Ararat Rural City

MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 25 August 2026

Held in the Council Chambers, Shire Offices
(Livestreamed)

Commencing at 6.00pm

Council:
Cr Bob Sanders (Mayor)
Cr Jo Armstrong
Cr Rob Armstrong
Cr Peter Joyce
Cr Teli Kaur
Cr Luke Preston
Cr Bill Waterston

Ararat Rural City

A recording of this meeting is being made for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of the minutes of the Council Meeting.

The recording is being streamed live via Facebook, to improve transparency between council and the community and give more people the opportunity to view what decisions are being made. You do not require a Facebook account to watch the live broadcast, simply enter www.facebook.com/araratruralcitycouncil into your address bar.

Recordings of Council Meetings (excluding closed sessions) are made available on Council's website.

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PRESENT: Cr J Armstrong, Cr R Armstrong, Cr Peter Joyce, Cr Teli Kaur, Cr Luke Preston, Cr Bob Sanders, Dr Tim Harrison, Chief Executive Officer, Phuong Au – Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Rebecca Rodger – Major Projects Lead, Glenn Carman – Acting Chief Operating Officer, Harry Fulford – Town Hall Trainee, Kim Dearnley – Program Support Officer

SECTION 1 – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 LIVE STREAMING

Council is keen to engage with members of the community and live streams the formal Council Meetings to make them accessible. The stream is available to view on Council's Facebook page from 6pm and on Council's website following the Council Meeting.

1.2 TRADITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/OPENING PRAYER/COUNCILLORS PLEDGE

Traditional acknowledgement – CR PRESTON
We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today, and pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.

Opening Prayer – CR KAUR
Almighty God, we humbly ask you to help us, as elected Councillors of the Ararat Rural City Council. Guide our deliberations. Prosper what is your will for us, to your honour and glory and for the welfare and benefit of the people whom we serve in the Ararat Rural City.

Councillors Pledge – CR JOYCE
We will faithfully and impartially carry out and exercise the functions, powers, authorities and discretions invested in us under the *Local Government Act 2020* and any other Act to the best of our skill and judgement.

1.3 APOLOGIES

RECOMMENDATION

That the apology of Cr Waterston be accepted.

MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG
SECONDED CR PRESTON

That the apology of Cr Waterston be accepted.

No Councillors spoke for or against the motion.

CARRIED 6/0
5401/26

1.4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 July 2026 be confirmed.

MOVED CR JOYCE
SECONDED CR KAUR

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 July 2026 be confirmed.

No Councillors spoke for or against the motion.

CARRIED 6/0
5402/26

1.5 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A Councillor who has a conflict of interest in a matter being considered at a *Council meeting* at which he or she:

1 is present must disclose that conflict of interest by explaining the nature of the conflict of interest to those present at the *Council meeting* immediately before the matter is considered; or

2 intends to be present must disclose that conflict of interest by providing to the *Chief Executive Officer* before the *Council meeting* commences a written notice:

(a) advising of the conflict of interest;

(b) explaining the nature of the conflict of interest; and

(c) detailing, if the nature of the conflict of interest involves a Councillor's relationship with or a gift from another person, the:

- name of the other person;
- nature of the relationship with that other person or the date of receipt, value and type of gift received from the other person; and
- nature of that other person's interest in the matter,

and then immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting announcing to those present that he or she has a conflict of interest and that a written notice has been given to the *Chief Executive Officer* under this sub-Rule.

The Councillor must, in either event, leave the *Council meeting* immediately after giving the explanation or making the announcement (as the case may be) and not return to the meeting until after the matter has been disposed of.

There were no Declarations of Conflict of Interest received.

SECTION 2 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2.1 PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

1 Unless *Council* determines to consider it as an item of urgent business, no motion (other than a motion to receive the same) may be made on any petition, joint letter, memorial or other like application until the next *Council meeting* after that at which it has been presented.

2 It is incumbent on every Councillor presenting a petition or joint letter to acquaint himself or herself with the contents of that petition or joint letter, and to ascertain that it does not contain language disrespectful to *Council*.

3 Every Councillor presenting a petition or joint letter to *Council* must:

- write or otherwise record his or her name at the beginning of the petition or joint letter; and
- confine himself or herself to a statement of the persons from whom it comes, the number of signatories to it, the material matters expressed in it and the text of the prayer or request.

4 Every petition or joint letter presented to *Council* must be in *writing* (other than pencil), typing or printing, contain the request of the petitioners or signatories and be signed by at least 12 people.

5 Every petition or joint letter must be signed by the persons whose names are appended to it by their names or marks, and, except in cases of incapacity or sickness, by no one else and the address of every petitioner or signatory must be clearly stated.

6 Any signature appearing on a page which does not bear the text of the whole of the petition or request may not be considered by *Council*.

7 Every page of a petition or joint letter must be a single page of paper and not be posted, stapled, pinned or otherwise affixed or attached to any piece of paper other than another page of the petition or joint letter.

8 If a petition, joint letter, memorial or other like application relates to an operational matter, *Council* must refer it to the *Chief Executive Officer* for consideration.

There were no Petitions or Joint Letters received.

SECTION 3 – REPORTS REQUIRING COUNCIL DECISION

3.1 MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
DEPARTMENT: **CEO'S OFFICE**
REFERENCE: **30867**

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:
Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The financial statements and performance indicators have been prepared for the period ended 31 July 2026.

Based on the information provided by responsible officers and managers Council's overall financial performance is in line with budget.

DISCUSSION
Council must establish and maintain a budgeting and reporting framework that is consistent with the principles of sound financial management.

Key Financial information:

Income Statement (Attachment 1)

The Income Statement measures how well Council has performed from an operating nature. It reports revenues and expenditure from the activities and functions undertaken, with the net effect being a surplus or deficit. Capital expenditure is excluded from this statement, as it is reflected in the Balance Sheet.

Attachment 1 shows that Council generated $19.488 million in revenue and $4.002 million in expenses to 31 July 2026. This has resulted in an operating surplus of $15.486 million for the month ended 31 July 2026.

Income
Rates and charges account for 49% of the total budgeted income for 2026/27. Rates and charges are recognised when the rates have been raised, not when the income has been received. An amount of $18.282 million has been recognised as income for the month ended 31 July 2026.

User fees account for 4.4% of the total budgeted income for 2026/27 and $0.332 million has been received to 31 July 2026. The majority of this relates to transfer station fees, fitness centre income and commercial waste management charges.

Non-recurrent Operating Grants total $0.160 million to 31 July 2026. Council has been successful in obtaining several grants that had not been budgeted for, as detailed in the table below. The amounts shown as unearned income will be treated as income in future accounting periods once the performance obligations of the grant have been met.

Non-Recurrent Operating Grants	Budget 2026/27 $'000	Income 2026/27 $'000	Unearned Income $'000
Ararat Housing Transition	-	-	300
Digital Twin Victoria	-	-	950
Free Public WiFi Services	-	-	1,289
Supported Playgroups	69	6	-
CALD Outreach Workers Initiative	133	133	-
Streatham CRO & Hub	-	-	90
Engage - Youth Events Activities & Happenings	55	-	-
Centenary Park Dog Park	-	-	75
Queen Street Housing Program	-	-	5,697
Ararat Hills Adventure Sports Precinct	-	-	400
Early Career Educators	-	-	103
Ararat Active Bike Network	-	-	128
Ararat City Tennis Sports Lighting and Accessibility	-	-	504
Moyston Multi-Use Court Upgrade	-	-	203
Other Minor Grants (under $30,000)	-	21	17
	257	**160**	**9,756**

Non-recurrent Capital Grants total $0.010 million to 31 July 2026, as detailed in the table below. The amounts shown as unearned income will be treated as income in future accounting periods once the performance obligations of the grant have been met.

Non-Recurrent Capital Grants	Budget 2026/27 $'000	Income 2026/27 $'000	Unearned Income $'000
Tiny Towns Fund - Buangor Recreation Reserve Pavillion Redevelopment	-	-	50
Pony Club Sports Arena	-	10	182
Queen Street Housing Program	-	-	1,638
TAC Safe Local Roads and Streets Program	-	-	560
Jack & Jill Kindergarten Upgrade	-	-	2
Buangor-Ben Nevis Road Upgrade	5,000	-	2,000
Other Minor Grants (under $30,000)	-	-	-
	5,000	**10**	**4,432**

Gain on disposal of property, plant & Equipment totals $0.521 million with a parcel of Council land sold in July 2026.

Note

It is important to note the following:

1. The Grants Operating (recurrent) figure in the Original Budget was $9.122 million and in the Current Budget is recorded as $2.040 million, as $7.022 million was paid to Council in 2025/26 by the Victorian Local Government Grants Commission (VLGGC) for the 2026/27 financial year. Council has still received the expected VLGGC income, to be spent in 2026/27, however it will be reported over two financial years.
2. Unearned revenue received in prior years has been adjusted between the Original Budget and Current Budget with an additional $9.756 million for Grants Operating (non-recurrent) and $4.116 million for Grants Capital (non-recurrent) included in the Current Budget on the assumption that each of the grant projects will be completed during the 2026/27 financial year.
3. These changes in the budget, plus the note reported under expenses, create a change in the reported surplus position from a projected surplus of $4.624 million to a surplus of $4.261 million for 2026/27. The year-end variance is a surplus of $0.284 million when the actual year to date expenses are compared to the year to date budget.

Expenses

Employee Costs account for approximately 37.8% of the total budgeted expenditure for 2026/27. For the month ended 31 July 2026 Council has incurred $0.866 million in employee costs. Council has also incurred capitalised salary costs of $0.024 million, which are included in capital works reporting rather than the income statement, as they are treated as part of the cost of creating or improving Council assets.

Materials and Services account for approximately 26.7% of the total budgeted expenditure for 2026/27. For the month ended 31 July 2026, Council has incurred $2.150 million in materials and services costs. There are a number of projects, including those carried forward from 2025/26 that are expected to be completed before the end of the financial year.

Note
It is important to note the following:
There has been an increase in expenditure on materials and services from $9.078 million in the Original Budget to $16.238 million in the Current Budget for 2026/27. This has resulted from a carry forward amount of $7.160 million from the 2025/26 financial year surplus and unspent grant funds which will be used to complete the projects in 2026/27.

Balance Sheet (Attachment 2)
The Balance Sheet is one of the main financial statements and reports Council's assets, liabilities and equity at a given date, in this case 31 July 2026. Comparative figures have been provided as at 30 June 2026.

Council's current assets have increased by $15.363 million from $27.103 million as at 30 June 2026 to $42.466 million as at 31 July 2026. Cash and cash equivalents have decreased by $2.546 million from $21.266 million to $18.720 million. Trade and other receivables have increased by $18.387 million from $2.902 million as at 30 June 2026 to $21.289 million as at 31 July 2026.

Total liabilities have decreased from $22.042 million in 2025/26 to $21.309 million in 2026/27. Trade and other payables have decreased by $1.125 million and trust funds and deposits have increased by $0.111 million. Unearned income/revenue increased by $0.316 million, which includes grants received by Council, where in accordance with accounting standards, they are held as a liability until grant-related performance obligations have been met.

Statement of Cash Flows (Attachment 3)
The Statement of Cash Flows shows how changes in the Statement of Financial Position and Income Statement affect Cash and Cash Equivalents, and breaks down the analysis to operating activities, investing activities and financing activities.

The Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the financial year of $21.266 million have decreased by $2.546 million to $18.720 million as at 31 July 2026.

Net cash of $2.977 million was used in operating activities, $0.477 million was provided by investing activities, and $0.046 million was used in financing activities.

Investing activities includes payments for property, plant and equipment, and infrastructure.

Financial Performance Indicators (Attachment 4)
The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework requires Councils to report various performance indicators at the end of each financial year.

