



Glenelg Shire Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 24 June 2025 at 5:30 pm at
Glenelg Shire Offices
71 Cliff Street, Portland

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1. PRESENT

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

Also in attendance were the Chief Executive Officer (Ms Helen Havercroft), Director Corporate Services (Mr David Hol), Director Community Services (Mr Brett Jackson), Director Infrastructure Services (Mr Aaron Moyne), Chief Finance Officer (Ms Rebecca Campbell) and Business Support Officer Corporate Services Department (Ms Louise Haluska).

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor read the Acknowledgement of Country.

The Mayor acknowledged the passing of former employee Mr Ivan McKenzie Snr.

3. RECORDING OF MEETINGS

To those present in the gallery today, by attending a public meeting of the Council you are consenting to your image, voice and comments being recorded and published. Council meetings may be livestreamed and the Chief Executive Officer will enable a copy of the recording to the public.

4. RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

Nil.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**5.1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****Recommendation**

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27 May 2025, as circulated, be confirmed.

MOTION

MOVED Cr McDonald

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27 May 2025, as circulated, be confirmed.

SECONDED Cr Pepper

CARRIED

FOR: Cr Angelino, Cr Carr, Cr Jowett, Cr McDonald, Cr Noske, Cr Stephens
and Cr Pepper

AGAINST: Nil

5.2. RECORD OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS

David Hol, Director Corporate Services

Executive Summary

This report provides for Council to receive a record of any recent Councillor Briefing sessions undertaken since last reported at a Council meeting.

Recommendation

That Council receives the records of Councillor briefings held on 27 May 2025, 3 June 2025, 10 June 2025 and 17 June 2025.

MOTION

MOVED Cr McDonald

That Council receives the records of Councillor briefings held on 27 May 2025, 3 June 2025, 10 June 2025 and 17 June 2025.

SECONDED Cr Jowett

CARRIED

FOR: Cr Angelino, Cr Carr, Cr Jowett, Cr McDonald, Cr Noske, Cr Stephens and Cr Pepper

AGAINST: Nil

Background/Key Information:

The Glenelg Shire Council Governance Rules as adopted on the 23 January 2024 require that a record is kept of each Councillor Briefing and that the record is tabled at an open Council meeting (excluding any confidential matters).

The record is to include a list of matters presented and any Conflict-of-Interest declarations together with any actions taken to resolve declared conflicts.

The objective of submitting the record to a Council meeting is to ensure public transparency in Council decision making processes.

a. Council Plan and Policy Linkage

Our Voice and Action - A highly engaged and capable local government, leading Glenelg to ensure the needs and aspirations of our community are realised.

b. Legislative, Legal and Risk Management Considerations

Whilst not a legislative obligation, the records are tabled at a Council meeting in accordance with Governance Rule number 68.

c. Consultation and/or communication processes implemented or proposed

Not applicable

d. Financial Implications and Collaboration

Councillor Briefings and the records keeping obligations are provided for within the adopted operational budgets.

e. Governance Principles

The transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

Attachment List

1. Councillor Briefing Record 27 May 2025 [**5.2.1** - 1 page]
2. Councillor Briefing Record 3 June 2025 [**5.2.2** - 1 page]
3. Councillor Briefing Record 10 June 2025 [**5.2.3** - 1 page]
4. Councillor Briefing Record 17 June 2025 [**5.2.4** - 1 page]

6. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

6.1. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil.

7. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS

7.1. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS 1 MAY TO 31 MAY 2025

Recommendation

That Council notes the Councillor Activity Reports for 1 May to 31 May 2025.

MOTION

MOVED Cr Carr

That Council notes the Councillor Activity Reports for 1 May to 31 May 2025.

SECONDED Cr McDonald

CARRIED

FOR: Cr Angelino, Cr Carr, Cr Jowett, Cr McDonald, Cr Noske, Cr Stephens
and Cr Pepper

AGAINST: Nil

Cr STEPHENS, MAYOR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments (Optional)
01.05.2025	Country University Centre Steering Committee Meeting	Portland	Regular meeting of committee to discuss the development of a university centre in Portland.
02.05.2025	South West Alliance Board Meeting	Warrnambool	Bi-monthly SW Alliance Board meeting with all 6 councils from across the SW Region.
03.05.2025	Mrs Muriel Hurley 100 th Birthday celebration at Glenelg House	Casterton	Opportunity to join family members to celebrate this amazing milestone.
05.05.2025	Councillor & CEO monthly meeting	Portland	Strategic meeting with CEO
07.05.2025	Council Plan Workshop	Portland	Council session to develop our Council Plan 2025-2029.
08.05.2025	Hardwood Manufacturing Hub meeting	Melbourne	Strategic meeting to scope future of the hardwood sector in Glenelg.
13.05.2025	Councillor Briefing	Portland	Regular briefing session to discuss strategic items of importance.
14.05.2025	GTFI Hub Strategic Planning meeting	Online	Strategic Planning meeting to scope for the next 5 years.
15.05.2025	MAV State Council Dinner	Melbourne	Annual forum for all councils across Victoria to come together to discuss future direction.

16.05.2025	MAV State Council Meeting	Melbourne	Annual forum for all councils across Victoria to come together to discuss future direction.
19.05.2025	ARTC Stakeholder Meeting	Online	
20.05.2025	Councillor Briefing	Heywood	Regular briefing session to discuss strategic items of importance.
20.05.2025	2025 Volunteer Week function in Heywood	Heywood	Opportunity to celebrate volunteers in the Heywood district community and award recipients through the annual Volunteer Awards.
21.05.2025	Councillor Briefing	Portland	Regular briefing session to discuss strategic items of importance.
21.05.2025	2025 Volunteer Week function in Portland	Portland	Opportunity to celebrate volunteers in the Portland community and award recipients through the annual Volunteer Awards.
22.05.2025	CEO Employment & Recruitment Meeting	Online	Procedural Meeting of committee
22.05.2025	Meeting with Local Government Minister Nick Staikos	Online	Online meeting with the Minister to discuss changes to the ESVF
22.05.2025	2025 Volunteer Week function in Casterton	Casterton	Opportunity to celebrate volunteers in the Casterton district community and award recipients through the annual Volunteer Awards.
23.05.2025	2025 Volunteer Week function in Nelson	Nelson	Opportunity to celebrate volunteers in the Nelson community and award recipients through the annual Volunteer Awards.
23.05.2025	Casterton Debutante Ball at the Town Hall	Casterton	Receive debutantes at the annual Ball organised by the Casterton Lions Club.
25.05.2025	Walk for Truth – Yoorrook Justice Commission	Portland	Meet the Yoorrook Justice Commissioner and Vice Commissioner and represent council by taking part in the walk with the community.
27.05.2025	Councillor Briefing	Portland	Regular briefing session to discuss strategic items of importance.
27.05.2025	Opening of Nyamat Mirring Gallery at the Maritime Discovery Centre	Portland	Official opening of the new gallery display space – this project was funded by the National Museum of

