DATE: 27 May 2025 **START TIME:** 4.00pm

ATTENDEES:

Councillors:

Cr Karen Stephens (Mayor), Cr Robyn McDonald (Deputy Mayor), Cr Matt Jowett, Cr Duane Angelino, Cr Michael Noske, Cr John Pepper, Cr Michael Carr.

Officers:

CEO (Helen Havercroft), Director Corporate Services (David Hol), Director Community Services (Brett Jackson), Director Infrastructure Services (Aaron Moyne),

Other attendees: Nil

APOLOGIES: Nil

Declaration of Conflict of Interest:	• Nil
Items Discussed:	 Items on the Council agenda
Councillor Items	Julia St roadworksRoad making materials and treatments
Other Items	• Nil

FINISH TIME: 4.50 pm

DATE: 3 June 2025 START TIME: 4.00pm

ATTENDEES:

Councillors:

Cr Karen Stephens (Mayor), Cr Robyn McDonald (Deputy Mayor), Cr Matt Jowett, Cr Duane Angelino, Cr Michael Noske, Cr John Pepper, Cr Michael Carr.

Officers:

CEO (Helen Havercroft),

Other attendees: Nil

APOLOGIES: Nil

Declaration of Conflict of Interest:	Iconic Event Funding – Mayor Stephens
Items Discussed:	 Completion of Capital Works and celebrating that with the community. Update on Capital works program Vic Grid Submission Process Portland Diversification Fund Update Merino Transfer Station ESVF
Councillor Items	
Other Items	

FINISH TIME: 6.30 pm

DATE: 10 June 2025 **START TIME:** 4.05pm

ATTENDEES:

Councillors:

Cr Karen Stephens (Mayor), Cr Robyn McDonald (Deputy Mayor), Cr Matt Jowett, Cr Duane Angelino, Cr Michael Noske, Cr John Pepper, Cr Michael Carr.

Officers:

CEO (Helen Havercroft), Director Corporate Services (David Hol), Director Community Services (Brett Jackson (to 4.30 - 5.40)), Director Infrastructure Services (Aaron Moyne), Chief Financial Officer (Rebecca Campbell)

Other attendees:

Vintage Energy: Danny Burns, Daniel Gibbins (Item 1) online VicGrid: Alistair Parker (CEO) online Phil Currie, Liz Everest (DEECA) (Item 2) in person

APOLOGIES: Nil

Declaration of Conflict of Interest:	Cr Stephens -Iconic Events Funding
Items Discussed:	 Vintage Energy gas exploration VicGrid Strathdownie Drainage Scheme submissions 25/26 Budget submissions and Budget discussion FOGO communications LRCI Projects Iconic Events funding
Councillor Items	• Nil
Other Items	• Nil

FINISH TIME: 6.40 pm

DATE: 17 June 2025 **START TIME:** 4.05pm

ATTENDEES:

Councillors:

Cr Karen Stephens (Mayor), Cr Robyn McDonald (Deputy Mayor), Cr Matt Jowett, Cr Duane Angelino, Cr Michael Noske, Cr John Pepper, Cr Michael Carr.

Officers:

CEO (Helen Havercroft), Director Corporate Services (David Hol), Director Community Services (Brett Jackson), Director Infrastructure Services (Aaron Moyne)

Other attendees:

Local Laws Manager (Jodie Maybery) - Item 1 Airport Manager (Sam Kohlman) – Item 2 Acting Operations Manager (Will Kerr) Strategic Project Manager (Linda Dean) Item 3 & 4

APOLOGIES: Nil

Declaration of Conflict of Interest:	• Nil
Items Discussed:	 Local Laws presentation Airport operations Multipurpose Sporting Facility and next steps Foreshore Multipurpose Facility update Tourism membership discussions Revenue and Rating Plan update Items on the Council meeting
Councillor Items	EA UpdateCrown Land Committees of Management
Other Items	• Nil

FINISH TIME: 7.08 pm



Glenelg Shire Council

Revenue and Rating Plan

2025 - 2029

Contents

Purpose
Introduction4
Determination of Operating Costs
Income Sources7
Fees and Charges7
Grant Income
Other Income
Borrowings
Rates and Charges12
Rating Legislation
Rating Principles
Property Valuations
Supplementary Valuations
Objections to property valuations
Rating Categories and Classes of Land 17
Differential Rates - Objectives and Definitions19
Special Rates and Charges (Rate Agreements)22
Municipal Charge
Special Charge Schemes
Service Rates and Charges
Community Engagement

Purpose

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires each council to prepare a Revenue and Rating Plan to cover a minimum period of four years following each Council election. The Revenue and Rating Plan establishes the revenue raising framework within which the Council proposes to work.

The purpose of the Revenue and Rating Plan is to determine the most appropriate and affordable revenue and rating approach for Glenelg Shire Council which, in conjunction with other income sources, will adequately finance the objectives in the Council Plan.

This Plan is an important part of Council's integrated planning framework, all of which is created to help Council achieve its vision. Council will continue to innovate and develop its diverse economy to deliver services that meet the needs of the community.

The strategies and actions outlined in this plan will feed into the budgeting and long-term financial planning documents, as well as other strategic planning documents under Council's strategic planning framework.

If required, Council will realign the Revenue and Rating Plan to encompass any additional requirements of the new Council Plan that is currently being developed for the period 2025 – 2029.



Figure 1. Council's strategic planning framework

This Plan outlines the sources of revenue required to fund Council activities and how the funding burden will be apportioned between ratepayers and other users of Council facilities and services.

In particular, this Plan will outline decisions that Council has made in relation to rating options available to it under the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government Act 1989* to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of rates across property owners. It will also identify the principles that are used in decision making for other revenue sources such as fees and charges.

It is also important to note that this plan does not set revenue targets for Council. The purpose of this plan is to outline the strategic framework and decisions that inform how Council will calculate and collect its revenue.

Introduction

The revenue raised by a local government is for delivering services and infrastructure to benefit those providing the revenue – the local community. The Revenue and Rating Plan is therefore linked to planned expenditure in the annual budget and long-term planning documents. They cannot be separated, as any increase in spending by a council must be matched by revenue. Council provides a number of services and facilities to the local community and in doing so, must collect revenue to cover the cost of providing these services and facilities.

Decisions about funding council services can be challenging. Funding includes user fees and charges, government grants, or using revenue generated from rates and other sources. Adding to the complexity is where services are funded from a mix of revenue items. Councils must in turn continually plan for and review services to ensure they are financially sustainable and meet community needs.

Council should consider the following steps to ensure transparency and integrity for best practice decision-making:

- Step 1: Determine Operating Costs
- Step 2: Budget for Non-Rate Revenue
- Step 3: Determine Rates and Charges

If Step 3 has resulted in Rates and Charges that exceeds the Rate Cap set by the Minister, then a Council may consider either:

- Consultation with the community on a Higher Rate Cap application through the Essential Services Commission; or
- Revisiting the process to identify cost savings and/or increased revenue from other sources.

Determination of Operating Costs

Council has undertaken a thorough review of operating costs for the organisation during the 2025/26 budget process. This has resulted in savings where practical and aligns with a budget principle of maintaining service delivery for the 2025/26 budget year.

During February 2025, Council undertook an extensive community engagement process and heard from the community on what services they value and prioritise. This process saw a total of 115 people attend the face-to-face sessions, 503 visited the dedicated Budget development page on the Your Say Glenelg website and 155 hard copy surveys were completed.

Council will continually review service delivery levels and will also utilise the community consultation to ascertain potential changes to service delivery and to inform the development of the Council Plan over the term of this Revenue and Rating Plan.

2025/26 Council Budget Consultation

Community Engagement Outcomes

How many community members did we hear from?



Figure 2. 2025/26 Community engagement responses

This feedback showed that the most important service areas for residents included maintaining assets, community facilities and libraries, capital works, tourism, arts and culture and waste management.



Figure 3. 2025/26 Community engagement outcomes

Council has and will continue to consider this feedback when determining what operating costs are required to meet the Council Plan objectives.



continually review the service levels of Council services to ensure that operating costs align with community needs.

Income Sources

Rural Councils such as Glenelg have limited funding streams and rely heavily on income from rates and Government Grants.

The current (2024/25) revenue sources are outlined below.

Council's revenue sources include:

- Rates and Charges (\$33.4M)
- Grants (\$19.1M)
- Fees and Charges (\$3.7M)
- Other income (\$0.9M)

Rates (ratable income) are the most significant revenue source for Council and account for 58% of annual income. Grants, Fees and Charges, and other income are defined as non-rateable income for the purposes of the Revenue and Rating Plan.



Fees and Charges

Fees and Charges are classed as a non-rateable income source and accounts for \$3.7M or 7% of Council's total revenue for 2024/25.

Fees and charges are those that Council will charge for the delivery of services and use of community infrastructure.

Examples of fees and charges include items such as:

- Childcare fees
- Waste Transfer Station fees
- Business Registration service fees
- Leases and Facility Hire fees
- Animal Registrations
- Planning and Building Fees
- Infringement charges

The provision of infrastructure and services form a key part of Council's role in supporting the local community. In providing these, Council must consider a range of 'Best Value' principles including service cost and quality standards, value-for-money, and community expectations and values. Council must also balance the affordability and accessibility of infrastructure and services with its financial capacity and in the interests of long-term financial sustainability.

In providing services to the community, Council estimates the extent of cost recovery for particular services is consistent with the level of benefit that the services provide in line with the community's expectations.

Council reviews the schedule of Fees and Charges as part of its annual budget process each year. Proposed charges are communicated to stakeholders before the budget is adopted, giving them the chance to review and provide valuable feedback before the fees are adopted.

Increases are applied on a 'per service' basis but as a general principle, fee increases are only proposed to meet cost recovery and/or industry standards. In some instances, fees are tied to legislative limits and ratios. The ability to increase in this area of non-rate income is therefore limited.

Councils must also comply with the government's Competitive Neutrality Policy for significant business activities they provide and adjust their service prices to neutralise any competitive advantages when competing with the private sector. This is particularly relevant in the operation of Children's Services, private works and caravan parks to name a few.

Prior to 2024/25, and in accordance with the previous Revenue and Rating Plan, Council generally only increased Fees and Charges by the rate cap even though this income source is not covered by the cap. This has resulted in several fees and charges now being significantly out of alignment with industry standards as costs of such services have increased at levels far greater than the rate cap.

The effect of maintaining this approach has resulted in below-cost income levels which are then subsidised from general rate income.

There will also be circumstances where Council is willing to subsidise services for the betterment of the community and therefore will use rating income to subside the service.



An objective of Council's Revenue and Rating plan is that Council will annually analyse and review Fees and Charges including comparison against industry standards and service providers with an assumption that full cost recovery is to be achieved where practical. Council has also encouraged a vibrant central business district in each town, including street trading and alfresco dining options. Subsequently, Council continues to waive street trading permit fees for those groups providing footpath dining facilities, A-frame signage and sale of goods from Council managed footpaths.



Grant Income

Operating and Capital grants are classed as a non-rateable income source and account for \$19.1M or 34% of Council's total revenue for 2024/25.

The predominant operating grant income that Council receives is from the Victorian Local Government Grants Commission (VLGGC). The VLGGC is responsible, under federal legislation, to distribute the total funding amount received from the Federal government across the 79 Victorian Councils. The VLGGC Grants comprise a 'General Purpose Grant' and a 'Local Roads Grant' and provided approximately \$11M in 2024/25.

Whilst this figure is anticipated to increase over the coming years, specific amounts are only advised on an annual basis. Therefore, Council will use the rate cap (currently 3%) as an estimate of future income from this income source.

Council can also receive Recurring and Non-Recurring Capital grants. The Roads to Recovery funding, received from the Federal Government, is Recurring Capital Grant income and accounts for up to a maximum of \$20M over a 5-year period. This grant is tied to ratio and requires Council to spend a certain amount of its own funds on road infrastructure. The Glenelg Shire Council's Capital Grant income for Roads to Recovery is expected to increase from just under \$3M in 2024/25 to an amount of \$4.5M in 2028/29.

Grant revenue is usually received from other levels of government. Some grants are singular and attached to the delivery of specific projects (non-recurrent), whilst others can be of a recurrent nature and may or may not be linked to the delivery of projects.

For the purposes of this Revenue and Rating Plan, Council will estimate an average increase in the Victorian Grant Commission funding of 3% per year.

Council will also have an objective of utilising sufficient own source revenue on road infrastructure to maximise the grant funding opportunity through the Roads to Recovery funding stream.

Council will proactively advocate to other levels of government for grant funding support to deliver important infrastructure and service outcomes for the community. Council may also use its own funds to leverage and attract a higher amount of grant funding to maximise external funding opportunities.

Council will only apply for and accept external funding if it is consistent with the Council Plan and Community Vision, is affordable, and there are demonstrated benefits for the community. Council will review its priority projects as part of the Council Plan process and will seek funding opportunities for these projects when applicable funding streams arise.

Grant assumptions are outlined in Council's budget document. No project that is reliant on grant funding will proceed until a signed funding agreement is in place. In the situation where Council receives upfront Grant Funding for a specific project, Council will manage the utilisation of these funds at its discretion and may use the proceeds in its day-to-day operations. In this scenario, Council will manage its Cash Flow to ensure that sufficient cash is available to pay for project related expenditure as the project progresses.

Other Income

Other income is classed as a non-rateable income source and accounts for \$907k or less than 2% of Council's total revenue for 2024/25.

Examples of other income include:

- Income from insurance claims
- Income from sale of goods
- Interest collected from investment funds
- Monies collected from developers under planning and development agreements
- Contributions from user groups towards upgrade of facilities
- Assets handed over to council from developers at the completion of a subdivision, such as roads, drainage, and streetlights.

The income from these sources is limited in scope for revenue raising options and in regard to insurance claims, are unpredictable and are usually offset by expenditure.

Borrowings

Whilst not a source of income, borrowings can be an important cash management tool in appropriate circumstances. Loans can only be approved by Council resolution. The following financial sustainability principles must be adhered to with new borrowings:

- Borrowings must only be applied for where it can be proven that repayments can be met in the Long-Term Financial Plan
- Borrowings must not be used to fund ongoing operations
- Borrowings are appropriate for funding large capital works where the benefits are provided to future generations
- Council will aim to maintain its debt at levels which are sustainable and in line with accepted financial ratios.

Council currently has a \$7M loan facility which is to be utilised to fund committed capital works. Approximately \$4M of this loan is expected to be drawn upon in the 2024/25 financial year and the balance (\$3M) is scheduled to be drawn upon in 2025/26.

It is an objective of this plan that no new borrowings be undertaken outside of the borrowings principles outlined above.

Rates and Charges

Rates are property taxes that allow Council to raise revenue to fund essential public services to cater to their municipal population. Importantly, it is a taxation system that includes flexibility for councils to utilise different tools in its rating structure to accommodate issues of equity and to ensure fairness in rating for all ratepayers.

The following principles in relation to property rates is that they will:

- be reviewed annually
- not change dramatically from one year to next
- be sufficient to fund current expenditure commitments and deliverables outlined in the Council Plan, Financial Plan and Asset Plan.

A Council can establish a rating structure comprised of three key elements. These are:

- 1. General Rates Based on property values (using the Capital Improved Valuation methodology), which are indicative of capacity to pay and form the central basis of rating under the Local Government Act;
- 2. Service Charges A 'user pays' component for council services to reflect benefits provided by Council to ratepayers who benefit from a service; and
- 3. Municipal Charge A 'fixed rate" portion per property to cover some of the administrative costs of Council. The Glenelg Shire Council does not currently apply a municipal charge.

Striking a proper balance between these elements will help to improve equity in the distribution of the rate burden across residents.

Council has the discretion to make further distinction when calculating general rates income by applying rating differentials based on the purpose for which the property is used. This distinction is based on the concept that different property categories should pay a fair and equitable contribution, considering the benefits those properties derive from the local community. For the 2024/25 Financial Year, Council has the following rate categories within its rating structure - General, Commercial/Industrial, Primary Production and Cultural and Recreational.

Rates and Service Charges are classified as rating income and are an important source of revenue and account for over 58% of Council's Operating Revenue for 2024/25. The collection of rates is an important factor in funding Council services.

Planning for future rate increases is therefore an essential component of the long-term financial planning process and plays a significant role in funding both additional service delivery and the increasing costs related to providing Council services.

Council is aware of the balance between rate revenue (as an important income source) and community sensitivity to rate increases. With the introduction of the State Government's Fair Go Rates System (FGRS), all rate increases are capped to a rate declared by the Minister for Local Government, which is announced in December for the following financial year.

The introduction of rate capping under the Victorian Government's has brought a renewed focus to Council's long-term financial sustainability. The FGRS continues to restrict Council's ability to raise revenue above the rate cap unless application is made to the Essential Services Commission for a variation. Maintaining service delivery levels and investing in community assets remain key priorities for Council and the costs for these are often growing at a far greater rate than provided for under the FGRS.

Notwithstanding this escalation in costs, Council will continue to review, and potentially reduce its service levels to maintain compliance with the rate cap.

An objective of this plan is that Council does not apply to the ESC for an increased rate cap over the duration of this Revenue and Rating Plan.

Rating Legislation

The legislative framework set out in the *Local Government Act 1989* determines Council's ability to develop a rating system. The framework provides significant flexibility for Council to tailor a system that suits its needs.

Section 155 of the *Local Government Act 1989* provides that a Council may declare the following rates and charges on rateable land:

- General rates under Section 158
- Municipal charges under Section 159
- Uniform Rate under Section 160
- Differential Rates under Section 161
- Service rates and charges under Section 162
- Special rates and charges under Section 163

Under Section 157 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council has three options as to the valuation base it elects to use.

They are:

- Capital Improved Value (CIV) Value of land and improvements upon the land.
- Site Value (SV) Value of land only.
- Net Annual Value (NAV) Rental valuation based on CIV.

In choosing a valuation base, councils must decide on whether they wish to adopt a differential rating system (different rates in the dollar for different property categories) or a uniform rating system (same rate in the dollar).

Glenelg Shire Council currently uses a differential rating system and applies Capital Improved Value (CIV) to all properties within the municipality to take into account the fully developed value of the property. This basis of valuation takes into account the total market value of the land plus buildings and other improvements.



• Base rates upon the Capital improved Value (CIV) of the land.

Rating Principles

When developing a rating strategy, Council considers the following good practice taxation principles as outlined in the Local Government Rating System Review Report released in March 2020:

Benefit	The extent to which there is a nexus between consumption/benefit and the rate burden.			
Capacity to Pay	The capacity of ratepayers or groups of ratepayers to pay rates.			
Diversity	The capacity of ratepayers within a group to pay rates.			
Efficiency	Economic efficiency is measured by the extent to which production and consumption decisions by people are affected by rates.			
Equity	Horizontal equity – ratepayers in similar situations should pay similar amounts of rates (ensured mainly by accurate property valuations, undertaken in a consistent manner, their classification into property classes and the right of appeal against valuation). Vertical equity – those who are better off should pay more rates than those worse off (the rationale applies for the use of progressive and proportional income taxation. It implies a "relativity" dimension to the fairness of the tax burden).			
Simplicity	How easily a rates system can be understood by ratepayers and the practicality and ease of administration.			
Wealth Tax	The "wealth tax" principle implies that the rates paid are dependent upon the value of a ratepayer's real property and have no correlation to the individual ratepayer's consumption of services or the perceived benefits derived by individual ratepayers from the expenditures funded from rates.			

The rating challenge for Council therefore is to determine the appropriate balancing of competing considerations.

Property Valuations

The Valuation of Land Act 1960 is the principle legislation in determining property valuations. Under the Valuation of Land Act 1960, the Victorian Valuer-General conducts property valuations on an annual basis. Council must use the current valuations made by the Valuer General.

Council is mindful of the impact of revaluations on the various property types. Rises and falls in council rates should remain affordable and be in line with the rating principles noted above.

The analysis from the most recent valuation as at March 2025 indicates that the capital improved value for general land has decreased by 1.46%. Primary Production land has reduced in value by 10.25% whilst commercial land has increased by 2.54%. Further rise and fall of these valuations is likely during the term of this Revenue and Rating Plan and is determined by market trends. Council does not have a direct influence on property valuations.

Supplementary Valuations

Supplementary valuations are carried out for a variety of reasons including rezoning, subdivisions, amalgamations, renovations, new constructions, extensions, occupancy changes and corrections. The Victorian Valuer-General is tasked with undertaking supplementary valuations and advises council on a monthly basis of valuation and Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC) changes. The Council budget estimates annual income from supplementary rates each year.

Objections to property valuations

Part 3 of the Valuation of Land Act 1960 provides that a property owner may lodge an objection against the valuation of a property or the Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC) within two months of the issue of the original or amended (supplementary) Rates and Valuation Charges Notice (Rates Notice), or within four months if the notice was not originally issued to the occupier of the land.

The formula for calculating General Rates, excluding any additional charges, arrears or additional supplementary rates is:

Valuation (Capital Improved Value) x Rate in the Dollar (Differential Rate Type)

The rate in the dollar for each rating differential category is included in Council's annual budget.

Rating Categories and Classes of Land

As part of the rating process, Council determines the category or class of rateable land throughout the municipality based on the characteristics and definitions of the property.

The Revenue and Rating Plan 2021 saw Council transition to a differential rating system of the following structure:

- General land 100%
- Commercial & industrial Land 100%
- Primary Production land 70%
- Cultural and Recreational land 50%*

It should be noted that the Cultural and Recreational Land, which consists of private rateable land being used for community purposes, is not included in rate capping calculations.

Rating Legislation also requires that the highest differential cannot be more than 4 times the lowest differential.

The following figures outline the spread in the rating structure for 2024/25, including the number of assessments and the total income derived from each category. Note that due to the small number of assessments for Cultural and Recreational Land and Rating Agreements, these do not appear on the figure presented.

Classification	Assessments	Rates	Value
General Land	10,204	\$13.9M	\$4B
Commercial and Industrial	1,011	\$1.7M	\$500M
Primary Production	2,757	\$10.2M	\$4.2B
Cultural & Recreational	30	\$28k	\$16M
Rating Agreements	6	\$4.7M	\$500M





Figure 5. Number of Assessments per class of current rating structure



Figure 6. Dollar value contribution per class of current rating structure

It is important to understand that within a rate cap environment, changes to the differential amounts between rating categories do not result in additional income for Council. The total amount of Rates and Charges income is set through the budget and rate cap mechanisms, and any changes to the differential amounts only impact the amount of rates and charges paid by each category. A reduction in one differential class will mean that other classes will increase.

Differential Rates - Objectives and Definitions

Council also outlines how each rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of council functions. Details of the objectives of each current class of land, which are subject to each rate, are set out below.

General Rate

Definition:

General land is any rateable land which does not have the characteristics of Primary Producer land and Commercial/ Industrial Rate Land.

Objectives:

To ensure that Council has adequate funding to undertake its strategic, statutory, service provision and community services obligations and to ensure that any differential rate in the dollar declared for defined general rate land properties is fair and equitable, having regard to the cost and the level of benefits derived from provision of Council services.

Types and Classes:

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described below:

- used primarily for residential purposes; or
- any land that is not defined as Primary Production or Commercial/Industrial Land.

Level of Rate:

100% of General Rate.

Geographic Location:

Wherever located within the municipal district.

Primary Production

Definition:

Primary production properties being defined as greater than 40 hectares (with some specified exceptions such as horticulture, viticulture etc).

Objectives:

To ensure that Council has adequate funding to undertake its strategic, statutory, service provision and community services obligations and to ensure that the rate in the dollar declared for defined Primary Production land properties is fair and equitable, having regard to the cost and the level of benefits derived from provision of Council services with considerations to maintain agriculture as a major industry in the municipal district, to facilitate the longevity of the farm sector and achieve a balance between providing for municipal growth and retaining the important agricultural economic base.

Types and Classes:

Primary Production land having the relevant characteristics described below:

- used primarily for primary production purposes; or
- any land that is not defined as General Land or Commercial/Industrial Land.

Level of Rate:

70% of the General Rate.

Geographic Location:

Wherever located within the municipal district.

Commercial/Industry Rate

Definition:

Commercial/Industrial Land is any land, which is used primarily for carrying out the manufacture or production of, or trade in goods or services

Objectives:

To ensure that Council has adequate funding to undertake its strategic, statutory, service provision and community services obligations and to ensure that the rate in the dollar declared for defined Commercial/Industrial Rate land properties is fair and equitable, having regard to the cost and the level of benefits derived from provision of Council services.

The commercial businesses of Glenelg Shire Council benefit from ongoing significant investment by Council in services and infrastructure. Council also notes the tax deductibility of Council rates for commercial properties which is not available to the residential sector, and the income generating capability of commercial based properties.

The commercial differential rate is applied to recognise the economic development objectives of the Glenelg Shire Council as outlined in the Council Plan. These objectives include an ongoing significant investment to create a vibrant economy.

Types and Classes:

Commercial/Industrial having the relevant characteristics described below:

- used primarily for commercial purposes; or
- any land that is not defined as General Land or Primary Producers Land.

Level of Rate:

100% of the General Rate.

Geographic Location:

Wherever located within the municipal district.

During the Budget and Council Plan engagement process, Council also reviewed its current rating structure. This process also considered the approaches of similar rural Councils across Victoria.

Whilst the Budget for 2025/26 does not propose any changes to the current differential rating approach, Council has identified some potential refinements of its rating structure which include the following:

- separation of Commercial and Industrial land into their own categories with their own differential rate
- the introduction of a Vacant land differential within townships
- review of the 50% Differential for those assessments under Cultural And Recreational Land to ensure that they meet the public benefit obligations.

Council is committed to the principles of community consultation and will engage with community on any potential changes to the differential rating structure within the first year of this Plan.

This would include the development of the definitions and objectives for any new differential category proposed and analysis on how proposed new categories would impact the rate in the dollar for existing categories.



Special Rates and Charges (Rate Agreements)

In addition to the Differential Rating categories, Council has 6 Special Rating agreements that apply to large industries situated in the Shire. Rating agreements do not impact the General Rate differentials and are outside rate cap calculations.

This Revenue and Rating Plan has included consideration to the rate agreements with large industries to ensure that any future risks to Council's financial position are minimised.

Municipal Charge

Another principle rating option available to Councils is the application of a municipal charge. Under Section 159 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council may declare a municipal charge to cover some of the administrative costs of the Council. The legislation is not definitive on what comprises administrative costs and does not require Council to specify what is covered by the charge.

The application of a municipal charge represents a choice to raise a portion of the rates by a flat fee for all properties, rather than sole use of the CIV valuation method and is limited to 20% of rating income.

Since the creation of the Glenelg Shire in 1994, a municipal charge has not been levied. Modelling has indicated that the introduction of a Municipal Charge, which would be subject to the Rate Cap, is detrimental to those with lower property valuations and therefore has not been proposed.

It is an objective that Council does not introduce a Municipal Charge during the term of this Revenue and Rating Plan.

Special Charge Schemes

The Local Government Act 1989 recognises that councils need help to provide improved infrastructure for their local communities. Legislation allows councils to pass on the cost of capital infrastructure to the owner of a property that generally receives a unique benefit from the construction works. The technical explanation of a Special Charge comes from legislation (under the Local Government Act 1989) that allows councils to recover the cost of works from property owners who will gain special benefit from that work.

The purposes for which special rates and special charges may be used include road construction, kerb and channelling, footpath provision, drainage, and other capital improvement projects.

Council has regularly levied a Special Charge for those properties obtaining a specific benefit from the Strathdownie Drainage Scheme to fund drainage works and maintenance of this private drainage scheme. Only those benefitting properties are levied with the charge.

Council will consider requests from the Strathdownie Drainage Scheme Advisory Committee for a Special Charge on an as needs basis.

Service Rates and Charges

Section 162 of the *Local Government Act 1989* provides council with the opportunity to raise service rates and charges for waste, recycling or resource recovery services.

Council currently applies a service charge for the collection and disposal of kerbside waste on urban properties (compulsory) and rural properties (optional). Under State legislative obligations, this will be extended to include Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) and potentially glass recycling. Glenelg Shire Council is proposing to commence FOGO collection from 1 April 2026.

Whilst the kerbside waste service charge is not capped under the Fair Go Rates System, Council has used the cap to determine the service charge increase in the past. As the cost of waste services has rapidly increased at a much higher ratio than the rate cap, this practice is no longer sustainable. Council will aim for a full cost recovery basis for its waste service charge. The mandated forthcoming 4 bin collection requirements will therefore have an impact on the waste charge.

It is an objective of this Revenue and Rating Plan that Council maintains a full cost recovery arrangement for waste charges for the term of this Revenue and Rating Plan.

Community Engagement

This Revenue and Rating Plan outlines Council's process on how revenues are calculated and collected. The following public consultation process has been developed to ensure due consideration and feedback is received from relevant stakeholders.

Revenue and Rating Plan community engagement process:

- Revenue and Rating Plan included within deliberative engagement process undertaken for the Council Plan February / March 2025.
- Discussions and presentation to Councillors on options and proposals relating to revenue and rating streams.
- Draft Revenue and Rating Plan prepared by officers.
- Draft Revenue and Rating Plan placed on public exhibition at May Council meeting for public submissions.
- Further Community engagement through local news outlets, Your Say Glenelg and social media.
- Consideration of public feedback (June); and
- Draft Revenue and Rating Plan (with any revisions) to be presented to June Council meeting for adoption.
- Subject to adoption, undertake a further community consultation process on options for differential rating refinements during 2025/26.







Respondent No: 1 Login: Anonymous Email: n/a
 Responded At:
 May 29, 2025 15:28:50 pm

 Last Seen:
 May 29, 2025 15:28:50 pm

 IP Address:
 n/a

Q1. Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan

Rates are far too high for residents with negligible services. Suggest a rate freeze for several years until efficiency and effectiveness of Council improves We will be actively disputing our next rates with several strong reasons and with evidence.

Q2. If you would like a response to your submission please provide your email address.



Respondent No: 2 Login: Anonymous Email: n/a
 Responded At:
 May 29, 2025 15:31:59 pm

 Last Seen:
 May 29, 2025 15:31:59 pm

 IP Address:
 n/a

Q1. Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan

Tourism, Arts and Culture was deemed third most important by residents and business owners. Provide direct resources and support for small businesses that lift the profile of Casterton and surrounding areas.

Q2. If you would like a response to your submission please provide your email address.



Respondent No: 3 Login: Anonymous Email: n/a
 Responded At:
 May 29, 2025 16:28:47 pm

 Last Seen:
 May 29, 2025 16:28:47 pm

 IP Address:
 n/a

Q1. Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan

Only allowing survey responses is not extensive community consultation as it limits responses to the categories provided. However, the results are somewhat consistent with the most recent satisfaction survey that highlighted the high level of dissatisfaction with local roads that corresponds with the survey response 'maintaining assets/capital works program' that should be taken as areas for significant improvement.

Q2. If you would like a response to your submission not answered please provide your email address.



Respondent No: 4 Login: Anonymous Email: n/a
 Responded At:
 May 29, 2025 19:47:58 pm

 Last Seen:
 May 29, 2025 19:47:58 pm

 IP Address:
 n/a

$\ensuremath{\texttt{Q1.}}$ Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan

Not accepting of the plan at all should go all the way to the high court if it goes ahead

Q2. If you would like a response to your submission not answered please provide your email address.



Respondent No: 5 Login: Anonymous Email: n/a
 Responded At:
 May 29, 2025 20:09:50 pm

 Last Seen:
 May 29, 2025 20:09:50 pm

 IP Address:
 n/a

$\ensuremath{\texttt{Q1.}}\xspace$ Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan

Please don't raise residential rates any higher, locals are already struggling with the cost of living. Local rates are equal if not higher than metro Melbourne/sydney rates and they have more services. Also the shire needs to change the way rates are paid, everyone is hard up for money and demanding \$600+ per quarter and if it's not paid on time you demand more money closer together is just a load of crap. Start giving back to the towns people and cut us some slack in hard times.

Q2. If you would like a response to your submission not answered please provide your email address.



Respondent No: 6 Login: Anonymous Email: n/a
 Responded At:
 Jun 03, 2025 13:29:15 pm

 Last Seen:
 Jun 03, 2025 13:29:15 pm

 IP Address:
 n/a

Q1. Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan

stop raising our rates and taxes - to fund outsourcing of projects that council are supposted to provide by employing locals

Q2. If you would like a response to your submission please provide your email address.



Respondent No: 7 Login: Anonymous Email: n/a
 Responded At:
 Jun 16, 2025 14:36:09 pm

 Last Seen:
 Jun 16, 2025 14:36:09 pm

 IP Address:
 n/a

Q1. Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan

How about stopping the abuse of process through planning applications. How about litigating the people who make false declarations. How about collecting the correct revenue through fraudulent declarations such as: Planning and Building Fees. Application fees, Bushfire management, energy efficiency ,waste water management, building inspections, plumbing applications, electrical compliance, land tax, ATO fees. Collecting fees appropriately for shipping containers and caravan usage. Invest in green growth corridors. Using all these non complient fees would increase the Council budget. Lets employ some Council workers who have some integrity within the workplace and follow the legislation and laws that the majority of ratepayers abide by.

Q2. If you would like a response to your submission please provide your email address.


Respondent No: 8 Login: Anonymous Email: n/a
 Responded At:
 Jun 18, 2025 13:40:51 pm

 Last Seen:
 Jun 18, 2025 13:40:51 pm

 IP Address:
 n/a

Q1. Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan

Q2. If you would like a response to your submission please provide your email address.



2025 - 2026 Fees and Charges Schedule



Table of Contents

Administration Services	3
Airports	4
Animals	5
Building Services	8
Casterton Caravan Park	11
Casterton Livestock Saleyards	12
Children Services	13
Council Venues	14
Glenelg Libraries	19
Immigration/Seafarers Wall	20
Infrastructure and Works	21
Local Laws	22
Local Port of Portland Bay	25
Maritime Discovery Centre	31
Planning Services	32
Portland Arts Centre	34
Portland History House	38
Public Health	39
Rates and Valuations	41
Recreation Reserves	42
Waste and Recycling	51



Administration Services

Photocopying/Printing				
Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
ASL009	Photocopy/Faxing Services - Photocopying/Printing - A4 (B&W per page)	Each	0.30	Y
ASL010	Photocopy/Faxing Services - Photocopying/Printing - A3 (B&W per page)	Each	0.50	Y
ASL011	Photocopy/Faxing Services - Photocopying/Printing- A4 (Colour per page)	Each	0.50	Y
ASL012	Photocopy/Faxing Services - Photocopying/Printing- A3 (Colour per page)	Each	1.00	Y



Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
AP004	Airport Fees - RPT Head Tax - Adult	Each	N/A	Y
AP005	Airport Fees - RPT Head Tax - Child	Each	N/A	Y
AP006	Airport Landing Fees - Aircraft (Commercial) - (Maximum Take Off Weight)	Per Tonne	14.60	Y
AP007	Airport Fuel Supply - Jet A1 Fuel	Per Litre	Market Price	Y

Portland Airport - Conference Room					
Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)	
AP001	Portland Airport - Conference Room - PORTLAND - Hourly Rate (minimum hire 3 hours)	Per Hour	31.50	Y	
AP002	Portland Airport - Conference Room - PORTLAND - Half Day Rate (4 hours)	Each	100.00	Y	
AP003	Portland Airport - Conference Room - PORTLAND - Full Day Rate	Each	191.00	Y	



Animals

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GS1 (Y/N
AF001	Dog Registration – Full Fee	Each	125.00	N
AF002	Dog Registration – Reduced Fee Any one or combination of the following: desexed / over ten years old / used for breeding by proprietor of Domestic Animal Business / registered with approved organisation* / obedience training which complies with the regulations* / kept for working stock / micro chipped pets (registered prior to 2013) *Proof must be provided for all criteria.	Each	42.00	N
AF004	Dog Registration - Declared Dangerous or Restricted Breed - no discounts apply	Each	250.00	N
AF042	Dog Registration - Exempt Guide dogs used by visually impaired or owned by an approved organisation which trains guide dogs / State or Commonwealth Government dogs	Each	Nil	N
AF012	Cat Registration – Full Fee	Each	100.00	N
AF013	Cat Registration – Reduced Fee Any one or combination of the following: desexed / over ten years old / used for breeding by proprietor of Domestic Animal Business / registered with approved organisation* *Proof must be provided for all criteria.	Each	34.00	N
AF044	Domestic Animal Registration - Foster Care	Each	10.00	N
AF045	Domestic Animal Registration - Late Fee (Applied to each animal after 10 May each year)	Each	20.00	N

Notes:

50% Concession applies to some of the above rates as determined by the Domestic Animal Act holders of Concession under *State Concessions Act 2004.*

The above dog and cat fees include the State Government Levy



Animals

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GS1 (Y/N
AF019	Per Domestic Animal - within first 24 hours	Each	55.00	N
AF020	Per Domestic Animal - after 24 hours	Each	105.00	N
AF047	Per Domestic Animal - second offence within 6 months - within first 24 hours of impounding	Each	80.00	N
AF048	Per Domestic Animal - second offence within 6 months - after 24 hours of impounding	Each	130.00	N
AF025	Per Livestock (sheep, goat, pig) - impounded during business hours	Each	60.00	N
AF026	Per Livestock (sheep, goat, pig) - impounded after hours	Each	150.00	Ν
AF027	Per Livestock (large animal; e.g. horse, cow) - impounded during business hours	Each	118.50	N
AF028	Per Livestock (large animal; e.g. horse, cow) - impounded after hours	Each	275.00	N
aily In	npoundment Fees			
AF021	Sustenance Domestic Animal (Dog, Cat)	Per Day	10.00	Y
AF030	Sustenance Fee for livestock (ie horse, goat, cow, sheep) (additional to release fee & plus feed)	Per Day	20.00	Y
AF031	Sustenance Fee (includes pasture hay, daily feeding) for livestock (ie horse, goat, cow, sheep, etc) - after hours (additional to release fee)	Per Day	80.00	Y
AF032	Additional Sustenance Fees (includes hard feed, high protein type hays, supplements)	Per Day	At cost	Y



Animals

Other F	ees			
Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
AF022	Additional Costs incurred to Council. ie Veterinary Costs, Vaccination, etc (to be reimbursed by owner)	Each	At Cost	
AF023	Domestic Animal - Microchipping	Each	59.00	Y
AF033	Emergency Boarding Fee - Domestic Animals	Each	37.50	Y
AF046	Domestic Animal - Surrender Fee	Each	60.00	Y
Other				
Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
AF034	Local Laws - Administration Fee	Each	50.00	Y
AF035	Permit Fee - Excess Domestic Animals (Dog, Cat)	Each	50.00	N
AF036	Permit Fee - Excess Non Domestic Animals (Livestock)	Each	50.00	Ν
AF038	Domestic Animals Act 1994 (Per entry) - 18 (3b) Issue Certificate	Each	12.00	Y
AF039	Domestic Animals Act 1994 (Per entry) - 18 (3a) Make Records	Each	12.00	Y
AF040	Domestic Animals Act 1994 (Per entry) - 18 (2) Inspect Register	Each	12.00	Y
AF041	Domestic Animals Act 1994 (Per entry) - Business Register	Per Year	330.00	Y
AF043	Domestic Animal - Replacement Registration Tags	Each	15.00	Y



Building Services

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
RSB001	Building Permit - New Dwelling \$0 to - \$150,000	Each	2,729.50	Y
RSB048	Building Permit - New Dwelling \$150,001 - \$300,000	Each	3,038.50	Y
RSB049	Building Permit - New Dwelling \$300,001 - \$500,000	Each	3,347.50	Y
RSB050	Building Permit - New Dwelling \$500,001 - \$650,000	Each	3,656.50	Y
RSB051	Building Permit - New Dwelling \$650,001 - \$800,000	Each	3,965.50	Y
RSB052	Building Permit - New Dwelling \$800,001+	Each	Quote provided on enquiry	Y
RSB008	Building Permit - Minor Building works Class 1a and 10a, 10b, 10c (excludes pools) - Alterations/Additions (\$0 to \$10,000)	Each	772.50	Y
RSB009	Building Permit - Minor Building works Class 1a and 10a, 10b, 10c (excludes pools) - Alterations/Additions (\$10,001 to \$20,000)	Each	875.50	Y
RSB010	Building Permit - Minor Building works Class 1a and 10a, 10b, 10c (excludes pools) - Alterations/Additions (\$20,001 - \$40,000)	Each	1,081.50	Y
RSB011	Building Permit - Minor Building works Class 1a and 10a, 10b, 10c (excludes pools) - Alterations/Additions (\$40,001 - \$70,000)	Each	1,287.50	Y
RSB012	Building Permit - Minor Building works Class 1a and 10a, 10b, 10c (excludes pools) - Alterations/Additions (\$70,001 - \$100,000)	Each	1,802.50	Y
RSB013	Building Permit - Minor Building works Class 1a and 10a, 10b, 10c (excludes pools) - Alterations/Additions (\$100,001 - \$200,000)	Each	2,729.50	Y
RSB014	Building Permit - Minor Building works Class 1a and 10a, 10b, 10c (excludes pools) - Alterations/Additions (\$200,001 - \$300,000)	Each	3,038.50	Y
RSB015	Building Permit - Minor Building works Class 1a and 10a, 10b, 10c (excludes pools) - Alterations/Additions/Outbuildings (\$300,001+)	Each	Quote provided on enquiry	Y



Building Services

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
RSB017	Building Permit - Commercial Work-Commercial (\$0 to \$10,000)	Each	978.50	Y
RSB018	Building Permit - Commercial Work-Commercial (\$10,001 to \$20,000)	Each	1,390.50	Y
RSB019	Building Permit - Commercial Work-Commercial (\$20,001 to \$50,000)	Each	1,802.50	Y
RSB020	Building Permit - Commercial Work-Commercial (\$50,001 to \$100,000)	Each	2,935.50	Y
RSB021	Building Permit - Commercial Work-Commercial (\$100,001 to \$150,000)	Each	3,141.50	Y
RSB022	Building Permit - Commercial Work-Commercial (\$150,001 to \$200,000)	Each	3,450.50	Y
RSB023	Building Permit - Commercial Work-Commercial (\$200,001 to \$300,000)	Each	4,068.50	Y
RSB024	Building Permit - Commercial Work-Commercial (\$300,001 to \$500,000)	Each	4,686.50	Y
RSB025	Building Permit - Commercial Work-Commercial (\$500,000 +)	Each	Quote provided on enquiry	Y
RSB026	Building Permit - Fence	Each	309.00	Y
RSB027	Building Permit - Swimming Pools & Fence - Above ground pool	Each	463.50	Y
RSB028	Building Permit - Swimming Pools & Fence - In ground pool	Each	669.50	Y
RSB029	Other - Swimming Pool - Inspection for Certification	Each	257.50	Y
RSB030	Other - Pool Certification Re-Inspection Fee	Each	154.50	Y



Building Services

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
RSB031	Other - Extensions of Time	Each	309.00	Y
RSB036	Other - Request for search of building plans	Each	118.50	Y
RSB037	Other - Additional Mandatory Inspections	Each	206.00	Y
RSB038	Other - Occupancy Permit / Places of Public Entertainment	Each	1,102.00	Y
RSB039	Other - Building Notices / Order (Estimate of building permit fee + 50% based on fees that would have been payable had a building permit been taken out)	Each	463.50	Y
RSB040	Other - Travel time for additional inspections requested by applicant	Per km	1.15	Y
RSB041	Other - Foundations, footings, finals	Each	355.50	Y
RSB042	Other - Frame	Each	458.50	Y
RSB043	Other - Essential Safety Measures Initial Inspection	Each	515.00	Y
RSB044	Other - ESM Audit Service	Each	206.00	Y
RSB046	Other - Additional Building Inspections - after maximum number	Each	206.00	Y
RSB047	Enforcement Administration Fee (Plus additional fee of equivalent costs if a building permit was lodged)	Each	463.50	Y
RSB053	Other - Amended Plans - Minor	Each	154.50	Y
RSB054	Other - Amended Plans - Major	Each	309.00	Y
RSB055	Building Permit - Lodgement Fee	Each	463.50	Y



Casterton Caravan Park

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM		25/2026 Fee UD\$	GST (Y/N)
CCP001	Powered Site - Daily	Per Day	19.00	+ 5.00 per adult	Y
CCP007	Shower use - non resident	Each		5.00	Y



Casterton Livestock Saleyards

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
CSY001	Saleyards - Horse, Ass or Mule	Each	11.50	Y
CSY002	Saleyards - Head of Cattle	Each	11.50	Y
CSY003	Saleyards - Bull	Each	11.50	Y
CSY004	Saleyards - Calf (under 6 months)	Each	3.90	Y
CSY005	Saleyards - Sheep, Lamb, Goat, Pig or Like	Each	1.00	Y
CSY006	Saleyards - Cow and Calf	Each	11.50	Y
CSY007	Saleyards - Ram	Each	1.00	Y
CSY008	Use of Crush - Minimum Charge Daily rate up to 20 head	Per Day	41.00	Y
CSY009	Use of Crush - Additional fee per head when more than 20	Per Head	1.90	Y
CSY010	Occasional Use - Yard opening charge - for resting/interchange - 4 Deck semi	Per Day	115.00	Y
CSY011	Occasional Use - Yard opening charge - for resting/interchange - B-Double	Per Day	153.00	Y
CSY013	Use of Cattle Scales - Weighing	Per Head	2.50	Y
CSY014	Administration fee to supply and fit tags when fitted by agents	Each	19.00	Y
CSY015	Stock Agent Charge - Fixed Charge (per sale)	Per Sale	450.00	Y
CSY016	Stock Agent Charge - Variable Charge (% of GST exc. sale value)	%	0.08%	Y
CSY017	Bull Yarding Fee - outside of sale dates	Per Head - Per Day	11.50	Y
CSY012	Truck Wash - Truck wash use - AVDATA	Per Minute	0.90	Y
CSY018	Truck wash - AVDATA key	Each	25.00	Y



Children Services

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST Y/N
CS001	Enrolment Administration Fee LDC (fee does not apply to Priority 1 LDC families) - Non-refundable	Per Year	50.00	Ν
CS005	Dartmoor Children's Centre - Childcare Program - Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00am - 2:00pm (5hrs per day)	Per Session	62.50	Ν
CS006	Dartmoor Children's Centre - Childcare Program - Thursday 9:00am - 5:00pm	Per Day	100.00	Ν
CS007	Dartmoor Children's Centre - After Kinder Care - Thursday 2:00pm - 5:00pm	Per Session	37.50	Ν
CS008	KPM - Portland Child & Family Complex - Daily Fee (7:30am - 6:00pm)	Per Day	147.00	Ν
CS009	KPM - Portland Child & Family Complex - Half day - Morning (7:30am - 1:00pm)	Per Session	77.00	Ν
CS010	KPM - Portland Child & Family Complex - Half Day - Afternoon (1:00pm - 6:00pm)	Per Session	70.00	Ν
CS011	KPM - Portland Child & Family Complex - Hourly fee - before/after kindergarten	Per Hour	12.50	Ν
CS012	Kathleen Millikan Centre - Casterton - Daily Fee (7:45am - 5:45pm) - No meal provision	Per Day	125.00	N
CS013	Kathleen Millikan Centre - Casterton - Half day - Morning (7:45am - 12:45pm) - No meal provision	Per Session	62.50	Ν
CS014	Kathleen Millikan Centre - Casterton - Half Day - Afternoon (12:45pm - 5:45pm) - No meal provision	Per Session	62.50	Ν
CS015	Kathleen Millikan Centre - Casterton - Hourly fee - before/after kindergarten - No meal provision	Per Hour	12.50	Ν



The following fees applied to most of the Council Venues, please contact our office for further information. Venue Hire Fees may also be applicable to Recreation Reserve facility hire.