A full list of financial performance indicators is included in Attachment 4.

Indicator	30/06/2026	31/07/2026
Working capital *Measure - Current assets compared to current liabilities.* Expected values in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework 100% to 400% Indicator of the broad objective that sufficient working capital is available to pay bills as and when they fall due. High or increasing level of working capital suggests an improvement in liquidity	130%	211%
Loans and borrowings *Measure - Loans and borrowings compared to rates.* Expected values in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework – 0% to 70% Indicator of the broad objective that the level of interest-bearing loans and borrowings should be appropriate to the size and nature of a council's activities. Low or decreasing level of loans and borrowings suggests an improvement in the capacity to meet long term obligations	0.00%	0.00%
Indebtedness *Measure - Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue* Expected values in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework – 2% to 70% Indicator of the broad objective that the level of long-term liabilities should be appropriate to the size and nature of a Council's activities. Low or decreasing level of long-term liabilities suggests an improvement in the capacity to meet long term obligations	5.60%	6.34%
Rates concentration *Measure - Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue* Expected values in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework – 30% to 80% Indicator of the broad objective that revenue should be generated from a range of sources. High or increasing range of revenue sources suggests an improvement in stability	49.66%	93.86%
Expenditure level *Measure - Expenses per property assessment* Expected values in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework $2,000 to $10,000 Indicator of the broad objective that resources should be used efficiently in the delivery of services. Low or decreasing level of expenditure suggests an improvement in organisational efficiency	$4,974	$533
Indicator - Revenue level *Measure - Average residential rate per residential property assessment* Expected values in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework - $700 to $2,000 Indicator of the broad objective that resources should be used efficiently in the delivery of services. Low or decreasing level of rates suggests an improvement in organisational efficiency	$2,030	$2,087

Indicator	30/06/2026	31/07/2026
Indicator – Percentage of total rates collected The internal audit conducted in 2019 on Rates Revenue and Rate Debtor Management found no routine or regular reporting of large and long outstanding rates debtors. The outstanding Rates Debtors is reported in the Annual Financial report. As at 31 July 2026 the outstanding Rates Debtors totalled $19.758 million compared to $2.121 million as at 30 June 2026, an increase of $17.637 million. In percentage terms 5.7% of the rates raised have been collected at 31 July 2026 compared to 5.5% up to 31 July 2025. Outstanding rates are currently charged 10% interest. Council issues approximately 7,900 rate notices. In 2025/26 there were 2,495 assessments paying by instalments compared with 2,158 assessments in 2024/25.	89.9%	5.7%
Indicator – Asset Renewal & Upgrade *Measure - Asset renewal & Upgrade compared to depreciation* Expected range in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework – 40% to 130% Assessment of whether council assets are being renewed or upgraded as planned. It compares the rate of spending on existing assets through renewing, restoring, replacing or upgrading existing assets with depreciation. Ratios higher than 1.0 indicate there is a lesser risk of insufficient spending on Council's asset base.	113.93%	25.14%

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework provides "Expected ranges" for each indicator. The framework has been developed to consider results at the end of the financial year so some results during the year are outside the expected range due to the timing of receipts and payments.

Explanations are provided in Attachment 4 for those indicators that are outside the "expected ranges".

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

6 STRONG AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE
We will work hard to build models of governance that place delivering public value at the centre through effective financial management; well measured risk management; and implementation of effective community engagement practices

6.1 Deliver responsible budget outcomes, linked to strategy, that deliver value, innovation, and rating fairness

Budget Implications
Council's financial performance is in line with expectations.

Policy/Relevant Law
Section 97 – Quarterly Budget Report of the Local Government Act 2020 states:

1. As soon as practicable after the end of each quarter of the financial year, the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a quarterly budget report is presented to the Council at a Council meeting which is open to the public.

2. A quarterly budget report must include–
   a. a comparison of the actual and budgeted results to date; and
   b. an explanation of any material variations; and
   c. any other matters prescribed by the regulations.
3. In addition, the second quarterly report of a financial year must include a statement by the Chief Executive Officer as to whether a revised budget is, or may be, required.

Sustainability Implications
There are no economic, social or environmental implications in relation to the item

Risk Assessment
Council is required to establish and maintain a budgeting and reporting framework that is consistent with the principles of sound management and this report assists Council in meeting that requirement.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement
Council's financial performance reports will continue to be published monthly.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. The Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and Financial Performance Indicators for the period ended 31 July 2026 be received and adopted.

MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG
SECONDED CR KAUR

That:

1. The Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and Financial Performance Indicators for the period ended 31 July 2026 be received and adopted.

Cr J Armstrong and Cr Kaur spoke for the motion.

CARRIED 6/0
5403/26

ATTACHMENTS
Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and Financial Performance Indicators are provided as Attachment 3.1

Attachment 1
Comprehensive Income Statement for the one month ended 31 July 2026

	Original Budget	Current Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Variance	Variance
Income	**$'000**	**$'000**	**$'000**	**$'000**	**$'000**	
Rates and charges	18,965	18,965	18,232	18,282	50	0%
Statutory fees and fines	293	293	24	19	(5)	-21%
User fees	1,700	1,707	319	332	13	4%
Contributions - cash capital	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Contributions - cash operating	89	89	-	8	8	0%
Grants - operating (recurrent)	9,122	2,040	234	127	(107)	-46%
Grants - operating (non-recurrent)	257	10,013	21	160	139	662%
Grants - capital (recurrent)	2,591	2,591	-	-	-	0%
Grants - capital (non-recurrent)	5,000	9,116	216	10	(206)	-95%
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, plant and equipment	20	20	8	521	513	6413%
Other income	570	570	38	29	(9)	-24%
Fair value adjustments for investment property	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Share of net profits/(losses) of associates and joint ventures accounted for by the equity method	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Total income	**38,607**	**45,404**	**19,092**	**19,488**	**396**	
Expenses						
Employee costs	12,845	12,845	911	866	(45)	-5%
Materials and services	9,078	16,238	1,977	2,150	173	9%
Bad and doubtful debts	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Depreciation	11,089	11,089	924	915	(9)	-1%
Amortisation - right of use assets	459	459	38	38	-	0%
Borrowing costs	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Finance costs - leases	88	88	9	9	-	0%
Other expenses	424	424	31	24	(7)	-23%
Total expenses	**33,983**	**41,143**	**3,890**	**4,002**	**112**	3%
Surplus for the year	**4,624**	**4,261**	**15,202**	**15,486**	**284**	2%
Other comprehensive income						
Net asset revaluation increment	-	-	-	-	-	
Total comprehensive result	**4,624**	**4,261**	**15,202**	**15,486**	**284**	

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Attachment 2
Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2026

	31/07/2026 $'000	30/06/2026 $'000
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	18,720	21,266
Trade and other receivables	21,289	2,902
Contract assets	2,360	2,614
Inventories	94	69
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	-	249
Prepayments	3	3
Total current assets	**42,466**	**27,103**
Non-current assets		
Trade and other receivables	3	3
Investments in joint venture	2,117	2,117
Property, plant and equipment, infrastructure	684,679	685,242
Right of use assets	1,287	1,325
Investment property	2,810	2,810
Total non-current assets	**690,896**	**691,497**
Total assets	**733,362**	**718,600**
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	2,628	3,753
Trust funds and deposits	492	381
Unearned Income	14,195	13,879
Provisions	2,359	2,358
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	-	-
Lease liabilities	418	455
Total current liabilities	**20,092**	**20,826**
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions	260	260
Interest-bearing loans and borrowings	-	-
Lease liabilities	956	956
Total non-current liabilities	**1,216**	**1,216**
Total liabilities	**21,308**	**22,042**
Net Assets	**712,054**	**696,558**
Equity		
Accumulated surplus	322,023	306,536
Reserves	390,031	390,022
Total Equity	**712,054**	**696,558**

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Attachment 3
Statement of Cash Flows for the one month ended 31 July 2026

	One month to 31/07/2026 Inflows/ (Outflows) $'000	Forecast Year End to 30/06/2027 Inflows/ (Outflows) $'000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Rates and charges	130	18,967
Statutory fees and fines	19	293
User fees	193	1,878
Grants - operating	174	4,297
Grants - capital	507	7,591
Contributions - monetary	8	89
Interest received	16	400
Trust funds and deposits taken	29	-
Other receipts	89	187
Net GST refund/payment	(4)	721
Employee costs	(971)	(12,845)
Materials and services	(2,905)	(17,148)
Trust funds and deposits repaid	(251)	-
Other payments	(11)	(424)
Net cash provided by/ (used in) operating activities	**(2,977)**	**4,006**
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments for property, plant and equipment, infrastructure	(293)	(15,797)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment, infrastructure	770	100
Net cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities	**477**	**(15,697)**
Cash flows from financing activities		
Interest paid - lease liability	(9)	(88)
Repayment of lease liabilities	(37)	(455)
Net cash provided by/ (used in) financing activities	**(46)**	**(543)**
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(2,546)	(12,234)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	21,266	4,880
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	**18,720**	**(7,354)**

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Attachment 4

Financial Performance Indicators for the one month ended 31 July 2026	**Result**	**Material Variations**
LIQUIDITY		
Dimension - Operating position		
Indicator - Adjusted underlying result		
Measure - Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)	79.45%	
[Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit)/ Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	**Outside Expected Range**	This indicator is high as the total amount of rates & charges have been recognised as income and the expenses are only for part of the financial year.
Expected range in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework	-20% to 20%	
Indicator of the broad objective that an adjusted underlying surplus should be generated in the ordinary course of business. A surplus or increasing surplus suggests an improvement in the operating position		
Dimension - Liquidity		
Indicator - Working capital		
Measure - Current assets compared to current liabilities	211%	No material variation
[Current assets / Current liabilities] x100		
Expected range in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework	100% to 400%	
Indicator of the broad objective that sufficient working capital is available to pay bills as and when they fall due. High or increasing level of working capital suggests an improvement in liquidity		
Indicator - Unrestricted cash		
Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities	19.22%	No material variation
[Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities] x100		
Expected range in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework	10% to 300%	
Indicator of the broad objective that sufficient cash which is free of restrictions is available to pay bills as and when they fall due. High or increasing level of unrestricted cash suggests an improvement in liquidity		
OBLIGATIONS		
Dimension - Obligations		
Indicator - Loans and borrowings		
Measure - Loans and borrowings compared to rates	0.00%	No material variation
[Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100		
Expected range in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework	0% to 70%	
Indicator of the broad objective that the level of interest bearing loans and borrowings should be appropriate to the size and nature of a council's activities. Low or decreasing level of loans and borrowings suggests an improvement in the capacity to meet long term obligations		
Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates	0.00%	No material variation
[Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100		
Expected range in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework	0% to 20%	

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Financial Performance Indicators for the one month ended 31 July 2026	Result	Material Variations
Indicator - Indebtedness		
Measure - Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue [Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x100	6.34%	No material variation
Expected range in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework Indicator of the broad objective that the level of long term liabilities should be appropriate to the size and nature of a Council's activities. Low or decreasing level of long term liabilities suggests an improvement in the capacity to meet long term obligations	2% to 70%	
Indicator - Asset renewal and upgrade		
Measure - Asset renewal & Upgrade compared to depreciation [Asset renewal expenses / Asset depreciation] x100	25.14%	No material variation **Outside permissable Range** This indicator is currently low with less than anticipated capital works undertaken to 31 July 2026.
Expected range in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework Indicator of the broad objective that assets should be renewed as planned. High or increasing level of planned asset renewal being met suggests an improvement in the capacity to meet long term obligations	40% to 130%	
STABILITY		
Dimension - Stability		
Indicator - Rates concentration		
Measure - Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue [Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	93.86%	No material variation **Outside Expected Range** This indicator is high due to the total amount of rates & charges being recognised as income with minimal government grants received to 31 July 2026.
Expected range in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework Indicator of the broad objective that revenue should be generated from a range of sources. High or increasing range of revenue sources suggests an improvement in stability	30% to 80%	
Indicator - Rates effort		
Measure - Rates compared to property values [Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality] x100	0.27%	No material variation
Expected range in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework Indicator of the broad objective that the rating level should be set based on the community's capacity to pay. Low or decreasing level of rates suggests an improvement in the rating burden	0.15% to 0.75%	