			Australia's Maritime Museums under the Project Support Scheme. The Nyamat Mirring Gallery project is a partnership between the Glenelg Shire Council and the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Group.
27.05.2025	May Council Meeting	Portland	Monthly Council Meeting
28.05.2025	National Reconciliation Week 2025 Event	Portland	This year's theme ' Bridging Now to Next ' reminds us that reconciliation is not just about reflecting on the past but about building a shared future where truth, respect and justice guide us forward.

Cr MCDONALD, DEPUTY MAYOR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments (Optional)
05.05.2025	Councillor/CEO Meeting	Portland	
07.05.2025	Council Plan Workshop	Portland	
13.05.2025	Briefing and Unscheduled Council Meeting	Portland	
16.05.2025	All Saints Deb Ball	Portland	Privileged to receive the exquisitely presented debutantes and speak on behalf of Council at two incredibly well organised events. I also partook in the special partner dance with the dance instructor, luckily to the only dance I ever remembered from school - the Pride of Erin.
17.05.2025	All Saints Deb Ball	Portland	
20.05.2025	Meeting with GORRT Representatives	Heywood	
20.05.2025	Volunteer Event	Heywood	
21.05.2025	Councillor Briefing	Portland	
21.05.2025	Volunteer Event	Portland	
22.05.2025	Volunteer Event	Casterton	
23.05.2025	Volunteer Event	Nelson	
25.05.2025	Walk for Truth	Portland	Joined a huge contingent to begin the walk to Parliament, after hearing Travis Lovett from the Yoorrook Justice Commission, and other First

			Nations residents speak to their hopes for a positive path forward.
27.05.2025	Councillor Briefing	Portland	
27.05.2025	Opening of Nyamat Mirring Gallery	Portland Maritime Museum	A very special Welcome to Country from Auntie Claudette, and acknowledgement from a representative from the National Maritime Museum on the fabulous work done by our Cultural Collections Manager Agostina Hawkins and her team in bringing this display to fruition. A fabulous addition to the museum space both graphically and in the information provided.
27.05.2025	May Council Meeting	Portland	
28.05.2025	Reconciliation Event Portland Arts Centre	Portland	A day of genuine reflection of what reconciliation means to our younger generation by representatives from all local schools complemented by performances by the First Nations' dance troupe and the Portland Secondary College band.
28.05.2025	Council Plan Draft Workshop	Portland	
28.05.2025	United Way Glenelg AGM	Portland	A force of like-minded community groups working to better the lives of our residents gathered for the AGM of United Way Glenelg, a truly inspirational and leader in.
30.05.2025	Reconciliation Exhibition PAC	Portland	
30.05.2025	Reconciliation Exhibition Julia Street Creative Space	Portland	

Cr ANGELINO

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments (Optional)
04.05.2025	Council meeting	Portland	
07.05.2025	Council Plan	Portland	
13.05.2025	Council briefing	Portland	
13.05.2025	Unscheduled Council Meeting	Portland	

20.05.2025	Shire volunteer event and awards	Heywood	Great event for volunteer clubs to meet and share the years experiences and to give awards to the community volunteers.
21.05.2025	Cuppa for cancer	Heywood	Great event and shared experiences of surviving with cancer.
21.05.2025	Council briefing	Portland	
21.05.2025	Shire volunteer event and awards	Portland	Another great event to meet the volunteers that provide so much help to the community.
22.05.2025	Heywood Rural health volunteer luncheon	Heywood	To meet the volunteers that help in many ways volunteering their time at Heywood rural health.
22.05.2025	Shire volunteer event and awards	Casterton	Met with volunteer groups and awards to community members. A great event.
23.05.2025	Shire volunteer event and awards	Nelson	Another event with meeting and supporting local volunteer groups in the shire.
25.05.2025	Walk for Truth	Portland	Walked with community as start of the Walk for Truth in Victoria. Met commissioner Travis Lovett and other members of the truth commission. This event will take 25 days of walking from Portland to the steps of the Victorian Parliament.
27.05.2025	Council briefing	Portland	
27.05.2025	Opening of Nyamat Mirring Gallery	Portland	Great event showcasing the new artwork and exhibits at the maritime museum for the whole shire and all visitors to our shire of first nations cultural impact.
27.05.2025	May Council meeting	Portland	
28.05.2025	National Reconciliation Week event	Portland	Local schools shared music and speeches as to the importance of reconciliation in our shire
30.05.2025	Opening event Free Spirit, artist Sherry Johnstone	Portland	Event launch of this new artists works to be in the PAC for all to enjoy
30.05.2025	Julia Street Creative Space exhibition	Portland	Met with local artists who have been learning of the first nations culture and a great event for all attendees.

Cr CARR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments (Optional)
02.05.2025	Rail Freight Alliance Meeting	Teams	
05.05.2025	CEO meeting	Portland	
13.05.2025	Unscheduled Council Meeting	Portland	
13.05.2025	Councillor Briefing	Portland	
20.05.2025	Councillor Briefing	Heywood	
20.05.2025	Volunteers' week event	Heywood	
22.05.2025	CEO KPI meeting	Portland	
23.05.2025	CEO Meeting	Portland	
25.05.2025	Walk for Truth Launch	Portland	
27.05.2025	Council briefing	Portland	
27.05.2025	Maritime Centre opening – Cultural collection	Portland	
27.05.2025	May Council Meeting	Portland	
28.05.2025	Reconciliation Week event	Portland	

