to recommend adoption of the Alpine Shire Council 2026/27 Budget.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council:*

- 1. Adopts the Alpine Shire Council 2026/27 Budget incorporating the amendments adopted by Council in the budget submissions report (agenda item 8.1.3 and 8.1.4 of this Council Meeting) and incorporating rates and charges;**
- 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice of adoption of the Budget 2026/27; and**
- 3. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to reflect any changes made by Council at this meeting, which are not reflected in the Budget document as attachment 8.1.5, and to make minor typographical corrections.**

### BACKGROUND

Alpine Shire Council endorsed the draft Budget 2026/27 to be placed on public exhibition at the April 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting. Following a period of public exhibition and internal submissions, amendments and refinements have been made to prepare the Alpine Shire Council Budget 2026/27.

### ISSUES

Council has completed preparation of the Alpine Shire Council Budget 2026/27 (the Budget). It is aligned to the Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-2029.

Through continued strong financial control, the Budget provides a prudent financial position which enables Council to continue to deliver services and projects as conditions evolve.

This Budget projects an operating surplus of \$7.20m and an underlying operating deficit of \$4.63m which has been influenced by:

- a. A Rate increase of 1.78%, in line with the Fair Go Rates System, which caps Victorian Council rate increases (announced by the Minister for Local Government in December 2024), and to rectify the unintentional rate cap breach in 2025/26;
- b. Capital works expenditure totalling \$14.14m, a capital works program which reflects a sustainable pipeline of asset renewal and new capital projects;
- c. A materials and services budget of \$15.12m which reflects the financial environment constrained by the rate cap and efforts to reduce operating expenditure; and

- d. A modest increase in employee expenditure reflecting resourcing requirements to deliver funded operational projects and services.

### ***Operating Result***

Council is projecting an operating surplus of \$7.20m and an underlying operating deficit of \$4.63m.

In calculating the underlying deficit position, Council includes only rates and charges, fees and fines, recurrent grants and other income.

The draft 2026/27 Budget contained a \$4.40m operating surplus, while the final 2026/27 Budget has an operating surplus of \$7.20m. The movement between the draft Budget and final budget position is largely driven by higher recognition of non-monetary contributions (\$7.18m from \$3.33m), offset by lower forecasted recurrent operating grants to be received in 2026/27.

### ***Income***

Council's total income is projected to be \$45.18m, being an increase from 2025/26 income of \$39.00m. This is largely due to an increase in expected non-monetary contributions and non-recurrent capital grants.

- ***Rates***

Rates and charges are budgeted at \$24.24m, which includes the application of a 1.78% rate increase. This outcome is in line with the rate cap of 2.75% for 2026/27 and has been lowered to return Alpine Shire Council's rate base to a compliant position if we did not breach the rate cap for 2025/26.

This budget also includes a rate credit of \$169k applied to all rateable properties on a differential and valuation basis.

- ***Fees and Charges***

The fees and charges schedule included in the 2026/27 Budget provides a comprehensive list of charges which will apply for the delivery of services to the community. Broadly, fees and charges have increased in line with the rate cap increase of 2.75%, with some increases based on a cost recovery calculation. A benchmarking exercise has been undertaken this year to assess whether fees are being charged commensurate with other councils.

### ***Expenditure***

- ***Operating Expenditure***

Council's budgeted operating expenditure provides for an overall decrease in materials and services expenditure from \$15.76m in 2025/26 to \$15.12m in 2026/27, reflecting a continued focus on improving efficiency and efforts to reduce operating expenditure.

The 2026/27 Budget includes employee numbers of 138 full time equivalent (FTE) staff, which has largely remained stable since 2024/25 with some adjustment to deliver against funding requirements.

Within the constraints of reduced operating expenditure, Council has committed to key functions:

- \$2.36m to kerbside and waste collection.
- \$3.09m to maintain Council's infrastructure and public assets.
- \$704k to manage three libraries in Myrtleford, Bright and Mount Beauty.
- \$200k to help fund events in the Shire.
- \$172k to monitor legacy landfills.
- \$102k for audit and assurance activities, as a commitment to ongoing financial and governance improvements.

Efficiency and savings have been found through a review and prioritisation of the work program to be delivered across the organisation, and the proposal that a number of projects are undertaken utilising in-house resourcing only reducing material and services expenditure.

- ***Capital Works Expenditure***

Council plans to deliver a capital works program totalling \$14.14m. This is an increase from the 2025/26 capital works budget of \$9.56m due to successfully obtaining grant funding for new and upgrade projects.

The capital budget contains a carry forward of \$0.82m for capital projects not completed in 2025/26. These projects include the Nimmo Pedestrian Bridge and a suite of projects in the Tawonga Pioneer Memorial Park.

Highlights of the proposed capital works program include:

- \$1.8 million for road renewals, with a major focus on upgrades throughout the Kiewa Valley.
- \$1.1 million for building renewals, supporting the upkeep and longevity of key public buildings.
- \$716,000 for plant and equipment, including significant investment in large plant renewal, fleet updates, ICT upgrades, and library collection enhancements.
- \$530,000 for a new public open space incorporating public amenities in Tawonga South.
- \$534,000 for recreation and open space improvements, delivering renewed playing surfaces and upgrades to fencing, seating, and shade structures.
- \$2.1 million for footpaths, trails and cycleways, including new connections in Tawonga, Myrtleford and Bright.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The Alpine Shire Council 2026/27 Budget is prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

The Budget covers a four-year period, incorporating the budget year 2026/27, and the subsequent three financial years.