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST Y/N
FVH001	Venue Hire - Bond	Each	386.00	N
FVH005	Venue Hire - Cancellation Fee	Each	To be determined by Council	Y
FVH006	Venue Hire - Public Liability Insurance cover	Each	13.00	Y
FVH007	Venue Hire - Casual APRA Music Licence Fee (per 100 people attending)	Each	4.50	Y
FVH008	Venue Hire - Non Compliance - Clean up	Cost to Council sta to c	aff for time and cost lean	Y
FVH009	Venue Hire - Non Compliance - Damage		nd/or replacement n charge of \$50.00	Y
FVH010	Venue Hire - Non Compliance - Failure to lock doors	Any fees incurred	Y	
FVH011	Venue Hire - Non Compliance - Failure to turn off electricity, gas, heating and/or cooling	Costs will be calc	Y	
FVH012	Venue Hire - Non Compliance - Fire Alarm	activated by rec behaviour the Hire	rately activated, or kless or careless r will be responsible ncurred as a result	Y
FVH013	Venue Hire - Non Compliance - Lost Key	Each	88.00	Y
FVH014	Venue Hire - Non Compliance - Waste Disposal	Each	Cost of waste disposal plus \$48.00 p/h	Y
FVH071	Venue Set up/Pack up Hourly Rate	Per Hour	48.00	Y
FVH073	Venue Hire - Bond Crockery and Cutlery	Each	107.00	N
FVH074	Venue Hire - Cleaning Fee	Per Hour	65.00	Y



FVH075	Venue Hire - Kitchen	Each	37.00	Y			
FVH076	Venue Hire - Crockery & Cutlery	Each	56.00	Y			
FVH079	Councill Facility Issue of additional/replacement Salto fob	Each	10.00	Y			
Casterton Town Hall							
Fee Code	Fee Description LIOM						
FVH016	Casterton Town Hall (Whole Building) - Half Day Rate (4 hours)	Each	414.00	Y			
FVH017	Casterton Town Hall (Whole Building) - Full Day Rate	Each	814.00	Y			
FVH018	Casterton Town Hall (Whole Building) - Rehearsals (max 4 rehearsals per event)	Each	60.00	Y			
FVH020	Casterton Town Hall - Main Hall - Half Day Rate (4 hours)	Each	208.00	Y			
FVH021	Casterton Town Hall - Main Hall - Full Day Rate	Each	410.00	Y			
FVH023	Casterton Town Hall - Supper Room - Half Day Rate (4 hours)	Each	130.00	Y			
FVH024	Casterton Town Hall - Supper Room - Full Day Rate	Each	252.00	Y			
FVH027	Casterton Town Hall - Chambers & President's Room - Hourly Rate	Each	29.00	Y			
FVH028	Casterton Town Hall - Chambers & President's Room - Half Day Rate (4 hours)	Each	111.00	Y			
FVH029	Casterton Town Hall - Chambers & President's Room - Full Day Rate	Each	211.00	Y			



Casterton Senior Citizens Centre

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST Y/N
FVH031	Casterton Senior Citizens Centre - Half Day Rate (4 hours)	Each	111.00	Y
FVH032	Casterton Senior Citizens Centre - Full Day Rate	Each	198.00	Y
FVH033	Casterton Senior Citizens Centre - Hourly Rate	Each	25.00	Y

Kelpie Centre Casterton

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST Y/N
FVK001	Kelpie Centre Casterton - Meeting Room - Hourly Rate (minimum hire 3 hrs)	Per Hour	23.00	Y
FVK002	Kelpie Centre Casterton - Meeting Room - Full Day Rate (During VIC Opening Hours only)	Per Day	159.00	Y

Heywood Senior Citizens Centre

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST Y/N
FVH077	Heywood Senior Citizens Building - Hunter Street - Half Day Rate (4 hours)	Each	151.00	Y
FVH078	Heywood Senior Citizens Building - Hunter Street - Full Day Rate	Each	294.00	Y



Heywood Hall, Community Room and Kindergarten

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST Y/N
FVH034	Heywood Hall - Main Hall - Half Day Rate (4 hours)	Each	183.00	Y
FVH035	Heywood Hall - Main Hall - Full Day Rate	Each	332.00	Y
FVH036	Heywood Hall - Main Hall - Rehearsals (max 4 rehearsals per event)	Each	54.00	Y
FVH038	Heywood Hall - Supper Room - Half Day Rate (4 hours)	Each	65.00	Y
FVH039	Heywood Hall - Supper Room - Full Day Rate	Each	121.00	Y
FVH043	Heywood Office - Community Room - Half Day Rate (4 hours)	Each	90.00	Y
FVH044	Heywood Office - Community Room - Full Day Rate	Each	163.00	Y
FVH046	Old Heywood Kindergarten - Playgroup Building - Half Day Rate (4 hours)	Each	89.00	Y
FVH047	Old Heywood Kindergarten - Playgroup Building - Full Day Rate	Each	163.00	Y
FVH068	Heywood Hot Desk - 2 Hour Rate	Each	24.00	Y
FVH066	Heywood Hot Desk - Half Day Rate (4 hours)	Each	47.00	Y
FVH067	Heywood Hot Desk - Full Day Rate	Each	95.00	Y



Fawthrop Community Centre - Portland

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST Y/N
FVH064	Fawthrop Community Centre - Portland - Half Day Rate (4 hours)	Each	203.00	Y
FVH065	Fawthrop Community Centre - Portland - Full Day Rate	Each	398.00	Y

Portland Drill Hall

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST Y/N
FVH069	Drill Hall - Portland - Half Day Rate (4 hours)	Each	172.00	Y
FVH070	Drill Hall - Portland - Full Day Rate	Each	340.00	Y

Civic Hall - Portland

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST Y/N
FVH054	Civic Hall - Portland - Main Hall - Half Day Rate (4 hours)	Each	363.00	Y
FVH055	Civic Hall - Portland - Main Hall - Full Day Rate	Each	715.00	Y
FVH057	Civic Hall - Portland - Main Hall - Rehearsals (max 4 rehearsals per event)	Each	107.00	Y
FVH059	Civic Hall - Portland - Supper Room - Half Day Rate (4 hours)	Each	169.00	Y
FVH060	Civic Hall - Portland - Supper Room - Full Day Rate	Each	331.00	Y



Glenelg Libraries

Librar	y Meeting Rooms				
Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)	
FVL001	Portland Library - Large Meeting Room - Hourly Rate (Business Hours)	Each	22.50	Y	
FVL002	Portland Library - Large Meeting Room - Half Day Rate (4 hours) (Business Hours)	Each	78.00	Y	
FVL003	Portland Library - Large Meeting Room - Full Day Rate - (Business Hours)	Each	158.00	Y	
FVL004	Portland Library - Large Meeting Room - Hourly Rate - After Hours - Minimum 4 hours	Each	41.00	Y	
FVL005	Portland Library Large Meeting Room (After Hours) - Minimum 4 hours	Each	206.00	Y	
FVL007	Portland Library Small Meeting Room - Hourly Rate (Business Hours)	Each	14.50	Y	
FVL008	Portland Library Small Meeting Room - Half Day rate (4 hours) (Business Hours)	Each	44.00	Y	
FVL009	Portland Library Small Meeting Room - Full Day Rate (Business Hours)	Each	91.50	Y	
ASL005	Library - Invigilator Charge	Per Hour	51.50	Y	
ASL001	Library - Inter Library Loans - Public Libraries	Each	7.20	Y	
ASL002	Library - Inter Library Loans - Education Institutions inc postage	Each	32.00	Y	



Immigration/Seafarers Wall

Immigration & Seafarers Wall FY2025/2026 Fee **Fee Description** UOM Fee Code AUD\$ 105.00 ASW001 Wall Plaque - Immigration Wall Each ASW002 Wall Plaque - Seafarers Wall Each 105.00

GST

(Y/N)

Ν

Ν



Infrastructure and Works

Asset	Protection			
Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST Y/N
ISE001	Asset Protection - General Local Law 2018 Fee - Permit Application	Each	170.00	N
ISE002	Asset Protection - General Local Law 2018 Fee - Bond (Refundable)	Each	900.00	N
Reinst	atement Fees	1		
Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST Y/N
ISE003	Road Pavement - Pre-mix	Per m2	279.50	Y
ISE004	Road Pavement - Pavement Replacement and sprayed bitumen seal	Per m2	544.50	Y
ISE005	Road Pavement - Sprayed bitumen seal only	Per m2	109.50	Y
ISE006	Footpath / Driveway - Concrete (single panel)	Per m2	436.00	Y
ISE008	Footpath / Driveway - Spray Bitumen Seal	Per m2	109.50	Y
ISE009	Footpath / Driveway - Construct with sprayed Bitumen seal	Per m2	391.00	Y
ISE011	Other services - Side Entry Pit Lids	Each	399.00	Y
ISE012	Other services - Cut concrete, jack hammer, cut away	Per m2	126.50	Y
ISE013	Other services - Pavers	Per m2	174.00	Y
ISE014	Drainage Information Fees - Storm water connection advice for commercial and industrial properties	Each	84.50	Y
ISE015	Drainage Information Fees - Provision Drainage information only	Each	84.50	Y
ISE016	Drainage Information Fees - Site inspections of constructed connections within property easements	Each	169.50	Y



Local Laws

Parking Fines				
Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N
PFF001	Parking Fines - Not completely within Parking Bay	Each	100.00	N
PFF002	Parking Fines - For Period longer than indicated	Each	100.00	N
PFF003	Parking Fines - No Parking Area	Each	100.00	N
Permit	Fees			
Fee Code	Fee Description	иом	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N
LL002	Food & Non Food Vendors - Permit (week)	Each	180.00	N
LL003	Food & Non Food Vendors - Permit (month)	Each	300.00	N
LL005	Food & Non Food Vendors - Permit (3 months)	Each	550.00	N
LL031	Food & Non Food Vendors - Permit (6 months)	Each	1,017.00	N
LL032	Food & Non Food Vendors - Permit (annual)	Each	1,825.00	N
LL007	Footpath Trading Permit - Sale of Goods (Footpath Trading Permit) - up to 2 items (i.e. 2 racks, 1 flag and 1 rack, 2 flags, 1 flag and 1 a-frame)	Each	116.00	N
LL008	Footpath Trading Permit - Advertising Signs/Tear Drop Flags (Footpath Trading Permit) - up to 2 items (i.e. 2 racks, 1 flag and 1 rack, 2 flags, 1 flag and 1 a-frame)	Each	116.00	N
LL009	Footpath Trading Permit - Outdoor eating facilities on Footpaths - per table & 4 chairs (Footpath Trading Permit)	Each	116.00	N
LL033	Footpath Trading Permit - for additional items (including table & 4 - 6 chairs, signage, flags and brick-a-brack)	Each	41.00	N



Local Laws

Impoundment - Release Fees

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GS ⁻ (Y/N
LL010	Release Fee - Impounded Shopping Trolley Release Fee*	Each	122.00	Y
LL011	Release Fee - Impounded Wheeled Recreational Device Release Fee*	Each	122.00	Y
LL012	Release Fee - Impounded Sign Release Fee*	Each	122.00	Y
LL013	Release Fee - Impounded Goods & Equipment Release Fee*	Each	122.00	Y
LL014	Release Fee - Impounded Goods left on Road Release Fee*	Each	122.00	Y
LL015	Release Fee - Impounded Tables, Chairs & Equipment Release Fee*	Each	122.00	Y
LL016	Release Fee - Impounded bulk rubbish container Release Fee*	Each	122.00	Y
LL017	Release Fee - Impounded equipment used in works release Fee*	Each	122.00	Y
LL018	Release Fee - Impounded vehicle release Fee*	Each	122.00	Y

* Please note additional charges may be incurred if Council engages a contractor. These costs will be on-charged to the owner.



Local Laws

Other

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
LL019	Permit Application Fees - Camping/Caravan Application Permit Fee - Council Land or in a public place (2.11)	Each	50.00	N
LL020	Permit Application Fees - Camping/Caravan Application Permit Fee - on Privately own land (2.12)	Each	50.00	N
LL021	Permit Application Fees - Commercial event on Council owned or managed land	Per Day	300.00	N
LL022	Permit Application Fees - Commercial event on Council owned or managed land - Bond only (Discretionary measure)	Each	750.00	N
LL024	Permit Application Fees - Signage - Commercial (Daily)	Per Day	50.00	N
LL030	Permit Application Fees - Signage - Commercial (Annual)	Per Year	280.00	N
LL025	Permit Application Fees - Skip Bin or Bulk Container	Per Day	50.00	N
LL026	Permit Application Fees - Application to Burn Permit	Each	50.00	N
LL027	Permit Application Fees - Application to Burn Permit - During Fire Danger Period	Each	300.00	N
LL028	Permit Application Fees - Application to Graze/Drove Permit	Each	50.00	N
LL029	Permit Application Fees - Local Laws Permit Lodgement Fee	Each	85.00	N



Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
LP001	Local Port Moorings- Old Marina Pens	Each	687.50	Y
LP002	Local Port Moorings- Swing Mooring Administration Fee	Each	170.00	Y
LP003	Local Port (Trawler Wharf) Permanent- Utilities not included (<16m)	Per Year	3,880.00	Y
LP004	Local Port (Trawler Wharf) Permanent- Utilities not included (16m - 20m)	Per Year	5,441.50	Y
LP005	Local Port (Trawler Wharf) Permanent- Utilities not included (20m-30m)	Per Year	7,604.50	Y
LP006	Local Port (Trawler Wharf) Permanent- Utilities not included (>30m)	Per Year	9,762.50	Y
LP007	Local Port (Trawler Wharf) Itinerant Vessels- All Utilities included (<16m)	Per Day	52.30	Y
LP008	Local Port (Trawler Wharf) Itinerant Vessels- All utilities included (16m- 20m)	Per Day	81.00	Y
LP009	Local Port (Trawler Wharf) Itinerant Vessels- All utilities included (20m-30m)	Per Day	116.00	Y
LP010	Local Port (Trawler Wharf) Itinerant Vessels- All utilities included (>30m)	Per Day	147.50	Y
LP011	Local Port (Trawler Wharf) Squid Fishing Vessels- Squid Block Fees- All utilities included (<20m)	Per Month	679.00	Y
LP012	Local Port (Trawler Wharf) Squid Fishing Vessels- Squid Block Fees- All utilities included (20m-30m)	Per Month	949.00	Y
LP013	Local Port (Trawler Wharf) Itinerant Vessels- All utilities included (<16m)	Per Month	1,071.00	Y
LP014	Local Port (Trawler Wharf) Itinerant Vessels- All utilities included (16m- 20m)	Per Month	1,680.50	Y
LP015	Local Port (Trawler Wharf) Itinerant Vessels- All utilities included (20m-30m)	Per Month	2,352.00	Y
LP016	Local Port (Trawler Wharf) Itinerant Vessels- All utilities included (>30m)	Per month	3,017.50	Y



Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
LP017	Local Port (Trawler Wharf) Itinerant Vessels- All utilities included (<16m)	Per 3 months	2,131.00	Y
LP018	Local Port (Trawler Wharf) Itinerant Vessels- All utilities included (16m- 20m)	Per 3 months	3,599.50	Y
LP019	Local Port (Trawler Wharf) Itinerant Vessels- All utilities included (20m-30m)	Per 3 months	5,031.00	Y
LP020	Local Port (Trawler Wharf) Itinerant Vessels- All utilities included (>30m)	Per 3 months	6,467.50	Y
LP023	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - <7.5 m	Per Year	2,773.50	Y
LP024	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - <7.5 m	Per 3 months	987.00	Y
LP025	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - <7.5 m	Per month	393.50	Y
LP026	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - <7.5 m	Per week	120.00	Y
LP027	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - <7.5 m	Per Day	19.50	Y
LP028	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - 7.5m - 12m	Per Year	3,233.50	Y
LP029	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - 7.5m - 12m	Per 3 months	1,148.00	Y
LP030	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - 7.5m - 12m	Per month	457.00	Y
LP031	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - 7.5m - 12m	Per Week	135.00	Y
LP032	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - 7.5m - 12m	Per Day	23.00	Y



Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
LP033	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - 12m - 15m	Per Year	3,738.50	Y
LP034	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - 12m - 15m	Per 3 Months	1,336.50	Y
LP035	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - 12m - 15m	Per Month	532.50	Y
LP036	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - 12m - 15m	Per Week	159.00	Y
LP037	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - 12m - 15m	Per Day	26.00	Y
LP038	Marina UNSECURE RATE - Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1- J4, H1 & H8-H9) - 15m - 20m	Per Year	4,043.50	Y
LP039	Marina UNSECURE RATE - Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1- J4, H1 & H8-H9) - 15m - 20m	Per 3 Months	1,453.00	Y
LP040	Marina UNSECURE RATE - Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1- J4, H1 & H8-H9) - 15m - 20m	Per Month	580.00	Y
LP041	Marina UNSECURE RATE - Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1- J4, H1 & H8-H9) - 15m - 20m	Per Week	171.00	Y
LP042	Marina UNSECURE RATE - Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1- J4, H1 & H8-H9) - 15m - 20m	Per Day	28.00	Y
LP043	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - 20m -30m	Per Year	4,359.00	Y
LP044	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - 20m -30m	Per 3 Months	1,553.00	Y
LP045	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - 20m -30m	Per Month	621.00	Y
LP046	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - 20m -30m	Per Week	185.00	Y



Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
LP047	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - 20m -30m	Per Day	30.00	Y
LP048	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - > 30m	Per Year	6,090.50	Y
LP049	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - > 30m	Per 3 Months	2,171.00	Y
LP050	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - > 30m	Per Month	869.00	Y
LP051	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - > 30m	Per Week	260.00	Y
LP052	Marina UNSECURE RATE Berth Numbers (A1-A7, B1, C1, D1, E1,F1,G2, J1-J4, H1 & H8-H9) - > 30m	Per Day	43.50	Y
LP053	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2-F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - <7.5 m	Per Year	3,146.50	Y
LP054	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2-F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - <7.5 m	Per 3 Months	1,120.50	Y
LP055	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2-F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - <7.5 m	Per month	448.00	Y
LP056	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2-F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - <7.5 m	Per week	133.50	Y
LP057	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2-F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - <7.5 m	Per Day	22.00	Y
LP058	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2-F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - 10 m	Per Year	3,649.50	Y
LP059	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2-F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - 10 m	Per 3 Months	1,300.50	Y
LP060	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2-F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - 10 m	Per Month	521.00	Y



Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
LP061	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2-F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - 10 m	Per Week	155.00	Y
LP062	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2-F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - 10 m	Per Day	24.50	Y
LP063	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2-F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - 12 m	Per Year	4,237.50	Y
LP064	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2-F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - 12 m	Per 3 Months	1,514.00	Y
LP065	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2-F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - 12 m	Per Month	602.00	Y
LP066	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2-F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - 12 m	Per Week	180.00	Y
LP067	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2-F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - 12 m	Per Day	29.00	Y
LP068	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2-F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - 15 m	Per Year	4,590.50	Y
LP069	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2-F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - 15 m	Per 3 Months	1,643.50	Y
LP070	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2-F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - 15 m	Per Month	650.00	Y
LP071	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2-F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - 15 m	Per Week	195.50	Y
LP072	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2-F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - 15 m	Per Day	32.00	Y



Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
LP073	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2- F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - 18 m	Per Year	4,947.50	Y
LP074	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2- F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - 18 m	Per 3 Months	1,764.00	Y
LP075	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2- F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - 18 m	Per Month	704.50	Y
LP076	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2- F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - 18 m	Per Week	210.00	Y
LP077	Marina SECURE RATE Berth Numbers (B2-B10, C2-C10, D2-D9, E2-E8, F2- F8, G2-G7 & H2-H7) - 18 m	Per Day	34.00	Y
Other			·	
LP021	Local Port- Pensioner discount to pensioners that reside in the GSC	50%	6 reduction in fees	
LP022	Local Port- Vessel is on 'The Australian Register of Historic Vessels'	25%	6 reduction in fees	



Maritime Discovery Centre

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
MDC001	Museum Entry - Adult	Each	7.00	Y
MDC002	Museum Entry - Child	Each	FREE	
MDC003	Museum Entry - Student	Each	6.00	Y
MDC004	Museum Entry - Pensioner	Each	6.00	Y
MDC006	Museum Guided Tour - up to 30 pax	Per Group	50.00	Y



Planning Services

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
RSP004	Planning Notices (Council to place sign on site)	Each	150.00	Y
RSP005	Advertising Notice in Newspaper	Each	At Cost	Y
RSP006	Title Search Fee	Each	At Cost	Y
RSP007	Extension of Time (per application)	Each	260.00	Y
RSP008	Second Extension of Time (per application)	Each	360.00	Y
RSP009	Third or more Extension of Time (per application)	Each	570.00	Y
RSP010	Enquiry Whole File Search (all permits & certificates)	Each	155.00	Y
RSP011	Electronic File Search (simple file search)	Each	45.00	Y
RSP012	Written Advice	Each	150.00	Y
RSP013	Secondary Consent	Each	310.00	Y
RSP014	Secondary Consent - VIC Smart/Simple	Each	130.00	Y



Planning Services

Refund of Planning Permit Application Fees

Fee Code	Fee Description	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$
RSP015	Circumstances of Request for Refund - Stage of Processing/Assessment of Application for Planning Permit - A. After application is registered and a preliminary assessment has been carried out (includes situation where it is found that a permit is not required)	100% Refund
RSP016	Circumstances of Request for Refund - Stage of Processing/Assessment of Application for Planning Permit - B. Either prior to notice/referrals or if not required: After assembling relevant information including site inspection but before planning officer report.	75%Refund
RSP017	Circumstances of Request for Refund - Stage of Processing/Assessment of Application for Planning Permit - C. If notice/referrals are required: After notice and referrals but before planning officer report.	25% Refund
RSP018	Circumstances of Request for Refund - Stage of Processing/Assessment of Application for Planning Permit - D. After planning officer report, including recommendations, is prepared.	Nil
RSP019	Circumstances of Request for Refund - Stage of Processing/Assessment of Application for Planning Permit - 2. Application has been submitted in response to incorrect advice by Council staff.	100% Refund
RSP020	Circumstances of Request for Refund - Stage of Processing/Assessment of Application for Planning Permit - 3. Other circumstances	At planning unit discretion
RSP021	Circumstances of Request for Refund - Stage of Processing/Assessment of Application for Planning Permit - The circumstances or the stage of processing are significantly different to those listed above.	At planning unit discretion



Portland Arts Centre

Venue Hire Fees - Auditorium (includes other spaces)

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$		GST (Y/N)
PAC009	Full Day (maximum 8 hours) - Standard Rate	Day	1,01	7.50	Y
PAC012	Full Day (maximum 8 hours) - Discounted Community Rate	Day	28	4.00	Y
PAC008	Half Day (maximum 4 hours) - Standard Rate	Half Day	51	1.50	Y
PAC011	Half Day (maximum 4 hours) - Discounted Community Rate	Half Day	14	2.00	Y
PAC007	Hourly - Standard Rate	Per Hour	12	6.50	Y
PAC010	Hourly - Discounted Community Rate	Per Hour	3	6.50	Y

Venue Hire Fees - Other spaces only (foyer, kitchen and meeting room)

PAC013	Hourly - Standard Rate	Per Hour	62.50	Y		
PAC014	Hourly - Discounted Community Rate	Per Hour	15.50	Y		
Venue Hire Fees - Deposit						

PAC040	Venue Hire Deposit - Standard Rate	Per Event	50%	Y	
PAC041	Venue Hire Deposit - Discounted Community Rate	Per Event	25%	Y	



Portland Arts Centre

Event Staffing - all council venues*

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
PAC015	Duty Technician: Business Hours (First 9 hours)	Per Hour	55.00	Y
PAC035	Duty Technician: Overtime after 9 hours	Per Hour	110.00	Y
PAC032	Duty Technician: After Hours (First 9 hours)	Per Hour	70.00	Y
PAC016	Duty Officer - Non technical (First 9 hours)	Per Hour	49.50	Y
PAC036	Duty Officer - Non technical: Overtime after 9 hours	Per Hour	99.00	Y

*Minimum staffing requirements apply to all Portland Arts Centre venue hire arrangements.

Additional Equipment - PAC only

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
PAC017	Yamaha Concerto Grand Piano - Standard Rate	Per Event	110.00	Y
PAC038	Yamaha Concerto Grand Piano - Discounted Community Rate	Per Event	Nil	Y
PAC018	Grand Piano Tuning	Each	275.00	Y


Portland Arts Centre

Additional Equipment - all council venues

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
PAC046	Basic Offsite sound suite (plus technician's hours) - Standard Rate	Per Event	220.00	Y
PAC047	Basic Offsite sound suite (plus technician's hours) - Discounted Rate	Per Event	110.00	Y
PAC048	Intermediate Offsite sound suite (plus technician's hours) - Standard Rate	Per Event	360.00	Y
PAC049	Intermediate Offsite sound suite (plus technician's hours) - Discounted Rate	Per Event	180.00	Y
PAC044	Live Streaming / Video Conferencing suite (plus technician's hours) - Standard Rate	Per Event	300.00	Y
PAC045	Live Streaming / Video Conferencing suite (plus technician's hours) - Discounted Rate	Per Event	150.00	Y
PAC028	Other Theatrical Equipment Hire - subject to approval by Venue & Production Technician	Price on Application		
PAC043	Test & Tag External Electrical Equipment - per item	Per Item	13.00	Y



Portland Arts Centre

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
PAC019	Ticketing fees - Standard Rate	Per Ticket	3.00	Y
PAC020	Ticketing fees - Discounted Community Rate	Per ticket	1.50	Y
PAC039	Ticketing fees - Complimentary tickets (all hirer rates)	Per Ticket	1.50	Y
PAC037	Ticketing setup deposit - non-refundable	Each	132.00	Y
PAC042	Major change to ticketing setup after event is on-sale	Each	132.00	Y
PAC029	Graphic Design Services for venue hirers	Per Hour	55.00	Y
PAC030	Poster Printing and distribution Package for venue hirers (Portland & Heywood townships)	Per Event	250.00	Y
PAC031	Social Media Boosted Content	Each	At Cost	Y
PAC034	Electronic Direct Mail to PAC subscribers - dedicated campaign	Each	165.00	Y
PAC033	Electronic Direct Mail to PAC subscribers - featured inclusion in regular newsletter	Each	33.00	Y
PAC021	Merchandise Sales Commission - waived for artists using own resources and staff	%	10%	Y



Portland History House

Immigr	ation & Seafarers Wall			
Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
PHH001	History House - Adult	Each	3.00	Y
PHH002	History House - Child	Each	2.00	Y
PHH003	History House - Student	Each	2.00	Y
PHH004	History House - Pensioner	Each	2.00	Y
PHH005	History House - School Groups (per Student)	Each	0.50	Y



Public Health

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N
RSH001	Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 Registration - Health Premises - Low Risk *	Each	200.00	N
RSH002	Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 Registration - Health premises - High Risk *	Per Year	150.00	N
RSH003	Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 Registration - Prescribed Accommodation Premises *	Per Year	245.00	N
RSH004	Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 Registration - Transfer of Registration - Health and/or Accommodation Premises *	Per Transfer	50% of registration fee	N
RSH006	Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 Registration - Registration of Category 1 Aquatic Facility	Per Year	175.00	N
RSH007	Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 Registration - Transfer of Category 1 Aquatic Facility	Per Transfer	50% of registration fee	N
RSH010	Environment Protection Act 2017 - On-site Wastewater Management System - Domestic Onsite Wastewater Management System Inspection	Each	152.00	Y
RSH011	Environment Protection Act 2017 - On-site Wastewater Management System - Request for search of files/plans	Each	119.00	Y

*Pro Rata fees apply



Public Health

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
RSH016	Food Act Registrations - Class 1 - Commercial (e.g. Hospitals, nursing homes) *	Per Year	430.00	N
RSH017	Food Act Registrations - Class 2 - Commercial (e.g. Take-Away Food Establishments, Restaurants, Supermarkets, General Stores, Motels) *	Per Year	350.00	N
RSH018	Food Act Registrations - Class 2 - Community/Not for Profit Organisation; the total number of food manufacturing/selling days is less than twelve (12) days per year *	Per Year	Nil	N
RSH019	Food Act Registrations - Class 2 - Community/Not for Profit Organisation; the total number of food manufacturing/selling days is more than twelve (12) days per year *	Per Year	170.00	N
RSH020	Food Act Registrations - Class 3 - Commercial (e.g. Convenience stores) *	Per Year	170.00	N
RSH021	Food Act Registrations - Class 3 - Community Not for Profit Organisation where the total number of food selling days is less than twelve (12) days per year *	Per Year	Nil	Ν
RSH022	Food Act Registrations - Class 3 - Community Not for Profit Organisation where the total number of food selling days is more than twelve (12) days per year *	Per Year	85.00	N
RSH028	Health Inspection Fee - Inspection Fee (Follow-up inspections/at request of proprietor)	Each	152.00	Y
RSH029	Late Fee - Renewal of Registration - Late Fee	Each	20% of Registration	N

2025 - 2026 Fees and Charges Schedule



Rates and Valuations

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
ASR001	Rate Charges - Re-issue of Rates Notice (current and previous years)	Each	11.50	Y
ASR002	Rate Charges - Rates Information Search Fee - per hour	Each	108.00	Y
ASR003	Administration Fee - Rates	Each	29.50	Y
ASR008	Debt Collection - Skip Trace (locate)	Each	304.00	Y
ASR009	Debt Collection - Skip Trace (unallocated)	Each	110.50	Y
ASR011	Land information Certificate - Urgent Request	Each	100.00	Y



Recreation Reserves & Facilities Categorisation information is accessible within the Conditions of Hire for Casual Use of Council Recreation Reserves and Pavilions https://www.glenelg.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/3/our-community/sports-and-rec/documents/gsc-conditions-of-hire-casual-use-of-council-recreation-reserves-and-pavilions.pdf

Venue Hire Fees may also be applicable to Recreation Reserve facility hire.

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
FVR022	Alexandra Park Function Room incl Kitchen - Community/NFP/School Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	100.00	Y
FVR040	Alexandra Park Function Room incl Kitchen - Community/NFP/School Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	175.00	Y
FVR058	Alexandra Park Function Room incl Kitchen - Community/NFP/School Use - Full-Day	Full Day	350.00	Y
FVR076	Alexandra Park Function Room incl Kitchen - Commercial/Private Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	200.00	Y
FVR094	Alexandra Park Function Room incl Kitchen - Commercial/Private Use - Half- Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	350.00	Y
FVR112	Alexandra Park Function Room incl Kitchen - Commercial/Private Use - Full- Day	Full Day	700.00	Y
FVR024	Alexandra Park Oval - Community/NFP/School Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	50.00	Y
FVR042	Alexandra Park Oval - Community/NFP/School Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	90.00	Y
FVR060	Alexandra Park Oval - Community/NFP/School Use - Full-Day	Full Day	180.00	Y
FVR078	Alexandra Park Oval - Commercial/Private Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	70.00	Y
FVR096	Alexandra Park Oval - Commercial/Private Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	105.00	Y
FVR114	Alexandra Park Oval - Commercial/Private Use - Full-Day	Full Day	210.00	Y



Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
FVR023	Alexandra Park Oval & Changerooms - Community/NFP/School Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	60.00	Y
FVR041	Alexandra Park Oval & Changerooms - Community/NFP/School Use - Half- Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	100.00	Y
FVR059	Alexandra Park Oval & Changerooms - Community/NFP/School Use - Full-Day	Full Day	200.00	Y
FVR077	Alexandra Park Oval & Changerooms - Commercial/Private Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	140.00	Y
FVR095	Alexandra Park Oval & Changerooms - Commercial/Private Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	230.00	Y
FVR113	Alexandra Park Oval & Changerooms - Commercial/Private Use - Full-Day	Full Day	460.00	Y
FVR008	Category A Oval - Community/NFP/School Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	50.00	Y
FVR026	Category A Oval - Community/NFP/School Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	90.00	Y
FVR044	Category A Oval - Community/NFP/School Use - Full-Day	Full Day	180.00	Y
FVR062	Category A Oval - Commercial/Private Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	80.00	Y
FVR080	Category A Oval - Commercial/Private Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	130.00	Y
FVR098	Category A Oval - Commercial/Private Use - Full-Day	Full Day	260.00	Y



Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
FVR009	Category A Oval incl.Pavilion - Community/NFP/School Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	80.00	Y
FVR027	Category A Oval incl.Pavilion - Community/NFP/School Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	130.00	Y
FVR045	Category A Oval incl.Pavilion - Community/NFP/School Use - Full-Day	Full Day	260.00	Y
FVR063	Category A Oval incl.Pavilion - Commercial/Private Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	140.00	Y
FVR081	Category A Oval incl.Pavilion - Commercial/Private Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	230.00	Y
FVR099	Category A Oval incl.Pavilion - Commercial/Private Use - Full-Day	Full Day	460.00	Y
FVR010	Category B Oval - Community/NFP/School Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	40.00	Y
FVR028	Category B Oval - Community/NFP/School Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	80.00	Y
FVR046	Category B Oval - Community/NFP/School Use - Full-Day	Full Day	160.00	Y
FVR064	Category B Oval - Commercial/Private Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	70.00	Y
FVR082	Category B Oval - Commercial/Private Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	105.00	Y
FVR100	Category B Oval - Commercial/Private Use - Full-Day	Full Day	210.00	Y



Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
FVR011	Category B Oval incl. Pavilion/Building - Community/NFP/School Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	65.00	Y
FVR029	Category B Oval incl. Pavilion/Building - Community/NFP/School Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	125.00	Y
FVR047	Category B Oval incl. Pavilion/Building - Community/NFP/School Use - Full-Day	Full Day	210.00	Y
FVR065	Category B Oval incl. Pavilion/Building - Commercial/Private Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	120.00	Y
FVR083	Category B Oval incl. Pavilion/Building - Commercial/Private Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	200.00	Y
FVR101	Category B Oval incl. Pavilion/Building - Commercial/Private Use - Full-Day	Full Day	400.00	Y
FVR012	Category C Oval - Community/NFP/School Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	30.00	Y
FVR030	Category C Oval - Community/NFP/School Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	50.00	Y
FVR048	Category C Oval - Community/NFP/School Use - Full-Day	Full Day	100.00	Y
FVR066	Category C Oval - Commercial/Private Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	55.00	Y
FVR084	Category C Oval - Commercial/Private Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	85.00	Y
FVR102	Category C Oval - Commercial/Private Use - Full-Day	Full Day	170.00	Y



Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
FVR013	Category C Oval incl. Pavilion/Building - Community/NFP/School Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	45.00	Y
FVR031	Category C Oval incl. Pavilion/Building - Community/NFP/School Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	75.00	Y
FVR049	Category C Oval incl. Pavilion/Building - Community/NFP/School Use - Full-Day	Full Day	150.00	Y
FVR067	Category C Oval incl. Pavilion/Building - Commercial/Private Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	105.00	Y
FVR085	Category C Oval incl. Pavilion/Building - Commercial/Private Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	170.00	Y
FVR103	Category C Oval incl. Pavilion/Building - Commercial/Private Use - Full-Day	Full Day	340.00	Y
FVR014	Category D Oval - Community/NFP/School Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	30.00	Y
FVR032	Category D Oval - Community/NFP/School Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	50.00	Y
FVR050	Category D Oval - Community/NFP/School Use - Full-Day	Full Day	100.00	Y
FVR068	Category D Oval - Commercial/Private Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	55.00	Y
FVR086	Category D Oval - Commercial/Private Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	85.00	Y
FVR104	Category D Oval - Commercial/Private Use - Full-Day	Full Day	170.00	Y



Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
FVR015	Category D Oval incl. Pavilion/Building - Community/NFP/School Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	45.00	Y
FVR033	Category D Oval incl. Pavilion/Building - Community/NFP/School Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	75.00	Y
FVR051	Category D Oval incl. Pavilion/Building - Community/NFP/School Use - Full-Day	Full Day	150.00	Y
FVR069	Category D Oval incl. Pavilion/Building - Commercial/Private Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	75.00	Y
FVR087	Category D Oval incl. Pavilion/Building - Commercial/Private Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	125.00	Y
FVR105	Category D Oval incl. Pavilion/Building - Commercial/Private Use - Full-Day	Full Day	250.00	Y
FVR021	Fitzgerald Street Stadium Basketball/Squash Court Hire - Community/NFP/School Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	45.00	Y
FVR039	Fitzgerald Street Stadium Basketball/Squash Court Hire - Community/NFP/School Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	75.00	Y
FVR057	Fitzgerald Street Stadium Basketball/Squash Court Hire - Community/NFP/School Use - Full-Day	Full Day	150.00	Y
FVR075	Fitzgerald Street Stadium Basketball/Squash Court Hire - Commercial/Private Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	105.00	Y
FVR093	Fitzgerald Street Stadium Basketball/Squash Court Hire - Commercial/Private Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	170.00	Y
FVR111	Fitzgerald Street Stadium Basketball/Squash Court Hire - Commercial/Private Use - Full-Day	Full Day	340.00	Y



Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
FVR025	Football Oval, Netball Courts & Pavilion/s - Community/NFP/School Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	75.00	Y
FVR043	Football Oval, Netball Courts & Pavilion/s - Community/NFP/School Use - Half- Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	125.00	Y
FVR061	Football Oval, Netball Courts & Pavilion/s - Community/NFP/School Use - Full- Day	Full Day	250.00	Y
FVR079	Football Oval, Netball Courts & Pavilion/s - Commercial/Private Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	165.00	Y
FVR097	Football Oval, Netball Courts & Pavilion/s - Commercial/Private Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	270.00	Y
FVR115	Football Oval, Netball Courts & Pavilion/s - Commercial/Private Use - Full-Day	Full Day	540.00	Y
FVR016	Level 1 Pavilion/Building - Community/NFP/School Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	60.00	Y
FVR034	Level 1 Pavilion/Building - Community/NFP/School Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	100.00	Y
FVR052	Level 1 Pavilion/Building - Community/NFP/School Use - Full-Day	Full Day	200.00	Y
FVR070	Level 1 Pavilion/Building - Commercial/Private Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	120.00	Y
FVR088	Level 1 Pavilion/Building - Commercial/Private Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	200.00	Y
FVR106	Level 1 Pavilion/Building - Commercial/Private Use - Full-Day	Full Day	400.00	Y



Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
FVR017	Level 2 Pavilion/Building - Community/NFP/School Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	50.00	Y
FVR035	Level 2 Pavilion/Building - Community/NFP/School Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	85.00	Y
FVR053	Level 2 Pavilion/Building - Community/NFP/School Use - Full-Day	Full Day	170.00	Y
FVR071	Level 2 Pavilion/Building - Commercial/Private Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	100.00	Y
FVR089	Level 2 Pavilion/Building - Commercial/Private Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	170.00	Y
FVR107	Level 2 Pavilion/Building - Commercial/Private Use - Full-Day	Full Day	340.00	Y
FVR018	Level 3 Pavilion/Building - Community/NFP/School Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	30.00	Y
FVR036	Level 3 Pavilion/Building - Community/NFP/School Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	50.00	Y
FVR054	Level 3 Pavilion/Building - Community/NFP/School Use - Full-Day	Full Day	100.00	Y
FVR072	Level 3 Pavilion/Building - Commercial/Private Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	60.00	Y
FVR090	Level 3 Pavilion/Building - Commercial/Private Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	100.00	Y
FVR108	Level 3 Pavilion/Building - Commercial/Private Use - Full-Day	Full Day	200.00	Y



Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
FVR019	Netball/Tennis Court Hire - Community/NFP/School Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	45.00	Y
FVR037	Netball/Tennis Court Hire - Community/NFP/School Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	75.00	Y
FVR055	Netball/Tennis Court Hire - Community/NFP/School Use - Full-Day	Full Day	150.00	Y
FVR073	Netball/Tennis Court Hire - Commercial/Private Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	105.00	Y
FVR091	Netball/Tennis Court Hire - Commercial/Private Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	170.00	Y
FVR109	Netball/Tennis Court Hire - Commercial/Private Use - Full-Day	Full Day	340.00	Y
FVR020	Netball/Tennis Court Hire incl. Pavilion - Community/NFP/School Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	75.00	Y
FVR038	Netball/Tennis Court Hire incl. Pavilion - Community/NFP/School Use - Half- Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	125.00	Y
FVR056	Netball/Tennis Court Hire incl. Pavilion - Community/NFP/School Use - Full- Day	Full Day	250.00	Y
FVR074	Netball/Tennis Court Hire incl. Pavilion - Commercial/Private Use - 3 Hours	Session up to 3 Hours	165.00	Y
FVR092	Netball/Tennis Court Hire incl. Pavilion - Commercial/Private Use - Half-Day (up to 6 hours)	Half Day	270.00	Y
FVR110	Netball/Tennis Court Hire incl. Pavilion - Commercial/Private Use - Full-Day	Full Day	540.00	Y



Waste and Recycling

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
WAS001	Municipal Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - One small item - Waste per item	Each	4.00	Y
WAS002	Municipal Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - 120L Wheelie Bin	Each	6.00	Y
WAS003	Municipal Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - 240L Wheelie Bin	Each	11.00	Y
WAS004	Municipal Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - Boot Load - Waste	Each	16.50	Y
WAS005	Municipal Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - Trailer - Municipal Waste - Volume	Per m3	52.00	Y
WAS006	Municipal Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - Trailer - Municipal Waste - Weighed	Per Tonne	253.00	Y
WAS007	Municipal Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - Trucks (Bulk) - Volume	Per m3	43.00	Y
WAS008	Municipal Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - Trucks (Bulk) - Weighed	Per Tonne	253.00	Y
WAS009	Municipal Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - 120L Wheelie Bin - Green Waste	Each	1.90	Y
WAS010	Municipal Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - 240L Wheelie Bin - Green Waste	Each	3.80	Y
WAS011	Municipal Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - Boot Load - Green Waste	Each	5.80	Y
WAS012	Municipal Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - Bulk Green Waste - Volume	Per m3	19.00	Y
WAS013	Municipal Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - Bulk Green Waste - Weighed	Per Tonne	123.50	Y
WAS014	Commercial and Industrial Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - Boot Load - Waste	Each	19.00	Y
WAS015	Commercial and Industrial Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - Dead Livestock - Small Single Trailer	Each	89.00	Y
WAS016	Commercial and Industrial Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - Dead Livestock - Tandem Trailer	Each	189.50	Y



Waste and Recycling

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
WAS017	Commercial and Industrial Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - Animal Waste and Offal	Each	254.50	Y
WAS018	Commercial and Industrial Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - Trailer - Comm/Ind - Volume	Per m3	93.00	Y
WAS019	Commercial and Industrial Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - Trailer - Comm/Ind - Weighed	Per Tonne	291.00	Y
WAS020	Commercial and Industrial Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - Trucks - Comm/Ind - Volume	Per m3	96.00	Y
WAS021	Commercial and Industrial Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - Trucks - Comm/Ind - Weighed	Per Tonne	291.00	Y
WAS022	Commercial and Industrial Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - 120L Wheelie Bin - Green Waste	Each	2.40	Y
WAS023	Commercial and Industrial Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - 240L Wheelie Bin - Green Waste	Each	4.80	Y
WAS024	Commercial and Industrial Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - Boot Load - Green Waste	Each	7.20	Y
WAS025	Commercial and Industrial Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - Bulk Green Waste - Volume	Per m3	21.00	Y
WAS026	Commercial and Industrial Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - Bulk Green Waste - Weighed	Per Tonne	152.30	Y
WAS027	Prescribed Waste (EPA Levy inclusive) - Asbestos	Per Tonne	380.00	Y
WAS028	Recyclable Materials - Clean Concrete and Bricks	Per Tonne	41.00	Y
WAS029	Recyclable Materials - E-Waste - Small Item	Each	5.00	Y
WAS046	Recyclable Materials - E-Waste - Medium Item	Each	10.00	Y
WAS047	Recyclable Materials - E-Waste - Large Item	Each	15.00	Y



Waste and Recycling

Fee Code	Fee Description	UOM	FY2025/2026 Fee AUD\$	GST (Y/N)
WAS030	Recyclable Materials - Car Tyre	Each	10.00	Y
WAS031	Recyclable Materials - Car tyre on Rim	Each	15.00	Y
WAS032	Recyclable Materials - Light Truck / 4WD Tyre	Each	13.00	Y
WAS033	Recyclable Materials - Light Truck / 4WD Tyre on Rim	Each	48.00	Y
WAS034	Recyclable Materials - Motorcycle Tyre	Each	5.00	Y
WAS035	Recyclable Materials - Bobcat / Forklift / Truck Tyre	Each	32.00	Y
WAS036	Recyclable Materials - Bobcat / Forklift / Truck Tyre on Rim	Each	50.00	Y
WAS037	Recyclable Materials - Tractor, Grader, Earthmover and other tyres	Each	Price on Application	Y
WAS038	Recyclable Materials - Non-Degassed Refrigerators, etc. (per item)	Each	25.50	Y
WAS039	Recyclable Materials - Silage Wrap (per bag)	Each	4.30	Y
WAS040	Recyclable Materials - Bed Mattresses (Any Size)	Each	35.00	Y
WAS041	Domestic Garbage Charge - Annual Charge for Kerbside Waste, Recycling and FOGO Collection	Per Year	498.54	N
WAS042	Domestic Garbage Charge - Annual Charge for Kerbside Waste Only Collection	Per Year	302.25	N
WAS043	Domestic Garbage Charge - Annual Charge for Kerbside Recycling Only Collection	Per Year	112.42	N
WAS048	Domestic Garbage Charge - Annual Charge for FOGO Waste Only Collection	Per Year	83.87	N
WAS044	Domestic Garbage Charge - Replacement Mobile Garbage Bin (120 Lt)	Each	81.00	Y
WAS045	Domestic Garbage Charge - Replacement Mobile Recycling Bin (240 Lt)	Each	87.00	Y





GLENELG SHIRE COUNCIL ANNUAL BUDGET 2025/26

Contents	Page
Mayor and CEO's Introduction	2
2025/26 Budget at a Glance	4

Budget Reports

1.	Link to the Council Plan	6
2.	Services and service performance indicators	8
3.	Financial statements	21
4.	Notes to the financial statements	30
5.	Financial performance indicators	49

Mayor and CEO'S Introduction

We are pleased to present the 2025-26 Glenelg Shire Council Annual Budget. This is the first budget developed since the election of the new Council following the October 2024 elections. Councillors have engaged closely with the community to shape the Council and Wellbeing Plan 2025–2029 and to review the 2040 Community Plan and Vision. This budget is a key contributor to the delivery of the Council Plan.

This budget has been prepared following extensive community consultation throughout February, March and May 2025. This engagement saw a total of 115 people attend the face-to-face sessions, 503 visited the dedicated budget page on the Your Say Glenelg website and 155 surveys were completed.

All these areas have been considered carefully whilst maintaining our commitment to sustainable financial management.

Council is proposing to deliver the full range of services in the face of continuing cost pressures on materials and services and is prioritising completion of grant funded projects, many with strict funding deadlines. Each of these projects are important so that our community can enjoy modern, safe and inclusive Community assets.

This year sees another substantial capital works program of over \$15 million including the completion of:

- \$4.4M roads renewal works
- \$1.5M on heavy and light machinery renewal
- \$300k Building renewal
- \$250k contribution to Heywood Pool amenities replacement subject to government funding
- \$200k Recreational asset renewal
- \$110k footpath renewal works
- \$20k on Casterton Saleyards
- Portland Foreshore buildings, Portland Gymnastics facility and a number of projects under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) phase 3 & 4 funding stream such as the Casterton Little Athletics and Cricket Club project

More money is proposed to be allocated this year to roads, drainage and footpath connectivity and other renewals. We know there are many assets in poor condition that require funding to maintain them. More than 90 per cent of our capital works program is dedicated to these works.

Community grants and support for many events across the shire will continue to play a vital role in supporting community groups, volunteers and event organisers. These initiatives are crucial to our community wellbeing and sense of collective belonging which is particularly important given the natural disasters and ongoing drought our Shire is experiencing. Councillors are further supporting this by adding an additional \$21k for our key events across the Shire in the coming year.

With a strong focus on inclusive and strong community cohesion this budget includes operational funding to celebrate:

- \$400k to support community events
- \$285k ongoing support to youth services
- \$162k on Community Grants program
- \$70k for the biennial Business and Tourism Awards

We heard that people are proud of their local towns and their unique look and feel, so we are allocating over \$5.5M towards road maintenance and \$2.6M to keep our parks, gardens and reserves in better condition. Council wants to also be in a strong position to secure additional external funding so has included \$140k to prepare and scope funding applications for major projects and undertake scoping and design work for new footpaths within Nelson and Dartmoor.

Whilst the Council Plan is yet to be finalised, an amount of \$250k is proposed to be allocated to assist with initial funding of identified services and programs arising from the Action Plan Year 1.

The Draft 2025-2026 Budget document was released for community feedback during the period Thursday 1 May 2025 to 23 May 2025. Council received 48 responses, 33 were in relation to Food Organics Green Organics (FOGO) kerbside collection.

Council is mandated to provide a FOGO Service through the State Government circular economy obligations. Council is working to commence this kerbside collection from April 2026, owners who receive a Council kerbside collection service through the annual kerbside collection charge. In addition, Council will transition to a full cost recovery basis for all kerbside collection services which will see an increase in the charges for those provided with this service.

We will continue to listen to the voice of the community through a range formal and informal engagement opportunities, including regular listening posts and community conversation sessions and ongoing consultation on projects and initiatives to ensure community voice helps to inform Council throughout the decision making process.

To ensure some of our most vulnerable community members are considered in the ongoing cost of living crisis that Victoria is experiencing, Council will continue to apply a pensioner rebate as indexed to applicable General Rates and Kerbside Collection Charges on a pro-rata basis.

We look forward to working with our community throughout the coming year and bringing our Council Plan to life through actions and deliverables.



Cr Karen Stephens Mayor



Helen Havercroft CEO

2025/26 Budget at a Glance

Summary of Operating Result

	Budget
Summary of Operational Result	2025/26
	\$'000
Income/Revenue	68,577
Expenses	(65,658)
Total Comprehensive Result	2,919

Summary of Cash Flows

	Budget
Cash Position - Operational	2025/26
	\$'000
Income/Revenue	57,413
Expenses	(52,897)
Net Cash Flow - Operational	4.516

	Budget
Cash Position - Capital Program	2025/26
	\$'000
Capital Grants Income	6,369
Proceeds on Sale of Capital Items	617
Capital Works Program - Asset Expenditure - New	(327)
Capital Works Program - Asset Expenditure - Renewal	(12,529)
Capital Works Program - Asset Expenditure - Upgrade	(2,389)
Net Cash Flow - Capital Program	(8,260)

	Budget
Cash Position - Financing	2025/26
oceeds on Borrowings (net of repayments)	\$'000
Proceeds on Borrowings (net of repayments)	2,323
Lease Liabilities	(249)
Net Cash Flow - Financing	2,074

Net Cash Result - Operational, Capital & Financing

For every \$100 of Rates

How every dollar of rates collected in the 2025/26 Budget will be allocated to delivering Council services.