Cr JOWETT

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments (Optional)
01.05.2025	One on one meeting with the CEO	Portland	
05.05.2025	CEO & Councillor Monthly Meeting	Portland	
13.05.2025	Councillor Briefing	Portland	
13.05.2025	Unscheduled Council Meeting	Portland	
20.05.2025	Councillor Meeting with GORRT	Heywood	
20.05.2025	2025 Volunteer Week Recognition Event	Heywood	The Shire Recognised Outstanding Volunteer Work by Individuals and Groups in our Community. Guest Speaker AJ Sonti
21.05.2025	Councillor Briefing	Portland	
21.05.2025	2025 Volunteer Week Recognition Event	Portland	The Shire Recognised Outstanding Volunteer Work by Individuals and Groups in our Community

22.05.2025	CEO Employment Committee Meeting	Portland	
23.05.2025	2025 Volunteer Week Recognition Event	Nelson	The Shire Recognised Outstanding Volunteer Work by Individuals and Groups in our Community
27.05.2025	Councillor Briefing	Portland	
27.05.2025	Opening of Nyamat Mirring Gallery	Portland	A Wonderful Display of Indigenous Art
27.05.2025	May Council Meeting	Portland	
29.05.2025	One on one meeting with the CEO	Portland	

Cr NOSKE

No report provided.

Cr PEPPER

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments (Optional)
05.05.2025	CEO and councillor monthly meeting	Portland	
07.05.2025	Council Plan workshop	Portland	
13.05.2025	Councillor briefing and Unscheduled Council Meeting	Portland	
20.05.2025	Meeting with GORRT	Heywood	
20.05.2025	2025 volunteer recognition event	Heywood	
21.05.2025	Councillor briefing	Portland	
21.05.2025	2025 volunteer recognition event	Portland	
27.05.2025	Councillor briefing	Portland	
27.05.2025	Opening of Nyamat Mirring Gallery	Portland	
27.05.2025	May Council Meeting	Portland	
30.05.2025	Opening event - Free Spirit Sherry Johnstone	Portland	
30.05.2025	Creative Space Reconciliation Week Exhibition, Argyle Gallery	Portland	

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

9. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

9.1. ADOPTION OF STRATHDOWNIE DRAINAGE SCHEME SPECIAL CHARGE

Director: David Hol, Director Corporate Services

Executive Summary

This report considers the submissions received regarding the proposed special charge for the Strathdownie Drainage Scheme and recommends that Council proceed with the special charge as proposed.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Acknowledges and considers the three submissions provided in response to the community consultation on the proposed special charge for the Strathdownie Drainage Scheme.
2. Declares a special charge totaling \$16,000 for the designated properties located in the Strathdownie Drainage Scheme Area for the 2025-2026 financial year to cover operation, maintenance, improvement and administration of the drainage system.
3. Declares that the special charge be due and payable by the 30 September 2025.

MOTION

MOVED Cr Noske

That Council:

1. **Acknowledges and considers the three submissions provided in response to the community consultation on the proposed special charge for the Strathdownie Drainage Scheme.**
2. **Declares a special charge totaling \$16,000 for the designated properties located in the Strathdownie Drainage Scheme Area for the 2025-2026 financial year to cover operation, maintenance, improvement and administration of the drainage system.**
3. **Declares that the special charge be due and payable by the 30 September 2025.**

SECONDED Cr Pepper

CARRIED

FOR: Cr Angelino, Cr Carr, Cr Jowett, Cr McDonald, Cr Noske, Cr Stephens and Cr Pepper

AGAINST: Nil

Background/Key Information:

At the April 2025 Council meeting, Council resolved to undertake a community consultation process regarding the proposal for a Special Charge to be applied to the Strathdownie Drainage Scheme Area, amounting to \$16,000 for the 2025-2026 financial year.

The consultation period was open from the 1 May until the 29 May 2025 and consisted of direct mail out to affected properties and media advertising in both printed and social platforms.

At the close of the public submission period, a total of three responses have been received. One submission was in favour of the proposal, one was a general comment on rates in general and not specific to the special charge, and one sought further information on the benefit to the affected properties, which has been responded to. None of the three respondents wished to address Council on their submission.

After consideration of the three responses, it is recommended that Council proceed with the declaration of a special charge, totaling \$16,000, for the 2025-2026 financial year as proposed.

a. Council Plan and Policy Linkage

Our Voice and Action - A highly engaged and capable local government, leading Glenelg to ensure the needs and aspirations of our community are realised.

b. Impact Assessment

The *Gender Equality Act 2020* requires Council to conduct an Impact Assessment when developing policies, procedures, programs or services that have a direct and significant impact on the public.

Has an Impact Assessment been completed?

No. Potential issues are also addressed through Councils adopted hardship policy.

c. Legislative, Legal and Risk Management Considerations

The legislative provisions of a special charge are outlined in Section 163 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

d. Consultation and/or communication processes implemented or proposed

This report outlines the responses received from the community consultation process.

e. Financial Implications and Collaboration

Whilst Council acts as the finance controller for the Special Charge, there is no direct costs to Council for this process. Council may incur indirect costs from staff

time in administering the charge and there are potential recovery costs in circumstances of non-payment of the charge.

f. Governance Principles

Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

Attachment List

Nil

9.2. ADOPTION OF THE REVENUE AND RATING PLAN 2025

Director: David Hol, Director Corporate Services

Executive Summary

This report provides for Council consideration the feedback received from the community consultation process on the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan and recommends the adoption of the Plan without amendment.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Acknowledges and considers the feedback received through the community consultation process for the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025.
2. Adopts the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025 without amendment.

MOTION

MOVED Cr Carr

That Council:

1. **Acknowledges and considers the feedback received through the community consultation process for the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2025**
2. **Adopts the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025 without amendment.**

SECONDED Cr Jowett

CARRIED

FOR: Cr Angelino, Cr Carr, Cr Jowett, Cr McDonald, Cr Noske, Cr Stephens and Cr Pepper

AGAINST: Nil

Background/Key Information:

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.

Glenelg Shire 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. The challenge is therefore to minimise the rate and fee burden whilst responding to the needs and desires of the local community.

The Draft Revenue and Rating Plan was developed by Council staff in conjunction with Councillor feedback and was released for community consultation at the May 2025 Council meeting.

The community consultation was open for the period from the 29 May until the 19 June 2025 with 256 people viewing the information through the Your Say Glenelg platform resulting in 8 survey responses being received. A redacted copy of the responses is provided as an attachment to this report for Councillor consideration.