Rating provisions remain in the *Local Government Act 1989*.

The Budget is aligned to the Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-2029. Major Initiatives are identified that will contribute to the delivery of the Strategic Objectives. Council's progress in the delivery of these major initiatives will be reported in the corresponding Annual Report.

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

2.8 We achieve long-term financial resilience to meet community needs now and into the future.

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**

Council prepares its Annual Budget with the objective of balancing long term financial sustainability and prioritised delivery against community needs. The Alpine Shire Council 2026/27 Budget forecasts an operating surplus of \$7.20m, an adjusted underlying deficit of \$4.63m, being -13.90%, and a working capital ratio of 3.47.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Financial instability / poor decision making	Unlikely	Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial control and overview of budget at an underlying account level.</li> <li>Quarterly financial reporting, provided to the Audit and Risk Committee and Council.</li> <li>Maintenance of Long-Term Financial Plan.</li> </ul>

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Inability to fund services in rising cost environment	Unlikely	Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adaptability to refine service delivery to deliver within budgetary constraints.</li> <li>• Appropriate financial management, financial control and reporting processes.</li> <li>• Recognition of challenges and appropriate analysis and planning in the 10 Year Financial Plan.</li> </ul>

**CONSULTATION**

Section 96(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* provides for Council to develop the budget in accordance with the financial management principles and Council’s Community Engagement Policy.

A community engagement process specific to the 2026/27 Budget ran from December 2025 to January 2026. A record 97 community submissions to the Budget were received and are detailed in a report to the April 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.

The draft 2026/27 Budget was endorsed for public consultation in April 2026. Consultation was undertaken from 29 April to 27 May 2026. The outcomes of this consultation has been reported separately within the June 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting agenda.

**CONCLUSION**

All submissions received have been considered by Council. The Alpine Shire Council 2026/27 Budget reflects the Officers’ recommendations to Council following a review of the cost and scope of each submission.

This Budget sets out the projects and services to be delivered in the 2026/27 financial year and forecasts an operating surplus of \$7.20m, an underlying operating deficit of \$4.63m, and capital expenditure totalling \$14.144m.

## **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
- Acting Manager Corporate
- Accountant

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. **8.2.6.1** Alpine Shire Council 2026-27 Budget

## 8.2.7 Dinner Plain Reserve

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the final Dinner Plain Reserve expenditure for 2025/26 and to provide a recommendation for permitted expenditure to be funded from the Dinner Plain Reserve from 1 July 2026, aligned with the 2026/27 Budget.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council:*

**1. Approves the final expenditure from the Dinner Plain Reserve for 2025/26 of \$645,494 and notes this figure is subject to audit and transactions finalised during June 2026. This expenditure is:**

• <b>Dinner Plain Bus</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>
• <b>Dinner Plain Snowplay Slope Net Expenditure</b>	<b>\$14,911</b>
• <b>Dinner Plain Snowmaking Equipment</b>	<b>\$169,557</b>
• <b>Brabralung Trail Grooming</b>	<b>\$6,535</b>
• <b>Dinner Plain Tennis Court Resurfacing</b>	<b>\$80,073</b>
• <b>Dinner Plain Activation</b>	<b>\$199,418</b>

**2. Approves use of the Dinner Plain Reserve to fund approved projects and services as listed and totalling \$224,000 to be delivered specifically to Dinner Plain and as aligned with the 2026/27 Budget:**

• <b>Dinner Plain Bus</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>
• <b>Dinner Plain Snowplay Slope Forecast Net Expenditure</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>
• <b>Brabralung Trail Grooming</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>

### BACKGROUND

The Financial Reserves and Restricted Cash Policy provides a framework for the governance of statutory and discretionary reserves. This includes guidance around the creation, maintenance, and closure of reserves.

The Dinner Plain Reserve is an approved Discretionary Reserve under this Policy which segregates all Dinner Plain transactions from general Council activity. During 2024/25 Council approved ceasing the operation of the Dinner Plain Reserve from 30 June 2025. Any remaining balance of the Reserve is to be utilised in accordance with the establishment of the Dinner Plain Reserve until all remaining funds are expensed.

Transfers from financial reserves will occur at the end of the financial year during which the funding is expended. All transfers out of discretionary reserve accounts must be authorised by Council in the following manner:

- Transfers are approved as part of the Annual Budget process.
- If funding is found to be required from reserves outside of the Budget process, approval must be sought by Council resolution prior to transfers being made.

**ISSUES**

**Reserve Balance June 2026**

A review of the operation of the Reserve has been undertaken to ensure all income and expenditure has been correctly attributed to allow for confidence in the final Reserve balance.

Council's financial statements will be audited by our external auditors, as engaged by the Victorian Auditor General's Office, prior to 31 October 2026. This audit will include Reserve balance and transactions up to 30 June 2026. Council is scheduled to approve the Annual Financial Statements for 2025/26 in October 2026, including the final balance remaining in the Dinner Plain Reserve.