Financial Performance Indicators for the one month ended 31 July 2026	Result	Material Variations
EFFICIENCY		
Dimension - Efficiency		
Indicator - Expenditure level		
Measure - Expenses per property assessment [Total expenses / Number of property assessments]	$532.68 **Outside Expected Range**	No material variation This indicator is below the expected range as there is only one month of expenses included in the calculation.
Expected range in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework	$2,000 to $5,000	
Indicator of the broad objective that resources should be used efficiently in the delivery of services. Low or decreasing level of expenditure suggests an improvement in organisational efficiency		
Indicator - Revenue level		
Measure - Average rate per property assessment [Total rate revenue (general rates and municipal charges) / Number of property assessments]	$2,087.45 **Outside Expected Range**	The average rate per property assessment is slightly above the expected range.
Expected range in accordance with the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework	$700 to $2,000	
Indicator of the broad objective that resources should be used efficiently in the delivery of services. Low or decreasing level of rates suggests an improvement in organisational efficiency		

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3.2 ROAD NAMING – OAK LANE

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 30868

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:
Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
At its meeting held on 30 June 2026, Council resolved to advertise its intention to name the unnamed laneway located between George Road and Banfield Street, running parallel to Dawson and High Street, Ararat, as *Oak Lane*.

This report presents the submissions received during the consultation period and recommends that Council consider the submissions and determine whether to proceed with formally naming the laneway *Oak Lane*.

DISCUSSION
As part of the consultation process for the proposed name *Oak Lane*, adjoining ratepayers were consulted and the proposal was presented to the broader community for feedback. Submissions were invited in a Yes/No format via the Engage Ararat platform, by post, or by email between 1 July 2026 and 30 July 2026.

A total of 104 submissions were received and are provided in the attachment to this report. Of these submissions, 89 were in favour of the proposal, 12 were against, and 3 submissions requested consideration of an alternative name, *Mow Fung Lane*.

Overall, the consultation revealed strong community support for the proposed name *Oak Lane*.

Council is now asked to consider the feedback received and determine whether to proceed with formally adopting the name *Oak Lane*.

A map showing the lane and surrounding area is provided below.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

6 STRONG AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE
We will work hard to build models of governance that place delivering public value at the centre through effective financial management; well measured risk management; and implementation of effective community engagement practices

Budget Implications
There are no budget implications arising from this report.

Policy/Relevant Law
Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 1989 provides Council with the power to name roads.
The Geographic Place Names Act 1998 provides for the naming and registration of place names.

Sustainability Implications
There are no economic, social or environmental implications in relation to the item.

Risk Assessment
Low.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement
Council's intention to name the road was published on Engage Ararat. Abutting landowners and relevant stakeholders were also consulted as part of the process.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Consider submissions received during the consultation period;
2. Adopt the name Oak Lane; and
3. Submit Oak Lane to the Registrar of Geographic Names.

MOVED CR R ARMSTRONG
SECONDED CR JOYCE

That Council:

1. Consider submissions received during the consultation period;
2. Adopt the name Oak Lane; and
3. Submit Oak Lane to the Registrar of Geographic Names.

Cr R Armstrong and Cr Joyce spoke for the motion.

CARRIED 6/0
5404/26

ATTACHMENTS
The Community Consultation Report is provided as Attachment 3.2

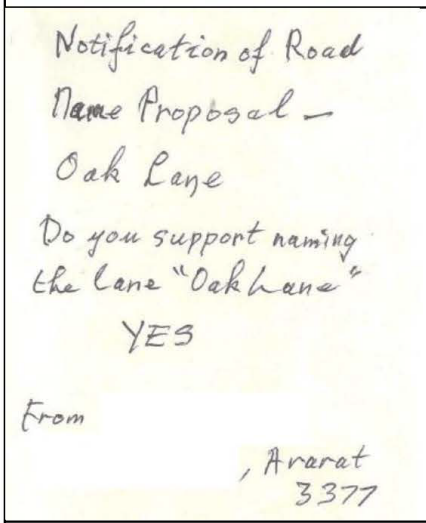
Ararat Rural City

Community Consultation Report: Road Naming Proposal

The proposal to formally name an unnamed lane located between George Road and Banfield Street, running parallel to Dawson and High Street, Ararat, was presented to the community for consultation and public submissions. Submissions were invited in a Yes/No format via the Engage Ararat platform, by post, or by email between 1 July 2026 and 30 July 2026.

A total of 104 submissions were received during the consultation period. These submissions are provided in the table below.

We thank all submitters for their feedback and suggestions.

Submissions for the proposed naming of Oak Lane, Ararat
Engage Ararat Results: YES - 88 NO - 12
 Notification of Road Name Proposal – Oak Lane Do you support naming the lane "Oak Lane" YES From , Ararat 3377
re: Naming of Oak Lane Members of the Ararat Genealogical Society wish to recommend the name of Mow Fung for the name of the laneway for the following reasons:- 1`. Mow Fung was held in high regard in the Ararat community since 1868. His biography is listed in the book "Ararat - 1857-2007" by J & D Barry. Pg. 16-17 Indeed, his photo is on the front cover of this book. 2. The name has a strong connection to the local area and vicinity to Gum San. 3. Chinese were mining in this area since 1857. 4. Ararat purports to have been "founded by the Chinese". 4. Ararat has a dedicated Museum to the Chinese miners but no thoroughfare has ever been named in honour of a Chinese person. 5. We think that the time has come for the Council to address this anomaly and if this name is not used in this instance, Council could put the name in a Name Bank for consideration when another street needs naming.

Oak Lane to be called Mow Fung Lane.
Members of the Ararat Genealogical Society wish to recommend the name of Mow Fung for the name of the laneway for the following reasons:-

1`. Mow Fung was held in high regard in the Ararat community since 1868.
His biography is listed in the book "Ararat - 1857-2007" by J & D Barry. Pg. 16-17
Indeed, his photo is on the front cover of this book.
2. The name has a strong connection to the local area and vicinity to Gum San.
3. Chinese were mining in this area since 1857.
4. Ararat purports to have been "founded by the Chinese".
4. Ararat has a dedicated Museum to the Chinese miners but no thoroughfare has ever been named in honour of a Chinese person.
5. We think that the time has come for the Council to address this anomaly and if this name is not used in this instance, Council could put the name in a name bank for consideration when something needs naming.

Hi there,

We are Ararat property owners and received the letter about the road naming proposal for the laneway behind our house in Dawson St, with the suggestion of Oak Lane put forward by some members of the community. We accessed the Engage Ararat webpage and found one could only vote Yes or No to that one name without any means of suggesting an alternative.

We would like to support the suggestion of the Ararat Genealogical Society that the laneway be named after Mow Fung, a prominent member of the Chinese community of early Ararat. The rural city makes much of the Chinese connection in its tourist literature, has a sizable and highly regarded museum illustrating this history in the Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre, yet has no public thoroughfare named in honour of a Chinese person.

We would therefore prefer the name Mow Fung Lane to the suggested Oak Lane, especially as three large Oak trees were recently removed from a property backing on to the lane to clear the land for development. Oak Lane seems a little bit ironic after such an act.

3.3 PROCUREMENT DELEGATION VARIATION - QUEEN STREET HOUSING SUPPORT PROJECT

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 30869

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:
Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Council received the HSP-CEIS grant to help resolve the barriers that have previously prevented the site at 87 Queen Street from being financially viable to develop into assets that could provide better value for the community, such as housing. The grant unlocks the site by funding the cost of enabling infrastructure for up to 90 new dwellings, including planning, detailed designs, construction costs for roads, footpaths, kerb & channel, drainage, as well as costs for utility infrastructure such as power, water, sewerage, and NBN. The grant does not fund the cost to build the homes, however with the major barriers removed, private investment into housing will become viable.

As we move closer to the tendering phase of the project it is apparent that for the project to be able to move forward in a timely manner it would be appropriate to enable the Chief Executive Officer to approve works above his current delegation within the Procurement Policy for this project only.

DISCUSSION
Council has secured the HSP-CEIS grant funding to deliver enabling infrastructure at 87 Queen Street, Ararat (former Prestige Mill Site), removing key barriers that have historically prevented the site from being developed. The project involves the delivery of significant civil and utility infrastructure works, including roads, drainage, footpaths, power, water, sewerage and telecommunication services.

As the project progresses into the procurement and tender evaluation phase, it is expected that individual contracts associated with the delivery of the funded works may exceed the Chief Executive Officer's current financial delegation under the Procurement Policy. Requiring Council approval for each procurement decision above the current delegation may introduce delays and create a risk to project timeframes and funding milestones.

To support efficient delivery of the project and ensure Council meets grant obligations it is recommended that Council approve a temporary increase to the Chief Executive Officer's delegation for this specific project. The increase in delegation for this project is proposed to be $3 million per procurement. This will enable the timely award and management of contracts inline with the approved budget, allowing Council to maintain appropriate governance, accountability and reporting to Council.

It is important to note that this delegation relates only to the Queen St Housing Support project and all other financial delegations to the CEO remain unchanged. In order to satisfy the Council that the delegation is being appropriately managed, all contracts entered into under for this project will be signed by the Mayor and CEO and details reported to Council at the monthly Ordinary Council Meeting.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

1 GROWING OUR PLACE
We will create the settings to support growth across our municipality through an improved planning scheme, actively pursuing new housing options and exploring models for in-migration.

1.2 Support innovative housing models that work to overcome market failure and create the capacity to increase the population of the Ararat Rural City.

Budget Implications
This project is funded by a $7.3 million grant from the Federal Government's Housing Support Program: Community Enabling Infrastructure Fund.

Policy/Relevant Law
- Ararat Rural City Council Procurement Policy
- Local Government Act 2020.

Sustainability Implications
Not Applicable

Risk Assessment
Low - Moderate Risk – failure to increase the Chief Executive Officer's financial delegation for this project may result in procurement and construction delays, missed funding milestones, reduced autonomy in progressing the project.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement
Council officers have liaised closely with the site owners on this project. Project updates for the broader community are provided on Council's Engage Ararat website.

Gender Impact Assessment
N/A

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses:
1. *An increase in the CEO's financial delegation to $3 million for expenditure in relation to the Queens Street Housing Support Project. All other financial delegations held by the CEO will remain unchanged.*
2. *Any contracts entered into under this increased delegation are also signed by the Mayor.*
3. *The details of any contracts approved under the increased delegation are reported to the next monthly Ordinary Council Meeting*

MOVED CR PRESTON
SECONDED CR R ARMSTRONG

That Council endorses:
1. **An increase in the CEO's financial delegation to $3 million for expenditure in relation to the Queens Street Housing Support Project. All other financial delegations held by the CEO will remain unchanged.**
2. **Any contracts entered into under this increased delegation are also signed by the Mayor.**
3. **The details of any contracts approved under the increased delegation are reported to the next monthly Ordinary Council Meeting**

Cr J Armstrong asked a question in relation to probity, transparency and the process around the delegation variation which was responded to by the CEO, Dr Tim Harrison.

Cr Preston and Cr R Armstrong spoke for the motion.