An overview of the feedback indicates that the responses were generally commenting on where to direct Council expenditure and to not raise rates. These responses are more aligned to the budget feedback rather than the Revenue and Rating Plan.

A general summary of the responses is as follows:

- A view that rates are too high
- Further support for expenditure on tourism, arts and culture and small business
- Support for funding of roads and assets
- A general comment on not accepting the plan without any reason given
- Requests to not raise rates
- A suggestion to increase revenue through development and enforcement charges
- A query regarding commercial rating, plantation rating and state Government tax distribution

A Revenue and Rating Plan does not set expenditure or income levels like the budget, it simply outlines the framework of how a Council raises its necessary revenue amongst its key income sources including rates, fees, grants and other incomes. Only one of the submissions specifically addressed this aspect of the Plan or the 10 objectives outlined and sought more clarity on the aspects.

Although the feedback received is minimal, it is noted that this is a complex concept and does not generally resonate with the general public. An action arising out of the Draft Plan to review the differential rating structure is likely to provide significantly more input for Councillor consideration for further strategic direction.

After consideration of the feedback provided, it is recommended that Council adopt the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025 without amendment.

a. Council Plan and Policy Linkage

Our Voice and Action - A highly engaged and capable local government, leading Glenelg to ensure the needs and aspirations of our community are realised.

b. Impact Assessment

The *Gender Equality Act 2020* requires Council to conduct an Impact Assessment when developing policies, procedures, programs or services that have a direct and significant impact on the public.

Has an Impact Assessment been completed?

No. – The Revenue and Rating Plan is a high-level financial framework only. Actions arising out of the plan may be subject to an impact assessment.

c. Legislative, Legal and Risk Management Considerations

Section 93 of the *Local Government Act 2020* states that a Council must prepare and adopt a Revenue and Rating Plan by the 30 June after a general election for a period of at least the next 4 financial years.

d. Consultation and/or communication processes implemented or proposed

This report provides the outcome of the community consultation process undertaken.

e. Financial Implications and Collaboration

The Revenue and Rating Plan is strongly linked to the Council budget and Finance Plan.

f. Governance Principles

Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

The ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

Attachment List

1. Revenue and Rating Plan 2025 [9.2.1 - 24 pages]
2. Revenue And Rating Plan 2025 Community Submissions [9.2.2 - 9 pages]

9.3. ADOPTION OF 2025-2026 FEES AND CHARGES

Director: David Hol, Director Corporate Services

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is for Council to acknowledge and receive the feedback from the community consultation on the Draft 2025-2026 Fees and Charges Schedule. The report recommends adoption of the Fees and Charges Schedule inclusive of some minor amendments as outlined in this report.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Acknowledges and considers the community feedback received in response to the Draft Fees and Charges Schedule 2025-2026.
2. Adopts the amended 2025-2026 Fees and Charges Schedule prepared in accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
3. Delegates to the CEO and Directors the ability to waive or reduce fees and charges where specific exceptional circumstances exist.

MOTION**MOVED Cr Carr**

That Council:

1. **Acknowledges and considers the community feedback received in response to the Draft Fees and Charges Schedule 2025-2026.**
2. **Adopts the amended 2025-2026 Fees and Charges Schedule prepared in accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.**
3. **Delegates to the CEO and Directors the ability to waive or reduce fees and charges where specific exceptional circumstances exist.**
4. **Fee code LL028 Permit Application Fees – Application to Graze/Drove Permit be waived for the 2025-2026 Budget.**

SECONDED Cr Noske**CARRIED**

FOR: Cr Angelino, Cr Jowett, Cr McDonald, Cr Stephens, Cr Carr, Cr Noske and Cr Pepper

AGAINST: Nil

Background/Key Information:

Glenelg Shire Council provides a wide range of services to our community, often for a fee or charge. User fees and charges are a significant source of income for Glenelg Shire Council and Council reviews these fees and charges on an annual basis in conjunction with the budget process.

Council staff prepared the Draft 2025-2026 Fees and Charges Schedule which was then released for community consultation, along with the 2025-2026 budget, at the April 2025 Council meeting.

The community consultation period commenced on 1 May 2025 and at the time of closing on 23 May 2025, a total of 48 responses to the budget had been received.

A review of the feedback, excluding the responses referring to the Food Organics Green Organics collection (FOGO) proposal, which is addressed within the budget report, identified that there were 4 responses specifically in relation to the Fees and Charges Schedule itself. A redacted copy of all responses is provided within the Budget report.

Of these four responses, one response contained a general comment that there was too much of an increase in fees but did not articulate specific items of concern. The other responses commented on footpath trading fees and grazing permit fees. Whilst the footpath trading fees are itemised in the schedule, the Draft Budget has outlined a proposal to waive these fees. Grazing fees are also itemised in the schedule, and it is recommended that hardship be considered on these permits on a case-by-case basis.

In addition, Council officers have identified some minor administrative amendments to the Fees and Charges Schedule regarding description, GST applicability and pro-rata arrangements which have been updated but do not materially change the Fees and Charges as advertised. For this reason, the recommendation is to adopt the amended Fees and Charges Schedule for 2025-26.

Finally, whilst these Fees and Charges are set by Council, specific circumstances do arise where it would be appropriate to either reduce or waive a fee for exceptional circumstances. Consequently, it is recommended that Council also delegate to the CEO and Directors the power to apply such a reduction or waiver when considered appropriate.

The Draft 2025-2026 Fees and Charges schedule as amended is now presented for Council consideration and adoption.

a. Council Plan and Policy Linkage

Our Voice and Action - A highly engaged and capable local government, leading Glenelg to ensure the needs and aspirations of our community are realised.

b. Legislative, Legal and Risk Management Considerations

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, Part 4 Division 2 - Budget Process and specifically section 94, Council is required to prepare and adopt an annual

budget. This includes the process of adopting the Fees and Charges for 2025-2026.

c. Consultation and/or communication processes implemented or proposed

This report outlines the consultation feedback specifically in relation to the Fees and Charges schedule for 2025/26.

d. Financial Implications and Collaboration

In the Draft 2025/2026 Budget, Fees and Charges (excluding annual waste charges) accounts for approximately 7% or \$3.7M of Council's Total income.