At the March 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting expenditure of \$431,182 was approved from the Dinner Plain Reserve for 2025/26 for the below approved projects:

- Dinner Plain Bus \$175,000
- Dinner Plain Snowmaking \$100,000
- Dinner Plain Snow Play Slope Management \$26,502
- Brabralung Trail Grooming \$69,680
- Dinner Plain Tennis Court Resurfacing \$60,000

Several developments throughout the 2025/26 financial year include changes in capital works delivery for the Dinner Plain Activation and Dinner Plain Snowmaking project, a misallocation of funds from village maintenance during the 2025/26 Budget and lower level of snowmaking maintenance than budgeted. Snowmaking and snowplay slope management expenditure has been calculated to be offset by income generated from snowplay activities.

The recommended permitted expenditure from the Dinner Plain Reserve for 2025/26 is \$645,494 for the below items:

- Dinner Plain Bus \$175,000
- Dinner Plain Snowplay Slope Net Expenditure \$14,911
- Dinner Plain Snowmaking Equipment \$169,557
- Brabralung Trail Grooming \$6,535
- Dinner Plain Tennis Court Resurfacing \$80,073
- Dinner Plain Activation \$199,418

The result of this movement is an expected Dinner Plain Reserve balance of \$322,831 as at 30 June 2026.

A review of the 2026/27 Budget has been undertaken, including lessons learnt from the 2025/26 budget process. The following expenditure is identified to be accounted from the Reserve in 2026/27:

#	<i>Budget Item</i>	<i>Budget FY2026/27</i>
<b>a</b>	Dinner Plain Bus	\$175,000

#	Budget Item	Budget FY2026/27
<b>b</b>	Dinner Plain Snowplay Slope Net Expenditure	\$35,000
<b>c</b>	Brabralung Trail Grooming	\$14,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$224,000</b>

Expenditure from the Reserve will be reported on in Council's quarterly and annual financial reporting which is presented to Council to approve and is publicly available.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

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

2.8 We achieve long-term financial resilience to meet community needs now and into the future.

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**

The balance of the Dinner Plain Reserve on 30 June 2026 will be audited as a part of Victorian Auditor General's Office external audit of Council's Annual Financial Statements for 2025/26.

The total expenditure accounted to the Reserve will be reported as a part of Council's cyclic financial reporting.

The total approved expenditure to be expended from the Reserve in 2026/27 is \$224,000.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Reserve balance is inaccurate at 30 June 2026.	Possible	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>External audit of the 2025/26 Annual Financial Statements will confirm final balance.</li> </ul>

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Accounting for funds spent from the Dinner Plain Reserve post 30 June 2026 is not transparent.	Unlikely	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial management of Reserve is overseen by the Finance Department.</li> <li>• Quarterly and Annual reporting of movement of the Reserve is reported to Council and publicly available.</li> </ul>
Delivery of projects and services is not aligned to community expectations	Possible	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project prioritisation, scoping and design are undertaken with established community consultation processes and capital projects are delivered with the oversight of a PCG.</li> <li>• Development of the annual Budget is subject to community engagement and feedback mechanisms.</li> </ul>

**CONSULTATION**

Council's Annual Budget process includes a review and approval process for the following year's expenditure, including material and services delivery and capital projects. The annual Budget is subject to community engagement and feedback mechanisms prior to being adopted by Council.

**CONCLUSION**

The Dinner Plain Reserve is an approved Discretionary Reserve under the Financial Reserves and Cash Restriction Policy which segregates all Dinner Plain transactions from general Council activity.

This report provides for the final approval for the final Dinner Plain Reserve expenditure for 2025/26 and provides a recommendation for permitted expenditure to be funded from the Dinner Plain Reserve from 1 July 2026, aligned with the 2026/27 Budget.

### **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
- Acting Manager Corporate
- Accountant

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Nil

## 8.2.8 Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the report is for Council to consider the formal adoption of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029, following a four-week consultation period.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council:*

- 1. Acknowledges the submissions received during the exhibition of the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029;**
- 2. Adopts the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029;**
- 3. Signs and seals the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 at the appropriate stage of this meeting;**
- 4. Provides a copy of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 to the Secretary of Victoria's Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA); and**
- 5. Makes an Order under Section 25 of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 to introduce 24-hour cat confinement, effective from 1 July 2027.**

### BACKGROUND

The draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 (the draft Plan) was endorsed for public exhibition at the 31 March 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting. The public exhibition period ran from 2 April to 30 April 2026, during which time 133 responses were received via an online survey (129) and on paper (4).

In addition to seeking feedback on the draft Plan, Council specifically requested community input on the proposed introduction of a 24-hour cat curfew.

### LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Under section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the Act), councils must prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan (the 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 Plan applies only to dogs and cats and does not extend to livestock, wildlife or other animals.

## **SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS TO PLAN**

The Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 has been amended from the preceding plan as follows:

- Inclusion of pet statistics contained within the Agriculture Victoria Pet Census;
- Inclusion of proposed introduction of a cat confinement order;
- Deletion of information which is duplicated in other documents including organisational charts and processes which have been relocated to the Dog Incident Policy (to be considered in a separate report at this meeting); and
- Introduction of such an order on the adoption of the Plan that makes it an offence for a cat to be outside the property boundary where it resides.