Budget 2025-2026 Summary EVERY \$100 OF RATES



(1,669)

Key Inclusions

Key Services and Programs

Service area	Specific Programs	2025/26 Budgeted Income	2025/26 Budgeted Expenditure
Chief Executive Officer and Executive Team	Council Plan funding		250
	Biennial Business & Tourism Awards	35	70
	Tourism Marketing Plan		93
Fourism and Events Management	Christmas		50
	New Years		100
	Hooked on Portland	32	75
	Iconic Event Funding		73
Community Grants and Support	Community Grants		161
	Ageing Well Grant		50
Infrastructure, Management and Planning	Major Project Scoping and Design		100
	Dartmoor and Nelson Pathways Investigations		40

Key Areas of Service Delivery

Service area	2025/26 Budgeted Income	2025/26 Budgeted Expenditure
Aerodromes	99	361
Aquatic Facilities	0	1,582
Arts and Culture	183	667
Casterton Saleyards	98	130
Childrens Services	4,408	4,949
Library Services	287	827
Parks and Gardens	5	2,642
Public Buildings and Foreshore Management	0	2,179
Road Infrastructure Maintenance	0	5,562
Sports and Recreation	37	503
Visitor Information Centres	145	681
Youth Services	93	285

Key Assumptions

Rate Cap:

The rate cap remains at 3% over the term of this budget.

Borrowing Interest Rate:

The Interest Rate used for the TCV Fixed Loan projections is 5.285%. Loan Term = 15 years.

CPI:

CPI is estimated to remain at 3% over the term of this budget.

1. Link to the Council Plan

The Budget links to the achievement of the Community Vision and Council Plan within an overall integrated strategic planning and reporting framework. This framework guides the Council in identifying community needs and aspirations over the long term (Community Vision and Financial Plan), medium term (Council Plan, Workforce Plan, and Revenue and Rating Plan) and short term (Budget) and then holding itself accountable (Annual Report).

1.1 Legislative planning and accountability framework

The Budget is a rolling four-year plan that outlines the financial and non-financial resources that Council requires to achieve the strategic objectives described in the Council Plan. The diagram below depicts the integrated strategic planning and reporting framework that applies to local government in Victoria. At each stage of the integrated strategic planning and reporting framework there are opportunities for community and stakeholder input. This is important to ensure transparency and accountability to both residents and ratepayers.



Source: Mark Davies (Financial Professional Solutions)

The timing of each component of the integrated strategic planning and reporting framework is critical to the successful achievement of the planned outcomes.

1.1.2 Key Planning considerations

Service Level planning

Although councils have a legal obligation to provide some services - such as animal management, local roads, food safety and statutory planning - most council services are not legally mandated, including some services closely associated with councils, such as libraries, building permits and sporting facilities. Councils regularly engage with communities to determine how to prioritise resources and balance service provision against other responsibilities such as asset maintenance and capital works.

Community consultation is undertaken in accordance with council's adopted Community Engagement Policy.

1.2 Our Purpose

Our Vision

Glenelg Shire Council is forward thinking and inclusive. We will continue to innovate and develop our diverse economy to deliver services that meet the needs of our community.

Our Values

Respect, Integrity, Service Excellence, Teamwork and Innovation.

1.3 Strategic objectives

Council delivers services and initiatives through 50 service categories. Each contributes to the achievement of one of the six strategic objectives as set out in the Council Plan 2021-25.

Our Natural Environment

To strive towards a carbon neutral future to protect and enhance the natural environment for future generations.

Our Education, Employment and Industry

To adapt and grow a diverse economy to embrace employment of the future and educational opportunities.

Our Health and Wellbeing

To support the Glenelg community to thrive by being healthy, inclusive and well.

Our Lifestyle, Neighbourhood and Culture

To create enriching and vibrant lives through experiences, safe and well planned neighbourhoods.

Our Access, Transport and Technology

To make it easier for people to connect in and around the Glenelg Shire.

Your Voice, Our Shared Action

To create a highly engaged and capable local government, leading Glenelg to ensure the needs and aspirations of our community are realised.

2. Services and service performance indicators

This section outlines a description of the services and initiatives to be funded in the Budget for the 2025/26 year and how these will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives outlined in the Council Plan. It also describes several initiatives and service performance outcome indicators for key areas of Council's operations. Council is required by legislation to identify major initiatives, initiatives and service performance outcome indicators in the Budget and report against them in their Annual Report to support transparency and accountability. Refer to table at 2.7 for information on the calculation of Service Performance Outcome Indicators.

The relationship between these accountability requirements in the Council Plan, the Budget and the Annual Report is shown below.

Council Plan			Budget		Annual Report
Strategic Objective		Services	Indicators (outcome)		Report of operations
Strategic Indicators	~	Initiatives	Major Initiatives		Service indicators
Strategic Objective		Services	Indicators (outcome)		Major initiatives Governance &
Strategic Indicators	~	Initiatives	Major Initiatives	L	management checklist
Strategic Objective		Services	Indicators (outcome)	Г	Performance
Strategic Objective		Initiatives	Major Initiatives		statement Service indicators
Strategic Objective		Services	Indicators (outcome)		(outcome) Financial indicators
Strategic Objective	-7	Initiatives	Major Initiatives	I	Sustainable capacity

Source: Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

2.1 Strategic Objective – Our Natural Environment

The Strategic Objective 'Our Natural Environment' is to strive towards a carbon neutral future to protect and enhance the natural environment for future generations. The services, initiatives and performance indicators for each business area within 'Our Natural Environment' are described below –

Service area	Description of services provided		2023/24 Actual \$'000	2024/25 Forecast \$'000	2025/26 Budget \$'000
Emergency Response	Emergency Management Act 1986	Income (Inc)	120	150	120
	and 2013 requires councils to play a	Expenditure (Exp)	208	307	266
Waste Reforms	key role in emergency management, providing support to lead agencies in	Surplus / (deficit)	(88)	(157)	(146)
	emergency relief and to lead emergency recovery on behalf of communities.				
Waste Management -	Initiatives implemented by Council to	Inc	0	0	0
Waste Reforms	adhere to the requirements from the	Ехр	158	118	148
	Circular Economy Act which was introduced to minimise waste,	Surplus / (deficit)	(158)	(118)	(148)
	increase recycling and divert waste from landfill.				
Public Health	Ith Ensure health and safety of the community in accordance with statutory requirements of the Food, Public Health and Wellbeing,	Inc	170	142	103
		Ехр	399	384	364
		Surplus / (deficit)	(229)	(242)	(261)
	Environment Protection and Residential Tenancies Acts.				
Environmental and	Strategic direction, advice and	Inc	77	77	77
Sustainability Services	implementation on environmental and	Exp	440	396	397
	sustainability issues and actions of council's operations. Includes climate	Surplus / (deficit)	(363)	(319)	(320)
council's operations. Includes climate change, flora and fauna protection, coastal management, utility management and carbon footprint reduction in areas such as waste minimisation, renewable energy and water use.					
Thermal Loop	Managing Council's Thermal Loop system as a cost effective	Inc Exp	0 12	0 50	0
	environmentally friendly alternative heating source.	Surplus / (deficit)	(12)	(50)	0

Our Education, Employment and Industry Initiatives

- 1. Introduction of Food Organic Green Organic (FOGO) Waste Services from April 2026.
- 2. Council is committed to decreasing the amount of waste in landfill. Budgeted Waste reforms aim to increase waste diversion from landfill by 5%

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Budget
Food safety	Health and safety	95%	100%	100%
Waste management	Waste diversion	29%	29%	35%

2.2 Strategic Objective – Our Education, Employment and Industry

The Strategic Objective 'Our Education, Employment and Industry' is to adapt and grow a diverse economy to embrace employment of the future and educational opportunities. The services, initiatives and performance indicators for each business area within 'Our Education, Employment and Industry' are described below –

Service area	Description of services provided		2023/24 Actual \$'000	2024/25 Forecast \$'000	2025/26 Budget \$'000
Chief Executive Officer and Executive Team	Oversee administrative function of council ensuring good governance	Inc Exp	84 2,273	55 1,888	64 2,364
	practices, providing advice to both the Mayor and Councillors. The Executive Team provide strategic direction and high level advice to enable polices and decisions of council to be implemented in to the day to day operations.	Surplus/ (deficit)	(2,189)	(1,833)	(2,300)
People & Culture	Provides strategic advice to the Leadership Team, managers, and	Inc Exp	0 986	0 1,229	0 1,136
	coordinators on a range of staffing matters. These include employee	Surplus/ (deficit)	(986)	(1,229)	(1,136)
	relations, industrial relations, learning and development, organisation design as well as performance management.				
Economy and Investment	Manages development and business enquiries, acts as a central support for local business capability and employment, and advocates for new initiatives and projects for the region.	Inc Exp	258 462	0 175	0 123
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(204)	(175)	(123)
Tourism and Events Management	Manages tourism marketing initiatives and projects, supports local event organisers with event planning and delivers Council's annual community events calendar.	Inc Exp Surplus/ (deficit)	34 603 (569)	32 716 (684)	67 672 (605)
Contracts and Procurement	Administers Council Contracts, lease	Inc Exp	105 323	92 305	125 276
Floculement	agreements and procurement protocols.	Surplus/ (deficit)	(217)	(213)	(151)
Childrens Services	Family orientated support services including kindergarten, long day care,	Inc Exp	3,924 4,619	4,092 4,592	4,408 4,949
	occasional care, immunisation and playgroup support.	Surplus/ (deficit)	(695)	(500)	(541)
Library Services	To provide user-friendly accessible library services across the Shire,	Inc Exp	318 711	313 812	287 827
	through our branches in Casterton, Heywood and Portland and our	Surplus/ (deficit)	(393)	(499)	(539)
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(393)	(499)	

Youth Services	Co-design and implement programs and events with, and for young people to support their development, and positive mental wellbeing and connection to community.	Inc _Exp	100 295	106 318	93 285
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(194)	(212)	(192)
Community Grants and	Council grants and contributions for	Inc	0	0	0
Support	various categories and projects including recreation, public halls, tourism, events funding, arts and	Exp Surplus/ (deficit)	266 (266)	461 (461)	436 (436)
	culture and community support.				
Casterton Saleyards	Operation of saleyards, hosting up to	Inc	85	115	98
,	6 cattle sales plus a summer sheep	Exp	168	127	130
	sale per year.	Surplus/ (deficit)	(84)	(12)	(32)

Our Education, Employment and Industry Initiatives

- 3. Council will continue to support and recognise tourism industry participants by delivering its Biennial Business and Tourism Awards event in 2025/26.
- 4. Council's Community Grants Program will continue in 2025/26 with a budgeted allocation of \$161k.

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Budget
Libraries	Participation	24%	24%	25%

2.3 Strategic Objective – Our Health and Wellbeing

The objective of 'Our Health and Wellbeing' is to support the Glenelg community to thrive by being healthy, inclusive and well. The services, initiatives and performance indicators for each business area within 'Our Health and Wellbeing' are described below –

Service area	Description of services provided		2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Budget
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Risk Management	Risk management and insurance advice, management of principles and	Inc Exp	235 1,923	223 2,095	200 2,093
	best practice in order to minimise council's exposure to liability. Management of insurance portfolio, claims and work cover obligations.	Surplus/ (deficit)	(1,687)	(1,872)	(1,893)
Local Laws	Education, regulation and enforcement of General Local Law and relevant State legislation. Conducts reactive and proactive inspections including footpath trading, litter control, fire prevention, issue and management of permits and offence prosecutions. Provides resources for supervision of school crossings and animal management.	Inc Exp	248 1,382	245 1,392	301 1,461
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(1,134)	(1,147)	(1,160)
Maternal Child Health	Family orientated support services including maternal and child health, immunisation and playgroup support.	Inc	578	455	483
		Exp	705	636	626
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(127)	(181)	(143)
Access and Inclusion	Provide information, advocacy and resources to support access and inclusion across the shire.	Inc Exp	28 83	0 87	0 87
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(55)	(87)	(87)
Community Development and	Key facilitator of community strengthening activities and strategic	Inc Exp	133 361	198 463	86 371
Wellbeing	planning. Initiating and partnering with agencies to address disadvantage,	Surplus/ (deficit)	(228)	(265)	(285)
	inequity, resilience, wellbeing and public health.				
Sports and Recreation	Provide access and opportunities to a range of activities and sporting	Inc Exp	35 869	37 544	37 503
	facilities, playgrounds and open space recreation areas.	Surplus/ (deficit)	(835)	(507)	(466)

Our Health and Wellbeing Initiatives

- 1. Council will continue its upgrade to the Portland Gymnastics Facility in 2025/26.
- 2. Council continues to support and enhance wellbeing in safe and inclusive communities by sponsoring a number of recreational activities such as Narrawong Beach Patrols and the Glenelg Junior Sports Trust.

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Budget
Animal management	Health and safety	100%	100%	100%
Maternal child health	Participation	87%	87%	87%

2.4 Strategic Objective – Our Lifestyle, Neighbourhood and Culture

The objective of 'Our Lifestyle, Neighbourhood and Culture' is to create enriching and vibrant lives through experiences, safe and well planned neighbourhoods. The services, initiatives and performance indicators for each business area within 'Our Lifestyle, Neighbourhood and Culture' are described below –

Service area	Description of services provided		2023/24 Actual \$'000	2024/25 Forecast \$'000	2025/26 Budget \$'000
Facilities Maintenance	Ensuring Council facilities are kept to a standard, ensuring safety and	Inc Firm	0	0	0
	a standard, ensuring safety and appropriate maintenance for the	<u>Exp</u> Surplus/ (deficit)	<u>1,394</u> (1,394)	<u>1,364</u> (1,364)	<u>1,466</u> (1,466)
	community keeping them clean, safe and hygienic.		(1,394)	(1,304)	(1,400)
Planning Services	Statutory planning services including Heritage Planning, assessment of	Inc Exp	350 904	409 1,160	240 1,052
	planning permits, associated customer service and compliance with	Surplus/ (deficit)	(554)	(751)	(812)
	the Planning and Environment Act 1987. Strategic planning services including local policy development, amendments to the Glenelg Planning Scheme and representation at Panels and Tribunals.				
Building Services	Responsible for compliance with Building Act 1993 and Building Regulations 2018. This is includes assessment of Building permit applications, report and consents, undertake building audits, swimming pool and essential safety measure inspections.	Inc	270	320	290
		<u>Exp</u> Surplus/ (deficit)	(312)	(384)	688 (398)
Arts and Culture	Delivery of a range of creative	Inc Exp	239 831	425 901	183
	experiences for the Community and support of local not-for-profit arts	Exp Surplus/ (deficit)	(592)	(476)	<u>667</u> (485)
	organisations. Council provides an annual program of professional touring performances with support from State Government, as well as promoting the development of our creative economy and community outcomes.				
Aboriginal Partnership	Ongoing partnership between Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal	Inc Exp	0 20	0 24	0 22
	Corporation, Dhauwurrd Wurrung	Surplus/ (deficit)	(20)	(24)	(22)
	Elderly and Community Health Services, Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation and Glenelg Shire Council.			. ,	. ,
Caravan Parks	Leases have been entered into with	Inc	247	193	202
	Operators to manage the Portland and Casterton Caravan Parks.	Exp Surplus/ (deficit)	48 198	<u>25</u> 168	<u> </u>

Visitor Information Centres	Manage three Visitor Information Centres; Portland, Casterton and Nelson. Provide local and Regional tourist advice.	Inc Exp	143 710	154 676	145 681
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(567)	(522)	(536)
Aquatic Facilities	Swimming Pools are located at Portland, Heywood, Merino and Casterton allowing a range of leisure activities.	Inc	0	0	0
		Exp	1,591	1,438	1,582
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(1,591)	(1,438)	(1,582)
Infrastructure,	Design, tender and project	Inc	(349)	30	0
Management and	management of a broad range of council capital works.	Exp	840	1,046	943
Planning		Surplus/ (deficit)	(1,190)	(1,016)	(943)
Waste Management	Kerbside and Public Place collection of waste and recyclables from most urban and selected rural areas. Includes the operation of 6 Waste	Inc	3,786	4,089	5,756
0		Exp	214	5,133	6,655
		Surplus/ (deficit)	3,572	(1,044)	(899)
	Transfer Stations.				
Management of	Management of Assets to ensure service requirements of council assets are met.	Inc _	0	0	0
Engineering Services		Exp	395	564	599
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(395)	(564)	(599)
Public Buildings and	Council provides a large range of	Inc	178 0	0	
Foreshore Management	services many utilising a council building or facility.	Exp	1,306	2,081	2,179
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(1,128)	(2,081)	(2,179)
Parks and Gardens	Upkeep of playgrounds, recreation reserves, garden beds, street and park trees including crown land reserves.	Inc	9	5	5
		Exp	2,162	2,546	2,642
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(2,154)	(2,541)	(2,637)

Our Lifestyle, Neighbourhood and Culture Initiatives

- 1. Council is committed to implement the Arts and Culture Strategy.
- 2. Commitment to project scoping and design costs of \$100k in 2025/26. A further \$40k has been budgeted for the Dartmoor and Nelson townships, to investigate connecting pathways.

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Budget
Aquatic facilities	Utilisation	4%	4%	4%
Statutory Planning	Service standard	89%	86%	85%

2.5 Strategic Objective – Our Access, Transport and Technology

The objective of 'Our Access, Transport and Technology' is to make it easier for people to connect in and around the Glenelg Shire. The services, initiatives and performance indicators for each business area within 'Our Access, Transport and Technology' are described below –

Service area	Description of services provided		2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Budget
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Digital Glenelg	Digital Glenelg leads the implementation of Councils Business Transformation program.	Inc Exp	0 1,159	0 1,293	0 1,157
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(1,159)	(1,293)	(1,157)
Information Technology	Support and maintain reliable and cost effective communications and computing systems, facilities and infrastructure.	Inc	0	0	0
		<u>Exp</u> Surplus/ (deficit)	1,938 (1,938)	2,585 (2,585)	2,368 (2,368)
School Crossings	Provision of School Crossings across the shire.	Inc Exp	76 175	76 172	81 182
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(99)	(96)	(101)
Information and Data Management	Document, archival and information management including compliance with relevant legislation. Provides advice and support in development and promotion of records and information management systems, standards and procedures.	Inc Exp	0 399	0 428	0 441
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(399)	(428)	(441)
Quarries	Management of Limestone quarry for material to maintain and construct Roads.	Inc	0	0 50	0 8
		Exp Surplus/ (deficit)	<u>(441)</u> 441	(50)	(8)
Aerodromes	Council owned and operated airport at Portland.	Inc Exp	119 414	79 361	99 361
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(295)	(282)	(262)
Local Port	Management of multiple maritime facilities within the Portland Harbour including commercial and recreational fishing and boating.	Inc Exp	591 616	615 628	1,040 1,042
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(25)	(13)	(2)
Asset Management and Maintenance	Sustainably maintain assets and ensure service requirements of council assets are met.	Inc Exp	44 864	0 755	0 838
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(820)	(755)	(838)
Road Infrastructure Maintenance	Regulatory compliance of Road infrastructure with in a Road Reserve.	Inc	0	0	0
		Exp	4,931	5,308	5,562
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(4,931)	(5,308)	(5,562)

Our Access, Transport and Technology Initiatives

- 1. Council will continue to advocate for Black Spot funding.
- 2. Strategic partnership through South West Victorian Alliance (SWVA) Transport Strategy.

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Budget
Roads	Condition	95%	97%	97%

2.6 Strategic Objective – Your Voice, Our Shared Action

The objective of 'Your Voice, Our Shared Action' is to create a highly engaged and capable local government, leading Glenelg to ensure the needs and aspirations of our community are realised. The services, initiatives and performance indicators for each business area within 'Your Voice, Our Shared Action' are described below –

Service area	Description of services provided		2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Budget
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Mayor and Council	The role of the Mayor and Councillors is to provide good governance and strategic direction to achieve the best outcomes for the benefit of the community, including future generations.	Inc Exp	8 618	12 505	8 512
		<u>Exp</u>			
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(610)	(493)	(504)
Communication and	Provide timely information and promotion on council activities and programs, both internally and externally.	Inc	0	0	0
Media		Exp Surplus/ (deficit)	172 (172)	188 (188)	152 (152)
Corporate Governance	Statutory and corporate support to council. This includes coordinating agendas, minutes of council meetings, maintenance of statutory registers and the conduct of municipal elections.	Inc Exp	0 193	0 455	0 247
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(193)	(455)	(246)
Customer Service	First line response for customer enquiries at the 3 customer service centres at Portland, Heywood and Casterton.	Inc Exp	53 778	46 770	45 824
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(726)	(724)	(779)
Finance	Development of the annual Council Budget, annual Financial Report and the Strategic Financial Plan. Co- ordination of external auditors and input into the audit committee requirements. Administer the accounts payable and accounts receivables services for the council.	Inc	0	0	0
		Exp Surplus/ (deficit)	762 (762)	(843)	<u>832</u> (832)
Rating and Property Services	Rating and valuation services including raising and collection of rates and charges and valuation of properties through the shire. Assist Victorian Electoral Commission in preparation for the Voters Roll for council elections.	Inc Exp	145 404	131 425	92 445
		Surplus/ (deficit)	(259)	(294)	(353)
Internal Audit	Council's Internal Audit function	Inc	0 232	0 191	0
	provides assurance on the effectiveness of internal controls, systems and processes by improving	<u>Exp</u> Surplus/ (deficit)	(232)	(191)	(222)
	performance, reducing risk and increasing accountability.				
Community Engagement and Planning Principles of Engagement are adhered to, and the voice of community is incorporated into planning and strategic development across the business.

Inc	0	0	0
Exp	126	271	135
Surplus/ (deficit)	(126)	(271)	(135)

Our Access, Transport and Technology Initiatives

- 1. Prepare Council Plan 2025-2029 and identify key deliverables.
- 2. Prepare 10 Year Financial Plan and Revenue and Rating Plan.

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Budget
Governance	Consultation and engagement	42%	42%	45%

2.7 Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Governance	Consultation and engagement	Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement. (Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council)	Council has performed on community consultation
Statutory planning	Service standard	Planning applications decided within required timeframes (percentage of regular and VicSmart planning application decisions made within legislated timeframes)	[Number of planning application decisions made within 60 days for regular permits and 10 days for VicSmart permits / Number of planning application decisions made] x100
Roads	Condition	Sealed local roads below the intervention level (percentage of sealed local roads that are below the renewal intervention level set by Council and not requiring renewal)	[Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100
Libraries	Participation	Library membership (Percentage of the population that are registered library members)	[Number of registered library members / Population] x100
Waste management	Waste diversion	Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill. (Percentage of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins that is diverted from landfill)	[Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100
Aquatic Facilities	Utilisation	Utilisation of aquatic facilities. (Number of visits to aquatic facilities per head of population)	Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Population
Animal Management	Health and safety	Animal management prosecutions. (Percentage of animal management prosecutions which are successful)	Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Total number of animal management prosecutions
Food safety	Health and safety	Critical and major non- compliance outcome notifications. (Percentage of critical and major non- compliance outcome notifications that are followed up by Council)	[Number of critical non- compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance outcome notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non- compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance outcome notifications about food premises] x100

Maternal and Child Health Participation

Participation in the MCH service. (Percentage of children enrolled who participate in the MCH service)

Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children. (Percentage of Aboriginal children enrolled who participate in the MCH service)

[Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the financial year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100

[Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the financial year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100

2.8 Reconciliation with budgeted operating result

	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Expenditure	Income / Revenue
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Strategic Objective 1 - Our Natural Environment	(874)	1,175	301
Strategic Objective 2 - Our Education, Employment and Industry	(6,055)	11,198	5,143
Strategic Objective 3 - Our Health and Wellbeing	(4,035)	5,141	1,106
Strategic Objective 4 - Our Lifestyle, Neighbourhood and Culture	(12,365)	19,186	6,820
Strategic Objective 5 - Our Access, Transport and Technology	(10,739)	11,959	1,220
Strategic Objective 6 - Your Voice and Our Shared Action	(3,224)	3,369	145
Total	(37,293)	52,027	14,735
Expenses added in:			
Depreciation	(13,170)		
Depreciation - Right of Use Assets	(226)		
Finance costs - Leases	(27)		
Borrowing costs - Loans	(364)		
Landfill Provision adjustment	450		
ERP Project	(990)		
Other Expenses	(16)		
Deficit before funding sources	(51,637)		
Funding sources added in:			
Rates and charges revenue (Excluding Waste charge revenue)	31,449		
VLGGC Funding - General Purpose & Roads	11,230		
Capital Grants Income	10,627		
Finance Income - Interest	50		
Sale of Equipment	470		
Other Income	729		
Total funding sources	54,555		
Operating Surplus for the year	2,919		

2.9 Adjusted underlying Surplus/Deficit

The adjusted underlying result is the net surplus or deficit for the year adjusted for nonrecurrent capital grants, non-monetary asset contributions, and capital contributions from other sources. It is a measure of financial sustainability and Council's ability to achieve its service delivery objectives as it is not impacted by capital income items. This is not reflected in the operating result reporting figure under accountancy standards.

	Forecast Budget	Budget
	2024/25	2025/26
	\$'000	\$'000
Total Income	67,927	68,577
Total Expenses	63,320	65,658
Operational Surplus (deficit) for the year	4,607	2,919
Grants - Capital Non-Recurrent	(9,621)	(6,989)
Contributions - Non Monetary Assets	(40)	(65)
Capital Contributions - Other Sources	-	-
Adjusted Underlying result	(5,054)	(4,136)

The adjusted underlying result for the 2025/26 year is an expected deficit of \$4.1M, \$900k less than Forecast Budget 2024/25. This is an improvement from Forecast Budget 2024/25.

It is important that Council continues to reduce this gap as part of prudent financial management. This will be an ongoing challenge as revenue streams are limited and Council is operating within a rate capped environment, however increased scrutiny of operating services budgets will be at the forefront of Council's focus to ensure financial sustainability. Further reference to this financial performance indicator is made in Section 5 of this document.

3. Financial Statements

This section presents information in regard to the Financial Statements and Statement of Human Resources. The budget information for the year 2025/26 has been supplemented with projections to 2028/29 based on a range of assumptions.

This section includes the following financial statements prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

Comprehensive Income Statement Balance Sheet Statement of Changes in Equity Statement of Cash Flows Statement of Capital Works Statement of Human Resources

Comprehensive Income Statement

		Forecast	Budget	l		
	NOTES	2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000
Income						
Rates and Charges	4.1.1	33,531	35,818	36,784	37,775	38,796
Statutory Fees and Fines	4.1.2	681	718	739	761	784
User Fees	4.1.3	3,038	2,873	2,959	3,048	3,140
Grants - Operating	4.1.4	16,598	16,773	17,246	17,734	18,236
Grants - Capital	4.1.4	13,009	10,627	4,320	4,547	4,547
Contributions - Monetary	4.1.5	38	69	32	69	32
Contributions - Non-Monetary	4.1.5	40	65	65	65	65
Net gain on disposal of Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment		1	472	454	393	321
Other Income	4.1.6	991	1,163	1,183	1,205	1,227
Total Income		67,927	68,577	63,783	65,598	67,148
Expenses						
Employee Costs	4.1.7	27,084	28,240	29,130	30,004	30,904
Materials and Services	4.1.8	19,394	20,717	21,598	22,060	22,363
Depreciation	4.1.9	13,189	13,170	13,170	13,170	13,170
Depreciation - Right-of-Use Assets	4.1.10	273	226	186	64	64
Borrowing Costs		14	363	345	327	309
Finance Costs - Leases		24	27	30	22	16
Other Expenses	4.1.11	2,565	2,374	2,433	2,494	2,557
Other Expenses - ERP Project		778	990	327	244	256
Other Expenses - Landfill Provision Adju	istment	-	(450)	(450)	(450)	(450
Total Expenses		63,320	65,658	66,769	67,934	69,188
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		4,607	2,919	(2,985)	(2,337)	(2,040
Total Comprehensive Result		4,607	2,919	(2,985)	(2,337)	(2,040

Balance Sheet

		Forecast Budget	Budget		Projections	
		2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	NOTES	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Assets						
Current Assets						
Cash and Cash Equivalents		4,846	3,177	3,944	5,123	6,560
Trade and Other Receivables		3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Inventories		250	250	250	250	250
Prepayments		550	550	550	550	550
Other Assets		100	100	100	100	10
Total Current Assets	4.2.1	8,746	7,077	7,844	9,023	10,46
Non-Current Assets						
Trade and Other Receivables		7	7	7	7	-
Property, Infrastructure, Plant and Equ	ipment	573,998	576,066	571,535	567,225	562,929
Right-of-Use Assets	4.2.4	321	422	236	187	123
Total Non-Current Assets	4.2.1	574,326	576,495	571,778	567,419	563,059
Total Assets		583,071	583,572	579,622	576,442	573,519
Current Liabilities						
Trade and Other Payables		4,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Trust Funds and Deposits		1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
Contract and Other Liabilities		4,259	500	500	500	50
Provisions	100	5,600	5,600	5,600	5,600	5,600
Interest-bearing Liabilities	4.2.3	4,000	331	349	368	388
Lease Liabilities	4.2.4	197	183	59	65	7'
Total Current Liabilities	4.2.2	19,456	11,014	10,909	10,933	10,959
Non-Current Liabilities						
Provisions		5,750	5,300	4,850	4,400	3,950
Interest-bearing Liabilities	4.2.3	-	6,354	6,005	5,637	5,248
Lease Liabilities	4.2.4	132	251	192	142	71
Total Non-Current Liabilities	4.2.2	5,882	11,905	11,046	10,178	9,270
Total Liabilities		25,338	22,919	21,955	21,111	20,228
Net Assets		557,733	560,652	557,667	555,330	553,290
Equity						
Accumulated surplus		130,607	133,526	130,541	128,204	126,164
Reserves		427,126	427.126	427,126	427,126	427,120
Total Equity		557,733	560,652	557,667	555,330	553,29

Statement in Changes in Equity

	NOTES	Total	Accumulated Surplus	Revaluation Reserve	Other Reserves
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2025 Forecast					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		553,126	126,000	426,669	457
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		4,607	4,607	-	-
Balance at end of the Financial Year		557,733	130,607	426,669	457
2026 Budget					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		557,733	130,607	426,669	457
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		2,919	2,919	-	-
Balance at end of the Financial Year		560,652	133,526	426,669	457
2027					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		560,652	133,526	426,669	457
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(2,985)	(2,985)	-	-
Balance at end of the Financial Year		557,667	130,541	426,669	457
2028					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		557,667	130,541	426,669	457
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(2,337)	(2,337)	-	-
Balance at end of the Financial Year		555,330	128,204	426,669	457
2029					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		555,330	128,204	426,669	457
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(2,040)	(2,040)	-	-
Balance at end of the Financial Year		553,290	126,164	426,669	457

Statement of Cash Flows

	Forecast	Budget		Projections	
Notes	2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000
Notes	Inflows	Inflows	Inflows	Inflows	Inflows
	(Outflows)	(Outflows)	(Outflows)	(Outflows)	(Outflows)
Cash flows from Operating Activities	× ,	· · ·	· · · ·	· · · ·	,
Rates and charges	33,531	35,818	36,784	37,775	38,796
Statutory fees and fines	681	718	739	761	784
User fees	3,038	2,873	2,959	3,048	3,140
Grants - Operating	16,104	16,773	17,246	17,734	18,236
Grants - Capital	8,223	6,369	4,320	4,547	4,547
Contributions - Monetary	38	69	32	69	32
Interest received	200	50	50	50	50
Other receipts	791	1,113	1,133	1,155	1,177
Employee costs	(27,084)	(28,240)	(29,130)	(30,004)	(30,904)
Materials and Services	(21,356)	(21,282)	(22,179)	(22,657)	(22,977)
Short-term, low value and variable lease payments	(65)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)
Other Expenses - ERP Project	(778)	(990)	(327)	(244)	(256)
Other payments	(2,565)	(2,374)	(2,433)	(2,494)	(2,557)
Net cash provided by Operating Activities 4.3.	1 10,758	10,885	9,186	9,731	10,058
Cash flows from Investing Activities					
Payments for Property, Infrastructure & Plant - Budget	(7,116)	· · · ·	(8,162)	(8,284)	(8,474)
Payments for Property, Infrastructure & Plant - C/F	(8,721)	(8,000)	-	-	
Proceeds from sale of Plant & Equipment	1	617	633	490	611
Net cash used in Investing Activities4.3.	2 (15,835)	(14,628)	(7,529)	(7,794)	(7,863)
Cash flows from Financing Activities					
Finance Costs	(14)	(363)	(345)	(327)	(309)
Proceeds from Borrowings	4,000	3,000	-	-	
Repayment of Borrowings	(285)	(314)	(331)	(349)	(368)
Interest paid - Lease Liability	(24)	(27)	(30)	(22)	(16)
Repayment of Lease Liabilities	(258)	(221)	(183)	(59)	(65)
Net cash provided by/(used in) Financing 4.3.	3 3,419	2,074	(889)	(758)	(758)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash & cash					
equivalents	(1,657)	(1,669)	767	1,179	1,437
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	6,503	4,846	3,177	3,944	5,123
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the Financial Year	4,846	3,177	3,944	5,123	6,560

Statement of Capital Works

	5/26 000 <u>4,822</u> <u>4,822</u> <u>4,822</u> <u>15</u>	2026/27 \$'000 375 375 375	2027/28 \$'000 375 375 375	2028/29 \$'000 375 375
NOTES\$'000\$'0Property Buildings Building Improvements682Total Buildings682Total Property682	4,822 4,822 4,822	\$'000 375 375	\$'000 <u>375</u> 375	\$'000 375 375
Property Buildings Building Improvements 682 Total Buildings 682 Total Property 682	4,822 4,822 4,822	375 375	375 375	375 375
Buildings 682 Total Buildings 682 Total Property 682	4,822 4,822	375	375	375
Building Improvements 682 Total Buildings 682 Total Property 682	4,822 4,822	375	375	375
Total Buildings 682 Total Property 682	4,822			
Total Property 682		375	375	075
Plant and Equipment	15			375
Plant and Equipment	15			
	15			
Cultural Collection 27		10	10	10
Plant, Machinery and Equipment 1,134	2,242	1,640	1,535	1,725
Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture 10	10	10	10	10
Library Books 95	95	95	95	95
Other Plant and Equipment -	-	-	-	-
Total Plant and Equipment 1,267	2,362	1,755	1,650	1,840
Infrastructure				
Roads 6,941	4,330	4,947	5,152	5,152
Roads - LRCI 1,311	-	-	-	-
Bridges 200	150	171	178	178
Footpaths and Cycleways 135	110	126	131	131
Drainage 2,461	150	171	178	178
Recreational, Leisure and Community 228	1,450	200	200	200
facilities				
Waste Management 110	20	20	20	20
Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes 629	40	240	240	240
Aerodromes 124	50	50	50	50
Off Street Car Parks -	50	57	59	59
Other Infrastructure - LRCI 1,233	1,711	-	-	-
Other Infrastructure 516	-	50	50	50
Total Infrastructure 13,888	8,061	6,032	6,259	6,259
Total Capital Works Expenditure4.4.115,836	15,245	8,162	8,284	8,474
Represented by:				
New asset expenditure 1,588	327	_	-	-
Asset renewal expenditure 11,208	12,529	8,162	8,284	8,474
Asset upgrade expenditure 3,040	2,389	0,102	0,204	0,+7+
	15,245	8,162	8,284	8,474
		0,102	0,204	0,414
Funding sources represented by:				
Grants 6,512	5,474	4,320	4,547	4,547
Borrowings -	-	-	-	-
Council cash 5,324	6,771	3,842	3,737	3,927
Total Capital Works Expenditure 4.4.1 15,836	15,245	8,162	8,284	8,474

Statement of Human Resources

For the four years ending 30 June 2029

		Forecast	Budget	1	Projections	
		2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Staff Expenditure						
Total Staff Expenditure		27,434	28,574	29,406	30,222	31,129
Staff Expenditure - Capital		(350)	(206)	(212)	(219)	(225)
Staff Expenditure - ERP		-	(128)	(64)	-	-
Total Staff Expenditure - Operating	4.1.7	27,084	28,240	29,130	30,004	30,904
		FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
Staff Numbers						
Employees - Operating		263.8	267.6	267.6	267.6	267.6
Employees - Capital		8.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Employees - ERP Project		-	0.9	0.5	-	-
Total Staff Numbers		271.8	271.5	271.1	270.6	270.6

A summary of human resources expenditure categorised according to the organisational structure of Council is included below:

	Comprises					
	Budget	Perm	anent			
Department	2025/26	Full Time	Part time	Casual	Temporary	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating - Chief Executive Office	1,567	1,032	480	-	55	
Operating - Glenelg Futures	1,734	1,262	377	-	94	
Operating - Corporate Services	5,643	3,917	1,539	100	87	
Operating - Community Services	8,754	4,878	3,421	309	147	
Operating - Infrastructure Services	10,542	7,966	2,331	246	-	
Capital Projects	206	206	-	-	-	
ERP Project	128	-	-	-	128	
Total Staff Expenditure	28,574	19,260	8,149	655	511	
Staff Expenditure - Capital	(206)	(206)	-	-	-	
Staff Expenditure - ERP Project	(128)	-	-	-	(128)	
Total Staff Expenditure - Operating 4.1.7	28,240	19,054	8,149	655	383	

Staff Expenditure - Capital & ERP Staff expenditure is removed from Staff Expenditure to reconcile with the 4.1.7 in the CIS.

A summary of the number of full time equivalent (FTE) Council staff in relation to the above expenditure is included below:

		Comprises			
Department	Budget	Perm	anent	Coovel	Tomoroway
	2025/26	Full Time	Part time	Casual	Temporary
Chief Executive Office	12.1	7.0	4.6	-	0.5
Glenelg Futures	14.6	10.0	3.6	-	1.0
Corporate Services	49.4	30.7	16.6	1.0	1.0
Community Services	87.6	45.0	38.0	3.2	1.4
Infrastructure Services	103.9	78.0	23.4	2.5	-
Capital Projects	3.0	3.0	-	-	-
ERP Project	0.9	-	-	-	0.9
Total Staff Numbers	271.5	173.7	86.2	6.7	4.8
Staff Expenditure - Capital	(3.0)	(3.0)	-	-	-
Staff Expenditure - ERP Project	(0.9)	-	-	-	(0.9)
Total Staff Numbers - Operating	267.6	170.7	86.2	6.7	3.9

Summary of Planned Human Resources Expenditure

	2025/26 \$'000	2026/27 \$'000	2027/28 \$'000	2028/29 \$'000
Chief Executive Office				
Permanent - Full time	1,032	1,064	1.096	1,129
Women	1,032	1,064	1,096	1,129
Permanent - Part time	480	495	510	525
Women	480	495	510	525
Total Chief Executive Office	1,512	1,559	1,606	1,654
Glenelg Futures				
Permanent - Full time	1,262	1,302	1,341	1,381
Women	576	594	612	630
Men	686	708	729	751
Permanent - Part time	377	389	401	413
Women	284	293	301	310
Men	94	97	100	103
Total Glenelg Futures	1,640	1,691	1,742	1,794
Corporate Services				
Permanent - Full time	3,917	4,040	4,161	4,286
Women	2,380	2,455	2,528	2,604
Men	1,537	1,586	1,633	1,682
Permanent - Part time	1,539	1,588	1,636	1,685
Women	1,292	1,333	1,373	1,414
Men	247	255	263	270
Total Corporate Services	5,456	5,628	5,797	5,971
Community Services				
Permanent - Full time	4,878	5,031	5,182	5,338
Women	3,674	3,789	3,903	4,020
Men	1,204	1,242	1,279	1,317
Permanent - Part time	3,421	3,529	3,635	3,744
Women	3,421	3,529	3,635	3,744
Total Community Services	8,299	8,560	8,817	9,081
Infrastructure Services				
Permanent - Full time	7,966	8,216	8,463	8,717
Women	851	878	904	931
Men	7,114	7,338	7,559	7,785
Permanent - Part time	2,331	2,404	2,476	2,551
Women	839	866	892	918
Men	1,492	1,539	1,585	1,632
Total Infrastructure Services	10,296	10,621	10,939	11,267
Capital Projects				
Permanent - Full time	206	212	219	225
Men	206	212	219	225
Total Capital Projects	206	212	219	225
Total Permanent Staff Expenditure	27,409	28,272	29,120	29,994
Casuals, Temporary and Other Expenditure	1,166	1,135	1,103	1,136
Staff Expenditure - Capital	-206	-212	-219	-225
Staff Expenditure - ERP Project	-128	-64	0	0
Total Staff Expenditure - Operating	28,240	29,130	30,004	30,904
· · · · ·	•	•	•	•

	2025/26 FTE	2026/27 FTE	2027/28 FTE	2028/29 FTE
Chief Executive Office Permanent - Full time	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
	7.0	7.0 7.0	7.0 7.0	7.0 7.0
Women Permanent - Part time	4.6	7.0 4.6	4.6	4.6
Women	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
Total Permanent Staff - Chief Executive Office	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.6
Glenelg Futures Permanent - Full time	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Women	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Men	4.0 6.0	4.0 6.0	4.0 6.0	4.0 6.0
Permanent - Part time	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
Women	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
Men	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total Permanent Staff - Glenelg Futures	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6
Corporate Services				
Permanent - Full time	30.7	30.7	30.7	30.7
Women	21.7	21.7	21.7	21.7
Men	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
Permanent - Part time	16.6	16.6	16.6	16.6
Women	13.7	13.7	13.7	13.7
Men	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Total Permanent Staff - Corporate Services	47.3	47.3	47.3	47.3
Community Convisoo				
Community Services Permanent - Full time	45.0	45.0	45.0	45.0
Women	35.0	45.0 35.0	35.0	35.0
Men	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Permanent - Part time	38.0	38.0	38.0	38.0
Women	38.0	38.0	38.0	38.0
Total Permanent Staff - Community Services	83.0	83.0	83.0	83.0
Infrastructure Services				
Permanent - Full time	78.0	78.0	78.0	78.0
Women	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Men	70.0	70.0	70.0	70.0
Permanent - Part time	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.4
Women	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Men Total Permanent Staff - Infrastructure Services	15.4 101.4	15.4 101.4	15.4 101.4	15.4 101.4
Capital Projects			2.0	
Permanent - Full time	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Men Total Permanent Staff - Capital Projects	3.0 3.0	3.0 3.0	3.0 3.0	<u>3.0</u> 3.0
	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Total Staff Numbers - Permanent	259.9	259.9	259.9	259.9
Casuals, Temporary and Other Expenditure	11.5	11.1	10.6	10.6
Staff Expenditure - Capital	-3.0	-3.0	-3.0	-3.0
Staff Expenditure - ERP Project	-0.9	-0.5	0.0	0.0
Total Staff Numbers - Operational	267.6	267.6	267.6	267.6

4. Notes to the Financial Statements

This section presents detailed information on material components of the financial statements. Council needs to assess which components are material, considering the dollar amounts and nature of these components.

4.1 Comprehensive Income Statement

4.1.1 Rates and Charges

Rates and charges are required by the Act and the Regulations to be disclosed in Council's budget.

As per the Local Government Act 2020, Council is required to have a Revenue and Rating Plan which is a four year plan for how Council will generate income to deliver the Council Plan, program and services and capital works commitments over a four-year period.

In developing the Budget, rates and charges were identified as an important source of revenue. Planning for future rate increases has therefore been an important component of the financial planning process. The Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) sets out the maximum amount councils may increase rates in a year. For 2025/26 the FGRS cap has been set at 3.00%. The cap applies to both general rates and municipal charges and is calculated on the basis of council's average rates and charges. Glenelg Shire Council does not have a municipal charge.

The level of required rates and charges has been considered in this context, with reference to Council's other sources of income and the planned expenditure on services and works to be undertaken for the community.

To achieve these objectives while maintaining service levels and a strong capital expenditure program, the average general rate and the municipal charge will increase by 3.00% in line with the rate cap.

The proposed annual charge for Kerbside Collection for 2025/26 is budgeted to increase income by \$1.6M to \$4.3M. Included in Kerbside Collection revenue is FOGO with services set to commence from April 2026. The Capital cost for the FOGO bins and service costs for a quarter have been included in the costings.

This will raise total rates and charges for 2025/26 to \$35.8M.

4.1.1(a) The reconciliation of the total Rates and Charges to the Comprehensive Income Statement is as follows:

	2024/25 Forecast \$'000	2025/26 Budget \$'000	Change \$'000	%
General rates*	25,881	26,656	776	3.0%
Rates and Charges - Cultural and Recreational Lands Act	29	30	1	4.6%
Special Rates and Charges - Rating Agreements	4,723	4,723	-	0.0%
Supplementary Rates and Rate adjustments	150	40	(110)	-73.3%
Waste Management Charge - Kerbside Collection	2,748	4,368	1,620	58.9%
Interest on Rates and Charges	-	-	-	0.0%
Total Rates and Charges	33,531	35,818	2,287	6.8%

*These items are subject to the rate cap established under the FGRS

4.1.1(b) The rate in the dollar to be levied as general rates under section 158 of the 1989 Local Government Act for each type or class of land compared with the previous financial year:

Type or class of land	2024/25 cents/\$CIV	2025/26 cents/\$CIV	Change
General rate for rateable General Land	0.003434	0.003710	8.04%
General rate for rateable Commercial Land	0.003434	0.003710	8.04%
General rate for rateable Primary Production Land (70% differential)	0.002404	0.002597	8.03%
General rate for Cultural and Recreational Land	0.001717	0.001855	8.04%

4.1.1(c) The estimated total amount to be raised by general rates in relation to each type or class of land, and the estimated total amount to be raised by general rates, compared with the previous financial year:

Type or close of land	2024/25	2025/26	Chang	ge
Type or class of land	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
General Land	13,946	14,847	901	6.46%
Commercial Land	1,722	1,907	186	10.78%
Primary Production Land	10,213	9,903	(311)	-3.04%
Total amount to be raised by General Rates	25,881	26,656	776	3.00%

4.1.1(d) The number of assessments in relation to each type or class of land, and the total number of assessments, compared with the previous financial year:

Type or class of land	2024/25	2025/26	Chang	ge
Type of class of land	Number	Number	Number	%
General Land	10,204	10,269	65	0.64%
Commercial Land	1,011	997	(14)	-1.38%
Primary Production Land	2,757	2,754	(3)	-0.11%
Cultural and Recreational Land	30	30	-	0.00%
Rating Agreements	6	6	-	0.00%
Total number of Rates Assessments	14,008	14,056	48	0.34%

4.1.1(e) The basis of valuation to be used is the Capital Improved Value (CIV)

4.1.1(f) The estimated total value of each type or class of land, and the estimated total value of land, compared with the previous financial year:

Turne or close of land	2024/25	2025/26	Chan	ge
Type or class of land	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
General Land	4,061,062	4,001,771	(59,291)	-1.46%
Commercial Land	501,321	514,046	12,725	2.54%
Primary Production Land	4,248,477	3,813,093	(435,384)	-10.25%
Cultural and Recreational Land	16,623	16,100	(523)	-3.15%
Rating Agreements	491,248	459,488	(31,760)	-6.47%
Total Value of Land	9,318,731	8,804,498	(514,233)	-5.52%

4.1.1(g) The municipal charge under Section 159 of the 1989 Local Government Act compared with the previous financial year:

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property 2024/25	Per Rateable Property 2025/26	Cha	nge
	\$	\$	\$	%
Municipal		-	-	0.00%

* Council does not charge any Municipal charges

4.1.1(h) The estimated total amount to be raised by municipal charges compared with the previous financial year:

Turne of Charge	2024/25	2025/26	Chan	ge
Type of Charge	\$	\$	\$	%
Municipal	-	-	-	0.00%

* Council does not charge any Municipal charges

4.1.1(i) The rate or unit amount to be levied for each type of service rate or charge under Section 162 of the Act compared with the previous financial year and detailed disclosure of the actual service/s rendered for the amount levied:

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property 2024/25 ¢	Per Rateable Property 2025/26 ∉	Chan	ge %
		.	$\overline{\Phi}$	70
Waste Management Charge - Kerbside Collection	316	498	182	57.59%
Total	316	498	182	57.59%

Type of Charge	2025/26 \$
Waste Management Charge - General Waste	302
Waste Management Charge - Recycling	112
Waste Management Charge - FOGO	84
Total	498

4.1.1(j) The estimated total amount to be raised by each type of service rate or charge, and the estimated total amount to be raised by service rates and charges, compared with the previous financial year:

Ture of Charge	2024/25	2025/26	Chan	ge
Type of Charge	\$	\$	\$	%
Waste Management Charge - Kerbside Collection	2,748	4,368	1,620	58.94%
Total	2,748	4,368	1,620	58.94%
Type of Charge				2025/26
				\$'000

	φ 000
Waste Management Charge - General Waste	2,648
Waste Management Charge - Recycling	985
Waste Management Charge - FOGO	735
Total	4,368

4.1.1(k) The estimated total amount to be raised by all rates and charges compared with the previous financial year:

	2024/25	2025/26	Chan	ge
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
General rates	25,881	26,656	776	3.00%
Rates and Charges - Cultural and Recreational Lands Act	29	30	1	4.64%
Special Rates and Charges - Rating Agreements	4,723	4,723	-	0.00%
Supplementary Rates and Rate adjustments	150	40	(110)	-73.33%
Waste Management Charge - Kerbside Collection	2,748	4,368	1,620	58.94%
Interest on Rates and Charges	-	-	-	0.00%
Total Rates and Charges	33,531	35,818	2,287	

4.1.1(l) Fair Go Rates System Compliance

Glenelg Shire Council is required to comply with the State Government's Fair Go Rates System (FGRS). The table below details the budget assumptions consistent with the requirements of the Fair Go Rates System.