The Fees and Charges Schedule is a key document that forms part of Council's budget for 2025-2026.

e. Governance Principles

Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

The ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

Attachment List

1. Fees and Charges Schedule 2025-2026 [9.3.1 - 53 pages]

9.4. GLENELG SHIRE COUNCIL DECLARATION OF RATES AND SERVICE CHARGE FOR 2025-2026

Director: David Hol, Director Corporate Services

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to recommend Council declare the Rates and Annual Kerbside Collection charges proposed for 2025-26 Financial Year.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Declares to raise an amount of \$35,817,660 for Total Rates and Charges, including Annual Kerbside Collection charges, for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.
2. Declares that the General Rate amounts will be raised by applying the capital improved value of the land at a differential rate of 100% to General land, 100% to Commercial and Industrial land, 70% for Primary Production land, and 50% for Cultural and Recreational Land in accordance with the definitions and objectives as outlined in the budget document.
3. Continues to grant a 100% rate concession for the nominated parcels of land at Dutton Way that remain undeveloped.

MOTION

MOVED Cr Noske

That Council:

1. **Declares the amount collected through Total Rates and Charges including Annual Kerbside Collection charges be reduced by \$880,000 from \$35,817,660 to \$34,937,694.**
2. **Declares that the General Rate amounts will be raised by applying the capital improved value of the land at a differential rate of 100% to General land, 100% to Commercial and Industrial land, 70% for Primary Production land, and 50% for Cultural and Recreational Land in accordance with the definitions and objectives as outlined in the budget document.**
3. **Continues to grant a 100% concession for the nominated parcels of land at Dutton Way that remain undeveloped.**

SECONDED Cr Pepper

LOST

FOR: Cr Noske and Cr Pepper

AGAINST: Cr Angelino, Cr Carr, Cr Jowett, Cr McDonald and Cr Stephens

Cr Noske called for a division.

DIVISION

Cr Noske and Cr Pepper voted FOR the MOTION.

Mayor Cr Stephens, Deputy Mayor Cr McDonald, Cr Angelino, Cr Jowett and Cr Carr voted AGAINST the MOTION.

MOTION

MOVED Cr McDonald

That Council:

- 1. Declares to raise an amount of \$35,817,660 for Total Rates and Charges including Annual Waste Management Service charges for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.**
- 2. Declares that the General Rate amounts will be raised by applying the capital improved value of the land at a differential rate of 100% to General land, 100% to Commercial and Industrial land, 70% for Primary Production land, and 50% for Cultural and Recreational Land in accordance with the definitions and objectives as outlined in the budget document.**
- 3. Continues to grant a 100% concession for the nominated parcels of land at Dutton Way that remain undeveloped.**

SECONDED Cr Jowett

CARRIED

FOR: Cr Angelino, Cr Carr, Cr Jowett, Cr McDonald and Cr Stephens

AGAINST: Cr Noske and Cr Pepper

Background/Key Information:

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council is required to prepare and adopt an annual budget by 30 June each year.

As part of the budget process, Council must declare in respect of the upcoming Financial Year:

- a) The amount which Council intends to raise by General Rates, Municipal Charges, Service Rates and Service Charges and the time period that the General Rate applies; and
- b) Whether the General Rates will be raised by application of a Uniform Rate; Differential Rate; or an Urban Farm Rate, Farm Rate or a Residential use rate (if the Council is permitted to raise such rates under section 161A).

Rates and Annual Waste Management Service Charges

As part of the budget process Council's draft budget recommends a 3.0% increase on Council's rate base, in line with the Essential Services Commission (ESC) rate cap. The 3.0% increase will provide an increase in general rate revenue of approximately \$776k for 2025/26.

Rate agreements, Cultural and Recreational Land assessments and the Kerbside Collection charge are not calculated within the rate cap.

The declaration of rates has been calculated as follows:

Category	No of Assessments 2025/26	Rate Income Proposed 2025/26
General Land	10,269	14,846,570
Commercial Land	997	1,907,111
Primary Production Land	2,754	9,902,603
Cultural and Recreational Land	30	29,866
Rating Agreements	6	4,723,279
Annual Kerbside Collection		4,368,231
Supplementary Interest & Rates		40,000
Total	14,056	35,817,660

Additional supplementary valuations are estimated to contribute an additional \$40,000 of Rate income during 2025/26 and this amount has been included in the total Rates and Charges revenue.

Municipal Charge

Unlike many similar Municipalities, the Glenelg Shire Council does not levy an additional Municipal Charge.

Valuation Data

Valuation data has been received for Glenelg Shire assessments by the independent valuers, which has seen an overall decrease in Capital Improved Value (CIV) of 5.5% across the Shire.

Type or class of land	2024/25 \$'000	2025/26 \$'000	Change \$'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%

As the rate cap is calculated on the total figure of ratable income and not at a property level, individual ratepayers will see a fluctuation on their rates either greater or lower than the rate cap based on any individual valuation movement of their property.

Rating Structure

For 2025-2026, General Rates will again be calculated by applying a Differential Rate to the Capital Improved Value (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.

Definition and Specific Characteristics

The Council budget document proposes to retain the existing following rate categories within its rating structure for 2025-26:

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.

The following Rating categories fall outside of the rate capping calculations:

- 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; and

- Specific Rating Agreements

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

- Kerbside Collection Charge

The proposed annual charge for Kerbside collection for 2025-26 is \$498. This fee includes the mandated Food Organics Garden Organics waste collection service (FOGO), which accounts for \$84 per property within the mandatory collection zone.

A total of \$4.368M is expected to be raised for Kerbside Collection Charges. The increased charges are a result of FOGO implementation and Council transitioning to a full cost recovery basis for Kerbside Collection.

- Concession of Rates – Dutton Way Properties

For many years, in accordance with section 169 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Glenelg Shire Council has granted a rate concession of 100% to specific property owners along Dutton Way. There are approximately 86 properties with a rate concession of 100% applied against their Rates assessments. The value of these waivers is \$15,377.95.

The parcels of land that attracts these concessions are mostly located between Dutton Way Road and Keirana Avenue. Properties that are located between Keirana Avenue and Moore Drive are not rateable (see Attachment – Dutton Way Rates Concession).

This concession has been in place since the former Heywood Shire Council first granted the concession. The rate concession initially commenced when a planning amendment (Special Use Zone) was imposed by the then State Government on a specified area that restricted any further development due to a potential risk of land erosion by the sea.