## **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 Domestic Animal Management Plan and community engagement have been accommodated within the current approved budget.

Existing resourcing levels are sufficient to deliver Year 1 actions, including community education and transition support for pet owners.

Enforcement of the proposed cat confinement order will commence from 1 July 2027 and will be managed within existing operational budgets, with a strong initial focus on education and voluntary compliance.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Domestic Animal Management Plan is not adopted and submitted to DEECA by 30 June 2026.	Almost certain	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An extension was sought and agreed to by DEECA for Council to submit the DAMP by 30 June 2026. Council officers have subsequently contacted DEECA to confirm the date of the meeting and obtain consent to provide the adopted copy in the first week of July 2026.</li> </ul>
Dissatisfaction with the 24-hour cat curfew	Possible	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The cat curfew will not be implemented until 1 July 2027. An education program will be undertaken to support residents in preparing for the change.</li> </ul>

**CONSULTATION**

The Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 was endorsed for public exhibition at the 31 March 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting. The public exhibition period ran from 2 April to 30 April 2026, during which time 133 responses were received. As well as gauging overall thoughts on the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan, Council sought feedback on a proposed 24-hour cat curfew.

Of the responses received, over 90% provided comments in relation to the proposed 24-hour cat curfew, with 75% in support of the introduction. The reasons given in support included the protection of native wildlife and amenity concerns regarding the impact of roaming cats.

Other matters raised by those who held mixed feelings, or did not support the introduction, included difficulties in containing cats or constructing an outdoor enclosure; the impact on cat welfare from being contained; and the option to limit the curfew to the nighttime period.

There were also questions raised in relation to how the curfew would be monitored and enforced.

The matters raised by the public have been considered and a response is provided below:

### **Protection of native wildlife**

There is much evidence to demonstrate the benefits which are gained in the protection of native wildlife from cats being contained to their property. Cats which are permitted to roam are estimated to kill approximately 186 each, annually (Biodiversity Council, 2023). The introduction of the cat curfew will assist with the protection of local wildlife in the Alpine Shire.

### **Protection of Amenity**

Cats can create disturbances to neighbours through fighting with other cats, entering properties and unwanted breeding. The containment of cats is considered an appropriate measure to mitigate against these outcomes.

### **Difficulty containing cats**

It is proposed that there will be a transition period and an education campaign to support residents in preparing for the introduction of the cat curfew.

The proposed commencement date of 1 July 2027 provides an extended lead-in period to allow cat owners time to adapt, construct enclosures or modify behaviour.

### **Animal welfare considerations**

Research and industry guidance indicate that well-managed indoor or contained cats can maintain high welfare outcomes when provided with adequate stimulation, space and care.

### **Alternative curfew options**

While a night-time curfew was considered, a 24-hour curfew is preferred as it provides greater protection for wildlife, reduces nuisance behaviours throughout the day, and creates a clear and consistent community standard.

### **Enforcement clarity**

Compliance will be monitored through existing Local Laws and animal management processes, including complaint-based responses and routine patrols.

## **CONCLUSION**

Animal management is an important aspect of Council's function in the community.

The Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 provides a clear framework to guide Council's approach to animal management, community education and regulatory enforcement.

The Plan reflects current legislative requirements, incorporates updated data, and responds to community expectations, particularly in relation to responsible cat ownership.

While the introduction of a 24-hour cat confinement order represents a change to past requirements, this proposal received strong support through the community engagement process. Implementation will be carried out in a staged and supportive manner.

### **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)**

1. **8.2.8.1** Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029

## 8.2.9 Dog Incident Policy

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to present the Dog Incident Policy to Council for adoption. 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.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### ***That Council:***

- 1. Acknowledges the submissions received as part of the exhibition of the draft Dog Incident Policy;***
- 2. Adopts the Dog Incident Policy; and***
- 3. Signs and seals the Dog Incident Policy at the appropriate stage of this meeting.***

### 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 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 on the organisation through 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**

The Dog Incident Policy is operational in nature and bound by the legislative framework of the *Domestic Animal Act 1994*.

Consultation on the policy was undertaken for a period of four weeks, during which time, four (4) submissions were received. The matters raised in these submissions and a response to each are detailed below:

Submission Summary	Response
#1 - Policy should include incidents where dogs are on a leash but not under the proper control of the owner.	Matters of dog attacks and incidents can still be investigated where a dog is on a leash however is not under the effective control of the person responsible for the dog. It is considered that the policy addresses this scenario.
#2 - Dangerous dogs should not be permitted off lead in off lead dog parks.	The management of declared dangerous dogs is contained in the <i>Domestic Animal Act 1994</i> , which places very strict rules on when and how the dog may be moved outside its enclosure or property. They are not permitted off lead in off lead dog parks.
#3 - Restricted breed should be banned entirely.	In Victoria, certain dog breeds are classified as restricted breed dogs under the <i>Domestic Animals Act 1994</i> . These dogs are not banned, but they are subject to strict lifelong controls to protect public safety. Failure to comply can result in fines, prosecution, or seizure of the dog.
#4 - The policy should outline the rights of animal owners.	The policy has been developed to provide transparency as to the process in which Council officers will investigate dog attacks and related incidents. The policy is not intended to outline the rights of animal owners, which will be contained in Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026 -2029.
#5 - A dog park should be established at Mount Beauty.	Suggestion is not specifically relevant in the consideration of this policy however is noted and has been provided to appropriate team in Council.