CARRIED 6/0
5405/26

ATTACHMENTS
There are no Attachments relating to this item

SECTION 4 – INFORMATION REPORTS

4.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM - JULY 2026

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 30870

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:
Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Community Engagement Program is a series of quarterly engagement outreach activities that aims to provide community with opportunities to ask questions, raise concerns and meet with Councillors and key staff at the Council. This monthly report provides a regular update to issues raised or upcoming plans for engagement activities.

DISCUSSION
The latest round of community engagement sessions occured between 29 June to 02 July 2026 in Ararat, Lake Bolac, Moyston, Pomonal, Streatham, Warrak, Wickliffe, Willaura. 36 people attended the sessions and raised 82 issues, and as at 20 August 2026, 76 have been resolved or referred for action, as appropriate. Below is a summary of the issues raised and their status.

The next round of community engagement sessions is planned for 14-18 September in Ararat, Buangor, Elmhurst, Lake Bolac, Moyston, Pomonal, Tatyoon and Willaura. Further details will be available via engage.ararat.vic.gov.au

Table 1. Issues raised and their progress to date.

#	Issues Raised	Progress as of 20 August 2026
	Ararat	
1	Wooden seating in Barkly St needs varnishing	Service request lodged to investigate and action, as appropriate. Re-varnishing is likely to occur when the weather is warmer.
2	Concern expressed about a property with an accumulation of items, incl. on the nature strip, potential pest infestation and other hazards	Concerns were noted and some of the financial and legal challenges councils face in addressing these types of matters were discussed during the session.
3	Suggestion to plant trees at the eastern entrance of Ararat to block the view of unsightly areas instead of any fencing options	Suggestion noted and passed to the relevant team. Council had resolved at the June 2026 Council Meeting to engage with the Department of Transport and Planning and other stakeholders, as appropriate, on general landscaping improvements to the eastern entrance of Ararat.
4	Concerns raised about people who appear to be homeless, potentially under the influence of drugs and staying for prolonged periods in a public reserve	These topics were discussed during the engagement session. Managing these situations requires consideration for the circumstances and wellbeing of the vulnerable individuals, and there are limited homeless support services currently available. Illegal drug use should be reported to the police.
5	Reported a vehicle that appears to be abandoned.	Council is aware of the vehicle. It is currently registered so it cannot be towed away immediately. Council will continue to monitor the matter in accordance with Local Laws.

6	Brilliant to see the old Orchid House removed from Alexandra Gardens. Asked when the fencing around the site was going to come down.	Fence removal is pending works to underground services at the site.
7	Several suggestions were put forward for alternative uses for Aradale, including a research hospital for Alzheimer's and dementia, housing for nurses and doctors, a welfare centre for homeless people, a retirement village, or turning it into a casino.	Discussion occurred during the session around the scarcity of government funds for the proposals, and uncertainty around the level of interest from private investors.
8	Drainage issues on Golf Links Road	Issues reported for investigation and action, as appropriate
9	Issue with barking dogs on neighbouring property	On many occasions, dog owners are not aware that their dogs are causing any nuisance. Options for trying to work with dog owners to resolve the issue was discussed. If these fail, the barking dog can be reported via Snap Send Solve or by contacting Council directly.
10	Would like to see the historical plaques and signage around town and the lake restored	This request is unable to be accommodated in this financial year's budget. It will be considered as part of future project planning and budgeting.
11	Who manages McDonald Park?	Answer provided during the engagement session. This reserve is managed by DEECA
12	Fencing at the top of One Tree Hill has gone?	This issue has been reported to DEECA
13	Can Council get a Building Inspector?	Council has recently appointed a Municipal Building Inspector to issue permits for small structures.
14	What the green parts in the bike lanes mean	These are used to highlight areas where cyclists may be at greater risk of conflict with vehicles, such as intersections, roundabouts, etc.
15	Asked about the North-South Heavy Vehicle Bypass Route advocacy priority	This initiative seeks to remove large trucks from the Ararat CBD. Council are seeking $5m in its Advocacy Program 2026 for studies and preliminary works.
16	Timing of Valorify development	The project is aiming for gas production by 2028.
17	Complimented Council on how the tips are being run and how they look	Compliment noted with appreciation
18	The increase in tip fees	Due to the increasing cost of landfill fees that Council is required to pay, the Fees and Charges related to the disposal of waste at transfer stations has also had to be increased. The changes were shown in the Draft Budget released in March 2026, were communicated during the budget consultation process and are shown in the adopted budget in the Schedule of Fees and Charges section.
19	Status of the Mininera Extension of the East Grampians Rural Pipeline	Council continues to strongly advocate for this project, it is one of six priorities in the Council's Advocacy Program 2026.
20	Thanked Council for the new footpath between Albert Street near Gorrinn Village to Gordon Street Recreation Reserve	Feedback has been noted with thanks
21	Asked about grubbing out the gorse and clearing prickly bushes at new footpath above	Service request lodged to investigate and action, as appropriate
22	There was previously access through at the end of McGibbony Street but that has been fenced off	There appears to be private property with no easements in the location.

23	Idea for community to plant and share in the care of fruit trees and vegetable plants in nature strips to help with food security and sense of community.	Council is guided by the Ararat Landcare Group Urban Trees booklet and other resources, which considers the challenges of a changing climate and the management and maintenance requirements of different trees. Option of using the Ararat Community Garden at the back of J Ward was discussed, or smaller community gardens in pocket parks.
24	Volunteering was discussed in general, including the issue of burn out and people's lack of time. Other blockers discussed by community, including the need to do all of the courses and red tape.	Challenges around volunteering was discussed by attendees at the meeting. Attendees encouraged each other to volunteer and contribute what they can.
25	Would like to see another Multicultural Community Garden Party event	Attendee was encouraged to contact the Ararat Community Garden directly about the possibility of a repeat event
	Lake Bolac	
26	Lake Bolac Hall Community Asset Committee would like to work together with Council to get back on track with maintenance needs at the Hall and surrounding area	Council welcomes the Committee's willingness to work together and will continue to work with the Committee to address the maintenance needs
27	Gordons Bridge Road - is a bus route and also a main road that people use and would like to see some works done on this road.	Road grading service request lodged to investigate and action, as appropriate. Possibility of a road upgrade will be considered as part of future capital works planning and budgeting.
28	Discussed the Ararat to Lake Bolac road (Mortlake-Ararat Road) and that it is lacking white lines and that Council should be advocating to DTP to have the lines marked.	Issue reported to VicRoads via their online form: https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/traffic-and-road-use/report-a-road-issue
29	Swimming pool upgrades and query about the solar heating on the roof	Resurfacing of pools in Lake Bolac and Willaura has been included in this year's Budget. Request lodged to inspect solar heating on the roof.
30	Kinnersley Road - is only a dry weather road and is used quite a bit to get to farms and would like to see it improved.	Road grading service request lodged to investigate and action, as appropriate. Possibility of a road upgrade will be considered as part of future capital works planning and budgeting.
31	Also, Settlement Road, McMasters Road would like to see more works done on it.	Road grading service request lodged to investigate and action, as appropriate. Possibility of a road upgrade will be considered as part of future capital works planning and budgeting.
32	Rabbits under the Scout Hall in Lake Bolac	Possible options are being investigated.
33	Wanted to know why Council was not using gravel from a specific supplier on the roads and believes that it's a very good product.	Council procures materials from a range of suppliers, including local suppliers where possible, subject to competitive pricing, delivery timeframes and comparable quality of products.
34	Discussed roads have been graded to the point on no gravel left and need to be resheeted.	Feedback noted, condition of gravel roads will be assessed as part of the annual asset inspection program.
35	There was extensive discussion about a windfarm and that Council should be taking a stance	Council understands that there are people in the community who feel strongly about this topic. Council has no say in the planning, positioning or vetoing of wind turbines. This all falls under federal or state government jurisdiction, both have been democratically elected on the basis of pursuing a path of renewable energy, and it is

		their decision to make. Council's role is to represent all residents in our locality, not just people against wind turbines or potential hosts, but to get the best result for our region as a whole.
	Moyston	
36	Some customers are not getting responses back on their Snap Send Solve requests.	There are some requests that require more complex, long-term planning (such as design, budgeting, or specialised works). Currently, these are kept as unresolved so they can be tracked. Messaging is being developed to help communicate the status of these complex requests.
37	Request to clear trees and provide fire access on Bare Hill Road	Request lodged for investigation and action, as appropriate
38	A metal collection skip would be more beneficial than a general waste skip service	Feedback noted and will be considered as part of the rural skip bin review later this year.
39	Request for flashing 40km signs at Moyston Primary School on Ararat-Halls Gap Road, due to the high traffic from tourists and visitors	Council will continue advocating to the Department of Transport and Planning for this outcome.
40	Are there 40km during school hours signs on School Road?	Yes, these are already installed.
41	Community were interested in the health of the trees on the Moyston Avenue of Honour.	Information has been summarised and will be shared with the Moyston Progress Association
42	There's a men's walking group that go around the oval. There's a small section towards the south east of the oval that needs some leveling	Request lodged for investigation and action, as appropriate
	Pomonal	
43	Feedback provided on the draft Rural Roads Safety Plan, including wildlife on Ararat-Halls Gap Road, and adding shared paths as priorities in Pomonal.	Feedback noted and will be considered as part of the finalisation of the draft Rural Road Safety Plan.
44	Speed limit review for Ararat-Halls Gap Road, turning lanes in the sections where the speed limit in higher than 80km/hour and rumble strips leading up to the town.	Ararat-Halls Gap Road is managed by the Department of Transport and Planning/VicRoads. Suggestions have been submitted via their online form: https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/traffic-and-road-use/report-a-road-issue
45	Query about land subdivisions	Resolved during the engagement session
46	Disabled carparking outside the Hall for the Victorian Election	Request has been investigated, as this is a gravel carpark linemarking is not possible and so a disability carpark that is compliant with the required standards is not possible. The Deputy CEO will liaise with the local community to identify possible workarounds the community could implement on election day if needed.
47	Accessibility of the disabled toilets at the Hall was raised, community would like to speak to person working on the Disability Action Plan	The Deputy CEO will reach out to person who raised this query. There will also be a Pomonal Community Listening Workshop at the Hall for the Disability Action Plan at 5pm – 6pm, Tuesday 1st September.
48	There are several properties that have regrowth that appears overgrown. Residents are concerned about bushfire risk to neighbouring properties.	The process for inspections for the annual fire notices was provided during the engagement session.

49	Community would like more information on when and how to do burn offs safely, including list of people who can help with the work, help community find contractors	Availability of existing information resources are being investigated.
50	Please review tone of the fire notice letters	Feedback noted. Fire notices will be reviewed before the next fire season.
51	80 litre glass bins are quite heavy when full, not very ergonomic	Options discussed during the session, such as asking neighbour if some glass can go in their bin if room is available, or get a another glass bin for $25 per annum (2026/27 rate). The form to request an additional bin is available on the Council website: https://www.ararat.vic.gov.au/services/waste-and-recycling/city-rural-kerbside-rubbish-collection
52	Community would like a soft plastics collection option	Council will investigate options and report back.
	Streatham	
53	Footpaths on the south side of the Campbell Street as elderly people with walkers have trouble on the grass - potentially along the sealed service road area	This request is unable to be accommodated in this financial year's budget. It will be considered as part of future project planning and budgeting.
54	Would like Council to make a statement about not supporting Squadron and windfarms in general	Council understands that there are people in the community who feel strongly about this topic. Council has no say in the planning, positioning or vetoing of wind turbines. This all falls under federal or state government jurisdiction, both have been democratically elected on the basis of pursuing a path of renewable energy, and it is their decision to make. Council's role is to represent all residents in our locality, not just people against wind turbines or potential hosts, but to get the best result for our region as a whole.
55	Query about data centres and solar farms, and if Ararat was getting any	A planning application for a very small scale data centre powered by a solar farm has been submitted and is currently being assessed through the statutory planning process. This development also includes a canola crushing facility and a bioplastics manufacturing facility that will value-add to the crushing operation.
56	Would like Council to continue advocating for water pipe	Council continues to still strongly advocate for this project, it is one of six priorities in the Council's Advocacy Program 2026.
57	There is one bin in cage at the front of the toilets. There are a couple of spares around the side of the toilet. Unfortunately when the front bin is full people don't go around the side to use a second bin. Can we please have another bin at the front of the toilets	Request lodged for investigation and action, as appropriate
	Warrak	
58	Could the remainder of Mount Cole Road be sealed?	This request is unable to be accommodated in this financial year's budget. It will be considered as part of future project planning and budgeting, however it is not likely to be a high priority.