This Special Use Zone was reviewed during the recent structure plan discussions for the area to see if it could be removed to enable development. Unfortunately, this outcome was not able to be achieved. The waiver of rates in this area is inconsistent with the approach for other parcels of land throughout the Shire that are unable to be developed.

Section 169 (1A) of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires a Council Resolution be passed granting the concession and specifies that the concession must benefit the community as a whole.

The declaration of rates is now provided for Council consideration inclusive of a continued 100% Rate concession for the 86 parcels of land at Dutton Way as specified in the attachment.

a. Council Plan and Policy Linkage

Our Voice and Action - A highly engaged and capable local government, leading Glenelg to ensure the needs and aspirations of our community are realised.

b. Legislative, Legal and Risk Management Considerations

Section 158 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires Councils to declare the amount that it wishes to raise in general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges, and which method the general rates will be raised such as a uniform rate or a differential rate. This is required to be undertaken at least once in respect of each financial year, by 30 June.

In accordance with Section 161 (3) of the Act Council must ensure that copies of the information in this report are available on its Internet website and for public inspection at the Council office.

c. Consultation and/or communication processes implemented or proposed

The information in this report incorporates the Draft Budget 2025-2026 engagement process.

d. Financial Implications and Collaboration

The declaration of differential rates and an annual service charge will generate the rate revenue and annual service charge, forming a significant part of Council's revenue source and ensuring delivery of Council services and delivery of the Council Plan whilst maintaining compliance with the Essential Services Commission rate cap.

e. Governance Principles

The ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

Attachment List

1. Map of Dutton Way Properties as at 13 June 2024 [**9.4.1** - 1 page]

9.5. ADOPTION OF THE GLENELG SHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET 2025-2026

Director: David Hol, Director Corporate Services

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is for Council to receive the feedback from the draft budget and to recommend that Council adopt the 2025-2026 Budget and the subsequent 3 financial years projection as amended.

The budget process incorporates the Declaration of Rates for the 2025-2026 Financial Year and the adoption of the 2025-2026 Fees and Charges which are outlined in separate reports.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Acknowledges and considers the 48 feedback responses received on the Draft 2025-2026 Budget.
2. Adopts the 2025-2026 Budget, as amended, prepared in accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* provided as an attachment to this report.

MOTION

MOVED Cr Carr

That Council:

1. **Acknowledges and considers the 48 feedback responses received on the Draft 2025/2026 Budget.**
2. **Adopts the 2025-2026 Budget, as amended, prepared in accordance with Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020* provided as an attachment to this report.**

SECONDED Cr Jowett

CARRIED

FOR: Cr Angelino, Cr Carr, Cr Jowett, Cr McDonald, Cr Stephens and Cr Pepper

AGAINST: Cr Noske

Background/Key Information:

Under the Act, Council is required to prepare and adopt an annual budget. The budget is required to be adopted by 30 June each year.

The process for formulating the 2025-2026 Budget included a series of officer workshops, briefings, Community Information Sessions and Council discussions over a period of 6 months.

The Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) legislates the maximum amount a council can increase their general rate revenue per annum. For the 2025-2026 year there is a 3 percent rate increase proposed in accordance with the rate cap.

Community information sessions were held throughout February and March for the Draft 2025-2026 Budget in conjunction with the Council plan engagement. This engagement provided an opportunity for community to complete a survey centered around the services that Council delivers. The survey results gave Council an understanding of the services that are important to the community to ensure that they continue to be considered in the 2025-2026 Budget.

A total of 115 people attended the face-to-face sessions, whilst some 503 people visited the dedicated Your say Glenelg website, completing 155 survey responses.

As a result of the Community Information Sessions and Councillor deliberations, the Draft Budget included the following items:

- Inclusion of a Food Organics Green Organics (FOGO) service (to commence in April 2026)
- An allocation of \$250k for the Heywood Pool amenities project funding contribution
- An allocation of \$140k for major project scoping, including the design of new footpaths within Nelson and Dartmoor
- A funding allocation of \$250k to support the new Council Plan once finalised.

In addition, the Draft Budget 2025-2026 also included funding for the following operational items:

- \$5.5M towards local road maintenance
- \$2.6M for parks, gardens and reserve maintenance
- \$52k contribution to support community iconic events
- \$285k ongoing funding for youth services
- \$162k for the Community Grants program
- \$70k funding for the biennial Business and Tourism Awards

The Capital budget was heavily focused on renewal works and included:

- \$4.4M road renewal works
- \$1.5M plant and equipment renewal
- \$300k building renewal works
- \$200k recreational Asset renewal
- \$110k footpath renewal works

The Draft 2025-2026 Budget document was released for further community feedback on Thursday 1 May 2025 until 23 May 2025. At the time of closing 48 people responded with feedback.

A redacted copy of all the feedback responses is provided as an attachment to this report for Councillor consideration.

Out of the 48 responses, 33 were in relation to the proposed introduction of FOGO, with many seeking an opt-in approach only. There also appeared to be some confusion about the mandatory collection area. The following clarifies some of this misunderstanding.

It is important to highlight that the Glenelg Shire Council is mandated to provide a FOGO Service through the State Government circular economy obligations. The feedback received appeared to suggest this was at Council discretion.

Only those within the current mandatory service area for waste and recycling will receive a green waste bin and only those receiving the collection will fund the service. Whilst some residents outside of the mandatory area may have the option to opt-in and pay for the service, there is no requirement for those outside of the mandatory area to receive, pay for or subsidise this service.

The transition to the full cost recovery of the waste and recycling streams is independent of the FOGO introduction. The increase in these costs do not subsidise any of the FOGO proposal which will also be full cost recovery from the users of that particular service.

Some other feedback responses include:

- Suggesting further funding for emergency recovery, tourism and housing
- Concern on the composition reporting of the annual budget and the consultation process
- A general comment on the increase in fees and charges
- Request for funding on the Casterton Merino and Casterton Branhholme Rail Trail
- Request for road works around Townsend and Hurd Streets, Portland
- Request for expenditure on Netball facilities
- A suggestion that Council fund the emergency services, concern on volunteering and Dutton way land restrictions
- Request to increase size of the dog park in Portland
- Request concern for pensioner affordability within the Shire.
- Concern on grazing and footpath trading fees
- Request for further works at the Portland Battery.