## CONCLUSION

The adoption of the Dog Incident Policy provides a transparent framework which articulates the processes in which authorised officers will investigate and respond to dog attacks and incidents within the Alpine Shire. It is recommended that the policy be adopted as presented without amendment.

## **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)**

1. **8.2.9.1** Dog Incident Policy

## 8.2.10 Adoption of the Surveillance Technology Policy

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to present the Surveillance Technology Policy for adoption by Council, following the public exhibition of the draft Policy for four weeks during May 2026. One minor amendment has been made to the draft Policy in response to submissions received.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council:*

- 1. *Revokes the Body Worn Camera Policy No. 109, dated 1 September 2020;***
- 2. *Revokes the CCTV Surveillance Cameras Policy No. 093 dated 9 November 2021;***
- 3. *Acknowledges the submissions received as part of the exhibition of the draft Surveillance Technology Policy;***
- 4. *Adopts the Surveillance Technology Policy;***
- 5. *Signs and seals the Surveillance Technology Policy at the appropriate stage of this meeting; and***
- 6. *Notes the transitional period of one year from the date of adoption for Council to on-board existing surveillance activities to the new Policy standard.***

### BACKGROUND

The Surveillance Technology Policy is intended to replace the existing CCTV Surveillance Cameras Policy and Body Worn Camera Policy. The draft Policy was endorsed for public exhibition for a four-week period following the April 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.

The existing policies were reviewed to ensure Council's use of surveillance technologies aligns with current legislation and recognised best practice.

The draft Policy addresses Council's use of a range of surveillance technologies, including:

- Body-worn cameras and personal duress alarms
- Closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems
- Tourism cameras and promotional video/photography
- Location tracking devices and associated software
- Asset inspection technologies, including drones and vehicle-mounted cameras

The Policy outlines how Council will comply with relevant legislation, including the *Surveillance Devices Act 1999* and the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*.

## **ISSUES**

The review of Council's existing Body Worn Camera and CCTV policies identified that a range of Council activities may constitute surveillance but are not currently captured within existing policy frameworks.

In addition, while processes and procedures exist to manage many aspects of surveillance activity, responsibility is distributed across multiple departments. This has the potential to result in inconsistent practices, reduced coordination, and gaps in oversight.

The Surveillance Technology Policy consolidates existing policies into a single, comprehensive framework. It clarifies what constitutes surveillance - whether intentional or incidental - and establishes clear governance, assessment, and approval processes to ensure all surveillance activities are appropriately managed and compliant with relevant legislation.

The draft Policy was exhibited from 29 April 2026 to 27 May 2026. It was promoted via Council's website and social media, distributed through the Engage Alpine database, and made available in hard copy at Council customer service centres.

If adopted, a transition period of up to one year will apply to enable existing surveillance activities to be reviewed and brought into alignment with the new Policy requirements.

## **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
- 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**

The primary resource implication for the proposed policy is through the creation of the Surveillance Oversight Committee. This will be resourced through existing staff time and will place additional demands on staff. This will be particularly the case in the first 12 months (approximately) as existing surveillance devices and activities are assessed and onboarded to the new policy standard.

There are minimal financial or budgetary implications of the policy. Departments wishing to undertake surveillance activities will need to fund activities through normal budget processes. There may be minor costs associated with upgrading existing activities to meet the new policy standard (e.g. new or updated signage).

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Surveillance Technology Policy is not adopted and Council continues uncoordinated approach to surveillance activities across the organisation.	Possible	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy presented to June OCM for adoption.</li> </ul>
Inadequate oversight of surveillance technology results in breach of privacy or unlawful use of devices.	Possible	Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surveillance Oversight Committee to oversee all surveillance activities across Council.</li> <li>Policy provides clear guidance on what constitutes surveillance and assessment / approval pathways.</li> </ul>
Inadequate management of surveillance technology devices or data leads to data breach or compromise.	Possible	Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surveillance Oversight Committee responsible to ensure processes and procedures are robust.</li> <li>ICT team to monitor and improve systems as needed to mitigate likely threats to data integrity.</li> </ul>

**CONSULTATION**

The draft Policy was exhibited for a period of four weeks, from 29 April to 27 May 2026. The Policy was publicised on Council's website, on social media and via email to Council's Alpine Engage database, and available in hard copy at Council service centres.

The draft Policy was also presented to the Staff Consultative Committee for feedback. This resulted in an internal submission relating to Gender Impact Assessments.

***Exhibition results***

Policy exhibition generated the following engagement:

- 151 views from 119 visitors to the Council website, with 83 downloads.
- 381 received notification through email as “engage” page followers, with around 30 clicking through to the web page.
- Over 14,000 viewers on Council’s Facebook page, with 38 interactions.

**Summary of submissions**

Overall, four public submissions and one internal submission were received. These submissions are summarised in the following table and have resulted in one proposed change to the draft Policy.