59	Intersection of Warrayatkin Road and Western Hwy is a Give Way sign, should be a Stop sign	As this is an intersection with a VicRoads road, request lodged with VicRoads via their online form: https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/traffic-and-road-use/report-a-road-issue
60	The Warrak Hall lights need upgrading	Request lodged for investigation and action, as appropriate
61	Drainage off the roof and the pipe is broken	Request lodged for investigation and action, as appropriate
62	Asked about progress of works on Buangor-Ben Nevis Road	Bridge works are now complete, with next stages focused on the road widening and upgrade.
63	The pipeline works cause part of a track leading to a property to be washed away, but it is not clear who owns the track	Suggested they contact GWMWater to liaise with their contractor who did the works. Track is not on Council's road register.
64	Community member provided an update on the Warrak Recreation Reserve activities, including upgrades to the toilets, playground and future goals. The Reserve will be celebrating its 100 year anniversary in October/November 2026	Community member was thanked and the upcoming anniversary noted.
	Wickliffe	
65	Looking at developing the Wickliffe Recreation Reserve as a refuge area / recovery hub for flood as this is the major disaster that Wickliffe experiences. This would include looking at a generator, water tanks due to the pipe water not fit for consumption, etc. Discussed applying for a grant for solar panels and battery for the Reserve	Grant application has been submitted for a solar panel and battery system to enable the Recreation Reserve to remain powered during an outage, supporting its function as a future refuge and recovery site.
66	They would like to build a fire pit at the Reserve	Idea noted. Conversations will continue with the Community Asset Committee on a potential fire pit.
	Willaura	
67	Progress of new playground equipment installation at the Willaura Recreation Reserve	Installation is planned to occur later this year when the ground is less wet. The community member has been informed of timing.
68	They would like to be able to have better audio for online meetings at the Willaura Memorial Hall, using the big TV. Issue is the lack of microphones and the sound coming out of the small webcam, not the TV.	Council staff are liaising with users of the Willaura Memorial Hall to assist them with set up and identify the best possible solutions. Another meeting is expected in late August
69	Community were happy with the upcoming footpath upgrades in Willaura	Feedback noted with appreciation
70	The Friends of Willaura Pool would like to have an avenue to engage with Council staff	An avenue has been identified and consultation with the Friends of Willaura Pool will occur over the coming months to embed the process
71	Showers in the female changerooms were previously flooding, unsure if this has been fixed yet	Drain has been unblocked
72	The wet weather has impacted gravel roads everywhere and they need attention, shoulders need attention too	Council are grading as many roads as possible while roads are wet from recent rains.
73	Can spraying and slashing of roadsides occur more than one a year?	One round of spraying and slashing has been budgeted this for financial year, and general budget constraints were discussed in the meeting.

		This possibility of two runs will be considered as part of future project planning and budgeting.
74	Asked about planning process for wind farm approvals	Council has no say in the planning, positioning or vetoing of wind turbines. This all falls under federal or state government jurisdiction, both have been democratically elected on the basis of pursuing a path of renewable energy, and it is their decision to make.
75	What happens if a windfarm is decommissioned? Who is responsible for any waste?	According to state government information for permit applicants for windfarm projects, the permit that is issued by the Minister for Planning will typically have conditions related to decommissioning and rehabilitation requirements. For more details, see the Victorian Government's Department of Transport and Planning website: Planning permit applications - information for applicants
76	Do windfarms pose fire risks?	The windfarm owner or operator is required under state government legislation and regulations to minimise the hazards and risks and bushfire danger arising from the installation. Further information can be found on the Energy Safe Victoria website: General duties of wind farm owners and operators
77	Does Council have a position on windfarms?	Council's role is to represent all residents in our locality, not just people against wind turbines or potential hosts, but to get the best result for our region as a whole.
78	Question about whether Councils can negotiate with windfarms for a different rate of community benefits.	VicGrid have recently released new guidelines for community engagement and social value (see: Community engagement and social value guidelines). Councils can advocate for local priorities and help ensure that developments contribute meaningfully to more significant initiatives, but it does not appear that councils can negotiate a different rate of community benefits.
79	Which roads are in the capital works program for 2026/27?	The Capital Works Program 2026/27 has confirmed at the July 2026 Council Meeting and will be shared with the community member before the 18th August.
80	Comment that blue metal is good road base	Feedback noted with thanks
81	Can the culvert at the north end of Edgarley Estate Road be widened to accommodate farm machinery?	This request is unable to be accommodated in this financial year's budget. It will be considered as part of future project planning and budgeting.
82	Condition of the asphalt and area around the Willaura War Memorial is becoming poor. The community are looking to apply for a grant from the Saluting Their Service grants program for repair works and sought support from Council.	Letter of Support provided, with further conversations to occur on potential future works.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

6. STRONG AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE
We will work hard to build models of governance that place delivering public value at their centre through effective financial management, well measured risk management, and implementation of effective community engagement practices.

6.3 Continuously improve Council's community engagement process and practices in line with deliberative engagement practices, while ensuring that Councillors' roles as elected community representatives are understood and reflected in decision-making.

Budget Implications
The Community Engagement Program 2025/2026 does not have any budget implications. This Program will be delivered within the existing resources and budget. The issues arising from the engagement sessions may have budget implications, these will be assessed on a case by case basis and may be considered for future budgets.

Policy/Relevant Law
Ararat Rural City Council's Community Engagement Policy

Sustainability Implications
The community engagement sessions will aim to coincide with other community events and activities, or locate the sessions in places where people may wish to visit. This is in recognition of the value of people's time and travel costs, and enables community members to achieve multiple activities in the one journey.

Risk Assessment
The Community Engagement Program 2025/26 included a risk analysis and mitigation measures. This is a low risk Program.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement
This Program supports stakeholder collaboration and community engagement.

Gender Impact Assessment
Of the 36 attendees, 20 were female and 16 were male.

RECOMMENDATION

That:
1. Council receives the Community Engagement Program July 2026 report

MOVED CR JOYCE
SECONDED CR KAUR

That:

1. Council receives the Community Engagement Program July 2026 report

Cr Joyce and Cr Kaur spoke for the motion.

CARRIED 6/0
5407/26

ATTACHMENTS
There are no Attachments relating to this item.

4.2 PRESTIGE MILL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT – JULY 2026 UPDATE

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 30871

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:
Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report provides a regular update on the Housing Support Program – Community Enabling Infrastructure Stream (HSP-CEIS) funded project at 87 Queen St, also known as the former Prestige Mill site.

DISCUSSION

Recap
The HSP-CEIS grant helps to resolve the barriers that have previously prevented this site from being financially viable to develop into assets that could provide better value for the community, such as housing. The grant unlocks the site by funding the cost of enabling infrastructure for up to 90 new dwellings, including planning, detailed designs, construction costs for roads, footpaths, kerb & channel, drainage, as well as costs for utility infrastructure such as power, water, sewerage, and NBN. The grant does not fund the cost to build the homes, however with the major barriers removed, private investment into housing will become viable.

Progress Update

Demolition Works at Queen Street
Demolition works are progressing well, despite some disruption due to heavy rain in the week of 10th August. Significant piles of building rubble and materials have formed on site (see picture below), this is part of the processing and sorting of the demolition materials before waste materials are disposed of. All works are continuing to be undertaken under strict environmental and safety regulations and in accordance with WorkSafe Victoria and the Environment Protection Authority requirements.

Construction of New Infrastructure
The engineering and civil design work for the roads, footpaths, kerb and channel, and utilities has been continuing in preparation for when the site is cleared and new infrastructure is able to be built. The

estimated timeframe for the construction of new enabling infrastructure is expected to commence in the second half of 2026.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

1. GROWING OUR PLACE
We will create the settings to support growth across our municipality through an improved planning scheme, actively pursuing new housing options and exploring models for in-migration.

1.2 Support innovative housing models that work to overcome market failure and create the capacity to increase the population of Ararat Rural City.

Budget Implications
This project is funded by a $7.3 million grant from the Federal Government's Housing Support Program: Community Enabling Infrastructure Fund.

Policy/Relevant Law
Not applicable

Sustainability Implications
Not applicable

Risk Assessment
Demolition works are progressing in line with risk assessment and mitigation measures, ensuring that all identified hazards are being effectively managed and safety protocols are strictly followed.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement
Council officers have liaised closely with the site owners on this project. Project updates for the broader community are provided on Council's Engage Ararat website.

Gender Impact Assessment
N/A

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council receives the Prestige Mill Infrastructure Project – July 2026 Update

MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG
SECONDED CR KAUR

That:

1. Council receives the Prestige Mill Infrastructure Project – July 2026 Update

Cr J Armstrong spoke for the motion.

CARRIED 6/0
5407/26

ATTACHMENTS
There are no attachments relating to this item

4.3 ANNUAL PLAN 2026/27 – JULY 2026 UPDATE

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 30872

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:
Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Each financial year Council produces an Annual Plan which provides a series of actions aimed at operationalising the Council's strategic intent. The Annual Plan 2026/2027 covers the second year of the Council Plan 2025-29, and references other Council plans and strategies where the action contributes to or aligns with other strategic documents. This report provides a monthly update on progress against these actions.

DISCUSSION
The Annual Plan 2026/2027 contains 54 actions. Progress on these actions are summarised below.

Status	Number of Actions
Completed	2
In progress 51-99%	1
In progress 0-50%	40
Not Started	0
Ongoing	11

Further details on each action is provided in the table below.