The submissions in full are attached to this report for Councillor consideration.

The number and value of expenditure requests are significantly higher than the budget permits and Council must balance the need for additional expenditure with any increase in rates and charges from ratepayers to fund this expenditure. Many suggestions have merit and the challenge for Council is in determining funding priorities as not all suggestions can be included.

Council is mindful of pensioner concerns and can advise that the pensioner rebate as indexed is applicable to General rates and waste charges on a pro-rata basis.

Some adjustments are also being undertaken from staff to the Draft Budget circulated. Recent updates indicate that the projects funded under the Local Roads and

Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Phase 3 & Phase 4 are unlikely to reach full completion and will now be carried forward rather than treated as accrued. This results in an additional \$2.1M carry forward for the year to \$8M (was \$5.9M).

The allocation of these works from 2024-2025 to 2025-2026, with a value of \$2.1M, will increase the cash balance for 2024-2025 to \$4.8M, up from the \$2.7M in the circulated Draft. It will also affect the 2025-2026 cash position from a \$0.5M surplus to a deficit of \$1.6M.

This balances out in 2025-2026 with a cash result which now amounts to \$3.2M as at the 30 June 2026, marginally less than the original \$3.3M in the draft proposed.

The slight reduction in the cash position is proposed following consideration of the feedback and through further discussions with Councillors. This resulted in an increase of funding of \$21k to support iconic events and a further \$80k for tourism marketing.

An adjustment to the landfill provision has also been undertaken which does not affect the cash figure.

The amended Budget 2025-2026 is now presented for Councillor consideration, discussion and approval.

a. Council Plan and Policy Linkage

Our Voice and Action - A highly engaged and capable local government, leading Glenelg to ensure the needs and aspirations of our community are realised.

b. Legislative, Legal and Risk Management Considerations

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, Part 4 Division 2 - Budget Process and specifically Section 94, Council is required to prepare and adopt an annual budget and subsequent 3 financial years.

Supporting this Act, the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* detailed the requirements of Councils in relation to both financial and performance planning, goal-setting/budgets and reporting. Compliance has been ensured by adopting many of the Victorian Model budget templates and suggested reporting practices.

Financial sustainability is a key consideration for the budget process.

c. Consultation and/or communication processes implemented or proposed

The following public consultation process was followed in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy to ensure due consideration and feedback was received from relevant stakeholders.

- 2025-2026 Budget Timetable developed
- Community engagement through local news outlets, social media, including Your Say, and Budget Information sessions held across the Shire throughout February 2025
- Draft 2025-2026 Budget prepared by officers
- Draft Budget 2025-2026 placed on public exhibition at the April Council Meeting
- Community Feedback period open from 1 May to 23 May 2025 to receive feedback
- Amended Draft 2025-2026 Budget presented to Council for adoption at the June Council meeting.

d. Financial Implications and Collaboration

All known current and future budget implications are outlined in the 2025-2026 Budget and are based on assumptions in the document.

The compilation and delivery of the annual budget process is provided for within Council recurrent budgets.

e. Governance Principles

The ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

Attachment List

1. 2025-2026 Glenelg Shire Budget [**9.5.1** - 49 pages]
2. 2025-2026 Budget Feedback [**9.5.2** - 55 pages]

9.6. DRAFT VICTORIAN TRANSMISSION PLAN - COUNCIL SUBMISSION

Director: Aaron Moyne, Director Infrastructure Services

Executive Summary

VicGrid have released a Draft Victorian Transmission Plan (Plan) for public exhibition.

A review of the Plan has been undertaken and a submission prepared on behalf of Council, which raises specific comments on the future renewable energy interests and issues relevant to the future growth, development and community development in Glenelg Shire.

It is recommended Council adopt the submission and authorise it to be submitted by the Chief Executive Officer to VicGrid for consideration.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopts the Glenelg Shire Council Submission 'Draft Victorian Transmission Plan'.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to release the submission on behalf of Council.

MOTION**MOVED Cr Noske**

That Council:

1. **Adopts the Glenelg Shire Council Submission 'Draft Victorian transmission Plan' with the grammatical and terminology changes discussed earlier tonight.**
2. **Authorises the Chief Executive to release the submission on behalf of Council.**
3. **Ensures the submission is forwarded to Local Politicians for their information.**

SECONDED Cr Angelino**CARRIED**

FOR: Cr Angelino, Cr Carr, Cr Jowett, Cr McDonald, Cr Noske, Cr Stephens and Cr Pepper

AGAINST: Nil

Background/Key Information:

VicGrid has released a draft Victorian Transmission Plan for public consultation.

The Plan aims to set out how much more wind and solar energy, along with utility storage, is expected to be needed in Victoria over the next 12 years.

The Plan includes information about proposed Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) and identifies proposed transmission projects within the timeline.

Once the final Victorian Transmission Plan has been prepared, it will provide an outline of where energy, transmission and storage infrastructure should be delivered, and is aimed to provide certainty and clear signals to community and industry on where to invest.

Seven (7) proposed REZs have been identified across the State, which includes the proposed South West REZ which extends into the eastern extent of Glenelg Shire (see Figure 1.).

Draft proposed renewable energy zones

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.