	2	024/25	2	025/26	Cł	nange
Total General Rates (excludes rate agreements)	\$	25,751	\$	26,656	\$	905
Number of rateable properties		13,972		14,020		48
Base Average Rate	\$	1,794.08	\$	1,845.97	\$	52
Maximum Rate Increase (set by the State Government)		2.75%		3.00%		3.00%
Capped Average Rate	\$	1,843.35	\$	1,901.30	\$	58
Maximum General Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	\$	25,751	\$	26,656	\$	905
Budgeted General Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	\$	25,751	\$	26,656	\$	905
Budgeted Supplementary Rates	\$	150	\$	40	\$	(110)
Budgeted Total Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	\$	30,631	\$	31,449	\$	818

4.1.1(m) Any significant changes that may affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges

There are no known significant changes which may affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges. However, the total amount to be raised by rates and charges may be affected by:

- The making of supplementary valuations (estimated at \$40k for 2025/26 and \$150k for 2024/25)
- The variation of returned levels of value (e.g. valuation appeals)
- Changes of use of land such that rateable land becomes non-rateable land and vice versa
- Changes of use of land such that residential land becomes business land and vice versa

4.1.1(n) Differential rates

Differential Rates Schedule	
General Land	100%
Commercial Land	100%
Primary Production Land	70%
Cultural and recreational land	50%

For 2025/26, General Rates will be calculated by applying a Differential Rate to the CIV.

Under Section 161 (2) of the Local Government Act 1989, by declaring a differential rate Council must specify the objectives of the differential rate by including a definition, identification of the types of classes and specific characteristics of the land.

Definitions and Specific Characteristics of Land for Rating

Council has the following rate categories within its rating structure for 2025/26:

General

Definition:

General land is any rateable land which does not have the characteristics of Primary Producer land and Commercial/ Industrial Rate Land.

Objectives:

To ensure that Council has adequate funding to undertake its strategic, statutory, service provision and community services obligations and to ensure that any differential rate in the dollar declared for defined general rate land properties is fair and equitable, having regard to the cost and the level of benefits derived from provision of Council services.

Types and Classes:

Commercial/Industrial having the relevant characteristics described below:

- used primarily for residential purposes; or
- any land that is not defined as Primary Production or Commercial/Industrial Land.

Level of Rate:

100% of General Rate.

Geographic Location:

Wherever located within the municipal district.

Commercial/Industrial

Definition:

Commercial/Industrial Land is any land, which is used primarily for carrying out the manufacture or production of, or trade in goods or services.

Objectives:

To ensure that Council has adequate funding to undertake its strategic, statutory, service provision and community services obligations and to ensure that the rate in the dollar declared for defined Commercial/Industrial Rate land properties is fair and equitable, having regard to the cost and the level of benefits derived from provision of Council services. The commercial businesses of Glenelg Shire Council benefit from ongoing significant investment by Council in services and infrastructure. Council also notes the tax deductibility of Council rates for commercial properties which is not available to the residential sector, and the income generating capability of commercial based properties. The Commercial differential rate is applied to recognise the economic development objectives for the Glenelg Shire Council as outlined in the Council Plan. These objectives include an ongoing significant investment to create a vibrant economy.

Types and Classes:

Commercial/Industrial having the relevant characteristics described below:

- · used primarily for commercial purposes; or
- any land that is not defined as General Land or Primary Production Land.

Level of Rate:

100% of General Rate.

Geographic Location:

Wherever located within the municipal district.

Primary Production

Definition:

Primary production properties being defined as greater than 40 hectares (with some specified exceptions such as horticulture, viticulture etc.).

Objectives:

To ensure that Council has adequate funding to undertake its strategic, statutory, service provision and community services obligations and to ensure that the rate in the dollar

declared for defined Primary Production land properties is fair and equitable, having regard to the cost and the level of benefits derived from provision of Council services with considerations to maintain agriculture as a major industry in the municipal district and achieve a balance between providing for municipal sustainability and retaining the important agricultural economic base.

Types and Classes:

Primary Production land having the relevant characteristics described below:

- used primarily for primary production purposes; or
- any land that is not defined as General Land or Commercial/Industrial Land.

Level of Rate:

70% of General Rate.

Geographic Location:

Wherever located within the municipal district.

Cultural and Recreation

Land which falls within the definition of the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963 which has the purpose of providing or promoting cultural or sporting recreational or similar facilities for outdoor use.

Specific Rating Agreements

Land that is ratable and where specific rating agreements have been approved by relevant parties.

4.1.2 Statutory Fees and Fines

	Forecast 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Chang	ge
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Other	45	43	(3)	-5.87%
Permit	206	207	1	0.59%
Planning	230	240	10	4.35%
Registrations	200	228	28	14.00%
Total Statutory Fees and Fines	681	718	37	

4.1.3 User Fees

	Forecast 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Chan	ge
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Building Services	256	240	(16)	-6.25%
Children's Services	689	450	(239)	-34.72%
Contracts & Leases	285	327	42	14.74%
Local Port	345	353	8	2.33%
Other	162	181	19	11.64%
Waste	1,300	1,322	22	1.69%
Total User Fees	3,038	2,873	(164)	

4.1.4 Grants

Grants are required by the Act and the Regulations to be disclosed in Council's budget.

	Forecast 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Chang	je
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Grants were received in respect of the following:				
Summary of Grants				
Commonwealth Funded Grants	19,541	19,503	(37)	
State Funded Grants	10,067	7,897	(2,170)	
Total Grants Received	29,608	27,400	(2,207)	-7.46%
(a) Operating Grants				
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Financial Assistance Grants	10,954	11,230	276	
Recurrent - State Government				
Children's Services	950	900	(50)	
Community Wellbeing	85	85	(0)	
Emergency Response	120	120	0	
Environmental Health	13	13	0	
Library	210	210	0	
Local Port	186	186	0	
Maternal Child Health	455	483	28	
Youth Services	53	43	(10)	
Total Recurrent Grants	13,026	13,270	244	1.87%
Non-Recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Children's Services	1,689	2,030	341	
Sport & Recreation	13	-	(13)	
Planning	178	-	(178)	
Collection Conservation	15	-	(15)	
Non-Recurrent - State Government				
Arts & Culture	240	90	(150)	
Children's Services	764	1,024	260	
Community Wellbeing	113	2	(111)	
Emergency Response	30	-	(30)	
Environmental Health	37	-	(37)	
Environmental Sustainability	77	77	0	
Library	87	62	(25)	
Local Port	84	88	4	

Cabaal Craasings	70	04	F	
School Crossings	76	81	5	
Youth Services	52	50	(2)	
Planning	1	-	(1)	
Collection Conservation	85	-	(85)	
Infrastructure	30	-	(30)	
Total Non-Recurrent Grants	3,572	3,503	(69)	-1.93%
Total Operating Grants	16,598	16,773	175	1.05%
(b) Capital Grants				
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Roads to Recovery	3,388	3,638	249	7.36%
Total Recurrent Grants	3,388	3,638	249	7.36%
Non-Recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Local Roads and Infrastructure (LRCI) (25/26 Carry fwd Grant)	3,303	2,606	(697)	
Non-Recurrent - State Government				
Gymnastics Club Upgrade (25/26 Carry fwd Grant)	245	1,000	755	
Local Freight Roads Project	2,697	-	(2,697)	
Portland Foreshore Multipurpose Project (25/26 Carry fwd Grant)	100	3,384	3,284	
Connecting Pathways Project	95	-	(95)	
Portland Foreshore Lighting and Ceremonial Space Project	440	-	(440)	
Trawler Wharf Fuel Facility Project	367	-	(367)	

Portland North Employment Precinct	2,369	-	(2,369)	
Living Local Project	5	-	(5)	
Total Non-Recurrent Grants	9,621	6,989	(2,632)	-27.35%
Total Capital Grants	13,009	10,627	(2,382)	-18.31%
Total Grants	29,608	27,400	(2,207)	-7.46%

4.1.5 Contributions

	Forecast 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Chang \$'000	ge %
Manastan.				
Monetary	38	69	31	81.00%
Non-Monetary	40	65	25	62.50%
Total Contributions	78	134	56	

4.1.6 Other income

	Forecast 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Chai	nge
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Interest Income	250	50	(200)	-80.00%
Other Income	1	6	6	1000.00%
Reimbursement Income	348	311	(37)	-10.64%
Sales & Commissions	392	796	404	102.91%
Total Other Income	991	1,163	172	

4.1.7 Employee Costs

	Forecast 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Chan	ge
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Wages and salaries	21,929	22,341	412	1.88%
WorkCover	602	600	(2)	-0.40%
Superannuation	2,400	2,713	313	13.06%
Fringe Benefits Tax	150	168	18	12.20%
Other Employee Costs	2,353	2,624	271	11.51%
Salary Expenses Capitalised	(350)	(206)	144	-41.18%
Total Employee Costs	27,084	28,240	1,156	4.27%

4.1.8 Materials and Services

	Forecast 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Chan	ge	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%	
Contract Payments	11,206	12,346	1,141	10.18%	
Material Expenditure	874	1,827	953	108.94%	
Utilities	1,395	1,333	(62)	-4.44%	
Office Administration	70	52	(18)	-25.25%	
Information Technology	1,396	1,134	(262)	-18.76%	
Insurance	994	919	(76)	-7.60%	
Fuel & Oil	1,034	1,444	410	39.69%	
Legal and Consulting Expenditure	1,626	862	(764)	-46.97%	
Maintenance	800	800	0	0.00%	
Total Materials and Services	19,394	20,717	1,323	6.82%	

4.1.9 Depreciation

	Forecast 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Chanç	je
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Property	2,541	2,528	(13)	-0.49%
Plant & Equipment	956	950	(7)	-0.69%
Infrastructure	9,692	9,692	0	0.00%
Total Depreciation	13,189	13,170	(19)	-0.15%

4.1.10 Depreciation – Right-of-Use Assets

	Forecast	Budget	Chan	ge
	2024/25	2025/26		
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Right-of-Use Assets	273	226	(47)	-17.07%
Total Depreciation - Right-of-Use Assets	273	226	(47)	-17.07%

4.1.11 Other Expenses

	Forecast 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Chan	ge
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%
Audit Fee Expenditure	109	103	(6)	-5.27%
Councillor Allowances	307	346	39	12.62%
Seminar and Training Fees	338	331	(7)	-2.18%
Memberships	331	255	(76)	-23.01%
Communication Expenditure	285	232	(53)	-18.49%
Advertising	109	103	(6)	-5.27%
Travel and Accomodation	102	73	(29)	-28.46%
Statutory Expenditure	83	88	5	6.02%
Bank Fees	47	51	4	9.57%
Contributions and Donations	448	421	(27)	-6.04%
Registrations & Licences	92	48	(44)	-48.03%
Other Expenditure	314	323	9	2.86%
Total Other Expenses	2,565	2,374	(191)	-7.43%

4.2 Balance Sheet

4.2.1 Assets

Current Assets are budgeted to increase in line with improved cash flow projections. Non Current Assets are expected to decline in value due to changes in depreciation policy following revaluations required under Accounting Standards in 2024/25.

4.2.2 Liabilities

Short term borrowings and unspent grant funds in 2024/25 affect the change in current liabilities to budget 2025/26. Total liabilities are expected to remain constant in future projections following Council's expected long-term financing arrangement and expected major project delivery in 2025/26.

4.2.3 Borrowings

The table below shows information on borrowings specifically required by the Regulations.

Council is now expecting to drawdown \$4M in Loan funding in 2024/25 with the remainder of the \$7M facility expected to be drawn down in 2025/26 (\$3M).

	Forecast	Budget	Р	rojections	
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Amount borrowed as at 30 June of the prior year	282	4,000	6,686	6,354	6,005
Amount proposed to be borrowed	4,000	3,000			-
Amount projected to be redeemed	(285)	(314)	(331)	(349)	(368)
Amount of borrowings as at 30 June	3,997	6,686	6,354	6,005	5,637
Current Borrowings	4,000	331	349	368	388
Non-Current Borrowings	-	6,354	6,005	5,637	5,248
Total Borrowings	4,000	6,686	6,354	6,005	5,637

4.2.4 Leases by category

As a result of the introduction of AASB 16 Leases, right-of-use assets and lease liabilities have been recognised as outlined in the table below:

	Forecast 2024/25 \$	Budget 2025/26 \$
Right-of-Use Assets	÷	
Plant and Equipment	321	422
Total Right-of-Use Assets	321	422
Lease Liabilities		
Current Lease Liabilities		
Plant and Equipment	197	183
Total Current Lease Liabilities	197	183
Non-Current Lease Liabilities		
Plant and Equipment	132	251
Total Non-Current Lease Liabilities	132	251
Total Lease Liabilities	329	434

4.3 Statement of Cash Flows

4.3.1 Net cash flows provided by/used in operating activities

Council is anticipating a decline in Children's Services income in 2025/26. Projected User Fees in future years are expected to improve Council's operating cash flows.

Cash inflow from Sales & Commissions will increase across the reporting period following the commission of a retail fuel facility at the Local Port of Portland Bay Trawler Wharf.

4.3.2 Net cash flows provided by/used in investing activities

Council expects to carry over \$8M of incomplete Capital Works projects to 2025/26.

In line with projected funding expectations, Council has increased Capital Works Programs (predominantly roads expenditure) in future years.

4.3.3 Net cash flows provided by/used in financing activities

Council has budgeted for a drawdown of loan funding in 2024/25 of \$4M and a further \$3M in 2025/26 to allow for the completion of Major Capital Works projects.

4.4 Capital works program

This section presents a listing of the capital works projects that will be undertaken for the 2025/26 year, classified by expenditure type and funding source. Works are also disclosed as current budget or carried forward from prior year.

4.4.1 Summary

	Forecast 2024/25 \$'000	Budget 2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'000	%
Property	682	4,822	4,140	607.13%
Plant and equipment	1,267	2,362	1,095	86.48%
Infrastructure	13,888	8,061	(5,827)	-41.96%
Total	15,836	15,245	(591)	-3.73%

			Asset expend	liture types			Summary	of Funding Source	S
	Project Cost	New	Renewal	Upgrade	Expansion	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Property	4,822	-	4,822	-	-			- 1,822	3,000
Plant and equipment	2,362	5	2,357	-	-			- 2,362	-
Infrastructure	8,061	322	5,350	2,389	-	5,474		- 2,587	<u> </u>
Total	15,245	327	12,529	2,389	-	5,474		- 6,771	3,000

4.4.2 Current Budget

			Asset expend	diture types			Summary	of Funding Sources	;
Capital Works Area	Project Cost	New	Renewal	Upgrade	Expansion	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
PROPERTY									
Building Improvements									
Building Renewals	320		- 320				-	- 320	
Saleyards Renewals	20		- 20				-	- 20	
Disability Access Program - Various Projects (DDA Compliance)	25		- 25				-	- 25	
TOTAL PROPERTY	365		- 365				-	- 365	
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT									
Plant, Machinery and Equipment									
Heavy Plant Renewal	715		- 715				-	- 715	
Light Fleet Renewal	680		- 680				-	- 680	
Minor Plant Renewal	20		- 20				-	- 20	
Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture									
Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture Renewals	10		- 10				-	- 10	
Cultural Collection									
Cultural Collection Renewals	10		- 10				-	- 10	
Library books									
Library Book Renewals	95		- 95				-	- 95	
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	1,530		- 1,530				-	- 1,530	

			Asset expend	liture types			Summary	of Funding Sources	;
Capital Works Area	Project Cost	New	Renewal	Upgrade	Expansion	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	Borrowings \$'000
INFRASTRUCTURE									
Roads									
Road Re-sheeting Program	800	-	800			800			
Sealed Road Resurfacing Program	1,000	-	1,000			1,000			
Sealed Road Rehabilitation Program	1,700	-	1,700			1,700			
Local Area Traffic Facilities Program	110	-	110			110	-		
Urban Kerb & Channel Program	300	-	300			28		- 272	
Rural Drainage Program	50	-	50			-	-	- 50	
Major Roads Patching Program	370	-	370			-		- 370	
Bridges									
Bridge renewal	150	-	150			-		- 150	
Footpaths and Cycleways									
Footpath Renewals	110	-	110			-		- 110	
Drainage									
Urban Drainage Renewals	150	-	150			-		- 150	
Off Street Car Parks									
Off Street Car Park Renewal Program	50	-	50			-		- 50	
Recreational, Leisure & Community Facilities									
Recreational, Leisure and Community Facilities renewal	200	-	200			-		- 200	
Heywood Pool Amenities/Reception Renewal	250		250					250	
Waste Management									
Waste Management Renewal Program	20	-	20			-		- 20	
Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes									
Street Tree Renewal Program	30	-	30			-		- 30	
Street Lightning Renewal Program	10	-	10			-		- 10	
Aerodromes									
Aerodrome Renewal Program	50	-	50			-		- 50	
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	5,350	-	5,350			3,638		- 1,712	
TOTAL NEW CAPITAL WORKS	7,245		7,245			3,638		- 3,607	

4.4.3 Works carried forward from the 2024/25 year

	Destant O		Asset expen	diture types			Summary	of Funding Sources	
Capital Works Area	Project Cost	New	Renewal	Upgrade	Expansion	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
PROPERTY									
Building Improvements									
Portland Foreshore Multi-Purpose Building	4,366	-	4,366	-			-	- 1,366	3,00
Civic Hall Fire Panel	91	-	91	-			-	- 91	
TOTAL PROPERTY	4,457	-	4,457				-	- 1,457	3,00
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT									
Plant, Machinery and Equipment									
Heavy Plant	827	-	827				-	- 827	
Cultural Collection									
Cultural Collection Renewals	5	5	-				-	- 5	
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	832	5	827				-	- 832	
			Asset expen	diture types					
Capital Works Area	Project Cost	New	Renewal	Upgrade	Expansion	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
INFRASTRUCTURE									
Recreational, Leisure & Community Facilities									
Gymnastics Building Project, Yarraman Park	1,000	-	-	1,000) -	12	25	- 875	
Other Infrastructure - LRCI									
Henty St Toilet Upgrade (LRCI Program Phase 3)	282	-	-	282	- 2	28	32		
Henty St Toilet Upgrade (LRCI Program Phase 4)	550			550)	55	50		
Casterton Little Athletics Club Upgrade (LRCI Program Phase 4)	357	-	-	357	, -	35	57		
Bridgewater Amenities Upgrade (LRCI Program Phase 4)	200	-	-	200) -	20	0		
Casterton Water Tower & Railway Precinct Pathway Activation (LRCI Program Phase 4)	322	322	-	-		32	2		
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	2,711	322	-	2,389) -	1,83	6	- 875	
TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD CAPITAL WORKS 2024/25	8,000	327	5,284	2,389) -	1,83	6	- 3,164	3,00
TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM	15,245	327	12,530	2,389) _	5,47	4	- 6,771	3,00

Summary of Planned Capital Works Expenditure

For the four years ending 30 June 2027, 2028 & 2029

2026/27 Property Building Renewals Saleyards Renewals Disability Access Program - Various Projects (DDA) Total Buildings Total Property Plant and Equipment Heavy Plant Renewal	Total \$'000 320 30 25 375	New \$'000 0 0	Renewal \$'000 320	Expansion \$'000	Upgrade \$'000	Total \$'000	Grants Cor \$'000	ntributions \$'000	Council Cash \$'000	Borrowings \$'000
Building Renewals Saleyards Renewals Disability Access Program - Various Projects (DDA) Total Buildings Total Property Plant and Equipment	320 30 25	0	320		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Building Renewals Saleyards Renewals Disability Access Program - Various Projects (DDA) Total Buildings Total Property Plant and Equipment	30 25	0		0	1					
Saleyards Renewals Disability Access Program - Various Projects (DDA) Total Buildings Total Property Plant and Equipment	30 25	0		0						
Disability Access Program - Various Projects (DDA) Total Buildings Total Property Plant and Equipment	25			0	0	320	0	0	320	(
Total Buildings Total Property Plant and Equipment			30	0	0	30	0	0	30	(
Total Buildings Total Property Plant and Equipment	375	0	25	0	0	25	0	0	25	(
Plant and Equipment		0	375	0	0	375	0	0	375	
	375	0	375	0	0	375	0	0	375	
•••										
	810	0	810	0	0	810	0	0	810	
Light Fleet Renewal	810	0	810	0	õ	810	0	0	810	(
Minor Plant Renewal	20	0	20	0	õ	20	0	0	20	(
Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture Renewals	10	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	
Cultural Collection Renewals	10	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	
Library Book Renewals	95	0	95	0	0	95	0	0	95	(
Total Plant and Equipment	1,755	0	1,755	0	0	1,755	0	0	1,755	
Infrastructure										
Road Re-sheeting Program	914	0	914	0	0	914	914	0	0	(
Sealed Road Resurfacing Program	1,142	0	1,142	0	0	1,142	1,142	0	0	
Sealed Road Rehabilitation Program	1,942	0	1,942	0	0	1,942	1,942	0	0	
Local Area Traffic Facilities Program	126	0	126	0	0	126	126	0	0	
Urban Kerb & Channel Program	343	0	343	0	0	343	196	0	147	
Rural Drainage Program	57	0	57	0	0	57	0	0	57	
Major Roads Patching Program	423	0	423	0	0	423	0	0	423	
Off Street Car Park Renewal Program	57	0	57	0	0	57	0	0	57	
Bridge renewal	171	0	171	0	0	171	0	0	171	
Footpath Renewals	126	0	126	0	0	126	0	0	126	
Jrban Drainage Renewals	171	0	171	0	0	171	0	0	171	
Recreational, Leisure and Community Facilities renewal	200	0	200	0	0	200	0	0	200	
Waste Management Renewal Program	20	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	20	
Street Furniture Renewals	20	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	20	
Street Tree Renewal Program	100	0	100	0	0	100	0	0	100	
Street Lightning Renewal Program	20	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	20	
Parks & Gardens renewals	100	0	100	0	0	100	0	0	100	
Aerodrome Renewal Program	50	0	50	0	0	50	0	0	50	
Local Port renewal	50	0	50	0	0	50	0	0	50	
Total Infrastructure	6,032	0	6,032	0	0	6,032	4,320	0	1,712	
Total Capital Works Expenditure	8.162	0	8.162	0	0	8,162	4,320	0	3,842	

		Asset E	xpenditure Types	\$			Fi	unding Sources	;	
2027/28	Total	New	Renewal	Expansion	Upgrade	Total	Grants	Contributions	Council Cash	Borrowings
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Descenter										
Property Building Renewals	320	0	320	0	0	320	0	0	320	0
Saleyards Renewals	30	0	320	0	0	30	0	0	320	0
Disability Access Program - Various Projects (DDA)	25	0	25	0	0	25	0	0	30 25	0
Total Buildings	375	0	375	0	0	375	0	0	375	0
Total Property	375	0	375	0	0	375	0	0	375	0
	375	0	375	U	V	3/3	0	U	375	0
Plant and Equipment										
Heavy Plant Renewal	805	0	805	0	0	805	0	0	805	0
Light Fleet Renewal	710	0	710	0	0	710	0	0	710	0
Minor Plant Renewal	20	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	20	0
Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture Renewals	10	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Cultural Collection Renewals	10	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Library Book Renewals	95	0	95	0	0	95	0	0	95	0
Total Plant and Equipment	1,650	0	1,650	0	0	1,650	0	0	1,650	0
Infrastructure										
Road Re-sheeting Program	952	0	952	0	0	952	952	0	0	0
Sealed Road Resurfacing Program	1,190	0	1,190	0	0	1,190	1,190	0	0	0
Sealed Road Rehabilitation Program	2,023	0	2,023	0	0	2,023	2,023	0	0	0
Local Area Traffic Facilities Program	131	0	131	0	0	131	131	0	0	0
Urban Kerb & Channel Program	357	0	357	0	0	357	252	0	105	0
Rural Drainage Program	59	0	59	0	0	59	0	0	59	0
Major Roads Patching Program	440	0	440	0	0	440	0	0	440	0
Off Street Car Park Renewal Program	59	0	59	0	0	59	0	0	59	0
Bridge renewal	178	0	178	0	0	178	0	0	178	0
Footpath Renewals	131	0	131	0	0	131	0	0	131	0
Urban Drainage Renewals	178	0	178	0	0	178	0	0	178	0
Recreational, Leisure and Community Facilities renewal	200	0	200	0	0	200	0	0	200	0
Waste Management Renewal Program	20	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	20	0
Street Furniture Renewals	20	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	20	0
Street Tree Renewal Program	100	0	100	0	0	100	0	0	100	0
Street Lightning Renewal Program	20	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	20	0
Parks & Gardens renewals	100	0	100	0	0	100	0	0	100	0
Aerodrome Renewal Program	50	0	50	0	0	50	0	0	50	0
Local Port renewal	50	0	50	0	0	50	0	0	50	0
Total Infrastructure	6,259	0	6,259	0	0	6,259	4,547	0	1,712	0
Total Capital Works Expenditure	8,284	0	8,284	0	0	8,284	4,547	0	3,737	0
apital fromo Exponentalo	0,204	v	0,204	v	J	0,204	-,,-,	U	0,101	<u>,</u>

		Asset E	xpenditure Types	5			F	unding Sources		
2028/29	Total	New	Renewal	Expansion	Upgrade	Total	Grants	Contributions	Council Cash	Borrowings
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
- /										
Property										
Building Renewals	320	0	320	0	0	320	0	0	320	0
Saleyards Renewals	30	0	30	0	0	30	0	0	30	0
Disability Access Program - Various Projects (DDA)	25	0	25	0	0	25	0	0	25	0
Total Buildings	375	0	375	0	0	375	0	0	375	0
Total Property	375	0	375	0	0	375	0	0	375	0
Plant and Equipment										
Heavy Plant Renewal	825	0	825	0	0	825	0	0	825	0
Light Fleet Renewal	880	0	880	0	0	880	0	0	880	0
Minor Plant Renewal	20	0	20	ů 0	0	20	0	0	20	0
Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture Renewals	10	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Cultural Collection Renewals	10	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	0
Library Book Renewals	95	0	95	0	0	95	0	0	95	0
Total Plant and Equipment	1,840	0	1,840	0	0	1,840	0	0	1,840	0
Infrastructure										
Road Re-sheeting Program	952	0	952	0	0	952	952	0	0	0
Sealed Road Resurfacing Program	1,190	0	1,190	0	0	1,190	1,190	0	0	0
Sealed Road Rehabilitation Program	2,023	0	2,023	0	0	2,023	2,023	0	0	0
Local Area Traffic Facilities Program	131	0	131	0	0	131	131	0	0	0
Urban Kerb & Channel Program	357	0	357	0	0	357	252	0	105	0
Rural Drainage Program	59	0	59	0	0	59	0	0	59	0
Major Roads Patching Program	440	0	440	0	0	440	0	0	440	0
Off Street Car Park Renewal Program	59	0	59	0	0	59	0	0	59	0
Bridge renewal	178	0	178	0	0	178	0	0	178	0
Footpath Renewals	131	0	131	0	0	131	0	0	131	0
Urban Drainage Renewals	178	0	178	0	0	178	0	0	178	0
Recreational, Leisure and Community Facilities renewal	200	0	200	0	0	200	0	0	200	0
Waste Management Renewal Program	20	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	20	0
Street Furniture Renewals	20	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	20	0
Street Tree Renewal Program	100	0	100	0	0	100	0	0	100	0
Street Lightning Renewal Program	20	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	20	0
Parks & Gardens renewals	100	0	100	0	0	100	0	0	100	0
Aerodrome Renewal Program	50	0	50	0	0	50	0	0	50	0
Local Port renewal	50	0	50	0	0	50	0	0	50	0
Total Infrastructure	6,259	0	6,259	0	0	6,259	4,547	0	1,712	0
Total Capital Works Expenditure	8,474	0	8,474	0	0	8,474	4,547	0	3,927	0

5. Financial Performance Indicators

5a. Targeted performance indicators

The following tables highlight Council's current and projected performance across a selection of targeted service and financial performance indicators. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's intentions and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives.

The targeted performance indicators below are the prescribed performance indicators contained in Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. Results against these indicators and targets will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

Targeted performance indicators – Service

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual	Forecast	Target	Target Projections			Trend
indicator		No	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	+/o/-
Governance									
Consultation and engagement (Council decisions made and implemented with community input)	Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council	1	42	42	45	47	50	52	+
Roads									
Condition (sealed local roads are maintained at the adopted condition standard)	Sealed local roads below the intervention level Number of kms of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kms of sealed local roads	2	95%	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%	o
Statutory planning									
Service standard (planning application processing and decisions are in accordance with legislative requirements)	Planning applications decided within the relevant required time Number of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time / Number of planning application decisions made	3	89%	86%	85%	82%	82%	82%	+
Waste management									
Waste diversion (amount of waste diverted from landfill is maximised)	Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins	4	29%	29%	35%	48%	49%	50%	+

Targeted performance indicators – Financial

Indicator	Measure	tes	Actual	Forecast	Target	Та	rget Projections		Trend	
		Note	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	+/o/-	
Liquidity										
Working Capital (sufficient working capital is available to pay bills as and when they fall due)	Current assets compared to current liabilities Current assets / current liabilities	5	51%	45%	64%	72%	83%	95%	+	
Obligations										
Asset renewal (assets are renewed as planned)	Asset renewal compared to depreciation Asset renewal and upgrade expense / Asset depreciation	6	58%	108%	113%	62%	63%	64%	+	
Stability										
Rates concentration (revenue is generated from a range of sources)	Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue Rate revenue / adjusted underlying revenue	7	57%	49%	51%	50%	50%	51%	o	
Efficiency										
Expenditure level (resources are used efficiently in the delivery of services)	Expenses per property assessment Total expenses / no. of property assessments	8	\$3,815	\$4,520	\$4,671	\$4,750	\$4,833	\$4,922	-	

5b. Financial performance indicators

The following table highlights Council's current and projected performance across a range of key financial performance indicators. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's financial position and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives.

The financial performance indicators below are the prescribed financial performance indicators contained in Part 3 of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. Results against these indicators will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

		s	Actual	Forecast	Budget		Projections		Trend
Indicator	Measure	Notes	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	+/o/-
Operating position									
Adjusted underlying result (an adjusted underlying surplus is generated in the ordinary course of business)	Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue	9	-10%	-9%	-7%	-5%	-4%	-3%	+
Liquidity									
Unrestricted cash (sufficient cash that is free of restrictions is available to pay bills as and when they fall due)	Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities Unrestricted cash / current liabilities	10	29%	25%	29%	36%	47%	60%	o
Obligations									
Loans and borrowings (level of interest bearing loans and borrowings is appropriate to the size and nature of Council's activities)	Loans and borrowings compared to rates Interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue	11	1%	14%	22%	20%	18%	17%	-
Loans and borrowings (level of interest bearing loans and borrowings is appropriate to the size and nature of Council's activities)	Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue		1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	
Indebtedness (level of long term liabilities is appropriate to the size and nature of a Council's activities)	Non-current liabilities compared to own-source revenue Non-current liabilities / own source revenue		16%	15%	29%	27%	24%	21%	
Stability									
Rates effort (rating level is set based on the community's capacity to pay)	Rates compared to property values Rate revenue / CIV of rateable properties in the municipal district	12	0.30%	0.31%	0.35%	0.35%	0.35%	0.35%	o
Efficiency									
Revenue level (resources are used efficiently in the delivery of services)	Average rate per property assessment General rates and municipal charges / no. of property assessments	13	\$1,784	\$1,846	\$1,896	\$1,947	\$2,000	\$2,054	+
Sustainability Capacity									

Key to Forecast Trend:

+ Forecasts improvement in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator

o Forecasts that Council's financial performance/financial position indicator will be steady

- Forecasts deterioration in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator

5c. Additional indicators

The following table presents additional indicators that are not prescribed indicators in the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. These indicators are used by the Department of Treasury and Finance to conduct credit assessments of councils under the Treasury Corporation of Victoria (TCV) loans framework. Subject to these financial covenants being satisfied over the prior three years to the budget year, the budget year, and subsequent three projected financial years, a borrowing limit will be determined under the framework.

Indicator	Measure	tes	Actual	Forecast	Budget	Projections			Trend
		Noi	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	+/o/-
TCV loans framework indicators									
Interest Cover Ratio	EBITDA : interest expenses	14	\$3,381 : \$11	\$1,328 : \$14	\$15,623 : \$363	\$9,547 : \$345	\$10,037: \$327	\$10,295 : \$309	+
Interest bearing liabilities to own source revenue	Interest bearing liabilities / own source revenue	15	2.16%	11.32%	17.55%	15.85%	14.52%	13.15%	

Notes to indicators

5a

1. Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement

Council aims to improve its rating score through education, community engagement and advocacy.

2. Sealed local roads below the intervention level

Council will continue to maintain roads to the adopted standard.

3. Planning applications decided within the relevant required time

Council estimates are based on recent trends there is stable numbers of applications anticipated in the coming years.

4. Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill

Council anticipates volumes will remain consistent in 2024-25. Introduction of Kerbside FOGO in April 2026 with full year operation beginning 2026-27 and ongoing will see +40% diversion.

5. Working Capital

Council's Working Capital rate reduces for Forecast Budget 2024/25 due to the expectation at 30 June will access \$4M of borrowings in June 2024/25 to finance capital works payments. This short term loan will be current as opposed to non-current to take advantage of the receipt of Local Grants funding expected to be received in July 2025. When the remainder of capital works projects are required to be paid, Council

will then lock into a loan agreement which will reduce the current liability amount and improve the working capital ratio. Council also expects to improve this ratio by building cash balances for future sustainability.

6. Asset renewal

Council's Asset renewal ratio has increased favourably due to the reallocation of the Foreshore Multipurpose funding from a 'New' to 'Renewal/Upgrade' due to the funding agreement variation. Other funded projects contributing to the increase in this ratio is the Portland Gymnastics facility upgrade.

7. Rates concentration

Council's Rates concentration is relatively stable from 2024/25. The Rates concentration percentage was higher in prior years due to reduced operational revenue due to the timing of the Local Government Funding.

8. Expenditure level

Expenditure per property increases consistently from 2025/26 per budget increases. Expenditure per property is higher than in 2023/24 due to the favourable Landfill provision adjustment that reduced Total Expenses by \$5M.

5b

9. Adjusted underlying result

Council is working towards a positive adjusted underlying result. Despite the ratio still being negative over the coming budget periods, it is trending in a positive direction.

10. Unrestricted Cash

Unrestricted Cash as a percentage of Current Liabilities is improving over time as the cash position of Council improves.

11. Loans and Borrowings compared to rates

Loans and borrowings as a percentage of rates revenue is expected to increase to 22% in 2025/26 before reducing in the following years as Council progresses through the 15 year borrowing term. Loan repayments and interest climb to 2% of Rates revenue. Indebtedness for Council increases to 30% of own source revenue before reducing as the Non Current loan component decreases.

12. Rates effort

Council's Rate revenue is expected to increase in 2025/26 due to increased waste charges to include the cost of FOGO and work towards full cost recovery for general waste.
5c

13. Interest cover ratio

Council is expected to meet the Treasury Corporation of Victoria (TCV) requirement that the Interest Cover Ratio must not to be less than 2:1 for each financial year.

14. Interest bearing liabilities to own source revenue

Council is expected to meet the TCV requirement that Interest bearing loans, leases and borrowings not exceeding 60 per cent of own source revenue.







Provide Your Feedback Draft 2025-2026 Budget

As at 25 May 2025

ONLINE SURVEY RESPONSES

HANDWRITTEN SURVEY RESPONSES Page 37

EMAILED FEEDBACK

Page 51

Page 3



YOUR SAY GLENELG SURVEY RESPONSES



Disaster Recovery? October 2024 Casterton storm, drought, flood / drainage / storm risk issues. Regions to West & amp; East of us focus much more on Tourism and reap more investment - needs greater investment. Small business is a key to growth. There are no rental properties in Casterton - needa accommodation and housing strategy. We know people in Geelong area with houses worth \$1M that pay less than us in rates. How effective are we?

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation? It was OK

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?



I struggle to see the necessity of identifying how many of each gender are employed in each department in the planned human resources expenditure section. In my opinion, we should employ based on merit, not gender targets, therefore gender based reporting in the proposed budget should be removed. I see that only 155 people responded to the Council Budget Consultation survey. You should really focus on improving the amount of responses you receive. Perhaps some sort of mail out with reply paid envelopes would be a good option? I'm presuming a wide variety of demographics were not represented in the survey participants.

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

It was OK

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?



Do not nèd another bin as we live on acreage and compost and mulch all are green waste.

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft You could have done better Budget Community Consultation?

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?

Sack the council



I am so pleased to see FOGO being included in the budget. This is such a great system for sustainability but also will be valuable to the many older members of our community who find getting green waste to the transfer station difficult. It is heartening to see our Council finally catching up with the rest of Victoria it's about time.

Q2.	Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft	It was OK
	Budget Community Consultation?	

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?



Thé cost to rate payers is prohibited and there should be a option to opt out. I personally couldn't not afford the extra hike in rates. Since I compass my own waste. I would not use the service so I shouldn't have to pay for a service.

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

You could have done better

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?

Option to opt out of the service



I would like the option of not having the green bin as we use our green waste ourselves by composting ALL our Green waste, why would I pay an extra about & amp;180.00 a year for something that we would never use

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft You could have done better Budget Community Consultation?

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?

You are keeping things hidden and don't inform the public of what is changing in time, Provide better options on the Green Bin, opt in or out, we are on a pension and the way things are increasing is getting relay bad, think about affordability please, cut back the payments made to some of the high paid office staff.



Too much of an increase for some fees, 50% is a lot. However, the green bin is a good idea as not everyone has the ability to dispose of green waste. However, it should be an opt - in service for those who want it as there are people in units / apartments with no use for green waste.

Q2.	Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft	It was OK
	Budget Community Consultation?	

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?



If there is no opt out of green waste bins this is an unfair extra charge of the majority of people who now compost their own green waste

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft You could have done better Budget Community Consultation?

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?

Rate payers do not need an extra charge for an uneeded wasteful idea that only suits a minority a quick survey would have told you this in future listen to the people



Not enough consultation or discussuon re the FOGO bin introduction . I do not want or need another bin so wish for an opt out option . We can it afford to pay for an extra bin and even if we did use one we would be unable to get it to the kerb. (Both my husband and I have medical conditions that affect our mobility . Moving heavy bins is a no no)

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft You could have done better Budget Community Consultation?

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?

Asked for community input re the FOMO bins and provided options . Not " one size fits all '



I object to the FOGO proposal in the budget. Living in Nelson we already pay disproportinally high rates and receive minimal services in return. I will not pay for a service I neither need nor am likely to be offered. Such a charge (for a service) has to be legally distinguished from rates and as such, in these circumstances would be unlawful in my opinion. If this goes to Court I will call upon Council to produce this feedback.

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

You could have done better

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?

Communicate!

Entered on behalf of following feedback received via email. "Hi, As a budget all seems fine from our perspective except we cannot see any allocation toward Casterton to Merino rail trail. Given that the main study and report has been done on this a few years ago I thought we would have some progress to support its actioning by now. Would like a response to this omission again! Regards,

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

It was OK

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?



In general the budget seemed good to me. This is the first budget I have properly read, I was surprised by some to the numbers but they seemed OK. I would like to raise my dislike for the FOGO bin proposal. As a waste of time and money. All my garden waste is already disposed of separately and very little comes from the kitchen. I had the FOGO bin in Hamilton and the bin was still unused after 2 years. In regards to community consultation I only stumbled upon the budget in a Facebook post. So that worked I guess

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

It was OK

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?



I am NOT paying for a green bin i will not use! there needs to be an opt in and out option, you can't even maintain the easement next to our house that is a fire hazard and snake hazard and we have to pay for it to be mowed ourselves ! pull your fingers out and give us our rates worth

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation? You could have done better

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?

Stop being sneaky and be more transparent we pay alot in rates ot live in a shit hole with roads we can barely drive on and a town with nothing lol don't even have a cinema in a town that rains 70 percent of the time



We don't want green bins

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft It was OK Budget Community Consultation?

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?



We strongly object in being forced in having to take on board the Green Bin collection, we use all our green waste including branches and other woody materials, green waste is composted. Its time to provide the service that we in rural Vic are paying for, as being on a pension this is another kick in the guts by Council/Government, where will it stop. We can right now III afford a rate increase of about \$180 a year. What a waste of money for us for a bin to just sit here and never be used. I would also say that it be very possible that the rates will up as well, where do we get all our extra money from, listen to people are saying just for once.

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation? You could have done better

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?

Stop hitting rate payers with items they don't want or need, in 15 years of residing at our home we had the Dirt road graded 3 times, (Did a bad job, as my wife's car could not get out of our driveway due to the build up on the side of the road) Slash the side of the road's more as at Xmas time the grass was over a meter high. Stop giving the high end boffins the high pays, they would not know in doing a honest days work, get away form your desk some times and get out and talk to people in the current hardships to get a understanding.



Why do you rural properties in the non complusory waste collection need to subisde the FOGO charges for all other properties. This does not seem fair at all. They should be excluded fir this charge

Q2.	Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft	I thought it was great
	Budget Community Consultation?	

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?



I write to you with a simple request. Can you please have a look at the nature strips on Hurd Street between Mitre 10 and Otway Street. You may notice a distinct difference between this particular stretch of Hurd St and the rest of it, or indeed the entire surrounding area. Surely a small stretch of nature strips and curbing could be upgraded. The residents deserve what the majority of town take for granted. There are several dangerous crossings for mobility scooters on Townsend and Hurd Street, and no footpath on the northern side of Townsend Street. Hurd Street has a footpath that ends basically nowhere. This again means that elderly people are forced to use the aforementioned dodgy crossings. Kind regards



Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation? It was OK

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?



Can you explain why rural roadside waste collection rates have to go up to pay for fogo, when they are not in the complusory pick areas. We shouldnt have to subside this for others.

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft		I thought it was great	
	Budget Community Consultation?		

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?



I believe the proposed introduction of a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) bin in the Glenelg Shire is unnecessary for residents like me. I use the optional Rural Kerbside collection service for the Portland Nelson Road, which offers both a general waste bin and a recycling bin. Many members of our community, including myself, already have effective systems in place for managing our organic waste. We practice composting all organic matter, which not only helps us recycle but also allows us to reuse these materials in our gardens. This self-sufficient approach reduces the reliance on external waste collection services and minimizes the handling and processing of organic waste by municipalities. Furthermore, the cost and logistics of implementing a FOGO bin could be better directed toward services or programs that benefit a broader segment of the community. For rural customers, who often maintain their own composting practices, introducing such a bin seems redundant and unnecessary. In essence, my composting and that of my neighbours effectively address organic waste recycling without adding more complexity or cost to the existing system.

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

It was OK

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?



Concerned that a priority is facility maintenance and I am not seeing anywhere what is needed, alone the netball Facility needs below Resurfacing of 6 existing courts Total \$240,000 (\$40,000 per court) Seating upgrades \$10,000 Team Bench Upgrades \$90,000 New Ambulant and Accessible Toilet in existing building \$50,000 Building upgrades \$20,000 Combined over \$400k just to limp through the next 10 years until a new Purpose built multipurpose venue is secured There are probably lots of stories just like ours across the shire.

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

It was OK

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?



Why isn't the Casterton to Branxholm Rail Trail Included in the budget???? Disappointing.

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft You could have done better Budget Community Consultation?

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?

Included the Casterton to Branxholm Rail trail in the budget.



I have questions relating to ongoing volunteer emergency services support, roadside vegetation management and the oportuity for rates revenue from valuable tourism and permanent residential development land within the shire that continually is ignored. There is a dollar figure on the EM management, and whilst council do support volunteer emergency services (CFA/VICSES etc.) through peppercorn leases etc. which we are all grateful for, the current stance council has taken, as most rural councils have, against the reformed Fire Levy is concerning as there is literally not enough funding from State government to support ongoing costs to units and brigades. Volunteers are becoming fewer with retention and recrtuitment at all-time lows. Support from state, including our own services (most of the staff based in Melbourne) don't understand or appreciate the challenges we face as they are surrounded by a dense population with time on their hands and high salaries that support volunteering. If local councils choose to not support this 'cash-grab' (which is what it is to many farmers) by the state government - which, as a farmer myself I can completely understand - then they need to take back the responsibility of funding the valued volunteer emergency service units and brigades within their LGA, advocating and supporting our 'local' volunteers, as we are not seen by any other community as 'their' local volunteers, nor by our own agencies. This could start with encouragement from council for staff to volunteer as I'm not aware of any council staff who are volunteer members of any emergency services - this shows a clear disconnect from our council as most current volunteer units and brigades consist mainly of retired, aged individuals, self-employed persons, private employees and even pensioners. With council staf numbers in the hundreds, and as a major employer of public 'servants' who many would have time to spare - there should be more representation by our council staff (and councillors) as volunteers serving the community. This point isn't directly connected to the budget review, but relevant as there doesn't seem to be any 'Have Your Say' projects on this subject. Roadside vegetation - bushfires and storms are hindered by the growing amount of weak 'sucker' trees, weeds and dead/dying eucalypts damaged by the over-population of koalas. Early last year there was a section of the Portland-Nelson Rd that was cleared back from the road, providing a safe buffer to see fauna and maintain a distance from the roadside. This needs to be adopted on all locally-managed, and VicRoad managed roadsides. 'Wildlife corridoors' are intended to provide a safe passage for native wildlife to travel, but the current roadside vegetation is overgrown and instead produces a screen that doesn't allow clear vision, instead resulting in thousands of mortalities each year. As a volunteer who is also tasked to remove trees & amp; branches from the rtoadsides, I believe that the conditions of the roadsides in the Glenelg Shire are endangering lives of volunteers and road workers. Costs need to be included in the budget to provide roadside clearing to allow appropriately-distanced wildlife corridors without the bushfire risk and hazard to our road users and emergency service volunteers. Regarding the ever-ignored land along Dutton Way - there was recently an amendment to the planning scheme, reducing subdivision sizes from 4ha to 2ha along Dougherties Rd (Rural Living Land with no reticulated sewerage, and with Farm Zone land between Portland and this location). Dutton Way, Fergusons Rd, Keillers Beach Rd, Huxley Rd and Beach Rd have a sealed-road access, power and reticulated sewerage connectivity as well as being a known historic residential settlement with urban-sized lots scattered along the road edge - yet the zone is still limiting subdivision to 4ha (10 acres). Support of residential development along these roads through more support and advocacy of sand bypassing, more acess to the beach etc. would result in soaring land values as 'coastal/residential development land' Currently there are over 90 lots (from what is mentioned in several reports) along Dutton Way that don't pay rates due to the SUZ and freeze on development. This needs to be lifted! Recent scientific reports of the Antarctic ice growth and glabal temperatures dismiss the sea-level modelling that resulted in this over-reaction by our then government, and the bi-annual sand bypassing by POPL is maintaining the beach profile so that the rockwall is no longer a costly asset, moreso something to beautify and create access points for tourists and the community.

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation? It was OK

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?



I think the draft budget is suitable to implement but I hope no more funds will be wasted on the First Nations Dance Place on the Foreshore, because it has already been a costly project and enough money has been spent in that area. Disappointed with the size of the Dog park it needed to be extended and the lawn tennis unused grounds could have been given consideration. Very pleased to see Heywood Pool getting a upgrade well done.

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft You of Budget Community Consultation?

You could have done better

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?

Sorry I'm repeating myself the Dog Park needs to be extended into the old Lawn Tennis courts. They are rarely used and it's wasted ground. The Big dogs need more room as they often use the Small Dog Park.



Rural properties receiving kerbside collection should not have to to subsidise the FOGO charge for residential properties

Q2.	Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?	It was OK
Q3.	What could we have done to make it better?	



I do not agree worh the FOGO charge. I am in a rural xone, not complusory why do i have to the charge for other properties in town

	Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?	It was OK
Q3.	What could we have done to make it better?	



I would like to know where \$250,000 went, that was allocated for the Casterton to Branxholme rail trail? This trail would be a massive asset to Casterton and to the shire.

Q2.	Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?	It was OK
Q3.	What could we have done to make it better?	



Fogo bin is a waste of money do not requitr

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft You could have done better Budget Community Consultation?

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?

Offer who wants fogo and be clear about actual costs



Council officers need to rethink how they are costing the fogo charges. Commercial properties should have to subsidise the cost of purchasing these bins whwn we will not be using the service

Q2.	Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?	It was OK
Q3.	What could we have done to make it better?	



Can council please explain how the costs of fogo are being distributed across all waste collection areas. Fogo is only for compulsory pick up areas how is it that all waste collections how to pay for this.

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

It was OK

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?



I support the introduction of the Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) kerbside green waste as I can appreciate that there is a legislative requirement to provide them and am aware of the constraints that force the service to be a compulsory one for residential designated areas, but the change to a full cost recovery of the waste service should not be introduced in 2025/26. While it is clear the council does not believe that the change from the FSPL to the ESVF is fair, it is hard to say whether they are empathetic to the financial burden as they fail to see that the full cost recovery for waste services in the same financial year will further this burden. The full cost recovery will see an increase of \$100.43 on each waste service for compulsory and non-compulsory services which include residents that are classed as Primary Production and Commercial on top of the ESVF increase. Additionally, the increase of a standard waste charge of \$316.00 in 2024/25 to include full cost recovery as well as the FOGO to \$498.55 (increase of \$182.55) will be unaffordable for those most vulnerable in our shire including pensioners with this increase being worth nearly two thirds of the rebate they receive. During a time when cost of living is so high and people are struggling to pay their rates bill as they are currently, while council need to be able to cover the cost of expenditure, they also need to ensure they are not actively increasing the number of people in financial hardship and make decisions that they understand the consequences of for the community.