Actions	Progress	Officer Comment
1. GROWING OUR PLACE		
1.1 Develop a strategic land use planning framework with annual targets to support sustainable urban growth.		
1.1.1 Champion coordinated planning between housing development and major project delivery to support a well-timed, market-responsive supply pipeline.	In progress 0-50%	Council's economic development team have been synthesising and communicating publicly available information about major projects in the region with developers to support worker housing construction timing decisions and market responsiveness
1.1.2 Position the municipality to attract investment in sustainable industries, including agribusiness, circular economy and tourism, to grow the local economy over the long term.	In progress 51-99%	This work is being undertaken as part of the Ararat Planning Scheme Review and is expected to be completed by October 2026.
1.1.3 Advance policy and strategic planning work to promote well-planned, thoughtful infill and townhouse style housing that makes efficient use of existing infrastructure.	In progress 0-50%	This has commenced as part of the Ararat Planning Scheme Review, with further work to continue after the Review is complete.
1.2 Support innovative housing models that work to overcome market failure and create the capacity to increase the population of Ararat Rural City.		
1.2.1 Advocate for investment in enabling infrastructure to unlock development-ready land and support housing and employment growth.	In progress 0-50%	Council continues to support local proposals submitted to Regional Development Victoria's Industrial Trunk Infrastructure Fund
1.2.2 Encourage and support the activation and adaptive reuse of underutilised land and buildings to deliver additional housing supply.	In progress 0-50%	Planning assistance and advice is being provided to landowners and developers who are interested in delivering housing in underutilised buildings and areas of land
1.2.3 Foster partnerships between developers and community organisations to deliver diverse, community-responsive housing solutions.	In progress 0-50%	Council is continuing to engage with community housing providers and other organisations on

Actions	Progress	Officer Comment
		finding solutions to meet affordable and social housing needs.
1.3 Work with other levels of government, business, educational institutions and not-for-for profits to develop programs to increase in-migration to Ararat Rural City to grow our population.		
1.3.1 Elevate Ararat as the leading destination for lifestyle and work-from-home movers by showcasing the Ararat Digital Hub & Co-Working Space to visitors and tourists	Completed	The Co-Working Space will be promoted in the upcoming Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism's Official Visitor Guide, due out by October 2026. The Co-Working Space is also now being promoted through the Ararat Visitor Information Centre. This completes the planned activities for this action, and we will continue to seize other opportunities to boost this visitor stream throughout the year.
1.3.2 Improve family liveability, local workforce participation and early childhood education outcomes in Lake Bolac by delivering a new childcare centre	Ongoing	Council officers are continuing to liaise with potential childcare providers to deliver this project
1.3.3 Strengthen partnerships across local community, health, education, and State and Federal Governments to attract, expand and sustain migrant settlement capacity in Ararat Rural City	In progress 0-50%	The CALD Outreach and settlement support team continues to engage and liaise closely with local services and the Wyndham CEC to support settlement activities and capacity in Ararat Rural City.
2. BUILDING ROBUST LOCAL ECONOMIES		
2.1 Partner with Federation University Australia to deliver the Ararat Jobs and Technology Precinct with a focus on engaging with local agribusiness, industry and community.		
2.1.1 Partner with Federation University, industry and government to develop and progress a strategic roadmap to expand the Precinct as a regional innovation hub.	In progress 0-50%	Initial engagement with Federation University has occurred to frame the scope and development of the roadmap.
2.1.2 Activate the Precinct as a knowledge hub through delivery of a series of public research talks and events	In progress 0-50%	Planning and identification of research topics and institutions that has begun, with a focus on areas that would generate discussion and local value.
2.1.3 Drive the expansion of TAFE course delivery at the Precinct to meet emerging regional skills needs and support local industry growth.	Ongoing	The 3rd face to face session of the Ararat Best Start Workshop Series has been planned for 19 August at the Ararat Jobs and Technology Precinct
2.2 Work with other levels of government, local business, and private investors to develop a business park within Ararat Rural City, focused on agricultural value adding and advanced manufacturing, potentially leveraging "behind the meter" power.		
2.2.1 Engage with Invest Victoria, Regional Development Victoria and private sector partners to develop plans for the ARCC Circular Economy Precinct.	Ongoing	Council is working with Invest Victoria, Regional Development Victoria and a number of private sector partners to make a case for a state significant circular economy hub in Ararat
2.2.2 Support Valorify P/L to develop a biogas plant in Ararat which uses straw as the major input.	Ongoing	Council continues to strongly support Valorify P/L.
2.2.3 Accelerate the evolution of the Ararat Renewable Energy Park into a regional hub for renewable and circular economy industries through targeted investment attraction and strategic partnerships	Ongoing	Ongoing collaboration and engagement through the Central Highlands Regional Partnerships as well as Council's own investment attraction activities will continue to contribute towards transforming the Ararat Regional Energy Park into a regional hub
2.3 Engage with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism and local businesses to improve the quality of experience and drive growth in high yield tourist outcomes.		
2.3.1 Collaborate with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism to curate, package and promote Ararat Rural City's unique visitor experiences to increase visitation, length of stay and visitor spend.	In progress 0-50%	The new Visitor Services Team Leader has established a collaborative relationship with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism, with productive discussions on how they can work together across visitor servicing, arts, events and tourism opportunities throughout the region

Actions	Progress	Officer Comment
2.3.2 Identify and implement targeted initiatives that increase visitation and visitor yield by analysing spending trends and market data	In progress 0-50%	Procurement for a visitor spending data, insights and analytics system is complete. Analysis will be undertaken next.
2.3.3 Enhance the attractiveness, accessibility and activation of town centres to improve visitor experiences, increase dwell time, and encourage local spending	In progress 0-50%	The Façade Improvement Grants have been updated to include accessibility upgrades as an eligible activity as part of a business expansion, establishment or relocation into commercial areas
3. PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT		
3.1 Position Ararat Rural City Council as a prime mover in driving circular economy policy in waste management, including local processing and management of recyclables, and in use of renewable energy for Council purposes.		
3.1.1 Assess the feasibility and strategic value of becoming a sub-regional leader in the processing and management of recyclable materials	In progress 0-50%	Preliminary assessment underway, with background research and key considerations being identified
3.1.2 Explore opportunities to recover additional reusable and recyclable materials from the general waste stream to increase diversion from landfill	In progress 0-50%	Current material flows and potential improvement opportunities are being reviewed to inform future initiatives.
3.1.3 Pursue funding opportunities to install solar and battery systems across community facilities to strengthen disaster resilience and enhance sustainability.	In progress 0-50%	A grant application to install solar and battery systems at community sports facilities was submitted to the Game On grant program on 13 July 2026.
3.2 Develop innovative energy solutions utilising locally produced waste		
3.2.1 Investigate options to use municipal FOGO waste to generate energy for council facilities and reduce operating costs	In progress 0-50%	Early-stage scoping underway to understand feasibility, feedstock availability and potential biodigester options being assessed
3.2.2 Identify and quantify high-volume waste streams that may be suitable for waste-to-energy solutions to attract commercial development opportunities	In progress 0-50%	The previous years' waste data is being reviewed to better understand waste volumes and composition
3.2.3 Advocate for greater policy confidence and support for renewable gas generation	Ongoing	Council continues to advocate for this as part of its 2026 Advocacy Priorities
3.3 Partner with local organisations and scientific experts to implement the Environment Strategy 2024-34, with a focus on circular economy, emissions reduction and sustainable management of Council assets.		
3.3.1 Review emergency management processes, policies and procedures with vulnerable community members to support adaptation and mitigation to climate change risks	In progress 0-50%	Council's CALD communities support team attended a training session to increase their awareness of how to support others during emergencies. Council's emergency management team will attend the Disability Action Plan Working Group meeting in October 2026 to discuss how to support people with disabilities and their carers
3.3.2 Work with Ararat Landcare Group and other groups to increase canopy cover in urban streets	In progress 0-50%	Ararat Landcare Group and Council's Sustainability Officer have commenced engagement and planning on how to increase canopy cover.
3.3.3 Investigate opportunities to embed the use of recycled and reused materials in the construction and maintenance of council assets	In progress 0-50%	Opportunities are being considered for old concrete and other infrastructure waste materials
4. DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING KEY ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE		
4.1 Ensure that asset development and renewal during the planning period matches that identified in Council's Asset Plan 2025-2035.		
4.1.1 Upgrade the pool surface at the Lake Bolac and Willaura swimming pools	In progress 0-50%	Procurement for these works are progress.
4.1.2 Upgrade public amenities and increase the number of accessible facilities	In progress 0-50%	Pre-construction planning for the Moyston Recreation Reserve public toilet upgrade is in progress
4.1.3 Deliver the Local Roads Data Reconciliation Project	In progress 0-50%	This project is in progress
4.2 Work directly with asset users to manage and develop new and existing assets.		

Actions	Progress	Officer Comment
4.2.1 Partner with Grampians Community Health to progress plans and advocate for the A&J McDonald Community Centre Redevelopment	Ongoing	This project is identified as one of six on Council's 2026 Advocacy Priorities, and Council continues to work closely with Grampians Community Health
4.2.2 Advocate for the delivery of priority projects identified in the Alexandra Sports Precinct Masterplan, including a new indoor sports facility and Olympic pool upgrade	Ongoing	The indoor sports facility project is identified as one of six on Council's 2026 Advocacy Priorities.
4.2.3 Reconvene the Rural Roads Group to identify strategically critical freight routes for future major upgrades	In progress 0-50%	A review of the previous terms of reference has commenced
4.3 Deliver infrastructure outcomes that support economic growth, are mindful of intergenerational equity and enhance community wellbeing and safety. These approaches will explore strategic use of debt to fund long-term assets and ensure Council's financial sustainability.		
4.3.1 Deliver safety treatments and hazard removal on high-risk rural corridors	In progress 0-50%	Engineering design work is in progress
4.3.2 Improve safety at high-risk intersections and protect vulnerable road users in townships	In progress 0-50%	Identification and analysis of treatments for high-risk intersections is in progress.
4.3.3 Deliver the 2026/27 Capital Works Program	In progress 0-50%	Refer to the Capital Works report.
5. ENHANCING COMMUNITY LIFE		
5.1 Open up Council's arts and culture assets to greater community participation, ownership and engagement in decision-making		
5.1.1 Enhance and expand education outreach activities at Ararat Gallery TAMA to increase engagement, visitation and participation.	In progress 0-50%	Ararat Gallery TAMA staff visited Lake Bolac College VCE art students for an outreach session on artwork presentation, conservation and care, and Marian College VCE art students visited for an excursion tour on the same subject.
5.1.2 Engage with community organisations and groups to identify opportunities to activate underutilised community spaces, such as the Gum San Great Hall	In progress 0-50%	The carpet at the Gum San Great Hall has been upgraded, delivering an improved community space in preparation for increased future use.
5.1.3 Strengthen regional promotion of major Ararat Town Hall events and Art Gallery TAMA exhibitions through Visit Grampians to maximise attendance and drive increased tourism and visitation.	Complete	Ararat Town Hall events and Art Gallery TAMA are featuring prominently on Visit Grampians website, see screenshot below as an example. An effective process is now in place to ensure this continues throughout the year.
5.2 Develop models of volunteering that recognise, support and properly utilise the skills that community volunteers bring to community life.		
5.2.1 Empower young people to shape their own futures and contribute to the future of the municipality through programs such as the YEAH Crew and through the Crazy Ideas College	Ongoing	Off the back of the event management training session in June, the YEAH Crew have begun planning a community event, with the young people taking an active leadership role in developing and organising the program
5.2.2 Strengthen social connection and inclusion by promoting and improving access to volunteering opportunities	In progress 0-50%	The latest rounds of the Council's Community Support Grants and the Ararat Windfarm Grants have been awarded in July, providing support to many volunteer run community groups and organisations
5.2.3 Celebrate and acknowledge the contributions of volunteers to show our	In progress 0-50%	Council celebrated the achievement of one our local young leaders and YEAH Crew member being selected 2026 Victorian Youth Congress