Internal / External	Submission summary	Council response
External	Feedback from Council facility user seeking clarification on how they would apply for CCTV at the facility.	No change to Policy. Matter to be addressed through direct engagement.
External	Generally supportive of Policy, asking Council to investigate additional beneficial uses for data collected through surveillance.	No change to Policy. Considered outside the scope due to privacy and resource implications.
External	Feedback stating that more surveillance is not needed.	No change to Policy. Policy focuses on governance, not expansion of surveillance activities.
External	Use of drones should be overseen by the Committee due to expansive nature of data gathered.	No change to Policy. Any future drone use by Council will be assessed by the Committee, and would require clear demonstration that no private information is collected, and appropriate safeguards are in place.
Internal	Policy should include specific requirement for Gender Impact Assessment for all new surveillance activities.	Policy amended to require both Gender Impact Assessment and Privacy Impact Assessment undertaken.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Surveillance Technology Policy provides a comprehensive framework to ensure Council manages surveillance activities in a consistent, transparent, and legally compliant manner.

Council acknowledges that surveillance technologies may impact individuals' reasonable expectations of privacy. The Policy establishes appropriate safeguards and governance mechanisms to ensure that the benefits of surveillance are carefully balanced against privacy considerations.

## **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
- Acting Manager Corporate

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. **8.2.10.1** Surveillance Technology Policy

## 8.2.11 Adoption of Risk Management Policy and Governance and Risk Framework

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to present the updated Risk Management Policy and Governance and Risk Framework to be considered for adoption by Council.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council:*

- 1. *Revokes Risk Management Policy No.054, version 5;***
- 2. *Adopts Risk Management Policy No.054 version 6;***
- 3. *Revokes the Governance and Risk Framework, version 2;***
- 4. *Adopts the Governance and Risk Framework, version 3;***
- 5. *Signs and seals the Risk Management Policy No.054, version 6 and Governance and Risk Framework, version 3 at the appropriate stage of this meeting.***

### BACKGROUND

As part of its ongoing commitment to risk management, Council is working to update its Risk Management Policy (the Policy) and Governance and Risk Framework (the Framework).

Council maintains these documents to support effective identification, assessment and management of risks across its operations. These documents are required under the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. They are reviewed by the Alpine Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) and adopted by Council.

The Policy applies broadly to all Council duties, functions, powers, activities, operations and decisions. It establishes Council's risk culture, promotes openness in identifying and managing risks, and mandates key elements including maintaining a risk register, defining risk appetite, reporting requirements, and staff training.

A review has been undertaken to ensure the Policy and the Framework remain compliant, contemporary and aligned with best practice.

### ISSUES

The review of the Risk Management Policy and Governance and Risk Framework was informed by:

- Benchmarking against northeast and small rural councils
- Review of legislative compliance requirements.
- Alignment with international (ISO) and Australian (AS) standards.
- Consideration of current best practice approaches suitable for smaller organisations.

#### ***Risk Management Policy – key changes:***

- Core sections retained with minor refinements.

- Improved clarity in monitoring and reporting requirements.
- Updated roles and responsibilities to reflect the current organisation structure.
- Inclusion of a gender impact assessment.
- Addition of business continuity plan references.
- Minor drafting, formatting and renumbering updates.

***Governance and Risk Framework – key changes:***

- Updated to align with the current Community Vision and Council Plan.
- Terminology revised for consistency with the *Local Government Act 2020*.
- Inclusion of Council's updated values of Innovation, Collaboration, Accountability, Respect and Empowerment.
- Clarification and strengthening of the role of "owners" of governance, risk and compliance obligations.
- Legislative compliance tables expanded and relocated to an appendix for improved usability.
- Compliance section updated to recognise the legal and authorising environment within which Council operates including new Standards.
- Compliance table for the *Local Government Act 2020* reviewed and updated.
- New compliance tables have been included for a range of Acts, including *Disability Act 2006*, *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, *Emergency Management Act 2013* and *Gender Equality Act 2020*.
- Minor language, grammar and formatting improvements throughout.

Overall, the updates enhance clarity, strengthen alignment with strategic documents, and improve usability and governance accountability.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The updated Policy and Framework ensure:

- Ongoing compliance with legislative requirements.
- Alignment with Council's Community Vision, Council Plan and values.
- Improved clarity of governance, risk and compliance responsibilities across the organisation.
- Continued alignment with recognised standards and sector best practice.

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

**FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The revised Risk Management Policy and Governance and Risk Framework have been developed in-house.

Implementation will be undertaken using existing internal resources, including:

- Staff time for communication, training and awareness activities.

- Ongoing management and reporting through existing governance, risk and compliance processes.