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation? It was OK

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?



Council really needs to rethink its position on how the cost of FOGO is ti be paid. Im in the rural area & amp; dont see why I need to pay the costs of bin recovery for everyone

Q2.	Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?	It was OK
Q3.	What could we have done to make it better?	



Council has not been transparent with the FOGO costings & amp; how this effects commercial properties. I run a business & amp; opt in to use the waste service. Why do i need to pay FOGO charges

Q2. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft You could have done better Budget Community Consultation?

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?

Provided better understanding of costs with FOGO & amp; waste charges.


Q1. Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Budget

Ratepayers need to be informed about FOGO. The cost allocation does not seem fair. Not all properties will have FOGO. So do we have to pay the costs of bins & amp; education. This has not been very transparent GSC.

It was OK

Q2.	Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft
	Budget Community Consultation?

Q3. What could we have done to make it better?

not answered



HANDWRITTEN SURVEY RESPONSES

Your Say Glenelg

Provide Your Feedback Draft 2025-2026 Budget Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Budget (Required) Footpath trading feesare excessive for Sind II businesses Grazing permit needs to be waived in drought conditions. Fond Grass-Will never use we compost should not be compulsory of COMPULSOR 4 Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation? (Choose any one option) (Required) I thought it was great It was OK You could have done better Answer this question only if you have chosen You could have done better for Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation? What could we have done to make it better? (Required) oge cest was not advertised și.

Your Say Glenelg

Provide Your Feedback Draft 2025-2026 Budget

Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Budget

(Required)

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I do not agree with the extra "GREEN WASTE" fres. I like most
people deal with my own green waste and do not want
the extra charge on my rates.
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Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

(Choose any one option) (Required)

I thought it was great

It was OK

You could have done better

Answer this question only if you have chosen You could have done better for Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

What could we have done to make it better?

Your Say Glenelg

Provide Your Feedback Draft 2025-2026 Budget

Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Budget

(Required) I don't like the idea of a fogo bin I wouldn't use it

Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

(Choose any one option) (Required)

I thought it was great

It was OK

You could have done better

Answer this question only if you have chosen You could have done better for Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

What could we have done to make it better?

(Required)

Didn't even know this was happening only heard from a neighbour.

Your Say Glenelg

Provide Your Feedback Draft 2025-2026 Budget

Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Budget

(Required)

Did not read all but the Garbage, recycling and green waste was what I was interested in. You forget that there is a lot of pensione

Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

(Choose any one option) (Required)

I thought it was great

🔲 It was OK

You could have done better

Answer this question only if you have chosen You could have done better for Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

What could we have done to make it better?

Garboge collection too dear now, with added green waste, for pensioners We are better off composting, what we have done all the time in the

Your Say Glenelg

Provide Your Feedback Draft 2025-2026 Budget

Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Budget

(Required) I we strongly appose the proposed or less on outdoor table Chairs - furniture. We are a sml family rup business in a town of less than 2000 people + cannot afford these less on top of everything else we have to Pay Br. We employ up to 13 Staff whose jobs may be affected with a reduction of his to cover proposed Bes Sp thru. Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation? (Choose any one option) (Required) I thought it was great It was OK You could have done better Answer this question only if you have chosen You could have done better for Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community

What could we have done to make it better?

(Required)

Consultation?

* We also appose the proposed "Green Bin Waste" We do not want an extra bin nor the additional Rees accoriated with proposal. Our Rates are high enough without this extra cost.

Your Say Glenelg

Provide Your Feedback Draft 2025-2026 Budget

Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Budget

(Required) realise costs have to rise, and this is in this draft. What I object to though is ret , taking my service charge bir a UP to early \$500 before ina old be ar Ce com

Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

(Choose any one option) (Required)

I thought it was great

It was OK

X You could have done better

Answer this question only if you have chosen You could have done better for Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

What could we have done to make it better?

(Required)

I had no knowledge of the draft until my daughter told me about it. Your communication with public could have be better, not everyone uses facebook or social

Your Say Glenelg

Provide Your Feedback Draft 2025-2026 Budget

1

Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Budget

(Required)

DO NOT WANT A FOGD (GREEN WASTE BIN'

Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

(Choose any one option) (Required)

I thought it was great

It was OK

tou could have done better

Answer this question only if you have chosen You could have done better for Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

What could we have done to make it better?

Most people in the country Can dispose of green waste thempelves to not need to pay br a service we don't need

Your Say Glenelg

Provide Your Feedback Draft 2025-2026 Budget

Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Budget

(Required)			
Dent	Want a	fogobin,	

ť.

Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

(Choose any one option) (Required)

I thought it was great

🔲 It was OK

You could have done better

Answer this question only if you have chosen You could have done better for Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

What could we have done to make it better?

(Required) Not made a fago bin compulsary 2 1

Your Say Glenelg

Provide Your Feedback Draft 2025-2026 Budget

Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Budget

(Required)

- 1 do	not	Nant	the	green	
- 1 do waste, -	this is	not	req	Jired,	
•					

Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

(Choose any one option) (Required)

🔲 I thought it was great

🗌 It was OK

You could have done better

Answer this question only if you have chosen You could have done better for Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

What could we have done to make it better?

(Required)

- man remove t	he gree	n waste		2
- Epotpath trac	ding is	too high	cost	for small
- Footpath trad businesses. Ke	ep as	zero		are in
- grazing periou	mit zo	ero cos	st. We	

Your Say Glenelg

Provide Your Feedback Draft 2025-2026 Budget

Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Budget

(Required)

Fogo Collection is a Service that will only be used by some residents. Country people have compost bins. This service should not be compulsory.

Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

(Choose any one option) (Required)

I thought it was great

It was OK

You could have done better

Answer this question only if you have chosen You could have done better for Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

What could we have done to make it better?

Advertised more. Most people I talk to do not have any knowledge of draft budget being out for consultation.

Your Say Glenelg

Provide Your Feedback Draft 2025-2026 Budget

tin ;

2

Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Budget

(Required)

Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

(Choose any one option) (Required)

I thought it was great

🗌 It was OK

You could have done better

Answer this question only if you have chosen You could have done better for Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

What could we have done to make it better?

I STRONGLY OBJECT TO HAVING TO PAY FOR A GREEN WASTE BIN - THOSE MOST OF THOSE WHO WANT A GREEN WASTE BIN IN CASTERTON MAYE MOVED HERE FROM THE CITY - THEY HAVE MONEY TO PAY FOR THIS SERVICE BECAUSE THEY BOUGHT THERE HOMES HERE FOR A LOT LESS THAN THEY SOLD THEIR PREVIOUS ONES FOR IN THE CITY. THEY'RE THE MAIN ONES THAT WANT A DOG PARK HERE AS WELL. THEY SHOLMP MAVE CHECKED ALL THESE THINGS BEFORE BUYING HERE. I AM.A PENSIONER & HAVE LIVED IN CASTERTON MY ENTIRE LIFE - WE ARE NOT THE CITY _ THEY LE NEED TO DO SOME THINGS FOR THEMSELVES; JUST LIKE WE COUNTRY PEOPLE HAVE ALWASSDONE. OBJECT TO PAYING FOR A GREEN WASTE BIN WHICH I WILL DEFINITELY NOT USE.

Your Say Glenelg

Provide Your Feedback Draft 2025-2026 Budget

Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Budget

(Required)

Get vid of Green waste Bin.

2

Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

(Choose any one option) (Required)

I thought it was great

☐ It was OK ☐ You could have done better

Answer this question only if you have chosen You could have done better for Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

What could we have done to make it better?

NO heed for Green waste to expensive not needed.

Your Say Glenelg

Provide Your Feedback Draft 2025-2026 Budget

Please tell us your thoughts on the Draft Budget

(Required)

OK - except for Green Waste Bin.

Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

(Choose any one option) (Required)

I thought it was great

🗌 It was OK

X You could have done better

Answer this question only if you have chosen You could have done better for Overall, how did we go with 2025/26 Draft Budget Community Consultation?

What could we have done to make it better?

(Required)

Could have advertised Green waste fees in local paper as Oldies are not always on Social media. We had to read it in Mt Gambier paper. We believe waste fees should be included in general rates. We do Not want Green Waste Bin.



EMAILED FEEDBACK

Ľ	
From: Sent: Wednesday	, 14 May 2025 20:10
To: Your Say) - your questions answered Draft 2025/26 Council Budget
	L] This message comes from an external organisation. Exercise caution when opening attachments s, especially from unknown senders. ***
Example ,whe backForget at cutting Hay.	ncil not to take on any projects at all.Lets catch up on the basicsThe Shire is untidy n is that disgraceful Portland sign getting fixed. A jokeWhoever took our money .Give it bout Vicroads they are brokeOur entrance to Portland should be lawns .We are not a have trouble finding jobs

On Wed, 14 May 2025, 14:01 Your Say Glenelg, wrote:

Want to know more about FOGO?

as received feedback submissions on the Draft Budget with comments relating to the decision to impler as part of the Draft 2025/26 Budget.

re all residents have access to information, Council has developed a full FAQ page on its website. Che Newsfeed on the **Draft 2025-2026 GleneIg Shire Council Budget** page for more info.



Response to the Glenelg Shire Council Budget 2025/2026.

From

After reading the budget carefully, I failed to discover the section where the **Maintenance of the Portland Battery and Guns** may, or would be mentioned.

Because the Guns and Portland Battery are considered to be included in the Cultural Collection, perhaps their maintenance would be listed under the 2.4 Strategic Objective – Our Lifestyle, Neighbourhood and Culture. No mention there. So, I assume there is no funding in this budget for the maintenance of the Portland Battery and Guns.

I request that the Council give further consideration to allocating funds to the care of the 68 Pound Guns and the Portland Battery and Gun.

The two 68 Pound guns were originally located in the Gun Shed (Drill Hall) for training the members of the Artillery Garrison.

Perhaps if I outlined a maintenance plan in stages, for example, the funding could be considered in manageable amounts, starting with this budget.

Consider staging the Maintenance Plan from the most urgent to least urgent.

The following stages could be funded separately, or used as a guide for future maintenance.

Stage 1.

A 68 Pound Gun is located in the Memorial Triangle. The carriage of this gun is deteriorating and will endanger visitors when the carriage collapses.

Another 68 Pound Gun is located at the Portland Battery. The unsafe condition of the Gun has been recognised by council staff and a portable security fence was placed around the Gun at least 7 years ago. Nothing has been done in that time and the security fence is inadequate. This gun is extremely decayed, particularly the slide and carriage and a recent inspection reveals the possibility of total collapse of the wheels, which may result in the entire gun tipping over. If this happens the fence will not keep anyone, viewing, or playing near or on this gun, safe. This gun and its inadequate fence are a serious risk management issue and should be addressed immediately.

I recommend - relocate the two 68 Pound Guns, slides and carriages into a temporary indoor storage place.

In storage, the now rapid degree of decay of all components, will be much reduced and individual components can be assessed and a Conservation Management Plan can then be developed.

Stage 2.

I recommend - Contract a museums conservator to develop a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for each of these Guns.

Commence preservation as per the CMP.

Stage 3.

The Portland Battery.

I recommend - Repair/replicate two Cartridge Recess doors and shelving, using traditional design methods, hinges and latches, and reinstate the sign writing above.

I recommend - Replicate and replace the 2 existing temporary access doors to the lower Magazine chamber, using traditional design methods, hinges and latches.

Reinstate the sign writing above the doors.

Stage 4.

Generally, the 80 Pound Armstrong Gun is in reasonable condition, however there are a number of badly rusted bolts and nuts which must be replaced, and areas of heavy rust on the slide.

I recommend – Replace decayed bolts and nuts and remove areas of rust and treat with appropriate rust preventative, as soon as possible.

Stage 5.

I recommend - Prepare the Gun Shed (Drill Hall) for the permanent location of the two 68 Pound former training guns. Interpret appropriately.

Councillors and CEO, for your information and careful consideration.

Kind regards



OUR REF: AM:JM YOUR REF:

25 June 2025

Alistair Parker Chief Executive Officer VicGrid Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change

Sent by email: <u>vicgrid@deeca.vic.gov.au</u>

Dear Mr Parker

Re: Draft Victorian Transmission Plan

Glenelg Shire Council (Council) welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission on the *Victorian Transmission Plan* (the Plan) as released by VicGrid for public consultation.

Council recognises the transition to renewable energy generation and storage as being essential to achieving Victoria's emissions reductions goals and long-term energy security. However, it is critical that this transition is managed in an equitable way, that is regionally sensitive, and aligned with local community values, industry and strategic land use interests and priorities.

Council also recognises the need for a strategic approach to build the right infrastructure in the right place at the right time to support a transition to renewables and deliver the power Victoria needs.

This submission is made to supplement and build upon previous submissions made by Council associated with renewable planning and development, including community benefits, elevating key strategic issues and priorities, along with specific comments on the Plan and renewable future in Glenelg Shire.

General Comments

In Council's previous submission on the 28 August 2024, it was noted that Glenelg Shire had been proposed to be included within the South West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), given existing transmission infrastructure and industry, location, renewable resources (principally wind) and previous significant interest from the private sector in establishing a presence in the region. Glenelg Shire also presents a major opportunity for large-scale utility battery storage given established transmission infrastructure and industry assets. This position has not changed and inclusion of Glenelg more extensively should be revisited. The Plan as currently drafted identifies Portland as providing a critical connection and opportunity for transmission connection associated with the Southern Ocean declared offshore wind area, yet the Plan lacks sufficient detail as to what this infrastructure upgrade means and how it aligns with an identified REZ. The Plan itself appears to provide express focus on the Gippsland Offshore Wind planning and lacks information on the priority transmission process and project scope in Portland.

Fundamentally, the Plan appears to provide high-level strategic direction on the future REZ and transmission planning across the State, but lacks the requisite detail to provide Council, community and industry with any certainty around future project planning, delivery and the community benefits that may arise from this. This is particularly the case where a REZ is proposed yet the VTP and future REZ declaration will still allow projects to proceed outside of a REZ, provided grid impact assessment is suitable.

Building upon previous engagement undertaken by VicGrid through the VTIF and Community Benefits Plan, it appears the Plan will further entrench community uncertainty around renewable development and transmission planning, whilst also overlooking regional opportunities and the need to support integrated planning and promoting developer confidence.

The REZ mapping within the Plan identifies a proposed South West REZ, which has a small area that enters the eastern extent of Glenelg Shire. This is despite the area is a key node in the National Electricity Market, with access to South Australia via the interconnector and 220kV line, and 500kV to the La Trobe Valley, which connects with Portland Aluminium. This places Glenelg Shire in a position to significantly build upon and promote both renewable energy generation (onshore and offshore) and grid storage opportunities, but also seek to attract other forms of renewable investment such as solar, thermal, gas and potentially, wave energy, green hydrogen & biofuel production (from timber plantation waste).

Council notes that Glenelg Shire is home to a highly productive agricultural industry, including timber production and processing, along with natural resource, landscape and cultural assets. However, these too need to be balanced with the opportunity to incentivise and promote future renewable energy generation and storage opportunity, which will serve both State and National needs, but also provide significant future local benefit through investment and community benefits planning. This opportunity in Glenelg Shire seems to have been overlooked in the plan.

South West REZ

Council notes the factors and key principles which VicGrid have used to identify the proposed South West REZ within the Plan, which has a future forecast wind generation capacity of 1,280-1,920MW by 2040. This REZ area essentially covers an area from Darlington and Noorat in the east, across the south west, to Condah and Branxholme in the west.

It is important to note that this proposed REZ area already contains an estimated seven (7) individual wind farms, with the majority located in Moyne Shire, along with other existing approved and proposed projects. Factoring in established and long-standing concerns around cumulative project impacts and overdevelopment, along with known environmental, landscape, biodiversity and cultural constraints, which have required some previous projects to be descoped or entirely abandoned, Council queries the future viable development capacity of this REZ.

This ultimately poses a wider question as to whether the REZ is appropriate or if it should be considered to cover a wider area or be designed in a more nuanced way. As it stands, the REZ and Plan is very high-level and lacks the detail and certainty that Council and other stakeholders require to plan for the future and guide investment, development and strategically aligned community benefits. The Plan and REZ also appear to lack any consideration of cross-border dynamics, opportunities and infrastructure requirements with South Australia, which adopts a narrow approach and must be a key consideration into the future.

In the context of Glenelg Shire, there is an established transmission and distribution network, three (3) established operational wind farms, a proposed large-scale windfarm (Kentbruck Green Power Hub) going through a planning and environmental inquiry process, along with other proposed large-scale wind and grid utility storage projects in planning and design stages. Portland is also identified within the Plan as providing a key transmission connection to the Southern Ocean offshore wind area. Each of these projects are located outside of the REZ, which raises substantial strategic uncertainty about the renewable energy development future in Glenelg Shire.

Council notes that the intent of the Plan is to deliver community and market certainty with REZs to enable and promote investment in generation, transmission and storage supply chains. However, the arbitrary application of the South West REZ, in an established, highly developed and partially constrained area, will restrict future development opportunities. Furthermore, the Plan leaves Council and community with a lack of direction around development coordination, viability and the opportunities, particularly where developments occur outside of the REZ.

There is significant opportunity to leverage the South West REZ status to attract investment in renewables, storage and energy generation, however, the lack of a defined threshold, existing constraints and potential for overdevelopment may restrict these opportunities.

Planning for Offshore Wind

Council notes that Plan refers to an identified Offshore Wind Transmission Upgrade in Portland, associated with the Southern Ocean offshore wind area, yet the Plan provides extremely limited information on the planning and expected transmission infrastructure process, whereas the Gippsland Shoreline project is dedicated with a specific section. This again may be due to the early stage of this work and lack of information, however, it again highlights a missed opportunity and shortfall in the Plan in excluding key components and pertinent information for Council, community and industry regarding this transmission project. As an identified priority project, albeit by 2038, it is still critical that the Plan outline the high-level scope, process and considerations for this transmission project.

Developing a REZ and Community Benefits

Council recognises that a key objective of the Plan aims to establish the declaration and development of REZs, which will provide an opportunity for new community benefits arrangements to be established via proposed REZ Community Energy Funds (CEF).

Fundamentally, Council urges VicGrid to deliver the highest possible level of community benefits to strategically impacted and affected regional communities. This should aim to ensure a focus on equitable and transparent distribution of community benefits fundings across the whole region which bears the impact of renewable energy transition and development. It is essential that that the Glenelg Shire community receives a fair share of any benefits, recognition of its longstanding and ongoing contribution, and safeguards to protect economic, environmental and cultural assets, whilst delivering investment to drive local transformation.

As Council understands, projects within a REZ will be required to make payments into a CEF, which will then provide function of funding allocation back into communities.

Council is aware and made a submission regarding previous consultation undertaken by VicGrid on the Community Benefits Program and CEF in 2024, whilst the Plan itself contains limited information and seeks to direct readers to the VicGrid Community Benefits website. This website has not been updated since consultation closed in June 2024 and no further information has been provided on the final REZ Community Benefits Plan.

Council has significant uncertainty and seeks further clarification on the proposed approach for the Community Benefits Program and CEF, particularly in the situation that only a small area of the proposed South West REZ covers Glenelg Shire, whilst a number of generation, storage and transmission projects are proposed. It is Council's understanding that projects outside of the REZ are not required to contribute into the CEF, meaning any tangible, transparent, State-led, mechanism to generate community benefits on an equitable basis, locally, is lost. This will also likely further entrench and lead to inconsistent, inequitable and strategically limited community benefits investments by different companies.

The proposed governance structure, framework and considerations in the allocation of community benefits through the CEF are critical to the success of the Plan and any REZ. Without current information provided by VicGrid on the CEF to support the REZ, it makes it extremely difficult for Council to ensure maximum community benefit, value and confidence can be achieved.

Council strongly encourages VicGrid to finalise and release its Community Benefits Plan and proposed CEF for public review before the proposed REZs are finalised and declared, as this represents a critical component in maximising future positive community outcomes, through targeted financial investment and funding.

Victoria's 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy

Council recently made a submission to Infrastructure Victoria on its review of the State's 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy, which highlighted two key matters in response to relevant renewable energy actions.

Firstly, that REZ areas continue to generate significant uncertainty for both Council and its community, which will further occur if developments can proceed outside of REZ area. In addition, Council recognises the need for the energy transition to focus on new generation and storage, however, the fast-tracking and delivery of these project should not disadvantage rural community to achieve State policy targets or metropolitan aspirations.

Secondly, the Infrastructure Strategy proposed the development of regional energy plans, in which Council supported this recommendation and considers that Portland presents a fantastic opportunity for this to be trialled with the scale of existing heavy-industry, including both Portland Aluminium and the Port of Portland, future proposed industrial investments in manufacturing, logistics and energy, and with upcoming offshore wind plans.

A strategic approach is required in future REZ planning which considers opportunity to advance Portland as a regional centre, with this work to be undertaken in partnership with Council, stakeholders, industry and Government.

A face value, there appears to be a disconnect between State-based strategic plans in renewable and transmission planning, infrastructure and strategic land use planning, which provide policy uncertainty around the future investment and opportunities for the State, including within Glenelg Shire.

Budj Bim World Heritage Listed area

Based on review of the updated REZ location, it appears that it is located approximately 10km from the Budj Bim World Heritage listed area. Whilst the concept of having a buffer for major renewable energy infrastructure from the site is encouraged to protect cultural values in the landscape, the reasoning behind the 10km arbitrary line is unclear.

It is understood that this specific setback has not been advanced by the Traditional Owners. For context the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation (GMTOAC) have recently undertaken a Strategic Aboriginal Heritage Assessment (SAHA). This work is almost finalised and the SAHA project provides strategic overview on both tangible and intangible cultural values in the landscape, which cannot be arbitrarily mapped. This work helps provide guidance, and should inform, on location of renewable energy development, on where it can be accommodated, whilst important cultural values are protected.

Council strongly recommends that the REZ align with this SAHA work and consider advice from GMTOAC and Traditional Owners regarding protection of cultural values across the landscape.

Consistent with Council's previous submission, high quality and well-planned community consultation is fundamental to the successful development and implementation of the VTP, along with declaration of REZs.

Access in INZ areas in Portland & 500kv Line

Council has previously outlined that within Portland there are large areas of Industrial Zoned land and Farming Zoned land which has policy support for industry. In addition, much of this land is in close proximity to the 500kv electricity line and electrical grid.

These areas hold significant potential for renewable energy development outside of wind energy facilities, including large-scale utility storage. Specifically, this includes battery energy storage and hydrogen production facilities that are being considered in this area.

The REZ now does not extend to this area and Council raises concern that lack of priority access would deter and potentially restrict this type of development in the area, which for Portland and Glenelg Shire could be critical in shaping future investment. Given the strong strategic support for industry, that both produces and consumes high levels of energy, it is recommended the REZ be expanded or further nuanced to apply to specific areas. This would align with the approach of Infrastructure Victoria in the development of regional energy plans, which may be more targeted than a high-level REZ.

Kentbruck Wind Energy Facility and Heywood BESS

A proposal for the Kentbruck Wind Energy Facility is currently being assessed by State Government. This facility of 105 turbines is located between Nelson and Portland in the Kentbruck region, well removed from any REZ. Yet it is understood this proposal have given priority access to the grid just like REZ areas.

In addition, Council is also aware that a recent planning application has been made for a large-scale Battery Energy Storage Station, adjoining the Heywood Terminal Station, that proposes a significant facility to provide grid stabilisation and electricity storage.

To improve the integrity of VicGrid Transmission Plan this area, the industrial areas of Portland and key locations near the 500kv or 220kv line, including the Heywood Terminal Station, should be also mapped. Alternatively, if a spatial analysis is not suitable for the variations for individual projects outside REZ areas, the Plan should include consideration how this may occur. This will help ensure renewable energy projects are not inhibited by the lack of REZ in these areas.

We trust this submission will be given due consideration in planning and preparation of the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan.

Please contact Aaron Moyne, Director Infrastructure Services, on 0417 165 625 or by email <u>amoyne@glenelg.vic.gov.au</u> should you have any questions or require further information.

Yours faithfully

Helen Havercroft Chief Executive Officer

Draft 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan

May 2025







Acknowledgment of Traditional Owners

We acknowledge and respect Victoria's Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

We are committed to genuinely partnering and meaningfully engaging with Victoria's Traditional Owners and First Peoples to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.

Our commitment to Victoria's First Peoples and Traditional Owners

We acknowledge we have more work to do to support meaningful participation of Traditional Owners and First Peoples in the development of future Victorian Transmission Plans and renewable energy zones.

The first phase of the Victorian Transmission Plan strategic land use assessment included only publicly available datasets for Aboriginal and historical cultural heritage. As such, the information in the draft Victorian Transmission Plan relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage is limited and does not capture or reflect all known heritage values.

We will continue ongoing conversations with Traditional Owners to design an appropriate process for incorporating further cultural heritage information into renewable energy zone development and subsequent Victorian Transmission Plans, in alignment with principles of data sovereignty. We have heard how critical cultural heritage mapping is, and we are committed to making sure this process is Traditional Owner-led.

Disclaimer:

This draft 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan is published by the State of Victoria pursuant to amendments to the *National Electricity (Victoria) Act 2005*, which implement the first stage of Victorian Transmission Investment Framework reforms and empowers the CEO VicGrid to develop a Victorian Transmission Plan. It has been prepared for the purposes of consultation and comment, in connection with the Victorian Transmission Plan Guidelines.

While the State of Victoria has made reasonable efforts to ensure the quality and accuracy of the information in this publication, the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore, to the extent permitted by law, disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

This publication does not include all of the information that an investor, participant or potential participant in the National Electricity Market might require, and does not amount to a recommendation of any investment. The modelling work included herein inherently requires assumptions about future behaviours and market interactions. Anyone proposing to utilise this publication should note that there may be differences between estimated and actual results which may be material, and between this draft and final publication of the Victorian Transmission Plan.

Anyone proposing to use the information in this publication (which includes information and forecasts from third parties) should independently verify its accuracy, completeness and suitability for purpose, and obtain independent and specific advice from appropriate experts.

The draft maps at Figures 1, 2, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 show locations of draft proposed renewable energy zones (REZs). Data used to develop these maps was sourced on 25 March 2025 and is subject to change. The draft proposed REZ boundaries are indicative only and have been prepared for the purposes of public consultation.

The draft maps at Figures 1, 3, 11, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22 and 23 show proposed alignments for the Western Renewables Link (WRL), Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West), Marinus Link and offshore wind transmission as at the time of publication. These alignments are subject to assessment through relevant planning and environmental approvals processes and, together with the identified locations of existing and committed generation projects, are indicative only.

Please visit vicgrid.vic.gov.au for the latest updates.

Contents

Acronyms					
Ho	How to read this document				
Exe	ecutive Summary				
Pa	rt A				
1.	Victoria's renewable energy future				
2.	The Victorian Transmission Plan: our new approach to planning transmission infrastructure				
З.	The policy context for the Victorian Transmission Plan \ldots . 37				
4.	VicGrid is working with First Peoples				
5.	Engaging with communities and industry45				
Pa	rt B				
6.	What areas are we proposing for future renewable energy generation development?				
7.	Planning for offshore wind connections				
8.	The draft optimal development pathway for Victoria86				
Part C					
9.	Developing renewable energy zones				
10.	Delivering projects in the optimal development pathway 102				
Pa	rt D				
11.	We invite your feedback on the draft 2025 VTP105				
12.	Further analysis in preparation for the final 2025 VTP 107				
Glo	Glossary				

Acronyms

Term	Definition		
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator		
CER	Consumer energy resources		
CIS	Capacity Investment Scheme		
CDP	Candidate development pathway		
DSN	Declared Shared Network		
DNSP	Distribution Network Service Provider		
ESOO	Electricity Statement of Opportunities		
EV	Electric vehicle		
GW	✔ Gigawatt (one million kilowatts)		
GWh	Gigawatt hour (one million kilowatt hours)		
GSOO	Gas Statement of Opportunities		
IAP2	International Association of Public Participation		
IASR	Inputs, Assumptions and Scenarios Report		
ISP	Integrated System Plan		
MCA	Multi-criteria analysis		
MW	Megawatt (one thousand kilowatts)		
MWh	Megawatt hour (one thousand kilowatt hours)		
NEM	National Electricity Market		
NER	National Electricity Rules		

Term	Definition			
NEVA	National Electricity (Victoria) Act 2005			
ODP	Optimal development pathway			
PSS/E Power system simulation for enginee				
PV	Photovoltaic solar			
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party			
REZ	Renewable energy zone			
SLUA	Strategic land use assessment			
TNSP	Transmission Network Service Provider			
TW Terawatt (one billion kilowatts)				
TWh Terawatt hour (one billion kilowatt ho				
VAPR Victorian Annual Planning Report				
VEU	Victorian Energy Upgrades			
VGPR	Victorian Gas Planning Report			
VNIVictoria to New South WalesWESTInterconnector West				
VPP	Virtual power plant			
VRET Victorian Renewable Energy Targets				
VTIF Victorian Transmission Investment Framework				
νтр	Victorian Transmission Plan			
WRL Western Renewables Link				

How to read this document



Part A

A new approach to planning Victoria's energy grid

Part A introduces the context for the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan (VTP). It provides an overview of VicGrid's methodology for developing the VTP and describes how VicGrid is working with First Peoples, communities and industry as part of the process. Part A also summarises key themes from feedback that VicGrid has received todate and how these have helped to shape the draft 2025 VTP.



Part B

Our draft plan for renewable energy zones and transmission projects

Part B presents the draft outputs of the 2025 VTP. This includes details on each of the draft proposed renewable energy zones (REZs) for Victoria, the priority programs of transmission upgrades needed over the next 15 years, and the draft proposed shoreline REZ to enable the development of offshore wind in Gippsland.

Part C

Delivering the VTP

Part C provides information about the next steps following public consultation and finalisation of the 2025 VTP. This includes information on what to expect as renewable energy zones are formally declared and developed, as well as next steps for planning transmission projects identified in the 2025 VTP.



Part D

Engagement on the draft 2025 VTP

Part D outlines how to provide feedback on the draft 2025 VTP and the further analysis that is planned before the VTP is finalised later in 2025.

Supporting technical information can be found in the Appendices, available on Engage Victoria at **engage.vic.gov.au/vicgrid**



Executive Summary

VicGrid is developing a new strategic plan for renewable energy infrastructure to deliver better outcomes for Victorian consumers and communities.

This is our first Victorian Transmission Plan (VTP) – a long-term plan for renewable energy zones (REZs) and transmission to ensure we have the right infrastructure in the right place at the right time to support the transition to renewables. This VTP is a draft because we are seeking further feedback from communities and industry on what is important.

The VTP is a big change to how energy infrastructure has been planned in the past.

Victoria needs a significant amount of new renewable energy generation and storage capacity – supported by upgrades to Victoria's transmission network – to replace retiring coal-fired power stations and ensure Victoria's electricity system is affordable, reliable, safe and sustainable.

Planning for this new energy infrastructure needs to balance a range of factors, including the impacts on local communities, landholders, First Peoples, agriculture and industry, while ensuring we protect the natural environment, biodiversity and cultural heritage. We also need to avoid under or over-investing, so we can maintain energy security and control costs to avoid unnecessary bill increases for all Victorians.

The VTP is a new approach to planning that considers important factors including land use, environmental impacts and community views much earlier in the process. This aims to minimise negative impacts to regional communities, landholders and rights holders, keep costs low for consumers and give industry the certainty it needs to invest in the renewable energy Victoria requires for the future.



Our draft plan aims to deliver the best overall outcome for all Victorians.

We plan to develop, refine and deliver the VTP in a way that creates benefits for Victorians and encourages the critical investment we need to maintain reliable and affordable energy. Early and meaningful engagement is at the heart of our approach. We are committed to partnering with First Peoples and Traditional Owners, and engaging early and often with landholders, communities and industry.

The draft 2025 VTP is a long-term plan based on a future energy mix that responds to changing needs as coal-fired generation retires, meets growing demand from new sources such as data centres, clean fuel production and electric vehicles and meets Victoria's targets for renewable generation, storage and offshore wind. Our plan is based on scenarios identified in the VTP Guidelines published in 2024, and is designed to be flexible as the energy needs of Victorian homes and businesses change in the future.

Feedback on this draft VTP will inform a final 2025 VTP that we will publish later this year. This final VTP will set out the plan for Victoria's renewable energy zones and the transmission infrastructure required to enable an orderly energy transition.

We will publish an updated VTP in 2027, and every 4 years after that to ensure the plan remains upto-date with new technology developments and changes in energy demand.

Additional renewable generation and storage capacity in our draft plan

By 2040, we are planning for:



These figures include new capacity from already-committed projects across Victoria and the additional new generation and storage capacity that we are planning for by 2040.

What's included in the draft VTP?

The draft VTP sets out what renewable energy technologies and transmission should be built, when, where, and in what capacity to meet Victoria's future energy needs over the next 15 years.

The draft VTP sets out:

Draft proposed renewable energy zones, which are areas identified as most suitable to host new onshore renewable generation and storage.

Establishing renewable energy zones will deliver new benefits for local communities and provide a signal to industry on where to focus when developing new projects. By coordinating development in renewable energy zones, we can streamline grid connections and plan transmission upgrades to make the best use of Victoria's existing network. It will also help minimise environmental and community impacts.

The design process for draft proposed renewable energy zones considered economic costs, land use, community preferences, regional development opportunities, generator interest, existing levels of development, wind and solar resource potential and community and industry feedback.

Read more about how community and industry engagement so far has shaped the draft proposed renewable energy zones, and how you can provide

feedback, in Section 6.



Proposed new transmission investments

required in the next 15 years to support renewable energy zone development and deliver network security and reliability.

The draft plan recognises that significant new investment in transmission will be required to strengthen and modernise Victoria's grid. These transmission upgrades will unlock new network capacity in the right places to support investment in renewable generation and storage, and ensure Victorians continue to have access to secure and reliable energy.

In this VTP we are proposing just 4 new transmission projects: a second radial line and tie in loop in Gippsland to facilitate offshore wind, a new line between Sydenham and Tarrone, a new line between Truganina and Deer Park, and an additional short line between Hazelwood and Yallourn.

Read more about the proposed programs of transmission investments, and how you can provide feedback, in Section 8.



A draft proposed renewable energy zone on Gippsland's shoreline, which is needed to support offshore wind generation.

A shoreline renewable energy zone supporting offshore wind is different to an onshore renewable energy zone and is not designed to host onshore wind and solar projects. The draft proposed renewable energy zone on the Gippsland shoreline signals to offshore wind developers where to locate their onshore connection infrastructure (for example onshore cables), while their wind turbines will be located offshore.

The shoreline renewable energy zone will facilitate coordination, help deliver benefits for the local community, provide a clear signal to project developers, and minimise the impact on areas outside of the zone.

Read more about the draft proposed Gippsland shoreline renewable energy zone, and how you can provide feedback, in Section 7.


Our draft plan for renewable energy zones

Where are the draft proposed renewable energy zones?

We have identified 7 draft proposed renewable energy zones for Victoria: Central Highlands, the Central North, Gippsland, the North West, the South West, Grampians Wimmera and Wimmera Southern Mallee.

In total, the draft proposed renewable energy zones cover 7% of Victoria's land area. On average statewide, we will need about 11% of the land area of renewable energy zones to host wind and solar projects to meet our expected renewable energy capacity to 2040. However, only a fraction of the land within project sites will be needed for infrastructure. For example, on a typical wind farm, the turbines themselves along with access roads and other infrastructure occupy only about 2% of the project site. Figures will vary by individual REZs and projects.

Table 1 describes the additional wind and solar generation capacity we are planning for in each of the 7 draft proposed renewable energy zones by 2040, and Figure 1 illustrates their locations across Victoria.

Feedback we have received from regional communities so far has helped shape the size and location of the draft proposed renewable energy zones. Community feedback stressed the importance of minimising impacts on biodiversity and water systems, protecting farmland, and minimising cumulative impacts on regional communities. We also received feedback about infrastructure development in regions prone to natural hazards, including bushfires and flooding. At the same time, we consulted with industry to understand where current projects are in development. We also considered studies of wind and solar resource potential, to ensure the draft proposed renewable energy zones are suitable for new renewable development.

We are prioritising early engagement and involvement of Traditional Owners and First Peoples in planning for renewable energy and transmission infrastructure. This engagement and involvement has started, and we are committed to walking together with First Peoples over the years ahead.

The location of draft proposed renewable energy zones also takes into account access to transmission infrastructure, including the new transmission capacity that will be unlocked by the proposed programs of transmission upgrades set out in this draft plan.

The overall size of renewable energy zones is an important consideration. There is a trade-off between smaller zones with more concentrated infrastructure development, and larger zones that affect a wider area but result in less concentrated development within each zone. Based on feedback received and our assessment of different land use considerations, we have designed draft proposed renewable energy zones that are relatively smaller. We would like to hear your feedback on our renewable energy zone sizes.

The draft proposed onshore renewable energy zone in Gippsland is separate to the draft proposed Gippsland Shoreline Renewable Energy Zone, which is designed to host onshore connection infrastructure linking offshore wind generation with Victoria's transmission network. For more information on the proposed shoreline renewable energy zone, see page 17 and Section 7.

Draft proposed renewable energy zone	Wind capacity (MW)	Solar capacity (MW)
Central Highlands	1,820 – 2,070 ¹	125 ¹
Central North	60 - 100	-
Gippsland	320 - 480	-
North West	320 - 480	930 - 1,390
South West	1,280 - 1,920	-
Grampians Wimmera	320 - 480	-
Wimmera Southern Mallee	320 - 480	-

Table 1: Additional generation we are planning for in each draft proposed renewable energy zone by 2040

¹ The Central Highlands additional generation capacity includes Golden Plains Wind Farm (East and West) and Elaine Solar Farm which are currently under development. Other committed projects located outside renewable energy zones will provide an additional 0.6 GW of wind capacity and 1.5 GW of solar capacity.

Draft proposed renewable energy zones

Figure 1: We have identified 7 draft proposed renewable energy zones across Victoria for onshore renewable energy and a shoreline renewable energy zone to coordinate offshore wind connections





Figure 2: Draft proposed renewable energy zones and Registered Aboriginal Party boundaries

How will the final renewable energy zones be decided?

This draft plan is an important step in determining where Victoria's renewable energy zones will be located. We are now seeking feedback on the draft proposed renewable energy zones as part of public consultation on the draft 2025 VTP.

Following your feedback, the proposed renewable energy zones may be refined further as we develop the final 2025 VTP. This refinement will also take into account further modelling and analysis.

Following the final VTP, there will be a statutory process for each renewable energy zone to be declared. This process provides a further opportunity for consultation prior to any renewable energy zone being declared.

Disclaimer: The Registered Aboriginal Party boundaries shown in the draft Figure 2 are a computer representation. The boundaries show the general vicinity of land and waters subject to the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) and *Traditional Settlement Act 2010* (Vic) as at the time of publication and could conceivably change. For more details, please see full disclaimer on Page 4.

The process to refine and finalise renewable energy zones (REZs)



What will the renewable energy zones mean for me?

Introducing renewable energy zones will shape how renewable development occurs in Victoria. This will have different impacts for regional communities and landholders, First Peoples and industry.

Communities in declared renewable energy zones will see increased investment in renewable generation and storage infrastructure over time.

Project proponents will need to negotiate with landholders for rights to develop projects on their land, and a landholder has a right to say no to having new renewable generation on their property. Landholders who do agree to new renewable development will receive financial compensation that is negotiated with the developer.

VicGrid is implementing new benefits for communities that host renewable energy zones. New Renewable Energy Zone Community Energy Funds are proposed to support projects that improve energy supply, reliability, efficiency and affordability for businesses, communities and households. They will also support initiatives that create economic development opportunities from the energy transition, for example projects that build renewable energy supply chains, create jobs in the energy sector, promote renewable energy research and innovation, or help attract renewable energy investment. For more information, see **engage.vic.gov.au/vtif-rez-community-benefits**

First Peoples are distinct rights holders to Country and Sea Country and these rights must be upheld. We are committed to walking together with Traditional Owners and First Peoples in a way that is grounded in respect and enables self-determination and shared benefits. We are working in partnership with Traditional Owners to consider models for dedicated benefits for Traditional Owners affected by renewable energy zones and transmission projects. This process aims to go beyond inclusion, to give First Peoples control over how funds are spent to ensure they deliver economic empowerment and support self-determination.

The development of renewable energy zones will require an ongoing dialogue with Traditional Owners to ensure we minimise impacts to Country. We will continue to work with Traditional Owners to develop a process for incorporating cultural heritage into renewable energy zone planning.

Responsible project developers will be critical to the success of the renewable energy zones. VicGrid is introducing reforms which will give generators within renewable energy zones greater certainty over their ability to get their energy to market.

Once renewable energy zones are declared, projects within the zones will benefit from special network access arrangements that will help protect against generators being constrained off – when generators need to limit the energy they supply due to constraints on the transmission network. Projects located outside of declared renewable energy zones will be subject to a Grid Impact Assessment, and will need to demonstrate that their project would not result in generators located within renewable energy zones being constrained off.

The new access arrangements will also set clear expectations and requirements for how project developers should engage with communities, Traditional Owners and landholders as well as provide meaningful benefits.

Our draft plan for transmission infrastructure investments

What transmission infrastructure investments are needed?

The draft VTP sets out 7 programs of transmission infrastructure investments to be implemented over 2025-2040 to enable the development of renewable energy zones and offshore wind.

The proposed transmission investments will support renewable generation and help to ensure a smooth transition as coal-fired power plants close and Victoria's electricity demands grow.

Our proposed plan for transmission has been carefully chosen to deliver a path forward that keeps costs as low as possible for Victorians while providing flexibility to adapt to changing energy needs in the future. Transmission programs may be altered, added or removed as the energy transition and demand evolves over time.

We prioritised upgrades along existing transmission lines where possible. In this VTP we are proposing just 4 new transmission projects across 3 programs: a second radial line and tie in loop in Gippsland to facilitate offshore wind, a new line between Sydenham and Tarrone, a new line between Truganina and Deer Park, and an additional short line between Hazelwood and Yallourn. A number of the proposed programs are needed urgently to prepare for coal-fired power stations to retire and avoid bottlenecks in delivering new generation and storage infrastructure, including new renewables projects supported by the Australian Government's Capacity Investment Scheme. Of the 7 programs, 2 are needed by 2030, 3 by 2035 and 2 by 2040.

Table 2 describes each of the transmission programs, their proposed implementation timing, and why they are needed. Figure 3 illustrates the locations of these programs across Victoria.

There may be some changes between the draft and final 2025 VTP, as we complete further modelling and analysis, investigate system strength needs and consider consultation feedback.



The 7 priority programs below describe what is needed over and above existing transmission projects that are already under development across Victoria. Marinus Link Stage 1, Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West, Western Renewables Link, and the transmission infrastructure required for the first 2 GW of offshore wind in Gippsland have all been factored in as inputs to the 2025 VTP.

Table 2: The 7 priority programs of transmission upgrades to unlock renewable generation

Program	Why it is needed	Proposed year needed by
1 Western Victoria reinforcement program A collection of 4 network augmentations and upgrades of existing infrastructure.	To support connection of onshore wind and solar generation in the draft proposed Wimmera Southern Mallee, Grampians Wimmera, Central Highlands and South West renewable energy zones and reinforce the network supply to metropolitan Melbourne.	2028
2 Eastern Victoria reinforcement program A suite of network augmentations and upgrades of existing infrastructure, as well as an additional line between Hazelwood and Yallourn.	To meet increased demand in eastern metropolitan Melbourne, respond to shifting supply from the east of Victoria to the west of Victoria and ensure connection and security of supply from the Gippsland and Central North draft proposed renewable energy zones and the Gippsland offshore wind area.	2028 – 2029
3 North West strengthening program Replacement of sections of the existing single circuit transmission with a new high-capacity double circuit line.	To support additional generation in the Wimmera Southern Mallee, Grampians Wimmera and North West draft proposed renewable energy zones and facilitate its transfer to areas of high energy demand.	2035
4 South West expansion program A new double circuit 500 kV line in South West Victoria.	To meet significant demand for high-quality wind generation in Victoria's west, including additional generation in the South West and Central Highlands draft proposed renewable energy zones.	2033
5 Gippsland offshore wind transmission stage 2 program A new transmission loop to support offshore wind.	Building on the first Gippsland offshore wind transmission project, this new program is required to connect additional offshore wind generation in the Gippsland offshore wind area to meet Victoria's 2035 and 2040 offshore wind targets.	2033 - 2038
6 Latrobe Valley strengthening program New power flow controllers and dynamic load rating devices in the Latrobe Valley.	To allow for easier integration of wind and solar into the grid, manage significant power flows and address network congestion. It supports connection and transfer of generation from the Gippsland draft proposed renewable energy zone and Gippsland offshore wind area.	2034 - 2035
7 Offshore wind upgrade Uprating of existing lines from Heywood to Portland.	To connect offshore generation from the Southern Ocean offshore wind area to Portland.	2038



Figure 3: Map of the 7 VTP priority transmission programs

Legend

New infrastructure

- New transmission connection point (specific location to be determined through consultation with communities, landholders and First Peoples)
- New transmission line and substation (specific location to be determined through consultation with communities, landholders and First Peoples)

Upgrades to existing infrastructure

- Works occurring within an existing substation
- Existing substation
- Town location
- ____ Upgrade to existing transmission network
- _____ Existing transmission network
- ----- Transmission projects under development*
 - Study area for Gippsland offshore wind transmission project

Victorian Transmission Plan program** number

- 1 Western Victoria reinforcement program
- 2 Eastern Victoria reinforcement program
- 3 North West strengthening program
- 4 South West expansion program
- **5** Gippsland offshore wind transmission stage 2 program
- 6 Latrobe Valley strengthening program
- 7 Offshore wind upgrade

** Each program includes multiple transmission projects. See Appendix A for further details about the proposed works included in each program.

> *This includes transmission projects defined as Committed and Anticipated or Actionable under the Australian Energy Market Operator's 2024 Integrated System Plan. This map displays proposed alignments for Marinus Link, Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West), Western Renewables Link and the Gippsland offshore wind transmission stage 1.

Next steps for VTP transmission projects

Once the 2025 VTP is finalised, VicGrid will begin detailed planning for the projects under each priority program. There will be further opportunities for consultation as these transmission projects are planned and developed.

Under proposed reforms, VicGrid will be responsible for coordinating the procurement of VTP transmission projects. We are currently considering changes to improve the procurement process for transmission projects in Victoria and will release further details later in 2025.

The proposed projects include new transmission as well as upgrades to existing transmission lines.

VicGrid is introducing new benefits arrangements for landholders, neighbours, communities and Traditional Owners significantly affected by new transmission.

These new benefits will be in addition to existing compensation arrangements under the Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986, Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 and the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth), as well as any discretionary payments made by transmission project developers. For more information, see engage.vic.gov.au/vtif-rez-community-benefits

Planning for offshore wind connections

The 2025 VTP process takes into account the planning that is already under way to develop offshore wind in Victoria.

The Australian Government has declared 2 offshore wind areas in Victoria, off the coast of Gippsland and in the Southern Ocean off the coast of South West Victoria. Planning is most advanced in Gippsland, and the next step is to set out suitable shoreline locations for offshore wind developers to connect their infrastructure to the grid.

As part of the draft 2025 VTP, we are seeking feedback on a draft proposed renewable energy zone near the shoreline in the south of Gippsland. This shoreline renewable energy zone for offshore wind is different to the 7 draft proposed renewable energy zones we have identified to host onshore wind and solar generation. It sets out a designated area for offshore wind developers to site their onshore connection infrastructure, rather than for hosting new onshore generation. The wind turbines themselves will be hosted in Commonwealth waters off the coast of Victoria. The boundaries of the proposed shoreline renewable energy zone reflect a range of factors. This includes technical considerations around shore crossings for offshore wind cables and underground cable routes to the transmission connection hub, exclusion of towns and environmentally and culturally sensitive areas such as waterways and wetlands, and minimising crossings of major roads such as the South Gippsland Highway.

There will be designated areas within the draft proposed Gippsland Shoreline Renewable Energy Zone where offshore wind export cables are allowed to cross the shore. VicGrid is coordinating further work to narrow down suitable shore crossing locations to ensure protection of environmentally and culturally sensitive areas along the coast.



Figure 4: Draft proposed Gippsland Shoreline Renewable Energy Zone

Next steps for the draft proposed Gippsland Shoreline Renewable Energy Zone

We are inviting feedback on the draft proposed Gippsland Shoreline Renewable Energy Zone as part of consultation on the draft VTP. For more information on how to provide your feedback, see Section 11.

After the final 2025 VTP is released, the Victorian Minister for Energy and Resources can consider whether to proceed with formal declaration of the proposed shoreline renewable energy zone. The declaration process will include opportunity for further consultation.

VicGrid will soon consult on a draft renewable energy zone access scheme for offshore wind

developers. It is important to note that – unlike for other renewable energy zones – this access scheme will apply only to offshore generation, and new onshore generation projects located within the boundaries of the shoreline renewable energy zone will still be subject to the Grid Impact Assessment that applies elsewhere in Victoria.

Communities impacted by the renewable energy zone on Gippsland's shoreline will receive new dedicated benefits, similar to our approach for onshore renewable energy zones. These benefits will be in addition to any discretionary benefits paid by offshore wind developers.



Have your say on the draft 2025 VTP

We will consider feedback, along with further technical checks, as we finalise the proposed renewable energy zones and transmission investment programs prioritised in the 2025 VTP.