Actions	Progress	Officer Comment
appreciation, foster community pride, and encourage greater participation in volunteering		
5.3 Partner with community groups, not-for-profits, and Traditional Owner organisations to develop Ararat Rural City into a more inclusive, welcoming, tolerant and diverse community.		
5.3.1 Partner with Traditional Owner organisations to support the development of First Nations–led enterprises, contributing to economic self-determination, shared regional prosperity, and advancing meaningful reconciliation	Ongoing	Ararat Rural City celebrated NAIDOC Week on 9 July with an event at the Ararat Gallery TAMA. Council was also represented at the Barengi Gadjin Land Council's and the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation's events on 6 July 2026.
5.3.2 Advocate for a Changing Places facility in Ararat	Ongoing	Engagement with the Disability Action Plan Working Group is underway to confirm the preferred location and assessing its feasibility
5.3.3 Deliver and support multicultural events and initiatives that strengthen inclusion, cross-cultural understanding, and stronger community connection	In progress 0-50%	Planning is in progress for an event during Welcoming Week in 2026, and Council is working with the Ararat Neighbourhood House to deliver Harmony Day in March 2027
6. STRONG AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE		
6.1 Deliver responsible budget outcomes linked to strategy, that deliver value, innovation and rating fairness.		
6.1.1 Improve data accuracy and actionability through data cleansing to support cost-effective asset management and decision-making on future upgrades	In progress 0-50%	A review and update of Council's asset assessment, monitoring and management system is underway
6.1.2 Develop and implement a Smart Cities Strategy that delivers optimised services and cost efficiencies	In progress 0-50%	An assessment of the possible areas to focus on for optimisation is being undertaken
6.1.3 Develop a ten-year plan for development and redevelopment of key community assets, including funding models and strategic approaches to advocacy	In progress 0-50%	This action has commenced with the identification of key community assets
6.2 Ensure appropriate risk management is applied to Council and organisational decisions. Council's internal function is applied to areas of perceived risk.		
6.2.1 Strengthen cyber security as a core strategic risk priority to support organisation resilience, data protection and business continuity.	In progress 0-50%	Cyber security uplift activities are being scoped and prioritised
6.2.2 Assess priority Councils assets for climate change readiness, and identify adaptation actions to improve resilience safety and service continuity	In progress 0-50%	Initial review underway to identify priority assets, climate-related risks and potential adaptation measures
6.2.3 Drive a strategic, risk-based approach to internal controls and planning, with a clear focus on high-risk areas to support robust oversight, accountability and long term organization resilience.	In progress 0-50%	Work underway to prioritise high-risk areas and inform upcoming planning activities
6.3 Continuously improve Council's community engagement process and practices in line with deliberative engagement practices, while ensuring that Councillors' roles as elected community representatives are understood and reflected in decision-making.		
6.3.1 Develop digital and permit applications forms to provide more options for community to interact with Council at times and in ways that suit them	In progress 0-50%	The development of new digital forms is in progress
6.3.2 Convene a community asset forum to support evidence-based budget planning and align investment with community-identified needs and priorities	In progress 0-50%	Event planning has commenced
6.3.3 Explore innovative approaches to community engagement in planning new and upgraded public spaces to ensure user insight and everyday use are captured in the design	In progress 0-50%	A broad mix of engagement activities are being implemented as part of the Disability Action Plan engagement process.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives

The Annual Plan 2026/27 aligns with all strategic objectives of the Council Plan 2025-29

Budget Implications

The Annual Pan 2026/2027 does not have any additional budget implications. All actions in the Annual Plan have been budgeted in the 2026/2027 Budget or have no additional resourcing requirements.

Policy/Relevant Law

Section 90 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires that Council produces a Council Plan for a minimum of a four year period. The Annual Plan is a document related to operationalising the Council Plan.

Sustainability Implications

The Annual Plan provides specific actions that will be undertaken for the key theme 5. Preserving Our Environment.

Risk Assessment

Implementing the Annual Plan has some inherent risks around project and program delivery on time, at cost and at an acceptable quality. These risks are managed through careful budget monitoring, a focus on effective project management and appropriate stakeholder engagement. Council has a commitment to improved performance across all of these areas.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

Stakeholders and community groups will be engaged during the development and delivery of the actions, where applicable.

Gender Impact Assessment

The Annual Plan 2026/27 was developed with consideration of Council's obligations under the Gender Equality Act 2020 (Vic). The Plan includes a range of actions that promote equitable access to services, community participation, accessibility, inclusion, health and wellbeing outcomes for all members of the community, including women, people of different genders, people with disability, young people, multicultural communities and First Nations peoples.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council receives the Annual Plan 2026/27 – July 2026 report

MOVED CR JOYCE
SECONDED CR PRESTON

That:

1. Council receives the Annual Plan 2026/27 – July 2026 report

Cr J Armstrong asked a question regarding the Ararat Jobs and Technology precinct and the progress regarding public research topics and speakers. CEO, Dr Tim Harrison advised that a report will be provided at the next Council Briefing regarding upcoming opportunities and public use.

Cr Joyce and Cr Preston spoke to the motion.

CARRIED 6/0
5408/26

ATTACHMENTS

There are no Attachments relating to this item

4.4 2026/2027 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM – JULY 2026

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEPARTMENT: CEO'S OFFICE
REFERENCE: 30873

OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST:
Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The Council has approved its 2026/2027 Capital Works Program as a fundamental component of the current budget. With a substantial capital works investment totaling $15.797 million, the budget primarily targets infrastructure enhancements.

Key initiatives include:

- Pomonal Recreation Reserve Walking Track
- Buangor Ben Nevis Road Construction – Stage 1
- Projects that make up part of the Safer Local Roads and Street Program
- Reconstruction of Birdswing Road in conjunction with Northern Grampians Shire Council
- Upgrade of Footpaths, Drainage, and Kerb and Channel.
- Design and Construction of Moyston Willaura Road Bridge
- Construction of a major culvert at Barton Bridge.

These projects underscore the Council's commitment to improving local infrastructure and fostering community development in the 2026/2027 fiscal year.

DISCUSSION
Council's 2026/2027 Capital Works Program continues our shift to reintroduction of larger road and bridge construction projects. The program's budget has substantial state and federal funding targeting road construction and safety initiatives.

The focus for 2026/2027 remains on renewing and updating Council assets, leveraging in-house capabilities, and supporting local employment and contractors, and the tender of works with the expectation of possible budget savings in a softening construction market.

Key areas include:

- Enhanced roads reseal program.
- Urban drainage improvements
- Footpath network upgrades
- Major urban road gravel to seal program
- Continued implementation of OTTA seals across Councils road network
- Reconstruction of Buangor Ben Nevis Road
- Roads to Recovery funded projects (Moyston-Willaura Bridge and Stevens Crescent Reconstruction)
- Safe Local Roads and Street funding projects

Budget Status:
As of 31 July 2026, 3% of the budget is expended.

PROPERTY CAPITAL PROJECTS	Budget	Funding Amount	Council Contribution	Community Contribution	Previous Years Expenditure	Committed Expenditure (26/27)	Expended (26/27)	Overall Total	%	Notes
Property Capital General	**$950,000**		$950,000							
Gum San Carpet Replacement							$20,813	$20,813	100%	Works are complete
Paint – Lake Bolac Pool										
Paint – Willaura Pool										
Moyston Recreation Reserve Replacement Gutters										
Ararat Pony Club – Covered Sports Area *(Play our Way Program)*	**$1,490,000**	$1,490,000			$1,250,803	$75,035	$9,262	$1,335,100	90%	The design and construction of the undercover arena has been awarded to MKM Constructions works are to commence 16 February 2026. Lighting installation has been awarded to Matt Peel Electrical – this includes the installation of 3-phase power. Fire Services works are being completed with Maude Street access the final part of the project
Centenary Park – Dog Park *(Open Space for Everyone Program)*	**$112,000**	$100,000	$12,000		$95,108		$53,254	$148,363	132%	The project costs have run over for this job as there have been under ground issues and water connection that was not originally included in the project costs.
Buangor Sports Pavilion Redevelopment *(Tiny Towns Program)*	**$631,000**	$50,000	$581,000 ($220k Property Capital) ($361k Property Reserve)		$213,177		$84	$213,261	34%	Works have commenced on-site with demolition and electrical works complete, new slabs are being laid and internal framing has commenced.
Jack and Jill Kindergarten Redevelopment *(Building Blocks improvement grants program)*	**$745,000**	$745,000			$668,744		$35,445	$704,189	95%	All internal works have been completed. Gutter and fascia have been upgraded to the building. A shade structure will be completed in the September School holidays.

PROPERTY CAPITAL PROJECTS	Budget	Funding Amount	Council Contribution	Community Contribution	Previous Years Expenditure	Committed Expenditure (26/27)	Expended (26/27)	Overall Total	%	Notes
Ararat City Tennis Sports Lighting Installation and accessibility upgrade *(Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund)*	**$700,000**	$560,000	$120,000 ($20,000 from Tennis Australia)	$20,000	$224,624	$279,347	$84	$504,056	72%	Tenders for Civil, Lighting and Fencing have been awarded under Council Delegation. Civil works are expected to commence on 7 April 2026 by SHS Civil.
Ararat Library Lighting and Exterior Upgrade. *(Living Libraries Infrastructure Program 2024-25)*	**$51,026**	$51,026			$51,691		$698	$52,389	103%	Works are now complete
TOTAL – PROPERTY CAPITAL	**$4,679,026**	**$2,996,026**	**$1,663,000**	**$20,000**	**$2,504,147**	**$354,382**	**$119,640**	**$2,978,171**		

PLANT & EQUIPMENT	Budget	Committed/ Contracted	Expended 26/27	%	Notes
Vehicle Purchases	**$240,000**		$58,815	25%	
Major Plant Purchases	**$260,000**				
Fixtures, Fittings & Furniture	**$45,000**		$5,720	13%	
Book stock - Library Book Replacement	**$45,000**				
TOTAL - PLANT & EQUIPMENT			**$64,535**	**11%**	

ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS	Budget	Funding Amount	Council Contribution	Previous Years Expenditure	Committed Expenditure (26/27)	Expended 26/27	Overall Total	%	Notes
Gravel Road Sheeting, Widening & Alternative Sealing	**$1,800,000**		$1,800,000	NA		$17,765	$17,765	**1%**	*OTTA Seal work on Logan Road and Mt William Road*
Reseal Program	**$1,000,000**		$1,000,000	NA					*This years program will be going to the contractor in the coming w*
Urban Road – Gravel to Seal	**$1,000,000**		$1,000,000	NA					*Works Allocated for:* - *Alexandra Avenue (in conjunction with SLRSP Funding)* - *Coral & McNeil Street (Early June Commencement)* - *Maude Street (in conjunction with Pony Club Project)*
ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM									
Buangor Ben Nevis Road *(Roads to Recovery 24/25 & 25/26)*	**$3,143,000**		$2,143,000 (24/25) $1,000,000 (25/26)	$498,159		$2,890	$503,940		*Stage One of Road works are expected to commence in the coming months inline with the bridge works, to be undertaken by internal crew*
Buangor Ben Nevis Road – Bridge Strengthening				$198,139	$118,111		$316,250		*Works have been completed to allow for traffic flow*
Buangor Ben Nevis Road *(SILRP Funding 25/26)*	**$6,250,000**	$5,000,000	$1,250,000						*Council contribution of $1,250,000 required in 26/27 Budget*
Mt William Road *(HSVPP Funding 24/25)*	**$6,250,000**	$5,000,000	$1,250,000	$5,549,659		$38,883	$5,588,542	89%	*The scope of works has been completed to adding the rock layer. There is one final section to seal and line marking and armco to install.*
Road Reconstruction Program 26/27	**$1,457,000**								
Stevens Crescent (R2R)									*Designs are being finalised*
View Point Street (Banksia to Temple) (R2R)									*Designs are being finalized*

ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS	Budget	Funding Amount	Council Contribution	Previous Years Expenditure	Committed Expenditure (26/27)	Expended 26/27	Overall Total	%	*Notes*
View Point Street (High to Lambert) (R2R)									*Designs are being finalised*
Green Hill Lake Drive									*Designs are in progress*
Ararat Active Bike Network *(Active Transport Fund)*	**$399,000**	$266,000	$133,000	$122,386		$117,735	$240,121		*Original scope of works is complete*
Major Patching	**$100,000**		$100,000						
Bridges	**$1,200,000**					$383	$383		
Bellellen Road Floodway (R2R)				$24,542			$24,542		Investigation Works being undertaken
Moyston Willaura Road Bridge (R2R) *Design and Construct*				$595			$595		Technical Reporting being undertaken
Footpath Renewal Program	**$400,000**		$400,000			$9,359	$9,359	2%	
Urban Drainage Works	**$750,000**		$750,000			$710	$710	<1%	*Works on the drainage at the rear of our SES property will take place when the weather drys.*
Kerb and Channel	**$300,000**		$300,000			$3,496	$3,496	<1%	*The tender is currently out to complete K&C in Lake Bolac on the Mortlake Ararat Road*
Queen Street Housing Support Program (Housing Support Program – Community Enabling Infrastructure)	**$7,380,000**	$7,380,000		$1,090,597	$351,450	$208,962	$1,651,009	23%	*Demolition and site clean up are ongoing*
SAFE LOCAL ROADS AND STREETS PROGRAM									
View Point, Tobin & Taylor St Intersections	**$224,000**	$224,000		$22,842			$22,842	10%	*Project is ready for tender.*
Ingor Street – Raised Crossing	**$110,000**	$110,000		$20,731			$20,731	19%	*Project is ready for tender.*
King Street – Raised Crossing	**$110,000**	$110,000		$22,900	$41,000	$292	$64,193	58%	*Tenders have been awarded to SHS Civil. Works to be undertaken outside of school term.*
Moore & Princes Street Intersection	**$131,000**	$131,000		$21,090		$1,155	$22,245	16%	*Project is ready for tender.*

ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS	Budget	Funding Amount	Council Contribution	Previous Years Expenditure	Committed Expenditure (26/27)	Expended 26/27	Overall Total	%	*Notes*
Vincent Street & Alexandra Avenue – Raised Crossing	**$321,000**	$321,000		$27,706		$1,538	$29,244	9%	*Project is ready for tender.*
Queen & Moore Street Roundabout	**$548,000**	$548,000		$31,213			$31,213	6%	*Project is ready for tender.*
George Road Raised Crossing (Ararat West)				$5,896			$5,896		*New initiative for the SLRSP to include a permanent raised crossing at George Road.*
TOTAL - ROADS CAPITAL	**$32,873,000**	**$19,818,500**	**$10,639,371**	**$7,609,999**	**$469,561**	**$385,403**	**$8,464,963**		

FUNDED PROJECTS – MISCELLANEOUS (NOT CAPITALISED)	Budget	Funding Amount	Council Contribution	Previous Years Expenditure	Committed Expenditure (26/27)	Expended (26/27)	Overall Total	%	Notes
Unlocking Ararat North East *(Streamlining for Growth 22/23)*	**$85,000**	$85,000		$39,393	$19,691		$59,085	70%	*Beveridge Williams is undertaking the works for this project. They are working with our Planning Department and Strategic Project Lead to progress the outcomes of the funding.*
Ararat City Tennis Sports Lighting Installation and accessibility upgrade – Participation Initiative. *(Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund)*	**$50,000**	$50,000		NA				0%	*This grant was received in July 2025 and will run in conjunction with the infrastructure project for Sports Lighting and accessibility upgrades.*

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives
The key financial drivers align strongly with the thrust of the Council Plan 2025-2029, particularly the following:

4.1 Ensure that asset development and renewal during the planning period matches that identified in Council's Asset Plan 2025-2035.
4.2 Work directly with asset users to manage and develop new and existing assets.
4.3 Deliver infrastructure outcomes that support economic are mindful of intergenerational equity and enhance community wellbeing and safety. These approaches will explore strategic use of debt to fund long-term assets and ensure Council's financial sustainability.
6.1 Deliver responsible budget outcomes, linked to strategy, that deliver value, innovation, and rating fairness.

Budget Implications
The 2026/2027 Capital Works Program represents a significant element of Council's 2026/2027 Budget. In the current civil construction market, it is essential that Council manages capital works expenditure carefully to ensure budget outcomes are met.

Policy/Relevant Law
The 2026/2027 Capital Works Program complies with the program funded in the 2026/2027 Budget.

Sustainability Implications
There are no environmental sustainability implications. Council is mindful of considering new innovative approaches to improve its sustainability and environmental footprint as part of the Capital Works program.

Risk Assessment
The 2026/2027 Capital Works Program was developed as a mitigation of the financial risks associated with market volatility currently being experienced in the civil and building construction sectors.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement
Development of the 2026/2027 Capital Works Program represented an agile response to market conditions. A capacity to rework strategy based on a changing environment is a critical element in developing an innovative organisation.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement
The 2026/2027 Capital Works Program has been developed as an element of the 2025/2026 Budget. There was extensive community engagement undertaken prior to adoption.

Gender Impact Assessment
Gender Impact Assessments will be undertaken on a project basis.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. That Council receive the Capital Works Program – July 2026 report.

MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG
SECONDED CR JOYCE

That:

1. That Council receive the Capital Works Program – July 2026 report.

Cr J Armstrong and Cr Joyce spoke for the motion.

CARRIED 6/0
5409/26

ATTACHMENTS
There are no Attachments relating to this item

SECTION 5 – COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS

No Committee Minutes/Reports received

SECTION 6 – INFORMAL MEETINGS

6.1 COUNCIL BRIEFINGS

AUTHOR'S TITLE: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
DEPARTMENT **CEO'S OFFICE**
REFERENCE: **30874**

OFFICER'S DECLARATION OF INTEREST
Officers providing advice to Council must disclose any conflict of interest.

No person involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Governance Rules state that if there is a meeting of Councillors that:

1. is scheduled or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of *Council* or briefing Councillors;
2. is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
3. 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:

   a. tabled at the next convenient *Council meeting*; and
   b. recorded in the minutes of that *Council meeting*.

DISCUSSION
As a requirement of the Governance Rules, a summary of matters discussed at the Council Briefings held since the last Council Meeting are presented to Council and will be recorded in the minutes.

INFORMAL MEETINGS
Council Briefing held on 18 August 2026

Matters discussed at the briefing:

- Monthly Performance Report – July 2026
- Road Naming – Oak Lane
- Pitch Festival Planning
- Advice on unsightly properties
- Economic and Social Outcomes
- Gaia Green Waste Agreement
- Procurement Delegation variation – Queen Street Housing Support Project
- Monthly Community Engagement Report
- Monthly Progress Report – Prestige Mill Infrastructure Project Update – July 2026
- Monthly Progress Report – Council Plan – Annual Plan
- Capital Works Program – July 2026
- Building approvals
- Planning approvals under delegation

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment to Council Plan Strategic Objectives
The report supports the strategic objective of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

6. STRONG AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

We will work hard to build models of governance that place delivering public value at their centre through effective financial management, well measured risk management, and implementation of effective community engagement practices.

6.3 Continuously improve Council's community engagement process and practices in line with deliberative engagement practices, while ensuring that Councillors' roles as elected community representatives are understood and reflected in decision-making.

Financial

There are no financial impacts for the receiving of Informal Meetings of Councillors.

Policy/Relevant Law

Reporting of Informal Meetings is in line with the requirements of the Governance Rules.

Risk Assessment

Following the requirements of the Governance Rules will ensure that Council meets its legislative requirements.

Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

A summary of matters discussed at the Council Briefings are presented for community information.

RECOMMENDATION

That

1. the Informal Meetings of Councillors Report be received.

MOVED CR R ARMSTRONG
SECONDED CR KAUR

That

1. the Informal Meetings of Councillors Report be received.

No Councillors spoke for or against the motion.

CARRIED 6/0
5410/26

ATTACHMENTS

The Summary of Council Briefings are provided as Attachment 6.1.

Councillor Briefing Agenda

Ararat Rural City

Date: Tuesday 18 August 2026
Commencement: 5.00 pm
Location: Council Chamber, Shire Offices

Councillors:	Cr Bob Sanders Cr Rob Armstrong Cr Teli Kaur Cr Luke Preston Cr Bill Waterston
Officers:	CEO, Dr Tim Harrison Deputy CEO, Phuong Au Major Projects Lead, Rebecca Rodger Acting Chief Operating Officer, Glenn Carman
Apologies:	Cr Jo Armtrong Cr Peter Joyce Chief Operating Officer, Chandra Willmott

Disclosure of Conflict of Interests

Disclosure of Interests are to be made immediately prior to any relevant item being discussed ***(Local Government Act 2020 - Section 131 and Chapter 5, Section 6 of the Governance Rules)***.

1. Matters to be considered

1.1	Mayor's roundup
1.2	Monthly Performance Report – July 2026
1.3	Road Naming – Oak Lane
1.4	Pitch Festival Planning
1.5	Advice on unsightly properties
1.6	Economic and Social Outcomes
1.7	Gaia Green Waste Agreement
1.8	Procurement Delegation variation – Queen Street Housing Support Project

2. For noting

2.1	Monthly Community Engagement Report
2.2	Monthly Progress Report – Prestige Mill Infrastructure Project Update – July 2026
2.3	Monthly Progress Report – Council Plan – Annual Plan
2.4	Capital Works Program – July 2026
2.5	Building approvals
2.6	Planning approvals under delegation

Dr Tim Harrison

SECTION 7 – NOTICES OF MOTION

A *notice of motion* must be in writing signed by a Councillor and be lodged with or sent to the *Chief Executive Officer* no later than 12.00pm (noon) and at least six (6) days prior to the Council Meeting to allow sufficient time for the *Chief Executive Officer* to include the *notice of motion* in agenda papers for a *Council meeting*.

SECTION 8 – URGENT BUSINESS

Items cannot be admitted as urgent business other than by resolution of *Council* and only then if it:

1 relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the *agenda*; and
2 cannot safely or conveniently be deferred until the next *Council meeting*.

The CEO, Dr Tim Harrison reported a matter of urgent business to be discussed in the Closed Session of the Council Meeting - Confidential Item 9.2 – Appointment of New CEO

SECTION 9 – CLOSE SESSION (CONFIDENTIAL)

In accordance with section 66(2)(a), 3(1) *Confidential Information* (a) of the Local Government Act 2020, the following agenda items are listed for consideration in the confidential section:

- Item 9.1 – Green Waste Processing Agreement
- Item 9.2 – Appointment of New CEO

6:27PM - CLOSURE OF COUNCIL MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

The Open Council Meeting will now be closed, but members of the public are welcome to rejoin the Council Meeting following the recommencement of the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be closed to members of the public pursuant to section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 to consider confidential reports.

MOVED CR JOYCE
SECONDED CR KAUR

That the meeting be closed to members of the public pursuant to section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 to consider confidential reports.

No Councillors spoke for or against the motion.

CARRIED 6/0
5411/26

6:35PM - OPEN COUNCIL MEETING RECOMMENCEMENT

RECOMMENDATION

That the Open Council Meeting recommence.

MOVED CR J ARMSTRONG
SECONDED CR KAUR

That the Open Council Meeting recommence.

No Councillors spoke for or against the motion.

CARRIED 6/0
5414/26

Gallery invited to return to Council Chamber.

LIFTING OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTIONS

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. The confidentiality of the report and decision in relation to Confidential Agenda Item 9.1 not be lifted on adoption of the motion.

MOVED CR R ARMSTRONG
SECONDED CR JOYCE

That:

1. The confidentiality of the report and decision in relation to Confidential Agenda Item 9.1 not be lifted on adoption of the motion.

No Councillors spoke for or against the motion.

CARRIED 6/0
5415/26

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. The confidentiality of the report and details of the TRP are not lifted on adoption of the motion

MOVED CR R ARMSTRONG
SECONDED CR PRESTON

That:

1. The confidentiality of the report and details of the TRP are not lifted on adoption of the motion

CARRIED 6/0
5413/26

Mayor Bob Sanders announced the appointment of Ms. Phuong Au as the new CEO of Ararat Rural City Council commencing on 1 October 2026.

Meeting closed at 6:37pm

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT PAGES 13622 - 13676 INCLUDING PAGES 962 - 969 OF THE CLOSED SESSION ARE CONFIRMED AND ARE A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.

MAYOR – CR BOB SANDERS