Any resource impacts are expected to be minimal and will be managed within existing operational budgets. No additional funding is required.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Staff may not fully understand or consistently apply the updated Policy and Framework, leading to gaps in risk identification, reporting and management.	Possible	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver targeted training and awareness sessions for staff and leadership.</li> <li>• Embed responsibilities within position descriptions and existing processes.</li> <li>• Provide clear guidance materials and templates to support consistent application.</li> </ul>
As implementation is being undertaken in-house, competing priorities may limit the time available for effective rollout, monitoring and ongoing maintenance.	Possible	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate implementation activities into existing governance and reporting cycles.</li> <li>• Prioritise key actions and stage implementation where required.</li> <li>• Leverage existing systems and processes to minimise additional workload.</li> </ul>

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Without regular review and monitoring, the Policy and Framework may become outdated, leading to compliance gaps or misalignment with legislative and best practice requirements.	Possible	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schedule regular reviews aligned with legislative and Council planning cycles.</li> <li>• Maintain oversight through the Audit and Risk Committee.</li> <li>• Monitor regulatory changes and sector developments to inform updates.</li> </ul>

## CONSULTATION

The updated Risk Management Policy, and Governance and Risk Framework have been developed in consultation with internal stakeholders, including Managers, the Executive Leadership Team, Councillors and the Alpine Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee. Feedback has been considered and incorporated to ensure the documents are practical, aligned with organisational needs, and support effective governance across Council.

## CONCLUSION

The Risk Management Policy, and Governance and Risk Framework ensure Council remains compliant, aligned with best practice, and supports effective governance and decision-making. The changes improve clarity, accountability and alignment with Council's strategic direction, while maintaining the existing risk approach. Implementation will be managed within existing resources, with identified risks mitigated through training, integration into current processes, and ongoing oversight.

## 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
- Acting Manager Corporate

## ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **8.2.11.1** Risk Management Policy No 054 version 6
2. **8.2.11.2** Governance and Risk Framework version 3

## 8.2.12 Audit and Risk Committee - Minutes of Meeting No.M(2025/26-5)

### **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of the report is to present to Council the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting No. M(2025/26-5) held on 15 May 2026.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

***That Council receives and notes the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting No.M(2025/26-5) held on 15 May 2026.***

### **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 15 May 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 - Fraud Controls***

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

While the audit identified 11 positive fraud management findings, it did make 12 recommendations to implement additional, or improve existing, controls to reduce the identified weaknesses and exposures. These recommendations included four governance findings, four process and systems findings and two stakeholder findings.

Nine of the recommendations had a medium risk rating to be addressed within 12 months, one recommendation had a low rating to be addressed within 18 months, and two recommendations were classified as a Performance Improvement Observation.

#### ***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.

### ***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. The Committee was briefed on a range of topics in regard to asset management, including individual asset management plans, asset management and policy document tracker and asset valuation update.

### ***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 to March 2026.

### ***Audit and Risk Committee Remuneration Benchmarking***

The Committee was presented with independent member remuneration benchmarking data, based on data gathered from neighbouring and small rural Councils. Further information on this benchmarking is contained in another report in this Council meeting agenda.

### ***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 the 2025/26 Budget quarter three progress, Council and committee expenses, and external audit.

## **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.2025/26-5 held on 15 May 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
- Acting Manager Corporate
- Risk Management Officer

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. **8.2.12.1** Audit and Risk Committee Meeting M(2025-26-5)-15 May 2026- Unconfirmed Minutes

## 8.2.13 Audit and Risk Committee Independent Member Remuneration

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to recommend that Council increases the remuneration of the Alpine Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee Chair and Independent Members, effective from 1 July 2026.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### ***That Council:***

- 1. Sets the Independent Audit and Risk Committee Member remuneration from 1 July 2026 at:***
  - a. \$815 per meeting for the Chair;***
  - b. \$680 per meeting for Independent Members;***
- 2. Undertakes annual increases from 1 July each year equivalent to the Essential Services Rate Cap for that Financial Year rounding up to the nearest five-dollar increment, as per the Audit and Risk Committee Charter;***
- 3. Acknowledges an upper limit for reimbursement of travel expenses at \$325 per member, per year, with no annual indexation applying to this allowance, as per the Audit and Risk Committee Charter; and***
- 4. Implements a review of the Audit and Risk Committee remuneration and entitlements in three years.***

### BACKGROUND

The Audit and Risk Committee provides an independent advisory function to Council, supporting oversight of:

- Governance and legislative compliance;
- Financial and performance reporting;
- Risk management frameworks; and
- Internal and external audit.

Local Government Victoria's *Audit Committees: A Guide to Good Practice* notes that remuneration should reflect "the time, commitment and responsibility involved."

Council's Committee currently consists of three independent remunerated members (including the Chair), with a fourth position vacant and recruitment to begin shortly.

Independent Members contribute significant professional expertise and undertake responsibilities beyond meeting attendance, including:

- Reviewing detailed agenda papers;
- Engaging with internal and external auditors; and
- Providing specialist advice on risk and governance matters.

**ISSUES**

Independent Member remuneration was last reviewed in 2023, with annual indexation linked to the Essential Services Commission rate cap and a scheduled three-year review.

A benchmarking analysis across 10 comparable Victorian councils indicates that Alpine Shire Council’s remuneration sits toward the lower end of the mid-range.

***Increasing Remuneration to Strengthen the Committee***

Increasing remuneration is not only a market adjustment, but it also directly strengthens the effectiveness of the Committee.

**Attraction of high-calibre expertise**

The Committee requires members with specialised skills in audit, finance, risk, and governance. Competitive remuneration broadens the pool of candidates and enables Council to attract individuals with contemporary and highly relevant expertise.

**Retention of institutional knowledge**

Continuity of membership strengthens governance oversight. Appropriate remuneration reduces turnover risk and preserves organisational knowledge gained over time.