We plan to publish the final VTP later this year. We will report back on what we heard and how community and industry engagement has informed the final plan.

We are inviting feedback through a submissions process, in-person consultation and other engagement activities.

Key areas we are seeking feedback on include:

- the 7 draft proposed renewable energy zones. See Section 6.2
- the 7 proposed programs of transmission investments needed to support renewable energy zone development and meet Victoria's energy needs over the next 15 years. See Section 8.1
- the draft proposed Gippsland Shoreline Renewable Energy Zone. See Section 7.3

The deadline to provide feedback is **Tuesday 24 June 2025**.

For more information about the ways you can make a submission, provide feedback and participate in other engagement activities, visit Engage Victoria, the Victorian Government's online consultation platform: **engage.vic.gov.au/vicgrid**



A new approach to planning Victoria's energy grid

PART A

1. Victoria's renewable energy future

Victoria's energy system is changing rapidly. As ageing and increasingly unreliable coal-fired power stations retire and our electricity demand increases, our electricity system must evolve. The Victorian Government has recognised that significant large-scale renewable energy generation and storage investment is required to provide reliable and affordable electricity.

To enable renewable energy generation in the most suitable areas, we need the timely coordination of investment in transmission, generation and storage.

1.1 Planning for the energy transition

As our aging coal-fired power stations retire, they are being replaced by new renewable energy such as wind and solar as well as batteries and other energy storage. At the same time, consumer demand for electricity is changing, as households move away from gas appliances, electric vehicles become more common, and new sources of demand such as data centres emerge.

The Victorian Government has set ambitious targets for renewable energy generation to achieve the world-leading climate target of net zero emissions by 2045. To reach this target, we are planning for 65% of the state's electricity to come from renewable sources by 2030 and 95% by 2035. The transition to renewables is already under way. Renewable energy generation in Victoria has tripled in the past decade, and the state has exceeded its target to reach 25% renewable electricity by 2020. Victoria is on track to meet the next 40% renewable electricity target in 2025. The government must continue supporting an orderly transition to deliver affordable, reliable energy for communities, businesses and industry.

The government's vision for Victoria's future electricity system is laid out in Cheaper, Cleaner, Renewable: Our Plan for Victoria's Electricity Future. It provides a whole-system view of the Victorian Government's actions and the private sector's investment opportunities through to 2035.

2 GW Yallourn **9 GW** coal-fired of offshore of offshore wind power plant wind generation closes generation 2040 2035 2045 2025 2028 2030 2032 Loy Yang A 40% 65% Net coal-fired power renewable renewable zero plant closes energy energy emissions generation generation 95% renewable 29-33% 45-50% energy emissions emissions generation reduction* reduction* . **4 GW** At least of offshore wind 2.6 GW generation of energy storage 75-80% capacity emissions reduction* At least 6.3 GW of energy storage capacity *Below 2005 levels





1.2 Why we need a new approach to planning energy infrastructure

As Victoria's energy system changes, the way we plan and develop energy transmission and generation also needs to change to adapt to this new landscape.

The previous transmission planning framework was not designed to meet Victoria's long-term energy needs in a system transitioning to renewable energy. The planning process was not designed to anticipate the significant changes to the energy system and network that we are now seeing. It also did not involve First Peoples, communities, landholders and regional stakeholders early enough to minimise impacts.

We need to take a long-term, statewide view to make sure we build the right amount of energy infrastructure in the right places, at the right time, to keep the lights on and deliver power to Victorian homes and businesses.

We also need to ensure we do not build more infrastructure than Victoria needs – so we can minimise impacts on communities, industries and the environment, and keep down costs to reduce impacts on power bills. VicGrid is putting in place a new approach to planning renewable energy zones (REZs) and transmission infrastructure through the delivery of the Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF). This new approach features a long-term strategic plan (this VTP), early and meaningful engagement with landholders and local communities, partnerships with First Peoples, fairer community benefit arrangements and certainty for investors.

Our approach is designed to give communities and stakeholders a real voice in the process so we can minimise impacts on landholders, the environment, cultural heritage and important regional industries such as agriculture.

At the same time, the new approach supports a strong investment environment for renewable energy in Victoria. The VTP is designed to improve certainty for investors in renewable energy by providing clear signals on where to invest, and how we will unlock new generation capacity through investing in Victoria's transmission system.

The energy transition will have different impacts for Victorians

Planning for new energy infrastructure needs to balance the range of different impacts on regional communities, landholders, First Peoples, agriculture and industry, while ensuring we protect our environmental and cultural heritage. We also need to avoid under or over-investing, so we can maintain energy security and affordability for all Victorians as coal-fired power stations retire.

The energy transition will have different impacts for Victorians





1.3 The role of transmission in supporting the energy transition

We urgently need to change our power grid to carry energy from new renewable sources and storage across the state to Victorian homes, businesses, hospitals, schools and other vital services.

Victoria's current transmission network was designed to deliver power from coal-fired power stations in the Latrobe Valley to homes and businesses.

1.4 The role of renewable energy zones

Renewable energy zones (REZs) will be areas of the state with abundant renewable energy resources, such as wind or solar, that have the potential to host new electricity generation infrastructure while minimising the impact on communities and the environment. REZs will have a critical role to play in supporting Victoria's energy transition and delivering economic benefits for regional communities. REZs will help coordinate investment in renewable energy generation with transmission network upgrades, provide greater certainty to communities and industry, and ensure projects align with Victoria's infrastructure and environmental planning objectives. New sources of renewable generation, such as wind and solar, are spread across Victoria and are not always located close to the existing transmission network.

We need to deliver new transmission and network upgrades to modernise the grid in areas where sun and wind are abundant so more renewable energy can flow to where it's needed across Victoria.

Importantly, coordinating generation and storage investments through REZs will allow Victoria to reduce the total amount of transmission infrastructure required to connect new sources of energy supply, reducing the infrastructure costs that are ultimately passed on to consumers and minimising impacts on communities and the environment.

REZs will also allow for appropriate consultation, community benefits and compensation arrangements for landholders, communities and First Peoples, while providing greater certainty for project developers to encourage investment.

PART A

2. The Victorian Transmission Plan: our new approach to planning transmission infrastructure

VicGrid is developing a new integrated approach to planning and developing transmission infrastructure in our state. The Victorian Transmission Plan (VTP) sits at the heart of this new approach, setting out the strategic plan for renewable energy infrastructure and transmission investments over the next 15 years.

2.1 Introducing the VTP

As part of Victoria's new approach to transmission planning, VicGrid is required to prepare and publish a VTP at regular intervals. This is a draft of the first VTP.

The final 2025 VTP will set out:

Proposed renewable energy zones (REZs): The geographic areas we will prioritise to meet Victoria's needs for future renewable generation and storage development in the coming 15 years. The REZs will enable us to coordinate the right amount of transmission development in the right places.

A proposed shoreline REZ in Gippsland: This shoreline REZ is needed to host onshore connection infrastructure linking offshore wind generation with Victoria's onshore transmission network.

The optimal development pathway: The transmission projects that we will need to connect REZs and offshore wind to the grid over the next 15 years, and proposed sequencing for these projects. Transmission projects can include new transmission lines or upgrades, and will be chosen to ensure Victoria's future renewable energy needs are met while maintaining reliability and minimising costs for consumers.

Through the 2025 VTP, we aim to:

- Provide greater certainty for communities and industry about when and where new renewable generation and transmission infrastructure will be developed.
- Give First Peoples, landholders, communities and industry a voice throughout the planning process and incorporate a range of perspectives into REZ and transmission planning.
- Provide transparency about the methodology we have used to prepare the plan.

2.2 The VTP will be updated over time

The 2025 VTP is a first step along the path of longterm transmission planning in Victoria, covering the period from now until 2040. We have taken an accelerated approach to developing the 2025 VTP, to provide certainty as we prepare for coal-fired power stations to retire over the coming years. The 2025 VTP takes a 15-year view of Victoria's transmission and renewable energy generation needs, to enable a timely and smooth transition from coal-fired power. The second plan, to be published in 2027, will take a 25-year view, as will subsequent plans published every 4 years.

Legislative requirements for the 2025 VTP

The National Electricity (Victoria) Act 2005 (NEVA) sets out certain requirements that the VTP must meet (see sections 59 and 60). These are summarised below.

The Victorian transmission planning objective

VicGrid must have regard to the Victorian transmission planning objective, which is defined in the NEVA as follows:

- a. to promote efficient investment in, and efficient operation and use of, electricity services for the long-term interests of consumers of electricity with respect to
 - i. price, quality, safety and reliability and security of supply of electricity and
 - **ii.** the reliability, safety and security of the national electricity system and
- **b.** the delivery of transmission services consistent with a least-regrets development pathway and
- **c.** the achievement of targets set by Victorian legislation
 - i. for reducing Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions or
 - **ii.** that are likely to contribute to reducing Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions.

Analysis

VicGrid must carry out the following types of analysis and have regard to the results of these assessments:

- Strategic land use assessment
- Multi-criteria analysis
- Robustness analysis
- Cost-benefit analysis

Consultation

VicGrid must undertake any consultation required by the Victorian transmission plan guidelines and consider the results of that consultation.

Other requirements for future VTPs

The first VTP must be a 15-year plan and subsequent VTPs must plan over a 25-year period. Subsequent VTPs must meet certain additional requirements set out in section 59 (2) of the NEVA. Although these are not mandatory for the 2025 VTP, we have adopted a number of these requirements, including:

- identification of areas for renewable energy development
- use of scenarios and sensitivities
- development of a viable plan for each scenario that integrates economic, social and environmental factors including least-cost system design, technical system requirements, strategic land use assessment and wider factors
- inclusion of the specified projects for that plan.

2.3 Scenarios: how we determine how much energy is needed and when

There are many plausible and different possible futures for Victoria's energy landscape. Factors such as the adoption of consumer energy resources (such as solar panels, batteries and electric vehicles) and changes in industry and technology will impact our demand for renewable energy.

We have developed 3 hypothetical scenarios to help us determine how much new renewable energy we need and when. Planning for a range of potential futures helps us consider the risks of under-investment and over-investment. It ensures the combination of projects we identify can respond to future uncertainties. Table 3 summarises the scenarios that have been used to develop the 2025 VTP.

All 3 of the scenarios are aligned with the Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO's) 2024 Integrated System Plan (ISP) scenarios, adapted to meet Victoria's needs in line with the Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF). The scenarios are not forecasts and do not represent our view on how the energy transition will occur, nor does the VTP endorse one scenario over another. There are many plausible and different possible futures. Recognising this, VicGrid has also undertaken sensitivity analysis to test what would happen if we made different assumptions to those considered in the scenarios. Scenarios and sensitivity analysis are important tools for planning and managing future risks and uncertainties.

The 2024 VTP Guidelines provide further details on the inputs and assumptions of each scenario.

These scenarios will be updated for future VTPs to reflect new technology developments and the latest information on consumer energy demand. As these scenarios evolve, so will the VTP modelling and outputs, ensuring the pathway of future transmission projects accounts for changing circumstances.



The 3 hypothetical scenarios used in the 2025 VTP



Scenario 1

Considers a potential future where the

Victorian energy sector evolves in line with AEMO's national step change trends. The 2024 ISP describes this scenario as representing a transition pace that enables Australia's efforts to limit global temperature rise below 2°C, with consumer energy resources modelled to be a key contributor to the transition. Victoria's renewable energy targets, offshore wind targets and storage targets are met.



Scenario 2 Considers a potential future where new

energy-intensive industries are established in regional and central Victoria at scale, such as data centres, hydrogen production and green aluminium. Demand in this scenario is based on AEMO's national green energy export trends forecast, which models a rapid decarbonisation pathway and the development of low emission energy exports.



Scenario 3

Considers a potential future

where there may be delays of up to one year in delivering new energy infrastructure. There is reduced growth in coordinated consumer energy resources and to reflect broad challenges across the National Electricity Market (NEM), other NEM-Government policies and targets are generally delayed as well.

Table 3: Summary of key factors considered in each scenario

Parameters	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	
Demand				
AEMO demand scenario	AEMO's green exports AEMO's step-change in other states		AEMO's step-change	
2050 operational demand (TWh)	73.7	110.3	73.7	
	Oth	er key factors		
Victorian Renewable Energy Targets (2025, 2030 and 2035)		Achieved		
Storage targets (2030 and 2035)		Achieved		
Offshore wind targets	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved but delayed up to one year	
Capacity Investment Scheme Victorian allocation (2030)	Achieved			
Gas constraints	As per AEMO's 2024 ISP			
Interconnection	As per announcements / AEMO's ISP	Marinus Link (ML) Stage 2 – July 2037	WRL, VNI-West and Marinus Link (ML) Stage 1 delayed up to one year, no ML Stage 2	
NEM coal closure	As per announcements / Victorian Renewable Energy Target			
Non-VIC government policies	Aligned with announcements		Generally delayed due to various challenges associated with the energy transition. For example, Snowy Hydro is delayed by one year.	

2.4 Our approach to developing the VTP

The process we have used to develop the VTP is set out in the VTP Guidelines. VicGrid released the final guidelines for this VTP in September 2024, following public consultation.

The guidelines include 5 key steps to develop the 2025 VTP, outlined in Table 4 and Figure 6. Developing the VTP is an iterative process that considers which areas are most suitable to host REZs, how much new generation will be required in each REZ, and the transmission upgrades required to connect these REZs to the grid. The VTP development process considers 3 different scenarios of future energy requirements across Victoria, to ensure the VTP is robust across a range of possible futures. These scenarios are described in detail in the guidelines and summarised in Section 2.3.

The VTP Guidelines will be updated over time as we prepare future VTPs. You can view the 2024 VTP Guidelines and learn more about how we developed them at **vicgrid.vic.gov.au**

Table 4: The 5 Steps to develop the 2025 VTP² (continued on next page)

Key analytical steps	Description
 Step 1 Identifying areas for investigation Key outputs: REZ study area REZ areas for investigation 	 The first step to develop the VTP involved assessing the broad geographic areas that may be suitable to host renewable generation and narrowing this down to areas for investigation for hosting REZs. This was a 2-part process: A broad study area was identified using a strategic land use assessment. The assessment took into account existing land uses and landscape features across the state from several, and sometimes competing, perspectives, including environment, cultural heritage, social, land use and engineering. The assessment identified areas that we should avoid considering due to land use and landscape constraints, areas that we should investigate further for renewable energy development, and features that provide investment opportunities. The study area was then narrowed to areas for investigation. To do this, we undertook energy market modelling (see Figure 7) to identify smaller areas within the study area that are most suitable to host generation from an economic standpoint (referred to as a least-cost generation mix). This identified the generation types and locations to meet Victoria's energy requirements at the lowest cost to consumers. Unlike traditional planning processes, this least-cost analysis took broader land use factors into account. Areas that had been deprioritised due to land-use constraints during the strategic land use assessment were excluded from the least-cost analysis.

² Note that this table includes some updates compared with the version presented in the 2024 VTP Guidelines. A second phase of strategic land use assessment to identify draft areas of interest for transmission projects is no longer undertaken under Step 4, given that the majority of candidate development projects consist of network augmentations and may not require new transmission easements. We have also added additional detail and clarified the process to refine REZ candidate areas into draft proposed REZs.

prohibitive.

Key analytical steps	Description
Step 2 Developing draft proposed REZs	Our next step was to refine the REZ areas of interest into potential REZ candidate areas, and then narrow these down further into draft proposed REZs. To do this, we took an iterative approach that considered how much generation would be needed across different scenarios of future demand, as well as a range of local factors related to land use, community preferences, generator interest and regional economic development. Refining the areas of interest into draft proposed REZs was a 4-part process:
Key outputs:	Spatial multi-criteria analysis
 REZ candidate areas Preliminary generation resource plans for each scenario Draft proposed REZs 	 Using the areas for investigation as an input, we first completed a spatial multi-criteria analysis to further consider broader qualitative factors in addition to the least-cost generation outcome. This provided valuable information on whether certain areas should be reprioritised based on factors such as:
	• Community preferences relating to the development of renewable energy generation and transmission infrastructure across Victoria
	• Land use, through detailed land-use information from the strategic land use assessment
	 Generator/developer interest, including information obtained from a survey for developers of generation and storage projects, and
	• Regional development indicators to assess the comparative strengths of Victoria's regions in relation to REZ development, and how hosting a REZ could support other regional development opportunities.
	Calibration checks
	2. Next we completed calibration checks on the results of the multi-criteria analysis. This considered 2 key factors:
	• The size and location of in-service and committed generation projects. This allowed us to consider cumulative impacts from the overall level of development concentrated in a given region when determining the most appropriate locations for siting future generation across the state.
	• A network planning review to evaluate transmission corridor feasibility. Certain areas were infeasible for generation and storage development, for reasons such as they would require transmission lines to traverse a national park, or the required length of new transmission was considered

Key analytical steps	Description
	 Preliminary generation resource plans We completed further energy market modelling to develop the preliminary generation resource plans for each of the 3 VTP scenarios, building on the results of the multi-criteria analysis and calibration checks. These plans included: which technologies to build (including storage) how much capacity to build when this capacity should be built the location of the new generation build The preliminary generation resource plans provided a more refined picture of the suitable areas for REZ development, taking into account a range of land-use factors and generator interest in addition to cost and technical constraints. Alongside feedback we received on the study area from communities, First Peoples and industry, these detailed plans helped us to narrow the REZ areas for investigation into a set of REZ candidate areas. Refinement into draft proposed REZs The final sub-step was to further refine the boundaries of the REZ candidate areas, which aimed to balance a range of perspectives and trade-offs. In addition to detailed energy market modelling, we considered: stakeholder views collated from engagement with formally recognised Traditional Owner groups; local communities through drop-in sessions, feedback form responses and submissions; and local councils and industry bodies through briefings and submissions alignment with regional and local economic development strategies existing and committed generation projects, and potential for cumulative economic, social and environmental impacts due to the concentration of projects in a region
	• existing and committed generation projects, and potential for cumulative economic, social and environmental impacts due to the concentration of projects in a region

Key analytical steps	Description
Step 3 Step 3 Identifying candidate development pathways Key outputs: • Candidate development pathways for each scenario	In Step 3, we considered what transmission upgrades would be needed to enable the generation amounts and locations identified in the preliminary generation resource plans and draft proposed REZs from Step 2. We did this for each of the VTP scenarios, creating a 'candidate development pathway' for each scenario. These pathways identify the potential transmission projects needed and by when, to maintain secure operation of the power system, meet supply requirements and deliver reliable power to Victorian homes and businesses. To achieve this, we assessed the capacity of the existing transmission network against the maximum additional generation identified in Step 2. Where we identified constraints, we completed transmission network planning to identify feasible project options. The technical feasibility of these transmission project options was then assessed through power systems analysis (see Figure 8).
	Where necessary, the results of this network planning and feasibility analysis were then used to further refine the generation resource plans and draft proposed REZs from Step 2. This in turn fed into finalising the 3 candidate development pathways. This iterative approach across Steps 2 and 3 helped us select draft proposed REZ locations, generation resource plans and transmission pathways that would deliver the best overall outcome.



Key analytical steps	Description
Step 4 Assessing candidate development pathways Key outputs: • Draft optimal development pathway	 In this step, we evaluated the 3 candidate development pathways to select the draft 'optimal development pathway': the pathway that performs best when considering the Victorian transmission planning objective, including technical feasibility, benefits for Victorians, costs to energy consumers and robustness across a range of future scenarios. We used 4 different tools to assess the candidate development pathways: Further energy market modelling across all scenarios. Cost-benefit analysis to compare the costs and benefits of the candidate development pathways, taking into account capital and operating costs for both generation and transmission, as well as benefits from reduced carbon emissions and improved system reliability. Robustness analysis – also known as a least-regret analysis – to identify the pathway that minimises the net cost across all scenarios and is least sensitive to future uncertainties. A preliminary robustness analysis was undertaken to determine the draft optimal pathway.
b b c c c c c c c c c c	Feedback received during consultation on the draft 2025 VTP will be taken into account to finalise the optimal development pathway and proposed REZs. We will also complete some additional power systems analysis and robustness checks before finalising the 2025 VTP (see Section 12 for further detail).

Figure 6: The 5 steps of 2025 VTP development





Figure 7: What is energy market modelling?

What is energy market modelling?

Energy market modelling is a method used to simulate and forecast how energy markets will behave in response to future changes. We have used energy market modelling software called PLEXOS that is widely used in industry. It helps to analyse how different factors such as energy demand, consumer energy resource uptake, government policies and generator capital and operating costs can influence the supply and demand of energy, and consequently the types and capacity of energy generation development in the future. This type of modelling is crucial for understanding the future dynamics of the energy market and provides insights that assist stakeholders including policymakers, energy companies, and investors in strategic decision-making. These models enable us to forecast the impact different transmission options have on future developer investment and operational decisions. We use energy market modelling to produce the generation sector costs used in the cost-benefit analysis.

Figure 8: What is power system modelling?

What is power system modelling?

Power system modelling is a specialised approach used to represent the intricate workings of electrical power systems through computer simulation of generation, transmission lines, substations, and end-users of electricity.

By employing these simulations, we can predict how the system will behave under different conditions, assess reliability, plan upgrades, and integrate renewable energy sources. This process is crucial for ensuring that the power grid remains stable and efficient, minimising outages, and adapting to the evolving energy demands of Victoria. To do this, we have used a power system simulation for engineering (PSS/E) software, which is an advanced tool widely used within the industry for this purpose.

Strategic land use assessment: Our new approach to identifying land use and landscape values to support the 2025 VTP

The strategic land use assessment is a new planning tool VicGrid is introducing to help identify areas to protect and avoid and areas that are more suitable to host renewable energy and transmission infrastructure. It recognises important values many Victorians place on our land and landscape, including culture and heritage, livelihoods, ecosystems and biodiversity, food and fibre, recreation, strategic minerals and many others.

How the strategic land use assessment helped to shape the draft 2025 VTP

A statewide strategic land use assessment was used to identify the REZ study area published in the 2024 VTP Guidelines. This included a high-level, statewide mapping of land use constraints and opportunities for renewable energy development, using spatial datasets across a range of environmental, cultural heritage, social, land use (including agriculture) and engineering themes. The methodology and outputs are published in Appendix A of the 2024 VTP Guidelines.

The strategic land use assessment was also used to support investigations at a regional level, as we narrowed the study area to draft proposed REZs. At this stage, the assessment was expanded to include some additional considerations based on feedback we received during consultation on the VTP Guidelines. These additional considerations included:

- Distinctive area landscapes: the following distinctive landscapes in the Victorian Planning Provisions were added as avoidance areas: Bass Coast, Bellarine Peninsula, Surf Coast, and Macedon Ranges.
- Major (named) rivers and inland lakes: these existing criteria were reclassified as avoidance areas.

to shape the draft 2025 VTP Significant landforms: extended to include additional areas of known high significance from

publicly available data.

- **Residential growth areas**: additional residential growth areas identified during engagement with local governments.
- Agricultural compatibility: the relative compatibility (i.e., impact) of different farming practices with different renewable energy technologies, identified through engagement with agricultural groups and stakeholders. For more information about how farmland and agriculture has been considered, see Section 5.
- Aggregated housing density: indirect representation of dwelling density based on census housing count statistics.

It is important to note that this is a strategic assessment using available, authoritative data, mostly from public sources, and does not consider the full breadth of issues related to siting individual renewable energy projects, including propertylevel constraints. Further inputs or updates to the strategic land use assessment may be included in future plans or mapping exercises.



Strategic land use assessment themes

PART A

3. The policy context for the Victorian Transmission Plan

The Victorian Transmission Plan (VTP) is designed to align with and complement other existing state and national policy processes.

3.1 Relationship with other statutory planning and environmental frameworks

The draft 2025 VTP sets out the proposed highlevel plan for renewable energy zones (REZs) and future transmission investments. It does not replace statutory planning and environmental approval processes, including approvals and engagement requirements under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and *Environment Effects Act 1978*.

The VTP process is intended to support these approval processes by incorporating community consultation and environmental, land use and social factors early in identifying the most suitable locations for transmission and generation infrastructure. The Victorian Government is working to maximise the benefits of siting generation and storage projects within REZs. For project proponents, this means policy support and new network access arrangements that provide greater certainty about grid connection and reduce the risk of excessive curtailment. The new access arrangements in REZs will also set clear expectations about community engagement and benefits requirements, improving outcomes for local communities, stakeholders and project developers. For further details, see Section 9.

Speeding up planning and environmental approval processes

The Development Facilitation Program is a new accelerated planning assessment pathway for eligible projects to inject investment into the Victorian economy. Renewable energy is one of the priority sectors under the program. For more information, see **planning.vic.gov.au/planningapprovals/planning-enquiries-and-requests/ development-facilitation-program** The Victorian Government is also speeding up assessment review times for Environment Effects Statements (EESs), targeting a review time of no longer than 18 months. Making the EES system faster, cheaper and more predictable will encourage investment and shorten development time for renewable energy infrastructure and other projects important to the Victorian economy, while continuing to protect Victoria's environment. For more information on the EES reforms, see **vic.gov.au/action-two-cut-red-tape**

3.2 Integration with other planning processes, programs and projects

The draft 2025 VTP has factored in how existing Victorian and Commonwealth policies and programs will contribute to Victoria's energy mix over the coming decade, along with other state and national electricity transmission and generation planning frameworks. Table 5 summarises how we consider these energy policy initiatives in the VTP.

In addition, we considered a range of broader Victorian Government strategies and initiatives when deciding the location of draft proposed REZs (for example, impacts on agriculture and irrigation, tourism and mineral resources, and delivering local benefits in line with the Victorian Energy Jobs Plan). For more detail, see Section 5.

Processes, program or project	Description	How we've considered it in the VTP
Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) Integrated System Plan (ISP)	The overarching plan for required investments in generation, storage and network infrastructure across the National Electricity Market. The ISP takes a 20-year development outlook and is published every 2 years.	We have broadly aligned our inputs, assumptions and scenarios with the 2024 ISP. This avoids duplication and allows the VTP to build on the extensive existing analysis and stakeholder consultation that has informed the ISP. The sequencing of future ISPs and future VTPs will allow them to inform one another. This will help ensure consistency between national and Victorian transmission development, which remains critical for planning transmission developments across the National Electricity Market, including transmission interconnectors with other states. Future ISPs will also consider REZs that have been
		identified through the VTP and declared in Victoria.
AEMO's Victorian Annual Planning Report (VAPR)	Published annually in October, the VAPR assesses the adequacy of the existing Victorian transmission network to meet reliability and security requirements. It identifies limitations over the next 10 years that need to be addressed through network upgrades.	VAPR reports have informed the longlist of transmission projects we considered when creating the VTP candidate development pathways. For details, see Appendix A. Roles and responsibilities for the VAPR are likely to change in the future to support alignment with the VTP. Under the new Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF), the Victorian Government proposes to transfer transmission network planning functions such as the VAPR from AEMO to VicGrid. Legislation to enact these reforms is expected to be introduced to the Victorian Parliament later in 2025.
Other AEMO planning documents	AEMO publishes several planning documents for East Coast electricity and gas markets, including the Electricity Statement of Opportunities (ESOO), Gas Statement of Opportunities (GSOO) and the Victorian Gas Planning Report.	As set out under the <i>National Electricity (Victoria)</i> <i>Act 2005</i> , VicGrid has had regard to these planning documents when performing REZ planning functions, including the preparation of the VTP.

Table 5: How the VTP considers other planning processes, programs and projects

Table 5: How the VTP considers other planning processes, programs and projects (continued from previous page)

Processes, program or project	Description	How we've considered it in the VTP
Victorian Renewable Energy Targets (VRET)	Victoria has legislated targets to increase the share of electricity generated from renewables (see Section 1). To support achieving these targets, the Victorian Government has implemented the VRET2 auction scheme. The VRET2 is designed to provide long-term contracts that create investment certainty for new energy generation projects. Six projects have been successful under VRET2.	The VTP scenarios and modelling are designed to be consistent with the achievement of Victoria's renewable energy targets. The VTP also factors in the existing (Glenrowan Solar Farm) and anticipated capacity from the VRET2 projects (totalling more than 500 MW of additional generation capacity and 600 MWh of battery storage).
Offshore wind targets	The Victorian Government is working closely with the Australian Government to coordinate development of Victoria's offshore wind industry. To date, the Australian Government has declared 2 offshore wind areas off the coast of Victoria, which are separate to the onshore REZs that are proposed in the VTP. VicGrid is coordinating transmission infrastructure development for these areas.	All VTP scenarios factor in meeting Victoria's offshore wind targets, and transmission requirements to connect the Australian Government's declared offshore wind zones in the Southern Ocean and Gippsland have been incorporated. As part of the draft 2025 VTP, we are consulting on a draft proposed shoreline REZ in Gippsland, which is needed to host onshore connection infrastructure linking offshore wind generation with Victoria's onshore transmission network. For more information, see Section 7.
Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS)	To support its target to reach 82% renewable generation nationally by 2030, the Australian Government has committed to provide revenue underwriting for 32 GW of new renewable generation and storage capacity under the Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS). Project proponents in Victoria can bid for Australian Government revenue underwriting support in a series of competitive tenders from 2024 to 2027.	The Victorian and Australian Governments have agreed that at least 5.0 GW / 11 TWh of generation capacity and 1.7 GW / 6.8 GWh of storage capacity will be tendered under the CIS from 2024 to 2026, for delivery in Victoria by 2030. A maximum of 1.5 GW worth of solar projects will be awarded to ensure an overall mix of generation types that supports energy system reliability in Victoria. The CIS target capacities have been factored in as an input to the VTP development process, helping to shape the sequencing of priority transmission projects over the next 5 years.



What is different between the 2024 ISP and the VTP?

One important distinction between the 2024 ISP and the VTP is how each refers to REZs. As part of the ISP process, AEMO has identified potential REZs across the National Electricity Market, including 6 in Victoria. These areas have been based largely on desktop studies considering a mix of resource potential, technical, and other engineering considerations. These are different to the Victorian REZs discussed in this document, which have a particular meaning under Victorian legislation.

The REZs discussed in the Victorian transmission planning process will ultimately be formally declared by the Victorian Minister for Energy following the final 2025 VTP. The declared REZs will reflect more precise geographical areas refined through a process that includes partnering with First Peoples and engaging with landholders, communities and industry through several stages of consultation. Special community benefits arrangements will apply to declared REZs, as well as network access arrangements that increase certainty for investors. For more information, see Section 9.

Relationship with distribution network planning

The VTP and VAPR focus on planning for the high-voltage transmission network that is needed to transport electricity over long distances. The draft proposed REZs identified in this VTP are designed around connecting generators to this high-voltage transmission network.

Generators may also connect to the distribution network – the poles and wires that carry lowervoltage electricity to homes and businesses. However, planning for the distribution network is the responsibility of individual distribution network service providers (DNSPs) and is not part of the VTP process.

In Victoria there are 5 DNSPs that each cover different geographic areas: Ausnet, Citipower, Jemena, Powercor and United Energy. Planning information for distribution networks can be found in DNSPs' Distribution Annual Planning Reports.

The relationship between electricity network planning documents in Victoria is summarised in Figure 9.



Figure 9: Relationship between electricity network planning documents in Victoria

Entity	AEMO	VicGrid	AEMO	AusNet, Citipower, Jemena, Powercor, United Energy
Document	Integrated System Plan	Victorian Transmission Plan	Victorian Annual Planning Report ³	Distribution Annual Planning Reports
Coverage				
Scope	National Electricity Market	REZ identification and associated transmission	Existing transmission network and other projects	Existing distribution network and other projects
Time horizon	20 years and beyond	15/25 years	10+ years	5+ years

³ The Victorian Transmission Investment Framework reforms propose that the responsibility for planning Victoria's declared shared network, and all of AEMO's associated declared network functions will be transferred to VicGrid from AEMO. Once implemented, this will end AEMO's role as Victoria's transmission network service provider. Legislation to enable this transfer is expected to be introduced to the Victorian Parliament later this year.

PART A

4.VicGrid is working with First Peoples

VicGrid is committed to early engagement with and involvement of Traditional Owners and First Peoples in planning renewable energy and transmission infrastructure.

Walking together with Traditional Owners and First Peoples is critical to the successful delivery of the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan (VTP) and future VTPs. Meaningful engagement will help us plan renewable energy generation and transmission in a way that minimises impacts to Country, protects cultural heritage and delivers tangible benefits.

We have received strong feedback through ongoing engagement as we have been developing the VTP. This feedback has helped to inform the draft 2025 VTP and will also inform our engagement approach moving forward.

Our work with Traditional Owners and First Peoples does not end with the first VTP. We will continue to build on the conversations started with the first VTP and embed processes through which Traditional Owners can shape decisions about subsequent VTPs and renewable energy zone (REZ) development.

4.1 Principles for walking together

Our vision is to walk together with Traditional Owners as respected partners in development and delivery of policy and projects. We are committed to doing this in a way that upholds transparency, mutual respect and shared benefits.

First Peoples are distinct rights holders to Country and Sea Country and their rights must be upheld as laid out under the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*, the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010*, *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). VicGrid's activities will be underpinned by respectful, long-term relationships with Traditional Owners that supports the realisation of their goals and objectives for Country, Sea Country, and Culture. This is our unwavering commitment. VicGrid is also committed to respecting the outcomes of Treaty negotiations in Victoria.

VicGrid's engagement with Traditional Owners is guided by the following principles:

- Self-determination
- Free, prior and informed consent
- Respectful and meaningful engagement
- Transparency and accountability
- Cultural respect and safety

VicGrid is also committed to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's Pupangarli Marnmarnepu 'Owning Our Future' Aboriginal Self-Determination Reform Strategy. With the support and leadership of Traditional Owners, we will together identify key considerations, concerns, benefits and opportunities to enable Traditional Owners to play an active role in Victoria's energy transition. This includes through the development of the 2025 VTP.



4.2 The role of First Peoples in shaping the VTP

Engagement with Traditional Owners has helped to shape the first VTP and will be crucial to shape future VTPs and as we design REZs.

Themes from engagement with Traditional Owners ahead of the first VTP included the protection of cultural heritage, the importance of delivering tangible benefits and the need for more meaningful and longer-term support for Traditional Owners to engage with future VTPs and REZ development.

We acknowledge we have more work to do to support meaningful participation of Traditional Owners and First Peoples in the development of future VTPs and REZs. It is our commitment to work closely with Traditional Owner groups to understand their priorities and aspirations, so that we can deliver on our vision to walk together. Protecting cultural heritage as REZs are developed will continue to be a key focus for this work. The first phase of the VTP strategic land use assessment included only publicly available datasets for Aboriginal and historical cultural heritage. As such, the data relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage is limited and does not capture all known heritage values.

VicGrid has worked to establish relationships with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) as well as the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council to supplement the publicly available data. To support this, we held 6 individual and group briefing sessions with formally recognised Traditional Owner groups as part of consultation on the draft VTP Guidelines and study area during 2024. We will continue ongoing conversations with both formally recognised and non-formally recognised Traditional Owner groups to design an appropriate process for incorporating further cultural heritage information into REZ development and subsequent VTPs, in alignment with principles of indigenous data sovereignty. We have heard how critical cultural heritage mapping is, and we are committed to making sure this process is Traditional Owner-led.

Integrating a self-determined approach to cultural heritage will be an ongoing process that we will continue to build on collaboratively throughout the lifecycle of the 2025 VTP, subsequent VTPs and through the process for declaring REZs. The development of REZs will require an ongoing dialogue with Traditional Owners to ensure we minimise impacts to Country.

Another key focus of our engagement with Traditional Owners to date has been how we can deliver lasting, tangible benefits from the energy transition for First Peoples.

As part of the Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF) reforms, VicGrid is working in partnership with Traditional Owners to consider models for dedicated benefits for Traditional Owners affected by REZs and transmission corridors. This process aims to give Traditional Owners control over how funds are spent to ensure they deliver economic empowerment and support self-determination. These dedicated benefits are expected to be funded by mandatory contributions from transmission, generation and storage companies. They will be in addition to any discretionary payments by energy companies to Traditional Owners.

An important milestone in our engagement with Traditional Owner groups was a Traditional Owner Forum, held in September 2024. This was an opportunity to bring together Traditional Owners and representatives from VicGrid, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and other agencies, to openly discuss the renewable energy transition in Victoria and the impact on Victoria's Traditional Owner communities. The conversations at this forum were critical in shaping VicGrid's thinking about the impacts of renewable energy and transmission, the opportunities for the future and the real harms that must not be repeated.

Feedback from the forum and through ongoing conversations with Traditional Owner groups has informed our approach to developing the 2025 VTP and will continue to shape work to protect cultural values and develop a dedicated model for benefits for Traditional Owners.

This work does not end with the first VTP and we are committed to building on this foundation to establish more meaningful partnerships with Traditional Owners and First Peoples.



PART A

5. Engaging with communities and industry

Engaging with landholders, communities and industry, and seeking to partner with First Peoples, is critical to the successful delivery of the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan (VTP) and future VTPs.

Our new approach to planning has at its core a commitment to give First Peoples, landholders, communities and regional stakeholders a real voice in the process. Meaningful engagement and incorporating community views earlier will help us plan renewable energy generation and transmission in a way that minimises impacts and delivers tangible benefits.

We have received extensive feedback through ongoing engagement as we have been developing the VTP.

Feedback has provided valuable insights to inform the draft 2025 VTP and draft proposed renewable energy zones (REZs). It will also continue to shape decisions about the final 2025 VTP, subsequent VTPs, REZ development and the development of the transmission projects identified in the VTP.

5.1 Our comprehensive engagement model

We know that the process used to plan transmission under the previous framework has not adequately considered community, cultural, land use and environmental values early in the process.

Under the Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF), we are implementing a new approach that includes partnerships with First Peoples and place-based engagement with landholders and local communities. We are committed to listening to and considering all feedback, balanced against technical and financial requirements of planning future transmission infrastructure projects.

Our approach is guided by the Victorian Government's Public Engagement Framework 2021-2025. The Public Engagement Framework focuses on meaningful, principled and inclusive public engagement, and aligns with the best practice approaches set out by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2). The framework embodies 6 principles that guide our engagement with First Peoples, communities and industry:

- **Meaningful:** The process of public engagement is genuine and informs the final decisions.
- **Inclusive:** The engagement is respectful, inclusive and accessible.
- **Transparent:** The engagement is clear and open about what the public can and cannot influence.
- **Informed:** The engagement provides relevant and timely information to the public.
- Accountable: The engagement is high quality and responsive to the public.
- Valuable: The engagement creates value for the community and government. This can include social, economic and environmental values.

5.2 Engaging with local communities to develop the VTP

We are using a place-based approach to incorporate early, deeper and ongoing community engagement in the planning process. Our goal is to ensure regions and communities have the agency and opportunity to meaningfully participate in developing the VTP, REZs and transmission projects, and share in the benefits of the energy transition. To achieve this, VicGrid's community engagement model has 6 objectives:

- To raise community awareness and understanding of REZs and why large-scale transmission is critical to the energy transition.
- To facilitate community input into key stages of the planning and investment lifecycle for transmission projects, including through the strategic land use assessment and consultation on the draft 2025 VTP.
- To enable First Peoples to be resourced with the capacity and capability to participate in REZ discussions and make decisions.
- To support the delivery of community benefits to ensure impacted host communities and First Peoples directly benefit.
- To foster government-industry-community partnerships to unlock regional development opportunities in line with local aspirations and build local adaptive capacities.
- To facilitate a cross-sectoral and multi-level governance response to issues and provide an escalation point for resolving issues throughout the end-to-end planning and development process.

To work towards these objectives, we are engaging with regional communities and stakeholders using many channels.

Engagement on the Victorian transmission planning process began in November 2023 with the Renewable Energy Planning Survey, which was open from 17 November 2023 to 16 February 2024. We invited Victorians to identify areas and landscapes important to them through the survey and an interactive map. We received 2,015 survey responses and 2,465 pin-drops on the map. Results highlighted the significance communities place on protecting Victoria's natural environment, parks, water systems (rivers and lakes), and biodiversity. Minimising impacts on agricultural land and farming communities was also highlighted as a key concern. This feedback informed the process to identify the REZ study area, and will continue to support decision-making.

On 22 July 2024, we released the draft VTP Guidelines and renewable energy study area map for feedback. This started a formal 5-week community and industry engagement consultation period for the guidelines (from 22 July to 25 August 2024) and a 10-week consultation period for the study area (from 22 July to 30 September 2024). We received more than 1,300 feedback form responses, more than 170 submissions, and held conversations with more than 450 community members during in-person drop-in sessions across Victoria.

Victorians were invited to provide feedback about guiding principles, which shaped our approach to narrowing the study area to draft proposed REZs. Community feedback emphasised the importance of minimising land use, cultural, and environmental impacts, and avoiding over-development to minimise cumulative impacts. People also told us about places to avoid, protect or prioritise for investigation within the study area.

Feedback from community members and local government stakeholders revealed 8 key themes, summarised on the next page.
Engagement results overview: Community and local government

Responses to the community feedback forms, submissions and feedback from the community drop-in sessions revealed themes across the following key areas. The themes are in order from most common to least common feedback.



Biodiversity and natural environment: We heard concerns about impacts of infrastructure development on biodiversity, water systems and endangered species' habitats.



Agriculture and land use: Respondents stressed the need to protect valuable farmland and raised concerns about impacts to farming activities and farm productivity.



Impact on regions: We heard concerns about burden on regional areas to service metropolitan energy demands, socioeconomic concerns related to energy and community division linked to prior experiences with renewable energy development.



Natural hazard vulnerability: Feedback raised concerns about development in relation to natural hazards, including bushfires and flooding, and firefighting.



Engagement: We received feedback about the engagement channels we use, how we raise awareness about engagement opportunities, and doubts about how feedback would influence the VTP.



Cost of transition: Respondents provided feedback on the cost of power, including potential impacts of renewable energy on electricity prices and other associated costs.



Energy source: Feedback was received about different types of energy sources, and generation and transmission technologies.



Regional opportunity: There was both support for how regions might benefit economically from hosting generation or transmission, and doubts about the actual benefits communities would receive.

This feedback provided valuable insights into regional concerns, values and priorities as well as location-specific risks and factors related to topography, wildlife and infrastructure. The feedback was also analysed by region and local government area, and validated through engagement with local councils. For more information about engagement with communities and local governments, read the Draft VTP Guidelines Final Engagement Report. This information has been considered, alongside other modelling inputs, to help narrow the study area to draft proposed REZs.

Communities will have further opportunities to participate in place-based engagement to shape decisions about transmission projects and proposed REZs identified in the 2025 VTP, and to engage on future VTPs. Part A – Engaging with communities and industry



5.3 Energy industry engagement

The energy industry plays a crucial role in the transmission planning process. Industry stakeholders include developers of generation and storage projects, transmission owners and operators, existing generators and retailers, market and regulatory bodies, construction companies, investors and all businesses involved in the supply chain for new transmission infrastructure.

VicGrid is committed to ensuring industry perspectives, expertise and knowledge are considered as we develop the 2025 VTP and future VTPs. Through meaningful engagement, we aim to give investors and developers confidence that transmission infrastructure will be developed in the places, and in the timeframes, to support new renewable energy and storage connection in Victoria and meet our renewable energy and emissions targets. Through previous engagement on the VTIF, industry stakeholders have voiced support for Victoria's new strategic approach to transmission planning, and its aim to deliver better engagement and benefits for Traditional Owners and communities. We also heard industry feedback about the importance of keeping energy affordable for all Victorians and ensuring the Victorian planning process could work in coordination with national and other state planning processes.

Engagement on the VTP Guidelines included briefings with peak bodies, key stakeholders, and an industry webinar. VicGrid also engaged renewable energy developers through a survey to understand their plans for proposed new projects in Victoria. We received 47 submissions from industry stakeholders to the draft VTP Guidelines and 28 responses to the generator and developer survey.

Feedback from energy industry stakeholders revealed 9 key themes, summarised on the following page.

Engagement results overview: Industry

Submissions and feedback on the VTP Guidelines from industry and peak body briefing sessions, and responses to a generator and developer survey, revealed themes across the following areas:



Need for holistic engagement on related policy development including network access, connections and community benefits.



Modelling suggestions and feedback on the role it plays in developing the VTP.



Process for identifying draft proposed REZs and input about different areas of the state.



Appropriateness of scenarios including robustness and consideration of potential delays to infrastructure delivery.



Engagement and importance of genuine, transparent approach.



Need to support developer confidence to promote investment in transmission projects.



Flexibility of the VTP process and impacts on accounting for uncertain futures including emerging technologies.



Transmission planning and urgency to deliver transmission to support the transition.



Regulatory complexity at both state and federal levels, and its potential to delay timely investment decisions.

The feedback provided valuable insights that have shaped development of the draft 2025 VTP, including by informing iterations to inputs and assumptions.

For more details about industry feedback that has shaped the VTP, read the Draft VTP Guidelines Final Engagement Report and 2024 VTP Guidelines Changes Summary Report.

5.4 Agriculture and other industry engagement

VicGrid recognises the crucial contribution the agriculture sector makes to Victoria's economy, regional communities, food security and way of life.

We are committed to engaging closely with landholders and agriculture industry groups to make sure they have a voice in the planning of energy infrastructure.

In developing the VTP Guidelines and draft 2025 VTP, VicGrid has engaged with agriculture industry stakeholders to understand the potential impacts of development on farming systems and agricultural operations. Engagement included briefings with peak bodies and meetings with landholder groups, as well as submissions from individuals and organisations focusing on the value and importance of farmland.

Feedback from farmers and agriculture industry stakeholders called for a more detailed approach to assessing the potential impacts of renewable energy and transmission infrastructure on the agriculture industry in different regions and on different types of farming enterprises.

As part of the statewide strategic land use assessment that informed the REZ study area, VicGrid considered statewide datasets related to agricultural land use. This included data on farmgate output, biophysical land capability (e.g., soil quality and rainfall), access to irrigation water, and farm infrastructure investment. For more information see Appendix A of the 2024 VTP Guidelines.

In response to feedback, VicGrid also undertook further research and engagement with agriculture

stakeholders to understand the potential compatibility of different types of farming with the co-location of renewable energy infrastructure. We engaged with regional, state and national groups representing farmers from the livestock grazing, dairy, cropping, horticulture, nursery and garden, and forestry sectors.

This engagement found that farming practices, uncertainties, infrastructure and farm scale all influence compatibility, but experiences on individual farms vary greatly. In general, the more complex and intensive the agricultural land use, the more challenging it is to host renewable energy infrastructure on-farm. Dairy, intensive animals, nurseries and aquaculture were identified among the least compatible with renewable infrastructure. Livestock grazing and dryland broadacre cropping were identified as more compatible. In all cases, biosecurity and farm access should be carefully managed.

VicGrid also engaged with groups and peak bodies representing other industries, including minerals, forestry, manufacturing and education. Feedback focused on the importance of minimising land use conflicts, maintaining energy security and affordability, and opportunities to support economic and skills development.

For more details about agriculture sector feedback that has shaped the VTP, read the Draft VTP Guidelines Final Engagement Report.

5.5 How you can engage and provide feedback on the draft 2025 VTP

The draft 2025 VTP is open for public consultation until **Tuesday 24 June 2025**.

VicGrid is seeking feedback from First Peoples, landholders, communities and industry. See Section 11 for more information about engagement opportunities, how to provide feedback about this draft and how feedback will be taken into account and shape decisions as we finalise the 2025 VTP.

Part B Our draft plan for renewable energy zones and transmission projects

6. What areas are we proposing for future renewable energy generation development?

The draft 2025 VTP sets out draft proposed renewable energy zones (REZs), areas we have identified as most suitable to host new renewable generation project development over the next 15 years.

We have identified 7 draft proposed REZs in Victoria to support onshore renewable projects.

Their size and location are designed to accommodate Victoria's requirements for renewable energy generation as part of our state's overall energy mix from 2025 to 2040.

In total, the draft proposed REZs cover 7% of Victoria's land area (see Figure 13 on page 58). On average statewide, we will need about 11% of the land area of REZs to host wind and solar projects to meet our expected renewable energy capacity to 2040. However, only a fraction of the land within project sites will be needed for infrastructure. For example, on a typical wind farm, the turbines themselves along with access roads and other infrastructure occupy only about 2% of the project site. Figures will vary by individual REZs and projects.

To identify locations for the draft proposed REZs, we investigated parts of Victoria to understand and balance factors including existing land uses, the environment, publicly available cultural heritage information, generator interest, renewable energy resource potential such as wind and sun, technical requirements for transmission infrastructure, regional development opportunities, and costs to energy consumers. We also considered feedback received from communities and industry during consultation on the REZ study area in 2024.

The overall size of REZs is an important consideration. There is a trade-off between smaller zones with more concentrated infrastructure development, and larger zones that affect a wider area but result in less concentrated development within each zone. Based on feedback received and our assessment of different land use considerations, we have designed draft proposed REZs that are relatively smaller.

We are seeking feedback on the draft proposed REZs and our approach to REZ sizes as part of public consultation on the draft 2025 VTP. For more information about how to provide feedback, see Section 11.

What will the REZs mean for me?

Communities in REZs may see increased investment in renewable generation and storage infrastructure over time. Importantly, just some of the land within a REZ will be needed for new renewable projects.

Landholders will still have the right to say no to having new wind, solar or battery projects on their land, and developers will need to negotiate with landholders for rights to build projects on their property. REZs will also deliver benefits for landholders, Traditional Owners, neighbours and communities.

For project developers, generation and storage projects can be developed inside and outside of REZs. However, developers seeking to connect new plant outside of REZs will be subject to a Grid Impact Assessment.

For more information, see Section 9.

6.1 Victoria's future energy mix informed our REZs

An important step in identifying the draft proposed REZs was to consider how much additional renewable generation will be needed to meet Victoria's future energy needs, and by when. To do this, we analysed the mix of technologies that would best meet future energy demand and Victorian policy targets from 2025 to 2040. We considered factors such as:

- capital and operating costs and their impact on consumer energy bills
- land use constraints
- community preferences and cumulative impacts of development
- generator and developer interest
- regional economic development opportunities
- technical feasibility
- energy reliability.

For more details on the methodology, see Section 2.

The resulting generation mix is presented in Figure 10. Under our draft plan, onshore wind and solar generation will have a key role in Victoria's overall generation mix over the next 15 years, delivering 13.6 GW or 48% of total grid-supplied generation capacity by 2040 and 34.8 TWh or 48% of total grid generation output⁴. This means we are planning for 5.8 GW of new onshore wind and 2.7 GW of new utility-scale solar to connect to the grid. Offshore wind will also be important, contributing 9 GW or 32% of grid-supplied generation capacity by 2040 and 34.4 TWh or 47% of grid-supplied generation output.

This generation mix is designed for scenario 1 (see Section 2 for more information on how we used scenarios to develop the draft VTP). We also considered generation needs for scenario 2 and 3, which are presented in Appendix B. In scenario 2, Victoria's energy needs are greater, requiring larger future investments in onshore wind, solar and storage infrastructure.

While renewable generation in REZs will have a leading role, offshore wind, storage and backup generation technologies, and energy imported from other states will all help to maintain a reliable and affordable electricity supply in the coming years. The growth of consumer energy resources such as rooftop solar and batteries will also help to limit the amount of energy that needs to be supplied from the transmission system.

Additional renewable generation capacity in our draft plan

By 2040, we are planning for:



Notes: These figures include new capacity from already committed projects across Victoria and the additional new generation capacity that we are planning for by 2040.

Some figures have been rounded. Infrastructure figures are indicative and assume 6 MW turbines for onshore wind, 18 MW turbines for offshore wind and 525 W (AC) solar panels.

⁴ Percentages are calculated based on the share of grid-scale generation capacity or output in FY41. This includes wind (onshore and offshore), utility-scale solar, gas and hydro projects that service operational demand.

The role of other technologies in supporting wind and solar generation

Several other technologies will be needed over the next 15 years to complement renewables and ensure we maintain a reliable and secure energy mix:



Energy firming technologies

Batteries and long-duration storage such as pumped hydro will have an important role in helping balance variable renewable output from wind and solar to meet demand – known as firming. Our projected energy mix includes a total of 4.1 GW of short and long-duration storage in 2040⁵, supported by 3.6 GW of gas-fired power generation to meet periods of peak demand or low renewables output.



Interconnectors

Under our draft plan, interconnectors such as Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West) and Marinus Link will provide Victoria access to additional diverse renewables and firming capacity from other National Electricity Market (NEM) iurisdictions.



Consumer energy resources Household uptake of technologies such as rooftop solar and batteries will help limit the amount of new gridscale generation and storage that's needed. Our projected generation mix for Victoria's grid factors in growth in consumer energy resources in line with the Australian Energy Market Operator's scenarios, which sees up to 16 GW in distributed solar by 2040.



 ⁵ By 2035, our projected energy mix includes a total of 6.6 GW of storage capacity, including 4.1 GW of utility short and long-duration storage and 2.5 GW of distributed storage.
 ⁶ Years shown are for financial years ending in June. For example, the values for 2040 indicate modelled capacities as at June 2040.

Managing periods of low renewable generation

Wind and solar generation are inherently variable, and it is not uncommon to experience periods when there is little wind and sunshine. This is most likely in winter, when energy demand is also high to provide heating during cold weather.

The risk of limited periods of low renewable generation is an important planning consideration for modern electricity networks. In Victoria, this risk will become more pronounced in the late 2030s, following the retirement of coal-fired power plants. There are well-documented examples of periods such as these in Australia, Europe and the United States. VicGrid will seek to learn from these examples as we plan for the future.

The VTP considers the risks of periods of low renewable generation in its approach to energy market modelling. As noted above, our modelled energy mixes for the 3 VTP scenarios include a significant share of batteries and new long-duration storage technologies that will help to address seasonal variability in renewable generation. Interconnectors providing energy from other states will also help smooth Victoria's energy supply, along with a small but important role for gas-fired power generation to provide critical power supply when it is needed, and to meet periods of peak demand.

Transmission upgrades within the Victorian network also provide an important solution, helping ensure energy generated in different regions can be transferred to other locations across the state to meet demand when weather conditions vary.

VicGrid is undertaking further work ahead of the final 2025 VTP to analyse and test the planned system's ability to maintain reliability through a period of low renewable generation in the late 2030s. This will include further stress-testing of the appropriate mix of generation, firming and transmission investment required in the late 2030s.

6.2 Where are the draft proposed REZs?

The 7 draft proposed REZs are areas we have identified as being most suitable to host the new onshore wind and solar generation Victoria will need over the next 15 years.

They are the Central Highlands, Central North, Gippsland, North West, South West and Grampians Wimmera and Wimmera Southern Mallee draft proposed REZs. See Figure 11. Details of each are presented in the following pages.

Details about the draft proposed Gippsland Shoreline REZ are presented in Section 7. It is designed to coordinate the onshore connection infrastructure of offshore wind generators and is separate from the 7 draft proposed REZs for onshore generation discussed in this section.

A wide range of factors have been considered to determine the proposed size and location of each of the 7 REZs. We conducted energy market modelling to understand the suitability of different locations from an economic and technical perspective. We considered cultural significance, environmental constraints, sensitive land uses and landscape values. We also sought to balance engagement feedback and regional economic development priorities with technical inputs on the location of current and future generation projects and transmission infrastructure.

We acknowledge we've considered only publicly available datasets for Aboriginal and historical cultural heritage and we have more work to do to support meaningful participation of Traditional Owners and First Peoples in the development of REZs. Protecting cultural heritage as REZs are developed will continue to be a key focus for this work.

We also acknowledge the potential for renewable energy facilities such as wind turbines, wind monitoring towers, solar farms and associated transmission infrastructure to interact with a wide range of aviation activities that may be conducted in their vicinity. VicGrid will work with stakeholders on ways to manage these as REZs are developed. This could include setting expectations that developers consider potential aviation impacts and consult with relevant stakeholders in the planning stage of generation projects. Table 6 below summarises the different factors we considered in identifying the draft proposed REZs, and Section 2 provides further detail on our methodology.

Processes, program or project	Description
Agricultural land use	We considered farmland at a statewide and regional level, taking into account data including farmgate output, soil quality, rainfall, access to irrigation water and farm infrastructure investment. We also considered the compatibility of different types of farming with the co-location of renewable energy infrastructure. See Section 5 for more information.
Land use and landscape values	Where possible, we avoided areas such as national parks, world heritage sites, Ramsar wetlands, residential areas and other areas of significance. We sought to minimise impacts to areas of high biodiversity value, and prioritised areas with relatively fewer land use constraints.
Generation projects in planning	We sought to include projects in planning within draft proposed REZ boundaries and gave greater consideration to more developed projects and projects that are larger in size.
Modelled generation build	We considered the results of energy market modelling of which technologies are needed (including storage), how much capacity to build, and when and where this capacity should be built.
Transmission network requirements	We preferenced areas that are close to the existing transmission network and assessed what additional or upgraded transmission infrastructure would be needed to accommodate additional renewable energy generation in different areas.
Engagement feedback	We considered feedback from communities, industry and local governments (see box below).
Partnering with Traditional Owners	Where possible, we sought to avoid known areas of high cultural significance or sensitivity based on publicly available Aboriginal cultural heritage information and prioritise areas with fewer known constraints. VicGrid is seeking to partner with Traditional Owners and First Peoples to supplement limited public datasets on Aboriginal cultural heritage and integrate a self-determined approach to protecting cultural heritage during REZ design and development. See Section 4 for more information.
Regional development considerations	We considered the readiness of different regional economies to host REZs, taking into account existing housing, social and transport infrastructure in each area as well as local workforce profiles. We sought to prioritise areas where there was strong alignment with regional economic development strategies.

Table 6: Factors we	considered in a	determinina t	the location of	draft proposed REZs
				and proposed RELS

Figure 11: We have identified 7 draft proposed REZs across Victoria for onshore renewable energy and a shoreline REZ to coordinate offshore wind connections



Figure 12: Draft proposed renewable energy zones and Registered Aboriginal Party boundaries



Disclaimer: The Registered Aboriginal Party boundaries shown in the draft Figure 12 are a computer representation. The boundaries show the general vicinity of land and waters subject to the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) and *Traditional Settlement Act 2010* (Vic) as at the time of publication and could conceivably change. For more details, please see full disclaimer on Page 4.

Figure 13: How much land is needed for renewable generation?



The 7 draft proposed REZs cover approximately 1.6 million hectares, which is 7% of Victoria's total land area of 22.8 million hectares. In comparison, the potential REZs identified in the Australian Energy Market Operator's 2024 Integrated System Plan (AEMO ISP) would cover approximately 8.5 million hectares, or 37% of Victoria's total land area.

Under scenario 1, about 11% of the combined area of the 7 draft proposed REZs would host wind and solar generation in 2040. Those land parcels will not be fully occupied. In fact, 0.06% of Victoria's total land area is required for the physical infrastructure such as wind turbines, solar panels, access roads and others*. The estimated area of the land parcels in which onshore renewables will be hosted by 2040 (both inside and outside a REZ) is approximately 230,000 hectares, or about 1% of Victoria's total land area.

Notes: The total land area for committed and existing onshore wind and solar projects is derived from data provided by the Department of Transport and Planning. Note that: (i) only projects that service operational demand have been included in this calculation and (ii) any existing projects that are expected to be decommissioned by FY41 have not been included in this figure. The total land area for new entrant projects has been approximated using capacity density values of 0.05 MW/ha and 0.5 MW/ha for onshore wind and solar respectively. This is an estimate only, and the actual size of new projects may differ for a range of reasons including site-specific considerations and the development of technology over time. Data on Victoria's total land area is sourced from VicGov Region.

*The land area required for physical infrastructure is an estimate based on 2% for an onshore wind farm and 75% for a solar farm. The figures are consistent with a review of studies on land impacts of renewable energy generation in Australia and overseas. VicGrid acknowledges that these estimates are evolving as technology and construction techniques change over time.

Indicative generation allocations across the draft proposed REZs

The table below shows the modelled generation we will need in each of the 7 draft proposed REZs by 2040 to meet energy demand most efficiently. This includes the existing pipeline of committed generation projects, as well as the additional capacity that we are planning for beyond the committed project pipeline. The ranges indicate the likely scale of new generation within each REZ based on our modelling, noting that that the final figures may sit outside this range.

The figures are not caps or limits. These are quantities of generation that could be supported in each REZ, having regard to the land area, transmission network transfer capacity and the renewable resource. A cap on the new generation that can connect within each REZ – called an access limit – will be defined for each REZ as part of REZ access schemes. For more information about access limits, see Section 9.

Draft proposed REZ	Wind capacity (MW)	Solar capacity (MW)
Central Highlands	1,820 – 2,070 ⁷	125 ⁷
Central North	60 - 100	-
Gippsland	320 - 480	-
North West	320 - 480	930 - 1,390
South West	1,280 - 1,920	-
Grampians Wimmera	320 - 480	-
Wimmera Southern Mallee	320 - 480	-

Table 7: Modelled additional generation capacity we are planning for in each draft proposed REZ by 2040

⁷The Central Highlands additional generation capacity includes Golden Plains Wind Farm (East and West) and Elaine Solar Farm which are currently under development. Other committed projects located outside REZs will provide an additional 0.6 GW of wind capacity and 1.5 GW of solar capacity.



Feedback across Victoria

We have carefully considered feedback from communities and industry during the process of narrowing the REZ study area into draft

proposed REZs.

Agricultural land use feedback helped inform all of the draft proposed REZs, including feedback from both communities and the Victorian Farmers Federation about areas to be considered for avoidance across the state. Protecting biodiversity was also a common concern across all regions, and biodiversity feedback and data has informed the draft proposed REZs.

We heard a body of feedback concerning natural hazard vulnerability, specifically fire and floods. This ranged from region-specific insights to concerns about firefighting and renewable energy infrastructure broadly. Natural hazards and climate vulnerability were considered in our assessments, and this feedback has been considered when refining the study area.

We also considered current and planned energy generation and transmission projects across all of Victoria, with the dual aims of preventing any region from being overburdened by energy infrastructure and maintaining momentum in Victoria's energy transition. All regions provided feedback about cumulative impacts and the need to take existing and planned energy projects into account.

Much of the feedback from communities highlighted factors that could influence and support the planning of renewable generation, storage and transmission infrastructure within REZs over time. This feedback will continue to support decisions as the REZs are developed.

For more details about the community and industry feedback that has helped shape the draft proposed REZs, read the Draft VTP Guidelines Final Engagement Report.

Central Highlands

The draft proposed Central Highlands REZ is in an area with high-quality wind resources and offers access to existing transmission network capacity. The local region has a diverse mix of land uses and landscapes, including productive farmland, national and state parks, wetlands, plains and river valleys, which have been taken into account in defining its shape and location.

It sits within the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) boundary of the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation.

The draft proposed REZ is situated west and south of Ballarat, in an area of relatively lower land use constraints than its surrounds. It includes parts of the Golden Plains, Corangamite and Pyrenees local government areas. Small sections of the REZ also sit within the Moorabool, Ballarat and Hepburn local government areas. The southern boundary runs along the existing 500 kV transmission line from Moorabool towards Haunted Gully and takes in a section of the 220 kV line from Ballarat to Terang. The eastern and northern sections align with the 220 kV transmission network running from Moorabool to Ballarat and Waubra.

Agriculture production in the area includes cropping and grazing. There are nearby areas of cultural and historical significance. Scattered wetlands in the surrounding area provide habitat for important species including the brolga.

We considered many factors when refining the shape of the draft proposed REZ

In addition to the overarching factors outlined in Table 6, we carefully considered regional and local factors and engagement feedback to help refine the REZ shape. These factors included but were not limited to:

- the area's high-quality wind resources
- productive farmland and compatibility of farming practices with renewable energy infrastructure
- wetlands, national and state parks and forests
- areas with significant biodiversity, cultural and social values
- residential growth areas and dwelling density
- projects in planning
- transmission network capacity
- cumulative impacts of energy infrastructure development.

We are committed to having ongoing conversations with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Corporation to incorporate further cultural heritage information into REZ development and subsequent VTPs, in alignment with the principle of self-determination.

Figure 14 shows a map of the draft proposed Central Highlands REZ, including some of the significant land use and landscape values that influenced its size and shape.

Figure 14: Draft proposed Central Highlands REZ



Key land use and landscape values

Biodiversity: Wetlands scattered across region with high biodiversity value, home to native flora and fauna including brolgas

2 Biodiversity/cultural: Wetlands and volcanic landscape around Mount Elephant

Biodiversity: State forests and parks, home to native flora and fauna

Biodiversity/cultural: Western District Lakes Ramsar-listed wetlands, home to native flora and fauna including brolgas **Agriculture:** High productivity agriculture, particularly horticulture farming

6 Biodiversity/cultural: Lake Burrumbeet and surrounding areas of sensitivity

Biodiversity: State parks and forests across the region, home to native flora and fauna

8 Community: Area with higher aggregated dwelling density Biodiversity: Scattered wetlands and other areas of high biodiversity value







13 Cultural: Lal Lal Falls

Biodiversity: Wetlands including protected biodiversity area, home to native flora and fauna



Biodiversity/cultural/ community: Brisbane Ranges National Park

Biodiversity: Wombat State Forest and surrounding bushland, home to native flora and fauna

Bushfire risk: Higher bushfire risk within densely vegetated state forests and parks

* This includes transmission projects defined as Committed and Anticipated or Actionable under the Australian Energy Market Operator's 2024 Integrated System Plan. This map displays the proposed alignment for Western Renewables Link.
 ** This includes new terminal stations on the Victorian Declared Shared Network that are proposed to be operational in the coming years, as identified by AEMO Victorian Planning in its Terminal Stations in Victoria report dated 2 September 2024.



What we heard

Community feedback from this region focused on the importance of minimising

impacts on productive farmland and agriculture, and protecting biodiversity and the natural environment. Biodiversity concerns included the wedge-tailed eagle, the brolga and the Wombat State Forest. There was feedback about natural hazard vulnerability, in particular bushfires. We also heard about the impact increased renewable infrastructure could have on the region. The development of the Western Renewables Link (WRL) project is also contributing to impacts for local communities.

Feedback from the agriculture sector raised concerns about potential impacts on local horticulture production, particularly potato farming near Ballarat, and the compatibility of farming practices with energy infrastructure. Feedback from local shires focused on the strategic importance of preserving high-quality soils for food production and asked for residential and industrial growth areas highlighted in council strategies to be considered.



What we did

When designing the draft proposed Central Highlands REZ, we considered agricultural land across

the region and aimed to include areas with fewer land use and environmental constraints. To the north, we've taken into account high productivity farmland, including important horticulture production around Ballarat and Ballan, which has been identified as less compatible with renewable energy infrastructure. We also aimed to protect wetlands, lakes, parks and reserves to the south of the draft proposed REZ, as well as areas of high environmental, cultural and biodiversity value. We considered areas of high habitat value for biodiversity, such as the brolga. The eastern border near Geelong and outer Melbourne has been shaped by areas of higher dwelling density and future residential growth.

Existing and planned generation projects across the region were considered as we designed the draft proposed REZ. It includes several existing and planned large-scale wind farms, and seeks to coordinate new development south and west of Ballarat to streamline future connections at several possible points on the existing network.

South West

The draft proposed South West REZ has some of the strongest wind resources in the state. It is in an area characterised by farmland, lakes and volcanic plains. It sits within the RAP boundaries of Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.

South West Victoria has seen wind project development over the past several decades. Existing wind projects in the region contribute about 12% of Victoria's current energy generation capacity⁸, and 23% of the renewable generation capacity⁹. The Southern Ocean offshore wind declared area is located off the coast of the draft proposed REZ, and one project has been awarded an offshore wind feasibility licence in this area by the Australian Government.

The draft proposed South West REZ stretches from Darlington in the east to Branxholme in the west, and covers parts of the Moyne, Glenelg, Southern Grampians, Corangamite and Ararat local government areas. The existing 500 kV line that runs from Mortlake to Tarrone terminal stations runs through its southern portion.

The broader area surrounding the draft proposed REZ includes national parks, Ramsar wetlands, tourist attractions and agricultural land, with one of the state's leading dairy-farming areas in southern Corangamite and Moyne shires.

We considered many factors when refining the shape of the draft proposed REZ

In addition to the overarching factors outlined in Table 6, we carefully considered regional and local factors and engagement feedback to help refine the REZ shape. These factors included but were not limited to:

- the area's very high-quality wind resources
- cumulative impacts of existing projects and infrastructure
- farmland, particularly local dairy production, and compatibility of farming practices with renewable energy infrastructure
- areas of high biodiversity value
- significant cultural sites
- transmission network capacity.

We are committed to having ongoing conversations with Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to incorporate further cultural heritage information into REZ development and subsequent VTPs, in alignment with the principle of self-determination.

Figure 15 shows a map of the draft proposed South West REZ, including some of the significant land use and landscape values that influenced its size and shape.

⁸ Calculated based on the generation capacity of onshore wind, solar, gas, coal and hydro projects that service operational demand.
⁹ Calculated based on the generation capacity of onshore wind, solar and hydro projects that service operational demand.

Figure 15: Draft proposed South West REZ



Key land use and landscape values

Biodiversity/community/ cultural: Discovery Bay Coastal Park

2 Biodiversity/community: Cobboboonee and Lower Glenelg National Parks

Biodiversity: State parks and forests, home to native flora and fauna

Bushfire risk: Higher bushfire risk across parks and forested areas

5 Cultural heritage: Budj Bim World Heritage Cultural Landscape

6 Community/biodiversity/ cultural: Coastal parks, reserves and tourism sites **Biodiversity:** Mount Napier State Park, including protected biodiversity area

8 Biodiversity: Public Conservation and Resource Zone Area

Biodiversity/cultural: Lake Linlithgow and surrounding lakes, home to native flora and fauna including brolgas

Cultural: Western volcanic cones and lava flows from Mount Rouse

Biodiversity/cultural: Tower Hill Wildlife Reserve, home to native flora and fauna Cultural/biodiversity/ community: Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park – significant landform and landscape

Land use: Wind farm prohibition area within 5 km of the coast east of Warrnambool (Victorian Planning Provisions)

Mining: Mining retention licence

Biodiversity/cultural: Hopkins River and surrounding areas of sensitivity



Agriculture: High productivity dairy farming area with relatively lower compatibility with renewables

Biodiversity/cultural:

Lake Bolac and surrounding wetlands and reserves, home to native flora and fauna including brolgas

Biodiversity/cultural: Wetlands and volcanic landscape around Mount Elephant

Biodiversity/cultural: Western District Lakes Ramsar-listed wetlands, home to native flora and fauna including brolgas



What we heard

Community feedback from this region focused on the significant role it has played in Victoria's

energy transition so far, noting the large number of existing and proposed local renewable projects. Concerns were raised about the cumulative impacts of wind projects, particularly on visual amenity, and how potential overdevelopment might affect peoples' sense of place and way of life.

Feedback also stressed the importance of minimising impacts on agriculture, including

the region's dairy farmland, recognising the sector's contribution to the local economy and to food security. Community members also raised concerns about biodiversity, including the brolga and Southern Bent-Wing Bat.

Local governments mirrored community feedback, stressing the importance of protecting dairy farmland south of the Princes Highway and minimising cumulative impacts of renewable development.



What we did

When developing the shape and size of this draft proposed REZ, we aimed to carefully balance the

need to harness the strongest winds in the state while managing the amount of new development to reduce cumulative impacts for the region.

To address concerns about agricultural land, the size and location of the draft proposed REZ takes into account areas of concentrated dairy farming in southern Corangamite Shire, and east of Warrnambool in southern Moyne Shire. In response to biodiversity feedback, we considered a range of significant landscapes and landforms, including Budj Bim World Heritage Site, the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park, Lake Corangamite and the Great Otway National Park. We also considered coastal areas and their cultural, biodiversity and social (tourism) values for communities and Traditional Owners. Areas with important biodiversity values, including known brolga habitat and areas with a high concentration of wetlands to the east and northeast of the draft proposed REZ, have also been considered.



Grampians Wimmera

The draft proposed Grampians Wimmera REZ offers strong wind resources and maximises access to existing and planned transmission capacity. It is in an area that is characterised by diverse farmland, mining, areas of conservation and natural reserves, bordered by national parks. The draft proposed REZ sits within the RAP boundaries of the Barengi Gadjin Land Council and Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation.

The draft proposed REZ is located north of Stawell and extends towards Donald, with its southern boundary following an existing 220 kV transmission line and its eastern boundary following the VNI West corridor. It is mainly located within the Northern Grampians Shire and also intersects with Yarriambiack and Pyrenees local government areas. Its shape and location could maximise the use of the state's transmission infrastructure and provide opportunity for coordinated connections to the 500 kV network at Bulgana terminal station. This would help match future generation with planned network capacity, reduce connection complexity and minimise costs for consumers.

Agricultural production in the area includes cropping and grazing. The surrounding area also has substantial critical mineral resources.

We considered many factors when refining the shape of the draft proposed REZ

In addition to the overarching factors outlined in Table 6, we carefully considered regional and local factors and engagement feedback to help refine the REZ shape. These factors included but were not limited to:

- potential impacts on biodiversity, conservation areas and wetlands
- compatibility of farming practices with renewable energy infrastructure
- feedback from communities already impacted by development of VNI West
- transmission network capacity
- other land uses and natural resources
- regional development opportunities.

We are committed to having ongoing conversations with Barengi Gadjin Land Council and Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation to incorporate further cultural heritage information into REZ development and subsequent VTPs, in alignment with the principle of self-determination.

Figure 16 shows a map of the draft proposed Grampians Wimmera REZ, including some of the significant land use and landscape values that influenced its size and shape.



Figure 16: Draft proposed Grampians Wimmera REZ

Key land use and landscape values

Biodiversity: Barrabool Flora and Fauna Reserve and Marma State Forest, protected biodiversity area for native flora and fauna

2 Biodiversity/cultural/ community: Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park - significant landform and landscape

3 Mining: Mining retention licence and critical minerals deposits

Biodiversity: Conservation reserves and wetlands, home to native flora and fauna **5** Mining: Mining retention licence and critical minerals deposits

6 Mining: Active mine site

Biodiversity/cultural: Richardson River and surrounding areas of sensitivity

8 Biodiversity/cultural: Wimmera River and surrounding areas of sensitivity



Biodiversity/cultural: Wetlands including Lake Batyo Catyo and surrounding lakes



surrounding areas of sensitivity

12 Flooding risk: Floodway and land subject to inundation

Biodiversity/cultural: Wetlands including Lake Cope Cope and Waltons Lakes Biodiversity: Morrl Morrl Nature Conservation Reserve, protected biodiversity area for native flora and fauna

Biodiversity: Mount Bolangum and Big Tottington Nature Conservation Reserves, home to native flora and fauna

Biodiversity: Pyrenees State Forest and Landsborough Nature Conservation Reserve, home to native flora and fauna

Biodiversity/cultural/ community: Kara Kara National Park

* This includes transmission projects defined as Committed and Anticipated or Actionable under the Australian Energy Market Operator's 2024 Integrated System Plan. This map displays proposed alignments for Victoria – New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West) and Western Renewables Link.



What we heard

Feedback from this region centred strongly on the impact of energy infrastructure on agriculture

production. Feedback also referenced negative experiences with previous and planned generation and transmission development. The community highlighted the biodiversity values of the area, including recognition of the Grampians National Park and bird species such as the wedge-tailed eagle. There was also feedback about protecting bio-links between nature conservation reserves, national and regional parks and other areas of high conservation value in the region including

the lakes system in Buloke Shire from both a biodiversity and tourism perspective.

Local councils raised concerns about flood risk and impact on surface water flows. The community also raised concerns about mineral sands mining and subsequent competing land use.

Community engagement, particularly from Stawell, St Arnaud and Donald, reflects strong concerns about infrastructure development. We recognise the impact of VNI West development and related community opposition.



What we did

The draft proposed REZ considers sensitive landscapes and landforms with high cultural, biodiversity and community significance including

the Grampians (Gariwerd), national and state parks including Kara Kara National Park and natural conservation reserves around Stawell, Avoca and St Arnaud (east of VNI West), and Lake Buloke. The draft proposed REZ also considers sensitive land uses and landscapes around the Bulgana terminal station, including areas along the Wimmera River, which will require further consideration during REZ and project design to minimise impacts. The north-west edge of the draft proposed REZ is shaped to limit impacts to strategic mineral sands resource areas.

We have heard the depth of community feedback and concerns about renewable energy development in this region. Some trade-offs were required in seeking to avoid national parks and state forests, harness the strong wind resources in the region and reduce the need for new transmission and associated impacts on energy bills. The location of the draft proposed REZ is designed to work together with other proposed areas in the state as part of a long-term plan to meet Victoria's energy needs. VicGrid will continue to work with local communities to explore these issues further and work together to minimise impacts to the region, and engage throughout planning and development of REZs. It should also be noted that it remains the choice of individual landholders to host renewable energy generation.

At the northern end of the draft proposed REZ there are some sensitive wetlands recognised for their biodiversity value. These areas will need to be carefully managed in planning for generation. Further flood studies and mapping will also be required and additional planning approvals at a project level will also help address these issues.

Land use conflicts associated with several large mining tenements and proposed mine sites west and southwest of the draft proposed REZ have been taken into account. These challenges and opportunities will require further consideration and engagement with relevant groups to minimise impacts.

This draft proposed REZ could support wind projects in planning and facilitate access to WRL and VNI West with a connection into the 500 kV network at Bulgana terminal station, capitalising on planned network capacity and reducing connection complexities and network costs.

Wimmera Southern Mallee

The draft proposed Wimmera Southern Mallee REZ offers strong wind resources and access to the existing transmission network. It is in an area with flat terrain and large broadacre farming properties, as well as mining, areas of conservation and national parks. It sits within the RAP boundaries of the Barengi Gadjin Land Council.

The draft proposed REZ is located north of Horsham, stretching from Dooen north towards Rainbow and Beulah along the 220 kV transmission line from Horsham to Ouyen, allowing for connections into the network at Murra Warra. Its eastern edge follows the Henty Highway, and the Yarriambiack Creek sits outside its east boundary. It is located within the Yarriambiack, Hindmarsh and Horsham Rural City local government areas.

The area is in Victoria's wheatbelt with dryland broadacre farming, particularly grains, lamb and wool, underpinning the local economy. The surrounding area also has critical mineral resources.

We considered many factors when refining the shape of the draft proposed REZ

In addition to the overarching factors outlined in Table 6, we carefully considered regional and local factors and engagement feedback to help refine the REZ shape. These factors included but were not limited to:

- feedback from communities impacted by generation development
- compatibility of farming practices with renewable energy infrastructure
- potential impacts on biodiversity
- transmission network capacity
- existing generation and developer interest in the area
- other land uses and natural resources
- regional development opportunities.

We are committed to having ongoing conversations with Barengi Gadjin Land Council to incorporate further cultural heritage information into REZ development and subsequent VTPs, in alignment with the principle of self-determination.

Figure 17 shows a map of the draft proposed Wimmera Southern Mallee REZ, including some of the significant land use and landscape values that influenced its size and shape.





Key land use and landscape values

1 Biodiversity/community: Big Desert State Forest

2 Biodiversity/cultural: Multiple parks, reserves and wetlands, including protected biodiversity areas, home to native flora and fauna

3 Biodiversity/cultural/ community: Wyperfeld National Park Biodiversity/cultural: Lake Hindmarsh and surrounding areas of sensitivity

5 Biodiversity: Lake

Albacutya Ramsar-listed wetland



Biodiversity/cultural: Wimmera River and surrounding areas of sensitivity





Mining: Mining tenement and mineral sands deposits 1 Biodiversity/cultural: Yarriambiack Creek and surrounding areas of sensitivity

Biodiversity: Barrabool Flora and Fauna Reserve and Marma State Forest, including protected biodiversity area, home to native flora and fauna



What we heard

Feedback from this region highlighted the need to minimise the impact of renewable energy

development on agricultural land, noting the area includes highly productive soils. There were suggestions that areas in the north-west with more marginal soils would be better suited to infrastructure development and that farmers in the area increasingly used advanced technology giving them the ability to boost productivity with less rain. Concerns were raised about the impact of renewable energy infrastructure on use of these technologies. Negative experiences with previous and planned generation and transmission development were often raised. There was also some interest in better understanding how renewable energy and transmission development could bring economic and social benefits to the region.

Local councils raised concerns about potential impacts on Horsham Airport's expansion plans, and the importance of protecting the surrounding flight descending zone. Local councils also echoed community concerns about protecting agricultural land and potential impacts on precision farming technology.



What we did

The location of the draft proposed Wimmera Southern Mallee REZ seeks to balance many factors

including community feedback, opportunity to harness the area's strong wind resource, developer interest, opportunity to co-locate infrastructure with existing farming practices and proximity to the 220 kV line. It also avoids the Little Desert National Park and the Yarriambiack Creek.

The draft proposed REZ predominantly contains broadacre agricultural land. Engagement with agricultural groups and peak bodies so far has suggested broadacre dryland cropping operations have more potential to be compatible with colocating renewable energy infrastructure. However, further work through project planning stages will be required to understand issues related to precision farming technology.

Proximity to Horsham Airport and other aviation activities means wind projects will need to consider and propose mitigations to potential aviation impacts in the planning stage. VicGrid will continue to work with stakeholders on development of the draft proposed REZ.



North West

The draft proposed North West REZ has wind and solar resources, and provides access to existing and planned transmission network capacity. It is in an area with rivers, floodplains and dry landscapes, with broadacre dryland agriculture in its north-west section and irrigated farming in the east. It sits within the RAP boundaries of Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation and across areas of Country to the east that do not have a formally recognised Traditional Owner group. Wetlands, rivers, lakes and national parks provide habitat for important species and have cultural and social value for Traditional Owners and local communities.

The draft proposed REZ stretches from south of Kerang to Swan Hill in the north, following the natural shape of Victoria's border. It includes parts of the Swan Hill, Gannawarra and Loddon local government areas and is transversed by the Loddon and Avoca Rivers. It also includes part of the corridor for the new VNI West transmission line and part of the existing 220 kV Kerang to Wemen line. These transmission lines, the existing terminal station at Kerang and the proposed VNI West terminal station at Tragowel provide an opportunity to coordinate project connections into the grid.

We considered many factors when refining the shape of the draft proposed REZ

In addition to the overarching factors outlined in Table 6, we carefully considered regional and local factors and engagement feedback to help refine the REZ shape. These factors included but were not limited to:

- the environment and biodiversity
- cultural values
- transmission network capacity
- the region's solar and wind resources
- existing renewables projects close to the existing terminal stations at Kerang and Tragowel
- the compatibility of different farming practices with renewable energy infrastructure
- other land uses and natural resources
- regional development opportunities.

We are committed to having ongoing conversations with Wamba Wemba Aboriginal Corporation and affected First Peoples to incorporate further cultural heritage information into REZ development and subsequent VTPs, in alignment with the principle of self-determination.

Figure 18 shows a map of the draft proposed North West REZ, including some of the significant land use and landscape values that influenced its size and shape.

Figure 18: Draft proposed North West REZ



Key land use and landscape values

Biodiversity/cultural/ community: Lake Tyrrell and surrounding sensitive landscape

2 Mining: Mining retention licence and mineral sands deposits

3 Agriculture: High agricultural productivity area with irrigated horticulture, dairy and cropping along the Murray River Biodiversity/cultural: Lalbert Lake, Lalbert Creek and surrounding areas of sensitivity

Biodiversity/cultural/ community: Murray River and surrounding sensitive landscapes

6 Mining: Multiple mine sites and mining retention licence

Biodiversity/cultural: Avoca River and

surrounding areas of sensitivity



9 Biodiversity: Kerang Lakes Ramsar-listed wetlands



surrounding Boort

Biodiversity: Protected biodiversity area for native flora and fauna

12 Flooding risk: Floodplains across the Loddon River catchment area



Agriculture: High agricultural productivity area with irrigated horticulture, dairy and cropping within the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District

Biodiversity/cultural/ community: Terrick Terrick National Park

Biodiversity/cultural: Wetlands and waterways with surrounding areas of sensitivity, including protected biodiversity areas

Biodiversity/cultural/ community: Gunbower National Park and surrounding parks and wetlands

* This includes transmission projects defined as Committed and Anticipated or Actionable under the Australian Energy Market Operator's 2024 Integrated System Plan. This map displays the proposed alignment for Victoria – New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West).



What we heard

Community feedback from this area focused on the importance of protecting agricultural land

and other land uses, and concern over the local impacts associated with hosting infrastructure to supply power to urban areas. Community members raised concerns about potential impacts of widespread uncoordinated development and called for more transparency and consultation in planning processes. Community members also focused on the development of the VNI West project and its contribution to cumulative impacts for local communities. Feedback from the area near Birchip expressed strong opposition to hosting renewable energy infrastructure.

Feedback about biodiversity focused on protecting local wetlands and habitat for many species, including the wedge-tailed eagle.

Local governments voiced some support for the regional development opportunities associated with the energy transition but stressed the value of irrigated agricultural land.



What we did

In response to feedback about the importance of farmland, we considered agricultural land uses

when shaping the draft proposed REZ, including areas of irrigated farmland along the Murray River and near Tragowel and Kerang terminal stations. Engagement with agriculture industry stakeholders identified some areas of irrigated farmland as less compatible with renewable energy infrastructure, and these were taken into account.

We also considered rivers, lakes, wetland systems, parks and reserves, particularly near the Murray River, aiming to protect sites such as Koorangie Wildlife Reserve and Korrak Korrak Nature Conservation Reserve. These areas include high cultural and biodiversity values and support regional and local tourism. Some wetlands and parks near Kerang fall within the draft proposed REZ, and will need to be carefully considered during REZ and project design.

Community feedback about the importance of consultation and calls for a more coordinated

approach to development are informing our approach to new network access arrangements, and will continue to shape decisions throughout REZ declaration and design.

South of Swan Hill, a limited area of mineral sands deposits is also within the draft proposed REZ, with a number of mining projects currently under development. These will need to be considered by developers as part of project planning.

While there is strong developer interest and resource potential outside of the draft proposed REZ, this was considered against community feedback, land use and biodiversity concerns. The draft proposed REZ seeks to balance these factors and is designed to accommodate new renewable generation near existing transmission infrastructure and allow coordinated connections into the network at Tragowel through the 500 kV line. Several planned projects fall within the draft proposed REZ boundary.

Central North

The draft proposed Central North REZ is in a location with wind resources that can provide diversity to Victoria's energy mix, as well as some solar resources. The area includes several major rivers, waterways, regionally important wetlands and lakes, and farmland. It sits within the RAP boundaries of Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, and Taungurung Land and Waters Council.

The draft proposed REZ is located between Bendigo and Shepparton, surrounded by Rushworth, Rochester and Kyabram. It includes the town of Elmore, and will cover parts of the Campaspe, Greater Shepparton and the City of Great Bendigo local government areas. The existing 220 kV transmission line from Fosterville to Shepparton runs along its southern border, and provides potential for coordinated connections for future generation.

Agricultural production sustains the local economy and communities, and the draft proposed REZ includes some dairy and cropping farmland, and vineyards. A section of the Campaspe River travels through its western side, and the Mount Pleasant and Cornella creeks are other important waterways that transverse through the area.

We considered many factors when refining the shape of the draft proposed REZ

In addition to the overarching factors outlined in Table 6, we carefully considered regional and local factors and engagement feedback to help refine the REZ shape. These factors included but were not limited to:

- the importance of irrigated farmland and compatibility of farming practices with renewable energy infrastructure
- national and state parks and conservation reserves south west towards Bendigo and south east towards Heathcote/Rushworth
- areas of high cultural, ecological and community significance near the Murray River
- regional economic development opportunities
- the potential of local wind resources to allow for diversity within Victoria's generation mix.

We are committed to having ongoing conversations with Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, and Taungurung Land and Waters Council to incorporate further cultural heritage information into REZ development and subsequent VTPs, in alignment with the principle of self-determination.

Figure 19 shows a map of the draft proposed Central North REZ, including some of the significant land use and landscape values that influenced its size and shape.

Figure 19: Draft proposed Central North REZ



Key land use and landscape values

Flooding risk: Floodplain and land subject to inundation

Biodiversity/cultural/ community: Greater Bendigo National Park and protected biodiversity areas

3 Biodiversity: Mount Sugarloaf Nature Conservation Reserve and surrounding parks and reserves, home to native flora and fauna

4 Mining: Active mine sites and Extractive Industry Interest Areas

Biodiversity/cultural: Campaspe River and surrounding areas of

sensitivity

Biodiversity: Parks, reserves and state forests, home to native flora and fauna

Flooding risk: Floodplain and land subject to inundation

8 Biodiversity/cultural/ community: Corop

Wetlands Cultural Waterscape, connecting significant waterways, wetlands and landscapes including the Corop wetlands complex in the north, extending south east to Reedy Lake and the forested hills around Rushworth and Whroo, and including the entire Mount Camel Range to the west

Biodiversity/cultural/ community: Heathcote Graytown National Park and surrounding parks, reserves and state forests, including protected biodiversity areas for native flora and fauna

Biodiversity/cultural:

Corop wetlands complex including Lake Cooper, Greens Lake, Gaynor Swamp, Wallenjoe Swamp, Mansfield Swamp and surrounding parks and reserves Biodiversity/cultural: Murray River and surrounding sensitive landscapes

Biodiversity: One Tree Swamp and Two Tree Swamp Nature Conservation Reserves, including biodiversity protected areas

Agriculture: High agricultural productivity area within the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District, particularly irrigated dairy and cropping

Biodiversity/cultural/ community: Corop Wetlands Cultural Waterscape, see value 8 for full description of this waterscape.

Biodiversity/cultural/ community: Waranga Basin and parks, reserves and state forests around Rushworth and Whroo **Biodiversity/cultural:** Goulburn River and surrounding areas of sensitivity

Biodiversity/cultural/ community: Reedy Lake Nagambie Wildlife Reserve

B Community: Area of higher aggregated dwelling density around Shepparton

Agriculture: High agricultural productivity area within the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District, particularly irrigated dairy and cropping

Biodiversity/cultural/ community: Lower Goulburn National Park and surrounding landscapes, including biodiversity protected areas

** This includes new terminal stations on the Victorian Declared Shared Network that are proposed to be operational in the coming years, as identified by AEMO Victorian Planning in its Terminal Stations in Victoria report dated 2 September 2024.



What we heard

Community feedback from this region focused heavily on minimising impacts on agriculture

and land use, followed by protecting the natural environment and biodiversity. Concerns were also raised about natural hazard vulnerability, particularly flooding, and the impact new infrastructure might have during future flood events.

Local government feedback stressed the major concern in the region was protecting the irrigation district and water security. Engagement with agriculture sector stakeholders found that farmland across irrigation districts had less opportunity to co-locate wind and solar infrastructure due to the complexity and intensity of operations. However, it was suggested that potential projects in these areas be considered case by case. Feedback was also received about areas of high rural dwelling density and projected growth areas. There was support from councils for the regional economic benefits that increased investment in renewable energy infrastructure could bring.



What we did

The draft proposed REZ aims to protect productive farmland and key areas of biodiversity, cultural,

environmental and community significance. We also considered the positive regional development opportunities for the region when designing the draft proposed REZ location.

The northern boundary has taken into account irrigated farmland in the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District. The district contains an extensive network of irrigation channels that supply water to farmers. Much of the irrigation district lies outside the draft proposed REZ, recognising irrigated agriculture is highproductivity and supports local communities. As a trade-off, some areas within the irrigation district have been included in the draft proposed REZ to allow more options for future project investigations. All proposed projects within REZs will still be subject to planning approvals and any proposed projects in the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District will be adequately assessed.

The area surrounding Shepparton with a relatively high rural dwelling density was taken into account when identifying the eastern boundary of the draft proposed REZ. The region's waterways and flat terrain contribute to higher flooding risk in some areas, particularly in the north of the draft proposed REZ. This will require further project-level assessments within the REZ.



Gippsland

The draft proposed Gippsland REZ is in an area of the Latrobe Valley with significant transmission network capacity and good wind resources. Its footprint includes agricultural land and forestry. It sits within the RAP boundaries of the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation. The existing transmission network capacity was built to connect coal-fired power in the valley. Recent times have seen growing interest in wind and solar projects in Latrobe and Wellington Shires.

The draft proposed Gippsland REZ for onshore renewable generation stretches from Morwell in the west towards Sale in the east. It will cover parts of the Wellington and Latrobe local government areas. The proposed location provides potential for coordinated connections into the 500 kV transmission network around Loy Yang. It is designed to use existing capacity in the transmission network to support new onshore generation.

The wider surrounding region includes farmland, high biodiversity values, areas of natural beauty and significance, and key tourism destinations. The region has one of the state's most valuable dairyfarming areas with dairy farms across the Latrobe Valley and the Macalister Irrigation District around Maffra. Horticulture is also an important land use.

Australia's first declared offshore wind area is located off the coast of Gippsland and VicGrid is coordinating development of the transmission that will bring offshore wind energy from the coast to the Latrobe Valley. Part of the draft proposed Gippsland REZ overlaps with the proposed offshore wind transmission infrastructure. The detailed design of the access scheme and Grid Impact Assessment frameworks are being finalised. However, it is currently anticipated that new onshore generation in the REZ will connect to existing connection hubs in the Latrobe Valley rather than connecting to the new offshore wind transmission line. For more information on REZ access and connection arrangements, see Section 9.

We considered many factors when refining the shape of the draft proposed REZ

In addition to the overarching factors outlined in Table 6, we carefully considered regional and local factors and engagement feedback to help refine the REZ shape. These factors included but were not limited to:

- biodiversity and the natural environment
- farmland, particularly local dairy production, and compatibility of farming practices with renewable energy infrastructure
- the Macalister Irrigation District
- national and state parks
- habitat for important species
- areas of high cultural, ecological and community significance nearer the coast
- wind and solar generation projects currently proposed in Gippsland
- offshore wind development
- transmission network capacity
- supporting the region's workforce as coal-fired power retires.

We are committed to having ongoing conversations with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation to incorporate further cultural heritage information into REZ development and subsequent VTPs, in alignment with the principle of selfdetermination.

A separate Gippsland Shoreline REZ is being proposed to facilitate connection of offshore wind generation to Victoria's transmission network. Onshore generation is not intended to be hosted in this area. More information on the draft proposed Gippsland Shoreline REZ is in Section 7.

Figure 20 shows a map of the draft proposed Gippsland REZ, including some of the significant land use and landscape values that influenced its size and shape.

Figure 20: Draft proposed Gippsland REZ



Key land use and landscape values

Coast Distinctive Area Landscape and wind farm prohibition area (Victorian Planning Provisions)

2 Community: Area of higher aggregated dwelling density in west and southwest Gippsland

3 Agriculture: Medium to high productivity agriculture across southwest Gippsland, particularly dairy farming

Biodiversity/cultural/ community: Wilsons Promontory and surrounding significant and sensitive landscape

5 Agriculture: High agricultural productivity area and lower compatibility with renewables around Thorpdale, particularly horticulture farming

6 Land use: Restricted and non-restricted use plantation land across the Strzelecki ranges and broader region

Biodiversity: State parks and forests, home to native flora and fauna

8 Biodiversity: Corner Inlet Ramsar-listed wetlands

Biodiversity/cultural/ community: Strzelecki Ranges including Tarra-Bulga National Park and surrounding parks and forests, home to native flora and fauna Mining: Active mine site

Agriculture: Medium to high agricultural productivity area adjacent to the Macalister Irrigation District

Biodiversity/cultural: Latrobe River and surrounding areas of sensitivity

Biodiversity/cultural: Mullungdung State Forest and Stradbroke Flora and Fauna Reserve, home to native flora and fauna

Biodiversity/cultural: Coastal wetlands and protected biodiversity area for native flora and fauna Agriculture: High agricultural productivity area within the Macalister Irrigation District, including dairy farming

Land use: Height restrictions associated with the Royal Australian Air Force base

Biodiversity/cultural: Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park and Ramsar-listed wetlands

Biodiversity/cultural: Lake Wellington and surrounding sensitive areas

* This includes transmission projects defined as Committed and Anticipated or Actionable under the Australian Energy Market Operator's 2024 Integrated System Plan. This map displays the proposed alignment for Marinus Link.

	/

What we heard

Feedback focused on the importance of protecting biodiversity and the natural

environment, followed by minimising impacts on agriculture and land use. Feedback reflected strong regional pride in the natural beauty of the area and the rich farming tradition. Concerns included protecting the habitat of the giant Gippsland earthworm, Wilsons Promontory, and important agricultural areas including dairy farms in South and West Gippsland, along the coast and in the Macalister Irrigation District south of the Great Dividing Range.

Community members and local governments asked us to consider South Gippsland's high dwelling density, which adds complexity to developing wind projects. Some feedback focused on personal experiences of stress related to the energy transition, reflecting local impacts of the impending retirement of coal-fired power stations, offshore wind development and significant existing and proposed local renewable projects. Other considerations included using existing transmission infrastructure in the Latrobe Valley to support new renewable generation. Local governments also expressed support for regional development opportunities that renewable energy infrastructure could bring, provided regional concerns were addressed.

There was also feedback from the forestry industry about potential co-location opportunities for wind farms in certain circumstances. In addition, considerations were raised about airspace used by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) base in East Sale.



What we did

We considered important agricultural areas, in particular dairy farming areas in the south, west and the Macalister Irrigation

District when shaping the draft proposed REZ. Through engagement with agriculture industry stakeholders, we identified dairy as a farming practice that is less compatible with wind and solar infrastructure. Some freehold plantation land is included in the draft proposed REZ, following feedback.

The size and location of the draft proposed Gippsland REZ takes into account South Gippsland's high dwelling density and the habitat of the giant earthworm. It has been shaped by significant landscapes including along the Bass Coast, Wilsons Promontory, the Strzelecki ranges and coastal reserves and wetlands.

The draft proposed REZ's proximity to the Royal Australian Air Force Base East Sale and other aviation activities means that wind projects will need to consider and propose mitigations to potential aviation impacts in the planning stage. VicGrid will continue to work with the Department of Defence and other stakeholders on development of the draft proposed REZ.

Gippsland has several areas with planning scheme restrictions designed to maintain access to brown coal reserves. A portion of these areas overlap with the draft proposed REZ and the restrictions will need to be worked through as part of declaring and eventually developing a REZ.

Areas further to the east were also considered due to the potential for regional economic development, but distance from required transmission capacity meant the draft proposed REZ needed to be located closer to existing transmission.

The draft proposed REZ balances complex land use issues across the region, while also providing coordination with planned transmission capacity and connection points to unlock Victoria's offshore wind potential. Part B – What areas are we proposing for future renewable energy generation development?



6.3 Next steps for finalising proposed REZs

We are now inviting feedback on the draft proposed REZs as part of public consultation on the draft 2025 VTP, before release of the final VTP later this year. See Section 11 for more information on how to provide your feedback.