**Recognition of increasing complexity and accountability**

Regulatory requirements, financial oversight expectations, and risk environments have become more complex. Remuneration should reflect the increasing workload, scrutiny, and accountability borne by members.

**Enhanced independence and rigour**

Competitive remuneration supports independence by ensuring members are appropriately resourced and valued, promoting more robust challenge, scrutiny, and decision-making.

**Reduced governance risk exposure**

A well-functioning, highly skilled Committee strengthens early identification of risks, improves audit outcomes, and contributes to stronger financial stewardship, ultimately reducing organisational risk.

In this context, it is recommended Council modestly lifts remuneration to a more competitive position within the benchmark range as outlined in the table below.

	Current (2025/26)	Proposed (2026/27)
Chair	\$610	\$815
Member	\$495	\$680

Annual increases would continue in line with the Essential Services Commission rate cap, rounded to the nearest \$5. This would apply from 1 July 2027.

***Travel Reimbursement***

It is recommended to increase the annual travel reimbursement cap from \$300 to \$325 per member.

This reflects:

- Approximately an average 8% increase in travel costs since 2023;
- Rising fuel and accommodation costs; and
- The need to avoid financial barriers to participation, particularly for regionally based members.

No indexation is proposed for this allowance over the three-year period.

## **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**

Based on the current 2025/26 remuneration rates of \$610 for the Chair and \$495 for each Independent Member, the total cost is \$10,475 per annum for meeting fees, plus travel reimbursements of up to \$1,200, bringing the total potential annual cost to \$11,675.

The recommended changes for 2026/27, to remuneration rates of \$815 for the Chair and \$680 for each Independent Member, result in a total cost of \$14,275 per annum for meeting fees, plus travel reimbursements of up to \$1,300, bringing the total potential annual cost to \$15,575.

It is noted that annual increases to remuneration for the 2027/28 and 2028/29 financial years are recommended to align with the Rate Cap as determined by the Essential Services Commission. No increases are proposed to travel cost reimbursements for 2027/28 and 2028/29.

The additional annual expense of \$3,900 can be accommodated within the existing 2026/27 Budget allocation for audit management.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Increase in remuneration is perceived negatively by the community, impacting trust.	Possible	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly document that the increase is evidence-based, referencing independent benchmarking.</li> <li>• Limit the increase to a modest and manageable adjustment, based around market alignment.</li> <li>• Ensure transparency through clear reporting.</li> </ul>
Failure to adjust remuneration in line with market benchmarks may impact Council's ability to retain experienced committee members or attract suitably qualified new members. This may compromise Committee effectiveness over time.	Possible	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement periodic benchmarking to ensure remuneration remains broadly competitive over time.</li> <li>• Monitor recruitment and tenure trends as an early indicator of emerging capability or retention issues.</li> <li>• Maintain 3-year review cycle.</li> </ul>

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Action / Control
Remuneration does not reflect workload and accountability, leading to reduced engagement or diminished oversight quality.	Possible	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Align remuneration with role expectations and increasing regulatory complexity</li> <li>• Periodically review workload and Committee effectiveness</li> <li>• Maintain strong Chair oversight and performance expectations</li> <li>• Loss of key independent members results in reduced governance capability and increased organisational risk</li> <li>• Support succession planning and staggered appointments</li> <li>• Ensure thorough induction and knowledge transfer processes.</li> </ul>

**CONSULTATION**

At the May 2026 Audit and Risk Committee meeting, members were advised that a benchmarking review was undertaken. Councillors have subsequently been briefed on the findings.

**CONCLUSION**

The Audit and Risk Committee plays a critical role in strengthening Council’s governance, risk oversight and financial integrity.

While current remuneration is broadly aligned with comparable councils, it does not position Alpine Shire competitively within the market.

A modest increase:

- Aligns remuneration with market expectations;
- Supports attraction and retention of high-quality independent members;
- Recognises the increasing complexity and accountability of the role; and
- Strengthens Council's governance capability and risk oversight.

This recommendation balances the importance of strong governance with Council's broader financial sustainability considerations.

### **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
- Acting Manager Corporate

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Nil

## 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.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

***That the summary of informal meetings of Councillors for May and June 2026 be received.***

### 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
26 May	Briefing Session
9 June	Briefing Session
10 June	Planning and Environment Act - amendments training
16 June	Briefing Session
23 June	Briefing Session

### ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **9.1.1** Informal Meeting of Councillors 20260526
2. **9.1.2** Informal Meeting of Councillors 20260609
3. **9.1.3** Informal Meeting of Councillors 20260610
4. **9.1.4** Informal Meeting of Councillors 20260616
5. **9.1.5** Informal Meeting of Councillors 20260623

## 10 Presentation of reports by delegates

## 11 General business

## 12 Motions for which notice has previously been given

## 13 Reception and reading of petitions

## 14 Documents for signing and sealing

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That the following documents be signed and sealed.*

- 1. Domestic Animal Management Plan,*
- 2. Dog Incident Policy*
- 3. Surveillance and Technology Policy,*
- 4. Risk Management Policy; and*
- 5. Governance and Risk Framework,*

## 15 Confidential reports

## 16 Closure of meeting