The next step after the release of the final 2025 VTP is to begin the formal REZ declaration process (see the box below). There will be opportunity for further engagement with communities and industry as part of this process. Once REZs are declared, VicGrid will consult with industry on proposed network access arrangements and work with communities and First Peoples to ensure a continued voice in the development of renewable energy infrastructure. There will be dedicated landholder, Traditional Owner and community benefits arrangements in declared REZs. See Section 9 for more information on what to expect as REZs are developed.

The REZ declaration process

Once the 2025 VTP is finalised, the Minister for Energy and Resources can consider whether to proceed with formal declaration of a proposed REZ. The REZ declaration process requires that the Minister make a declaration in a formal order (Order). The Order will set out key information on the REZ to be declared, including a map of the REZ boundaries and the intended transmission hosting capacity within the REZ. As part of this process, a draft of the Order showing the proposed REZ will be placed on public notice for a minimum of 6 weeks, enabling the community to provide any comments and submissions. The Minister must consider any submissions when determining whether the REZ should be declared under an Order.



PART B

7. Planning for offshore wind connections

The 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan (VTP) process takes into account Victoria's targets for offshore wind generation and the planning that is already under way to develop offshore wind in Victoria.

The Australian Government has declared 2 offshore wind areas in Victoria, off the coast of Gippsland and in the Southern Ocean off the coast of Western Victoria. Planning is most advanced in Gippsland, and the next step is to set out suitable shoreline locations for offshore wind developers to connect their infrastructure to the grid.

As part of the draft 2025 VTP, we are seeking feedback on a draft proposed shoreline renewable

energy zone (REZ) in the south of Gippsland. This draft proposed shoreline REZ for offshore wind is different to the 7 draft proposed REZs we have identified to host onshore wind and solar generation. It sets out a designated area for offshore wind developers to site their onshore connection infrastructure, rather than for hosting new onshore generation. The wind turbines themselves will be hosted in Commonwealth waters off the coast of Victoria.

7.1 Planning is well under way towards Victoria's offshore wind targets

The Victorian Government has set ambitious offshore wind generation targets of at least 2 GW of generation capacity by 2032, 4 GW by 2035 and 9 GW by 2040.

Work is well under way towards these targets. In July 2024 the Australian Government granted feasibility licences for 12 potential projects in the Gippsland offshore wind declared area, and in February 2025 a feasibility licence was awarded in the Southern Ocean declared area.

VicGrid is responsible for planning the shared transmission infrastructure needed to connect these future projects to the grid, and preparation for a new Gippsland shared transmission line is already under way to support the first 2 GW of offshore wind. This will avoid the 'spaghetti effect' of multiple private transmission lines crossing the landscape, reducing the infrastructure costs that are passed on in consumers' power bills and helping to minimise impacts on the environment. The shared transmission infrastructure that VicGrid is planning will connect from the Latrobe Valley to a new connection hub near Giffard. Offshore wind generators are responsible for planning the connection of their offshore infrastructure to the connection hub that VicGrid is developing. For more details, see Section 7.2.

Additional transmission infrastructure will be required to accommodate offshore wind generation beyond the first 2 GW of offshore wind capacity in Gippsland, and the need for this has been identified as part of the draft 2025 VTP (see Section 8). Further work will be done to identify the appropriate route for this infrastructure to ensure it is in place to enable achievement of Victoria's offshore wind targets. The draft VTP also proposes upgrades to transmission lines in the Portland area to be carried out in the 2030s to accommodate offshore wind in the Southern Ocean.
Offshore wind transmission in Gippsland

We are now planning the first 2 GW of new transmission infrastructure needed to connect offshore wind in Gippsland. Our work to-date has included:

Strategic options assessment

In 2023, we carried out a strategic options assessment to identify and refine the longlist of feasible transmission project options for both Gippsland and the Southern Ocean. The assessment method was informed by consultation feedback and the principles of the Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF). It considered social, cultural, economic, environmental and technical factors to evaluate project options.

Gippsland transmission study area and refinement

In March 2024, VicGrid published the Offshore Wind Energy Transmission Gippsland Options Assessment Report, which identified the preferred study area and preferred transmission technology for connecting offshore wind energy generated off the coast of Gippsland into Victoria's electricity network.

The Gippsland transmission study area starts approximately 6 km from the coast near Giffard and travels north-west past Stradbroke West to Willung, across to Flynns Creek and then to the Loy Yang Power Station. The corridor is about 3 km wide at its narrowest point and up to 12 km at its widest point. The proposed transmission technology is a double circuit 500 kV overhead transmission line.

In December 2024, VicGrid completed preliminary desktop investigations to narrow the study area to areas suitable for further investigations. Areas deemed not suitable to host transmission were ruled out due to a range of factors including the presence of highly sensitive protected species, technical constructability or feasibility challenges.

VicGrid is now working closely with landholders to understand unique features and values of their properties to further refine the study area.

Environmental assessments

In September 2024, the Minister for Planning declared the Gippsland Offshore Wind Transmission project as public works requiring the preparation of an Environment Effects Statement (EES). This process is currently under way and will involve community consultation and an independent panel review to inform the Minister's assessment of the project's environmental effects. The Minister's assessment will then inform decision-making required under other legislation, including the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

Procurement

We are now seeking a delivery partner to work alongside VicGrid to design, build and operate the new transmission line. In December 2024, VicGrid released an invitation for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from leading transmission design and delivery providers with a track record of working with host communities. We expect to complete procurement and appoint a delivery partner by late 2025, in time to support the project's design and environmental assessments.



Figure 21: Offshore wind infrastructure in Gippsland

7.2 The draft proposed Gippsland Shoreline REZ is the next critical step

Offshore wind developers in Gippsland will be required to connect to VicGrid's Giffard connection hub via underground cables to access the shared transmission infrastructure.

While offshore wind developers are responsible for planning of their individual projects, VicGrid is committed to taking a coordination role in the area between the coast and the Giffard connection hub to minimise impacts on coastal communities and landholders. A proposed new shoreline REZ will set out a designated area that enables offshore wind developers to determine suitable routes to the transmission connection hub, while minimising impacts on nearby towns and landscapes. Establishing the shoreline REZ is also a key step to provide certainty to offshore wind developers on their ability to connect to the transmission network. VicGrid will soon consult on a proposed access scheme for the Gippsland Shoreline REZ. This draft access scheme will set out the intended 2 GW hosting capacity for offshore wind in the Gippsland Shoreline REZ and the process for allocating access to this capacity, along with other requirements. Only offshore wind projects will be eligible to participate in the shoreline REZ.

For more information on REZ access schemes, see Section 9.

7.3 Where is the draft proposed Gippsland Shoreline REZ?

The draft proposed Gippsland Shoreline REZ is located in the region's south, near the towns of Woodside and Giffard, and between the coastline and the South Gippsland Highway.

The proposed location of the Shoreline REZ has been developed as part of our work to identify a transmission study area and in consultation with prospective offshore wind developers. It takes account of a range of factors, including:

- potential shore crossing locations where offshore wind project export cables will cross the shore
- providing sufficient space for offshore wind developers to plan suitable cable routes to the Giffard connection hub
- avoiding residential areas
- avoiding environmentally and culturally sensitive areas including waterways and waterbodies, areas of high biodiversity value and protected biodiversity value
- minimising major arterial road crossings such as the South Gippsland Highway.

There will be designated areas within the draft proposed Gippsland Shoreline REZ where offshore wind export cables are allowed to cross the shore.

VicGrid is coordinating further work to identify suitable shore crossing locations for offshore wind projects which will facilitate greater protection of environmentally and culturally sensitive areas along the coast.

The draft proposed Gippsland Shoreline REZ sits within the boundaries of the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation and the Wellington Shire local government area.

The location of the draft proposed Gippsland Shoreline REZ is illustrated in the map on the next page.



Figure 22: Draft proposed Gippsland Shoreline REZ

Key land use and landscape values including REZ boundary considerations

Biodiversity: Corner Inlet Ramsar-listed wetlands

Community: McLoughlins (2 Beach residential area

Biodiversity/cultural: 3 Bruthen Creek

(4

Community: Woodside town and residential area

Biodiversity/cultural: 5 Mullungdung Flora and Fauna Reserve, home to native flora and fauna

6 Biodiversity/cultural:

Mullungdung State Forest and Stradbroke Flora and Fauna Reserve, home to native flora and fauna

Biodiversity: Protected biodiversity area

Biodiversity/cultural: 8 Coastal wetlands and protected biodiversity area



biodiversity values



Biodiversity/cultural:



Biodiversity/cultural: 12 **Gippsland Lakes Coastal** Park and Ramsar-listed wetlands

PART B

8. The draft optimal development pathway for Victoria

We have identified the transmission network upgrades that will be needed to support Victoria's energy transition over the next 15 years. We've grouped these investments into work programs, and identified when each will be needed to support renewable energy zone (REZ) development and maintain energy security and reliability.

Together, the programs and their timings make up the draft optimal development pathway.

We developed 3 candidate development pathways, each designed to meet a different scenario of future energy needs. The one that was most robust to future uncertainty and provided greatest net benefit for Victorians was selected as the draft optimal development pathway. This decision took into account network reliability, keeping costs as low as possible for consumers, and minimising social and environmental impacts. For more information about the 3 scenarios we considered, see Section 2.

8.1 The draft optimal development pathway

The draft optimal development pathway sets out 7 programs of transmission investments to be delivered from 2025 to 2040. These programs are designed to support development of the 7 draft proposed REZs, taking into account the expected types and locations of new generation and storage projects over the next 15 years.

The proposed programs will increase capacity in important parts of Victoria's transmission network and maintain network security and reliability. They are designed to ensure a smooth transition as coalfired power plants close and Victoria's electricity demands grow.

The draft optimal development pathway builds on projects that are already under development or in construction. This includes Western Renewables Link (WRL), Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West), Marinus Link Stage 1 and the transmission infrastructure required for the first 2 GW of offshore wind in Gippsland.

Some of the proposed programs are needed urgently to prepare for coal-fired power station retirements and avoid bottlenecks in delivering new generation and storage infrastructure, including new renewable projects supported by the Australian Government's Capacity Investment Scheme. Of the 7 programs, 2 are needed by 2030, 3 are needed by 2035 and 2 are needed by 2040.

The draft optimal development pathway supports the achievement of the Victorian Government's targets for renewable energy, offshore wind and storage. Two of the transmission programs have been designed to unlock offshore wind in the Southern Ocean and Gippsland declared areas.



Where possible, we prioritised upgrades along existing transmission lines. This minimises impacts on landholders, regional communities and the environment and limits cost impacts on consumer power bills. In this VTP we are proposing just 4 new transmission projects across 3 programs: a second radial line and tie in loop in Gippsland to facilitate offshore wind, a new line between Sydenham and Tarrone, a new line between Truganina and Deer Park, and an additional short line between Hazelwood and Yallourn. The draft optimal pathway includes upgrading about 430 km of existing lines and about 380 km of new lines.

Table 8 on the next page describes each of the transmission programs, their timing, and why they

are needed. For a full description of the proposed projects in each of the 7 programs, see Appendix A.

The draft optimal pathway is designed to meet the energy needs that would occur in scenario 1. It is also robust to the other possible futures considered in scenarios 2 and 3, should future energy needs change. In this regard, the pathway is flexible to changes in future energy demand and transmission programs can be brought forward if the need arises, or deferred. If energy demand increases rapidly, as in scenario 2, we can add 3 additional programs to the optimal pathway to address the need for more generation in the draft proposed REZs. For more information on how robustness analysis can be used for different scenarios, see Appendix D.

Investments to support system strength

System strength is a characteristic of an electric power system that ensures stable voltage and operation during faults or disturbances, to keep generators online and protect the system from events such as lightning strikes.

System strength will be critical in the future as Victoria transitions to more renewable generation. Without coal-fired generation, system strength can be provided by synchronous condensers – large rotating machines – to regulate voltage and network stability.

High-level assessments undertaken by VicGrid indicate there may be need for additional investments into system strength statewide and in the Latrobe Valley. There are different regulatory mechanisms to support the delivery of system strength and further analysis will be undertaken to further understand the need and determine the most appropriate regulatory mechanism for their delivery. Additional details on potential investments to support system strength are included in Appendix A. The 7 priority programs below describe what is needed over and above existing transmission projects that are already under development across Victoria.

Projects already under development

The following projects have been factored in as inputs to the 2025 VTP and are being progressed:

- Marinus Link Stage 1
- Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West
- Western Renewables Link
 - Gippsland offshore wind transmission stage 1

Table 8: The 7 new priority programs of transmission upgrades

Program	Why it is needed	Proposed year needed by
1 Western Victoria reinforcement program A collection of 4 network augmentations and upgrades of existing infrastructure.	To support connection of onshore wind and solar generation in the draft proposed Wimmera Southern Mallee, Grampians Wimmera, Central Highlands and South West renewable energy zones and reinforce the network supply to metropolitan Melbourne.	2028
2 Eastern Victoria reinforcement program A suite of network augmentations and upgrades of existing infrastructure, as well as an additional line between Hazelwood and Yallourn.	To meet increased demand in eastern metropolitan Melbourne, respond to shifting supply from the east of Victoria to the west of Victoria and ensure connection and security of supply from the Gippsland and Central North draft proposed renewable energy zones and the Gippsland offshore wind area.	2028 – 2029
3 North West strengthening program Replacement of sections of the existing single circuit transmission with a new high-capacity double circuit line.	To support additional generation in the Wimmera Southern Mallee, Grampians Wimmera and North West draft proposed renewable energy zones and facilitate its transfer to areas of high energy demand.	2035
4 South West expansion program A new double circuit 500 kV line in South West Victoria.	To meet significant demand for high-quality wind generation in Victoria's west, including additional generation in the South West and Central Highlands draft proposed renewable energy zones.	2033
5 Gippsland offshore wind transmission stage 2 program A new transmission loop to support offshore wind.	Building on the first Gippsland offshore wind transmission project, this new program is required to connect additional offshore wind generation in the Gippsland offshore wind area to meet Victoria's 2035 and 2040 offshore wind targets.	2033 - 2038
6 Latrobe Valley strengthening program New power flow controllers and dynamic load rating devices in the Latrobe Valley.	To allow for easier integration of wind and solar into the grid, manage significant power flows and address network congestion. It supports connection and transfer of generation from the Gippsland draft proposed renewable energy zone and Gippsland offshore wind area.	2034 - 2035
7 Offshore wind upgrade Uprating of existing lines from Heywood to Portland.	To connect offshore generation from the Southern Ocean offshore wind area to Portland.	2038



Why Victoria's transmission network needs to change

The demands on Victoria's transmission network are changing rapidly. We urgently need to modernise our grid to connect new sources of energy supply and keep up with changing patterns of energy consumption across the state. These changing demands are influenced by:

- new supply locations as the energy mix shifts from coal to renewables, including offshore wind
- increasing development of variable renewable energy such as wind and solar, which alters system security and strength requirements
- growth of consumer energy resources (CER) such as rooftop solar, batteries and electric vehicles (EVs), which is contributing to increasing two-way energy flows as well as lower levels of minimum demand
- increasing electricity consumption and peak electricity demand during the energy transition.

8.2 Where are the proposed transmission programs?

The proposed transmission programs are located across Victoria, linking draft proposed REZs and offshore wind areas to demand centres and the Greater Melbourne area.

Two of the programs are located primarily in Greater Melbourne and the remaining 5 are located primarily in Victoria's regions, with connecting infrastructure in Greater Melbourne. For a map of project locations, see Figure 23.

While most programs involve upgrading existing infrastructure, 3 of the programs need new infrastructure that is likely to require new transmission easements to be developed. For new developments, the VTP has identified a need for these projects but has not yet identified a preferred route. VicGrid will consult publicly to determine a study area for these projects before identifying preferred corridors.



Figure 23: The draft optimal development pathway program map

----- Transmission projects under development*

Study area for Gippsland offshore wind transmission project

** Each program includes multiple transmission projects. See Appendix A for further details about the proposed works included in each program.

* This includes transmission projects defined as Committed and Anticipated or Actionable under the Australian Energy Market Operator's 2024 Integrated System Plan. This map displays proposed alignments for Marinus Link, Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West), Western Renewables Link and the Gippsland offshore wind transmission stage 1.

8.3 What other options did we consider?

Three candidate development pathways were developed to meet the energy system needs in each of the 3 scenarios. The candidate pathway developed for scenario 1 has been identified as the draft optimal development pathway.

This section outlines the candidate pathways designed for scenarios 2 and 3. Where multiple

options were available, we evaluated these, to ensure the best project was included to address the identified needs. We used the transmission planning considerations outlined below to assess the alternatives and select the project that would be tested as part of the candidate pathway. For more details about projects and their alternatives, see Appendix A.

The 5 factors we used to assess potential transmission projects

There were 5 key considerations when prioritising potential transmission projects for inclusion in the candidate development pathways. See Appendix A for details.



Network performance (reliability, security, thermal capacity, curtailment)



Land use, community acceptance and Traditional Owner perspectives



Delivery timing and constructability



Long-term future network requirements

We also completed an initial assessment of non-network solutions in the development of the candidate development pathways (see the box on the next page). Non-network solutions may reduce, defer or replace the need for network investment, reducing system costs and the impact on consumers.





Non-network solutions

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) defines a non-network option as a "solution or service that provides an alternative to investment in transmission system apparatus, such as transmission lines or substations."

Battery storage is an important type of nonnetwork solution that we have assessed in developing the candidate development pathways. The VTP energy market modelling optimises the location of generation across Victoria and the National Electricity Market (NEM) by considering the quality of renewable resources against the cost of transmission needed to support that generation. Battery storage is included in this optimisation. Battery storage is also employed in several system integrity protection systems which allow better use of important transmission assets.

Following release of the final 2025 VTP, more detailed assessment in the project design phase could highlight additional potential for nonnetwork solutions to replace, defer or supplement network solutions currently in the candidate development pathways and thereby reduce costs for consumers. Projects may also be delivered through a technology-neutral procurement process where interested parties may propose alternative non-network solutions.

All the candidate development pathways represent an ambitious program of transmission investment and it is important to ensure that the proposed timeframes are achievable. We developed the proposed timings based on power systems modelling of network needs as well as a preliminary deliverability assessment. We may further refine the proposed programs and timings ahead of the final 2025 VTP, based on feedback received and the results of additional deliverability checks.



8.3.1 Candidate development pathway 2

Candidate development pathway 2 has been developed to meet the significantly higher future energy demand of scenario 2. This scenario considers a potential future where new energy-intensive industries are established in regional and central Victoria at scale, such as data centres, hydrogen production and green aluminium.

The industry development and scale of energy demand in scenario 2 exceeds the levels seen in scenarios 1 and 3, resulting in a need for nearly double the amount of onshore generation by 2040 compared to scenario 1. Candidate pathway 2 therefore also outlines the largest need for transmission. In particular, it includes 3 additional programs of investments:

- Program 8: Sydenham to Keilor link a new circuit between Sydenham and Keilor to support the distribution of power from the draft proposed REZs to Melbourne.
- Program 9: Central North Victoria strengthening program – A program of works to facilitate the transfer of increased power from the Central North draft proposed REZ to areas of high energy demand.
- Program 10: Inner South West strengthening program – A program of works to add increased capacity and resilience to the inner south west area of Victoria and support the transfer of power from the South West, Grampians Wimmera and North West draft proposed REZs.

This candidate pathway also includes an extension of the South West expansion program from Tarrone to Heywood, and an additional project as part of the North West strengthening program between Kerang and Red Cliffs. For more details about the projects in candidate development pathway 2, see Appendix A.

8.3.2 Candidate development pathway 3

Candidate development pathway 3 has been developed to meet the future generation and energy demand needs in scenario 3. Scenario 3 considers a potential future where there may be delays of up to one year in delivering new energy infrastructure. There may also be reduced growth in coordinated consumer energy resources reflecting broad challenges across the NEM, and other NEM-Government policies and targets may be delayed as well. The scenario also considers a potential future in which Marinus Link Stage 2 is not built.

Candidate pathway 3 includes the same 7 programs as the draft optimal development pathway, and one additional program:

 Program 8: Sydenham to Keilor link – a new circuit between Sydenham and Keilor to support the distribution of power from the draft proposed REZs to Melbourne.

This candidate pathway also sees some programs deferred by one year to coincide with the infrastructure delays broadly considered in scenario 3.

For more details about the programs and projects in candidate development pathway 3, see Appendix A.

Table 9 summarises the proposed transmission programs for all 3 candidate development pathways, and the differences between each pathway and delivery date.

Table 9: Differences between the 3 candidate development pathways

	Delivery date				
Programs	Candidate development pathway 1 (the draft optimal pathway)	Candidate development pathway 2	Candidate development pathway 3		
Differences in program timing across the 3 candidate development pathways Blue shading denotes deferred timing relative to candidate development pathway 1. Yellow shading denotes accelerated timing relative to candidate development pathway 1.					
1. Western Victoria reinforcement program	2028	2028	2028		
2. Eastern Victoria reinforcement program	2028 – 2029	2028 – 2029	2028 – 2029		
3. North West strengthening program	2035	2034	2035		
4. South West expansion program	2033	2032 - 2038	2034		
5. Gippsland offshore wind transmission stage 2 program	2033 – 2038	2033 – 2038	2034 – 2039		
6. Latrobe Valley strengthening program	2034 – 2035	2034 – 2035	2034 – 2035		
7. Offshore wind upgrade	2038	2038	2039		
Additional programs for candidate development pathways 2 and 3					
8. New Sydenham to Keilor link	N/A	2035	2036		
9. Central North strengthening program	N/A	2033 – 2035	N/A		
10. Inner South West strengthening program	N/A	2035	N/A		



8.4 Benefits of the optimal development pathway

The proposed investments set out in the draft optimal development pathway will provide a foundation for Victoria's transition to renewable energy.

By unlocking critical capacity constraints along parts of the transmission network, the work programs will support investment in new renewable generation to meet Victoria's needs as coal-fired power stations retire. The programs will also improve reliability and system strength as energy demand continues to grow.

The optimal development pathway is a key foundation for achieving the Victorian Government's legislated renewable energy targets, including for generation, storage, and offshore wind.

The economic costs of the draft optimal pathway have been estimated based on Class 5 estimates¹⁰. The total economic cost of the projects within the draft optimal development pathway is \$4.3 billion or \$2.5 billion in net present value terms¹¹. This cost will enable delivery of the 7 programs of transmission investments from 2025 to 2040 and support future development of the draft proposed REZs described in Section 6. Project costs and delivery timelines were estimated in 2024. VicGrid recognises the dynamic market for transmission projects and will consult with industry to further refine the costs and timings included in Appendix A.

The draft optimal development pathway will deliver significant benefits to Victorians and consumers across the NEM, by making it possible to build new renewable generation capacity in the right places and at the right time to meet demand. The transmission upgrades will reduce the total amount of new generation that Victoria needs to build, compared with an alternative future where Victoria doesn't continue to invest in the transmission network beyond committed projects. This will minimise the costs that are ultimately passed on to consumers in power bills.

The transmission investments will also allow renewable generation to be built sooner, meaning Victoria will need to use coal-fired generation less intensively in the coming years before coal plants retire. This brings additional benefits to Victoria by avoiding fossil fuel emissions.

The economic and environmental benefits described above are separate to the new benefits arrangements that VicGrid is implementing for landholders, Traditional Owners, neighbours and communities near new transmission infrastructure. For more information about these benefits, see the **engage.vic.gov.au/vtifrez-community-benefits**

8.5 Next steps for finalising the draft optimal pathway

We are now inviting feedback on the draft optimal development pathway as part of public consultation on the draft 2025 VTP. For more information about engagement opportunities and how to provide feedback, see Section 11.

We will continue to refine the optimal development pathway over the coming months in response to additional power systems analysis, deliverability checks and consultation feedback. We will also undertake additional sensitivity analysis to ensure it is resilient to potential changes to key inputs and assumptions. For more information about results of sensitivity analyses and what they mean for the optimal development pathway, see Appendix B.

We intend to publish the final optimal development pathway as part of the final 2025 VTP, along with the results of economic and robustness analysis.

For more information about detailed planning and delivery of projects under the optimal development pathway following release of the final 2025 VTP, see Section 10.

¹⁰ Class 5 cost estimate (+100%/-50%) as per the Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering International Cost Estimate classification system. Economic costs are produced for the purpose of the cost-benefit analysis and are not equivalent to financial costs. For example, economic costs exclude financing costs (interest payments) and depreciation and are based on real rather than nominal values.
¹⁰ All values are expressed in real terms in financial year 2023 dollars. The net present value cost is calculated assuming a 7 per cent discount rate (real). The transmission costs reflect capital expenditure of all candidate pathway 1 projects and do not include operating and maintenance expenditure.

Part C Delivering the VTP

PART C

9. Developing renewable energy zones

The development of renewable energy zones (REZs) will provide certainty for investors and enable private investment in generation, storage and supply chains across Victoria's regions. This investment in regional infrastructure will bring job opportunities and other local economic benefits for host communities.

Once the 2025 VTP is finalised and REZs are formally declared, VicGrid will work together with communities and industry to develop these REZs over the coming years. This will involve engaging with communities located within REZs, prioritising jobs and other economic benefits for local communities, Traditional Owners and First Peoples, and working with investors and developers to strengthen coordination of generation and storage investments.

9.1 What to expect as REZs are developed

9.1.1 For communities and landholders

Communities in declared REZs will see increased investment in renewable generation and storage infrastructure over time. VicGrid is committed to ensuring that new development is coordinated to minimise impacts on landscapes and the environment, while delivering economic benefits to regional communities.

Like today, generation and storage project developers will be able to identify specific locations of interest within a REZ. Renewable development companies will need to negotiate with landholders for rights to develop projects on their land, and a landholder has a right to say no to having new renewable generation on their property. Landholders who do accept new renewable development will receive financial compensation that is negotiated with the developer.

All proposed projects will continue to be subject to the planning and environmental approval processes under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and *Environment Effects Act 1978*. The establishment of REZs creates an opportunity for regional communities to harness the economic development opportunities associated with renewable energy projects. VicGrid is committed to working together with REZ communities to realise these opportunities and build long-term, communitywide benefits from the renewable energy transition.

As part of this new approach, VicGrid is introducing new benefits arrangements for communities that host REZs. New REZ Community Energy Funds will support projects that improve energy supply, reliability, efficiency and affordability for businesses, communities and households. They will also support initiatives that create economic development opportunities from the energy transition, for example projects that build renewable energy supply chains, create jobs in the energy sector, promote renewable energy research and innovation, or help attract renewable energy investment. For more information, see **engage.vic.gov.au/vtif-rez-community-benefits**

What to expect for Capacity Investment Scheme participants

The Australian Government's Capacity Investment Scheme (CIS) provides underwriting to encourage investment in renewable energy generation and storage to connect to the grid by 2030. The Australian Government is holding competitive tenders for CIS contracts every 6 months, with the first held in May 2024.

In preparing the draft VTP, we have planned for transmission infrastructure that will support the targeted amount of Victorian CIS investment to be delivered by 2030, including 5.0 GW / 11 TWh of new generation capacity. The draft optimal development pathway includes 2 programs of upgrades to be delivered by 2030. This is anticipated to unlock required network capacity for these important CIS generation projects. Successful applicants to CIS tenders will need to apply for an access authorisation however it is anticipated that those who were successful in the May 2024 CIS tender will automatically be granted an authorisation. For subsequent CIS tenders, as with other projects in development, VicGrid will consult on its approach to transitional arrangements. These arrangements will set out how and when the new Victorian network access arrangements, including the Grid Impact Assessment, will come into effect, as well as how these arrangements will apply to projects that are currently in development.

We expect to consult with industry on proposed transitional arrangements before releasing the final VTP, and finalise arrangements by late 2025.

For more information, see **engage.vic.gov.au/grid-impact-assessment**

REZ Community Benefits

We are introducing new benefits for:

Landholders

Landholders who host new electricity transmission infrastructure will receive payments of \$8,000 per kilometre of typical easement area per year for 25 years. These payments are over and above existing compensation arrangements.

Regional communities

REZ Community Energy Funds will fund projects that improve energy outcomes, or create benefits from the energy transition, for communities in regions hosting REZs and new transmission infrastructure.

Traditional Owners

The Victorian Government is working in partnership with First Peoples to design benefits for Traditional Owners of REZ areas and related transmission corridors.

Significantly impacted neighbours

Transmission companies will make benefits available to Victorians whose land is near and significantly impacted by new transmission infrastructure.

For more information, see engage.vic.gov.au/vtif-rez-community-benefits

9.1.2 For Traditional Owners

VicGrid is working in partnership with Traditional Owners to implement a model for dedicated benefits for Traditional Owners affected by REZs and transmission projects. This aims to go beyond inclusion, to give First Peoples control over how funds are spent to ensure they deliver economic empowerment and support self-determination.

These dedicated benefits are expected to be funded by mandatory contributions from transmission, generation and storage companies. They will be in addition to any discretionary payments by energy companies to Traditional Owners.

VicGrid will also continue to work with Traditional Owners to develop a process for incorporating cultural heritage into REZ planning.

Integrating a self-determined approach to cultural heritage will be an ongoing process that we will continue to build on collaboratively throughout the lifecycle of the 2025 VTP, subsequent VTPs and through the process for declaring REZs. The development of REZs will require an ongoing dialogue with Traditional Owners to ensure we minimise impacts to Country.

Our collaboration with Traditional Owners will continue beyond the first VTP to ensure we strengthen Traditional Owners' roles in shaping future transmission plans and REZ development.

Importantly, work on cultural heritage mapping under the VTP process does not substitute regulatory requirements. The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, the *Heritage Act 2017*, and other relevant State and Commonwealth legislation continue to apply to any future projects created in REZs.



9.1.3 For industry

REZs are designed to support a strong investment environment for renewable energy in Victoria, providing a clear signal to project developers on the locations most suitable for siting renewable generation projects. Projects developed within REZs will benefit from special network access arrangements that provide more certainty and reduce the risk of excessive curtailment – when a generator has to restrict the amount of energy they supply due to constraints on the transmission network. See the next section for further details.

We are also exploring other ways we can enable timely generation development and connection in REZs while ensuring a coordinated approach that avoids multiple developers building individual transmission connections that could create a 'spaghetti effect' across the REZ landscape. We recognise there are developers that have generation and storage projects in various stages of the planning and development process. We plan to develop an integrated REZ access and connection approach that is cognisant of this and provides a clear process for all developers inside and outside the proposed REZs identified in the final 2025 VTP.

We will develop our approach in consultation with industry, and an important part of this process is hearing from developers with projects currently in development and developers interested in participating in REZs more broadly. For more information about how you can contact us about your project(s) in development, visit **engage.vic.gov.au/vicgrid**

Transmission connections within REZs

It is the responsibility of individual project developers to establish their own connections to the transmission network.

As more generation projects are developed, VicGrid will work with developers to ensure a coordinated approach to transmission connections within REZs that limits community and environmental impacts and keeps costs low. This could include investigating new shared transmission infrastructure to streamline connections in future. The need for additional shared transmission infrastructure to support generator and storage connections within REZs will depend on the REZ's proximity to the existing network and the locations that developers choose for their projects.

9.2 Increasing investor certainty with new access arrangements

During 2024, we consulted with industry on a proposed new Victorian Access Regime to govern new connections to the grid both within and outside of REZs. The Victorian Access Regime will set an important foundation for attracting investment in Victoria's REZs, by giving generators and investors confidence that they can supply their energy into the market without facing excessive curtailment.

The Victorian Access Regime is expected to be presented to the Victorian Parliament later in 2025 as part of proposed amendments to the *National Electricity (Victoria) Act 2005.* More detailed information can be found at **vicgrid.vic.gov.au** The 2 key features of the proposed Victorian Access Regime are:

- REZ access schemes that are tailored to the requirements of each REZ, and
- Grid Impact Assessments for proposed new generation occurring outside of REZs. This will ensure that proposed connections to Victoria's grid would not cause excessive network curtailment for existing or planned generators in Victoria's REZs.

Both of these features are described further below.

9.2.1 REZ access schemes

Once a REZ is declared, VicGrid will publish a draft REZ access scheme for consultation with industry. The REZ access scheme will set out:

Access limits that cap the maximum capacity of different types of renewable generation that can be connected within the REZ. Access limits give investors visibility of the REZ's hosting capacity and assurance that a REZ's capacity will not be oversubscribed. Setting limits specific to different renewable technologies will help to ensure that the right overall mix of projects is developed to meet Victoria's needs, without distorting outcomes in favour of types of generation that can be developed more quickly (but which may be less suited to the generation needs within the REZ). Storage projects will not be subject to access limits since these can help to reduce grid congestion and the risk of curtailment.

Access fees to be paid by approved generation projects. Operators will pay access fees to connect to the transmission network in the REZ, which may be used to contribute to the REZ Community Energy Funds and dedicated benefits for Traditional Owners. Storage projects will pay a fee for administration of access.

Access conditions. For example, this could include requirements relating to a proponent's community engagement performance, dates when the project must be operational, or other technical performance requirements.

The access allocation process. The REZ access scheme will set out a description of the arrangements for the allocation of access authorisations to generators, up to the access limit.

9.2.2 Grid Impact Assessments

Generator and storage developers seeking to connect new plant outside of REZs will be subject to a Grid Impact Assessment. This assessment is designed to provide greater assurance to REZ generators that proposed renewable energy generation within REZs will not be excessively curtailed as capacity within the network is taken up by new generation.

We recently consulted with industry on the proposed approach to Grid Impact Assessment. Access applicants seeking to connect new generation outside a REZ, or generators wishing to expand the nameplate capacity of a facility connected outside a REZ, will need to demonstrate that their proposed generation project meets both the following criteria:

Criterion 1: The proposed connection is unlikely to result in excessive curtailment on existing and planned REZ generators; and

Criterion 2: The access applicant meets government expectations for community and Traditional Owner engagement and benefits.

See **engage.vic.gov.au/grid-impact-assessment** for more information.

The draft proposed Gippsland Shoreline REZ is different to onshore REZs

The draft proposed Gippsland Shoreline REZ is intended to host onshore connection infrastructure for offshore wind generators to reach the transmission network. Onshore generation projects located within the boundaries of the shoreline REZ will not be eligible to participate in the access scheme for priority access to the network. These projects will be subject to the same Grid Impact Assessment process that will apply elsewhere in Victoria for projects located outside of REZ boundaries.

Communities impacted by the Gippsland Shoreline REZ will receive new dedicated benefits, similar to our approach for onshore renewable energy zones. These benefits will be in addition to any discretionary benefits paid by offshore wind developers.

PART C

10. Delivering projects in the optimal development pathway

Once the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan (VTP) is finalised, VicGrid will begin detailed planning for delivery of the optimal development pathway – the programs of priority transmission projects we have identified for the next 15 years.

There will be further opportunities for consultation as these transmission projects are planned and developed. VicGrid will also oversee the implementation of dedicated benefits arrangements for those impacted by new transmission projects.

Under proposed reforms, VicGrid will be responsible for coordinating the procurement of VTP transmission projects. We are currently making changes to improve the procurement process for transmission projects in Victoria. We will release further details later in 2025.

10.1 Consultation on proposed VTP transmission projects

All proposed transmission projects in the optimal development pathway will continue to be subject to relevant planning and environmental approvals in Victoria, with consultation building on the broad and early engagement undertaken during development of the VTP.

At each stage of the planning process, consultation with landholders, communities, industries and First Peoples will provide important feedback and help shape decisions. As planning progresses, VicGrid will carry out targeted engagement with directly impacted Traditional Owners, landholders, neighbours and communities.

10.2 Benefits arrangements

While most projects in the draft optimal development pathway consist of upgrades to existing transmission lines, some proposed projects will require new transmission easements. VicGrid is introducing new benefits arrangements for landholders, neighbours, communities and Traditional Owners in regions hosting renewable energy zones and impacted by new transmission developments. For more information, see **engage.vic.gov.au/vtif-rezcommunity-benefits**

These new benefits will be in addition to existing compensation arrangements under the Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986, Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 and the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth), as well as any discretionary payments made by transmission project developers.



10.3 VicGrid's role in planning and delivering transmission projects

VicGrid will be responsible for coordinating the planning, procurement and development of transmission infrastructure prioritised in the optimal development pathway. For details on the proposed projects included in the draft optimal development pathway, see Section 8 and Appendix A.

The next step will be to develop detailed project solutions for priority projects identified in the VTP. This will include further optioneering and consideration of alternative solutions. Projects will be subject to a business case which may identify a preferred solution or recommend a technologyneutral procurement process that is open to different types of solutions (for example, batteries that could provide an alternative to investing in additional transmission).

Once developed, project solutions will proceed to a procurement process subject to independent oversight. A separate economic assessment will not be required, given that projects identified in the optimal development pathway will have already been considered in the cost-benefit and robustness analysis completed in the VTP process. As part of project planning, VicGrid will determine whether the project will follow a contestable or noncontestable procurement process. A competitive procurement for every transmission project identified in the VTP may not always be possible or appropriate. For example, we will consider where we cannot separate the project from existing assets, or where there is an urgent need, or limited time or capacity for the market to respond.

VicGrid will set out its proposed approach to procurement contestability later in 2025. Procurement models adopted will seek to best achieve project objectives while ensuring projects are delivered as efficiently as possible, represent value for money and provide an appropriate level of rigour and protection for consumers.

The specific delivery, operations and maintenance approach will vary project by project based on the project requirements and other determining factors. VicGrid will play an active role throughout delivery, operations, and maintenance phases to ensure projects meet their objectives on time and within budget, delivering value to consumers and stakeholders.

Engagement on the draft 2025 VTP

PART D

11. We invite your feedback on the draft 2025 VTP

Meaningful engagement is a critical part of developing and implementing the Victorian Transmission Plan (VTP). To minimise impacts and maximise collective benefits, we will listen to and consider feedback, balanced against the technical and financial requirements of planning future transmission infrastructure projects.

This section outlines how to provide feedback on the draft 2025 VTP as well as opportunities for further input throughout 2025 and beyond.

11.1 Consultation on this document

We are inviting feedback on the draft 2025 VTP (this document) through a submissions process, in-person consultation and other engagement activities.

Key areas we are seeking feedback on include:

- the draft proposed renewable energy zones (REZs). See Section 6.2
- the draft optimal development pathway, which sets out the proposed transmission investments needed to support REZ development and meet Victoria's energy needs over the next 15 years. See Section 8.1
- the draft proposed Gippsland Shoreline REZ, which sets out a designated area for offshore wind developers to site their onshore connection infrastructure. See Section 7.3

Feedback will be gathered online through Engage Victoria and in person through engagement at locations across Victoria. The deadline to provide feedback is **Tuesday 24 June 2025**.

For more information about the ways you can make a submission, provide feedback and participate in other engagement activities, visit Engage Victoria, the Victorian Government's online consultation platform: **engage.vic.gov.au/vicgrid**

Feedback will be considered, along with further technical checks, as we finalise proposed REZs and the 2025 VTP. For more information, see Section 12.

We will publish the final 2025 VTP later this year. We will report back on what we heard and how community and industry engagement has informed the final plan.

11.2 Continued engagement with communities and industry

VicGrid will continue to engage with communities and industry as we implement the 2025 VTP. This will include opportunities to provide input and feedback about REZ declarations, detailed REZ design, implementation of REZ Community Energy Funds and network access schemes. VicGrid will also carry out targeted engagement with directly impacted Traditional Owners, landholders, neighbours and communities throughout the planning process for VTP transmission projects.



PART D

12. Further analysis in preparation for the final 2025 VTP

VicGrid will undertake further modelling and checks to prepare the final 2025 VTP, and combine these with feedback received during consultation on the draft.

Key areas of additional analysis include:

- further power systems modelling of network performance and reliability under each of the candidate development pathways
- a final update of our energy market modelling across all 3 scenarios
- economic analysis and robustness analysis of each of the candidate development pathways, to confirm the final optimal development pathway and our assessment of economic benefits
- additional sensitivity analysis
- a final reliability check of the optimal development pathway.

This glossary has been prepared as a quick guide to help readers understand terms used in this document. Words and phrases defined in the *National Electricity (Victoria) Act 2005* and other Victorian legislation have the meaning given to them in legislation.

Term	Definition
Avoidance area	Avoidance areas are areas to avoid for renewable generation development where there are areas protected in legislation (e.g., defence sites, national parks), or areas with no acceptable trade-offs. They are shown as areas to avoid in the strategic land use assessment constraints analysis. These avoidance areas are outputs of a strategic assessment based on high-level publicly available data only, as a guide for decision makers. They are non-exhaustive and may change over time.
Augmentations	These are improvements or additions made to the existing electricity transmission network to increase its capacity, efficiency, or reliability. This can involve upgrading current infrastructure or building new components to handle increased demand or integrate new generation sources.
Committed	 Generation and storage projects are considered committed if they have reached a sufficiently advanced stage of planning and development. Projects have been considered committed for the purposes of energy market modelling in the VTP if they meet any of the following criteria: it was classified as Committed by AEMO as at May 2024, or it is completed or in the construction phase as identified in AEMO Victorian Planning's generator list as at September 2024, or it was successful in the CIS auction result released in December 2024.
Candidate development pathway	A set of possible transmission projects and proposed timings to upgrade the Declared Shared Network, needed to accommodate the development of new generation and storage capacity in REZs.
Curtailment	A situation where energy generators are required to limit their energy supply into the market due to capacity limitations on the grid and corresponding market signals.
Declared REZ	A declared REZ, in the context of the VTP, is a designated geographical area that has been declared by Order of the Minister for Energy and Resources, having been identified by VicGrid as having high potential for renewable energy generation.
Declared Shared Network	The Victorian interconnected high-voltage power lines and shared terminal stations that transport large amounts of electricity from where it is generated to where it is needed across the state. It allows multiple electricity providers to share the infrastructure for transporting electricity. Sometimes wind and solar developments need to build their own private lines to connect their project to the shared network.
Draft REZ	A geographical area proposed for REZ declaration by the Minister for Energy and Resources, that is published for consultation in a draft Order.
Draft proposed REZ	The draft areas proposed to be considered for REZ declaration that will be finalised following industry and community consultation. These are presented in the draft 2025 VTP (this document).

Term	Definition
Dynamic line rating	These are advanced tools and strategies used to monitor and manage the electricity transmission network in real-time. They measure the conditions of the network, such as temperature, wind speed, and existing loading levels to determine how much electricity can safely be transported at any given moment, allowing for more efficient use of the network without having to undertake major augmentations.
Easement	This is a legal right allowing someone to use another person's land for a specified purpose. For transmission lines, easements typically include the land parcels where both overhead and underground lines are situated, along with an adjacent buffer zone to ensure safe operation. Common uses of easements also include routes for drainage, sewage, and roadways.
Firming	Firming infrastructure includes facilities that can supply electricity during times when the network experiences a shortfall of surplus generation. Battery storage, gas-fired generation and long duration energy storage schemes can provide the desired firming.
Generation resource plan	A spatial plan that identifies indicative locations for the new generation capacity needed to meet Victoria's energy needs under different future scenarios. The plan is developed based on a multicriteria analysis and, alongside the results of a strategic land use assessment, is used to inform potential REZ candidate areas. The generation resource plan includes possible amounts, types and timing of new generation build across different locations in Victoria.
Greenfield	Greenfield development refers to construction in land not previously developed for that use. In terms of transmission, it refers to erecting new transmission infrastructure on land that hasn't previously hosted transmission lines.
Grid Impact Assessment	An assessment carried out as part of the grid connection application process for proposed connections to the Declared Shared Network outside a REZ. It requires that new connections do not impose excessive curtailment on existing and planned REZ generators.
Integrated System Plan	An integrated 20-year plan for the efficient development of the National Electricity Market (NEM), prepared every 2 years by the Australian Energy Market Operator.
Landholder	An individual or organisation eligible to receive landholder benefits under the <i>National Electricity (Victoria) Act 2005</i> , for the siting of transmission infrastructure on land where they are the freehold landholder or, in relation to Crown Land, where they are a Traditional Owner, or long-term lease or licence holder who is materially impacted.
Least-regrets development pathway	A process of selecting transmission development pathways, having regard to the risks associated with underinvestment or overinvestment in light of the uncertainties reflected across a range of scenarios.
Loop tie	This is a type of connection in the electricity grid that links different parts of the network in a loop configuration. It creates multiple pathways for electricity to flow, which helps improve reliability and flexibility by providing alternative routes for power delivery if one part of the grid has an issue.

Term	Definition
Multi-criteria analysis	A methodology for evaluating qualitative economic, social, cultural and environmental factors as part of a process for determining where, when and how Victoria's electricity transmission network should develop.
The optimal development pathway	The optimal mix of transmission projects needed to connect REZs with Victoria's Declared Shared Network over the next 15 years, taking into account economic cost-benefit and robustness analysis across different scenarios, as well as power system security and reliability. For the 2025 VTP, the optimal development pathway sets out proposed projects and sequencing over the next 15 years. Future VTPs will take a 25-year timeframe.
Proposed REZs	The areas proposed to be considered for REZ declaration. These will be presented in the final 2025 VTP and, over time, may be declared by the Minister for Energy as REZs.
Ramsar	Ramsar wetlands are rare or unique wetlands that are important for preserving biodiversity. They are designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
Registered Aboriginal Party	A body registered by the Aboriginal Heritage Council which performs the functions set out in the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> .
Renewable energy zone (REZ)	An area declared in a renewable energy zone Order where a REZ access scheme and special benefits arrangements will apply.
REZ access scheme	A scheme, under the proposed Victorian Access Regime, declared by the Minister for Energy and Resources which sets out arrangements governing network connections for new renewable generation and storage projects located in a REZ. These arrangements include access limits for each type of renewable generation, access fees, access conditions, and the process for allocating access.
REZ candidate areas	More refined areas within the study area that are assessed as being most suitable for renewable energy generation through energy market modelling and community and industry consultation.
REZ study area	A broad geographic area suitable for further investigation in planning for future renewable energy zones, based on the results of a strategic land use assessment and consultation feedback.
Robustness analysis	Robustness analysis is undertaken on all candidate development pathways to select the one that performs best (i.e., can adapt with minimal cost) across all scenarios. This approach, often called 'least worst regrets', is used to determine the optimal development pathway and seeks to minimise the risks of over- and under-investment.

Term	Definition
Scenarios	Scenarios are a collection of assumptions that describe how the future may unfold. Scenarios-based planning is useful in highly uncertain environments, and can help assess future risks, opportunities, and development needs in the energy industry.
Shoreline Renewable Energy Zone	A Shoreline Renewable Energy Zone sets out a designated area for offshore wind developers to site their onshore connection infrastructure (for example, onshore cables), rather than for hosting new onshore generation.
Strategic land use assessment	An assessment that identifies suitable areas for siting infrastructure based on a range of social, cultural, technical, environmental, and economic factors.
Synchronous Condensers	These are machines connected to the electricity grid that help maintain the stability and reliability of the power system. They do not generate electricity but provide essential services to the transmission network by supporting voltage levels, increasing system strength and enhancing the grid's ability to respond to changes in operating conditions.
System Strength	This describes the ability of the power system to maintain and control the voltage waveform at a given location, both during steady state operation and following a disturbance. System strength is often approximated by the amount of electrical current available during a network fault (fault level), however the concept also encompasses a collection of broader electrical characteristics and power system interactions.
Traditional Owner	A member of a Traditional Owner group, having the meaning set out in the <i>Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010.</i> Traditional Owners have rights that must be upheld as laid out under the <i>Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006,</i> the <i>Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010, Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> and <i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cth).</i>
Uprating of existing lines	This refers to enhancing the capacity of existing transmission lines to carry more electricity. This can be achieved through various methods, such as using higher current rating conductors, increasing clearance for the conductors, upgrading transformers or improving the structure of the lines to support increased capacity, without necessarily building entirely new lines.
Victorian Access Regime	The proposed set of new rules, to be defined under the <i>National Electricity (Victoria) Act 2005</i> , for how new generation projects can connect to the Declared Shared Network, both within and outside of REZs. Under the Victorian Access Regime, the Minister will declare REZ access schemes, and all new generation projects outside of REZs will be subject to a Grid Impact Assessment to reduce the risk of curtailment for REZ generators.
Victorian transmission plan	A document setting out an optimal set of transmission projects that address the planning and development needs over the following periods related to new major electricity transmission infrastructure to facilitate connection of renewable energy zones to the declared shared network: (a) 15 years for the first Victorian transmission plan; (b) 25 years for each subsequent Victorian transmission plan.
Victorian Transmission Investment Framework	A set of reforms being implemented to transmission planning in Victoria, including: a new transmission planning objective; a new planning process through the Victorian Transmission Plan; the Victorian Access Regime; new community and Traditional Owner benefit arrangements; and new approaches to procuring transmission infrastructure.

Appendix information and links

Appendix A: Candidate development pathways engage.vic.gov.au/download/document/40186

Appendix B: Energy market modelling engage.vic.gov.au/download/document/40187

Appendix C: Power system modelling engage.vic.gov.au/download/document/40188

Appendix D: Economic appraisal engage.vic.gov.au/download/document/40189

VTP Guidelines and Appendix information and links

2024 Victorian Transmission Plan Guidelines engage.vic.gov.au/download/document/36730

Appendix A: Strategic land use assessment engage.vic.gov.au/download/document/36743

Appendix B: Victorian Transmission Plan methodology

engage.vic.gov.au/download/document/36744

Appendix C: Transmission planning standard engage.vic.gov.au/download/document/36745

Appendix D: Inputs, assumptions and scenarios engage.vic.gov.au/download/document/36746

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