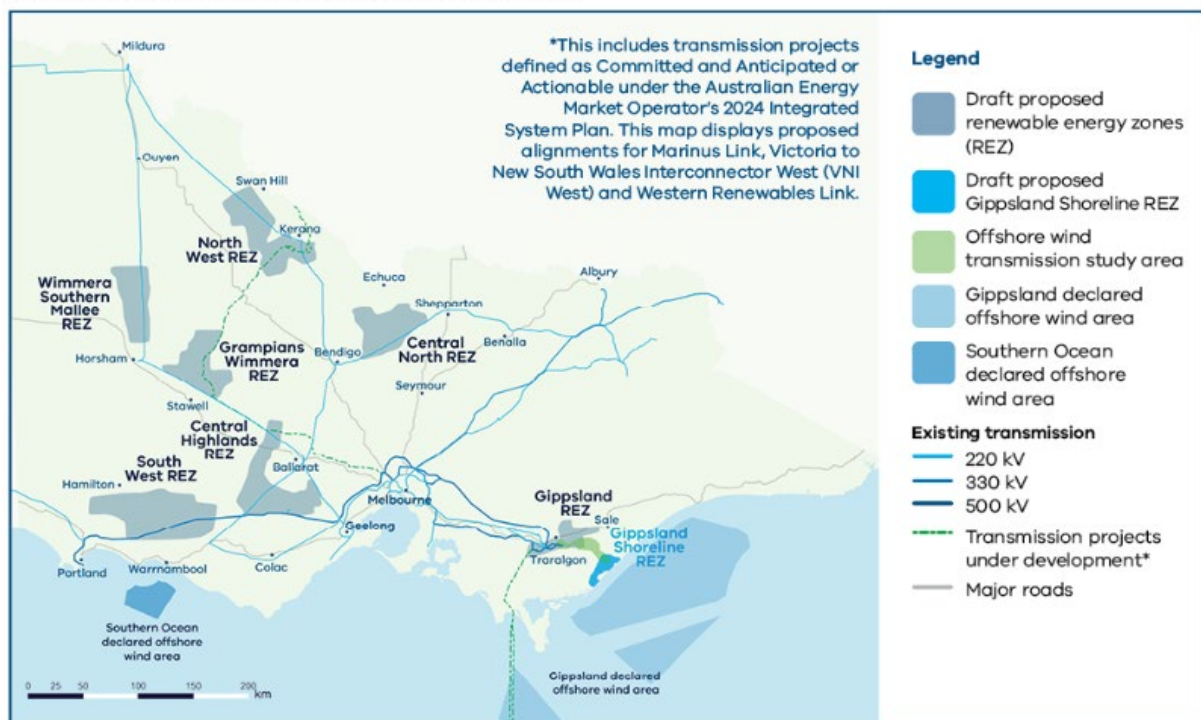


Figure 1. Proposed Renewable Energy Zones

In addition, the Plan sets out proposed transmission projects to be delivered in the next 15 years, in which VicGrid are seeking to ensure that new transmission infrastructure is built in the right place at the right time, to enable the State renewable energy transition.

Within Glenelg Shire, this includes the Offshore Wind Upgrade in Portland, providing uprating capacity to cater for future offshore wind generation.

A comprehensive review of the Plan has been undertaken as a draft Council submission prepared for consideration. The submission principally seeks to respond

to the core components of the Plan, being the identified REZ areas, transmission projects and community benefits, with specific focus on the current and future interests and needs of Council and its community.

Fundamentally, the submission highlights that whilst the Plan provides high-level strategic direction, it lacks relevant details and will lead to significant future uncertainty when it comes to renewable energy, storage and transmission development, along with community benefits funding.

Whilst the Plan seeks to establish a South West REZ to provide certainty and guidance for future development, this is already a heavily developed area with existing projects and infrastructure, whilst this does not preclude projects being developed outside the REZ.

As is the case within Glenelg Shire, there is significant transmission and grid infrastructure, along with a number of projects in planning or early scoping stages, that are located outside of the proposed REZ. This will create future uncertainty within the community.

Additionally, the Plan lacks any specific or clear detail on the delivery and implementation of a Community Benefits Plan and the proposed Community Energy Fund, which VicGrid previously consulted on in 2024, which is intended to be tied to projects and communities which occur and are located within the REZ.

The submission is relevant to Council as a whole and has been drafted through contribution by both Planning and Infrastructure departments.

It is recommended that Council adopt the submission and authorise the CEO to release it to VicGrid, which provides Council with an opportunity to have its say and advocate for the priorities and interests on behalf of the wider community when it comes to the renewable energy future of the region.

a. Council Plan and Policy Linkage

Our Natural Environment – Striving towards a carbon neutral future to protect and enhance the natural environment for future generations.

Our Education, Employment and Industry - Adapting and growing a diverse economy to embrace employment of the future and educational opportunities.

Our Voice and Action - A highly engaged and capable local government, leading Glenelg to ensure the needs and aspirations of our community are realised.

b. Impact Assessment

The *Gender Equality Act 2020* requires Council to conduct an Impact Assessment when developing policies, procedures, programs or services that have a direct and significant impact on the public.

Has an Impact Assessment been completed?

Not applicable.

c. Legislative, Legal and Risk Management Considerations

Not applicable.

d. Consultation and/or communication processes implemented or proposed

VicGrid have released the Plan for public exhibition and have undertaken consultation with the public and stakeholders.

Officers have reviewed the Plan with the intent of preparing a submission for Council.

A link to the Plan and relevant information on Engage Victoria was shared by VicGrid to Council and within community, along with a community information session held in Heywood during the consultation period.

VicGrid have also provided a briefing on the Plan to Councillors.

e. Financial Implications and Collaboration

Preparation and release of the submission on the Plan has no direct financial impact to Council, instead it provides a platform for Council to continue to advocate for issues, needs and priorities regarding renewable energy planning and development within the municipality.

f. Governance Principles

Local, Regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making.

Collaboration with other Councils (section 109 *Local Government 2020*) and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought along with Financial and Resource Implications and Opportunities.

Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

The economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

Attachment List

1. Glenelg Shire Council Submission 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan [9.6.1 - 6 pages]
2. Draft 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan [9.6.2 - 112 pages]

10. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

11. QUESTION TIME

11.1. QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AT PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil.

11.2. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

1. Emergency Services Levy

Kevin Stark of Casterton asked the following question:

- a. *The State Government's imposed Emergency Services Levy is going to cause much hardship to farmers in the Glenelg Shire, who are also the backbone of the CFA. In our case, we will incur a 250% increase from 2022 to 2025. In the same period we have had a 45% increase in our rates. Farmers in the Shire are battling through the worst drought in living memory.*

What has the Glenelg Shire Council done to help? The removal of a roadside grazing charge is a pittance. We need rate relief. That is the biggest help you can give us, and Councillors that is up to you.

Council has taken a strong advocacy position against the Emergency Services Levy (ESVF) State Government tax since January of this year. Glenelg Shire Council does not believe that the ESVF is fair and will continue to lobby for change expressing their deep concerns with the Victorian Premier and relevant Ministers.

Council has also tabled a Notice of Motion at the May Council meeting to request increased support from the State Government for farmers, producers and suppliers who are experiencing extreme hardship due to the prolonged dry conditions.

In relation to the Emergency Service Tax, it's noted by this Council that the State government has heeded some concerns raised by Local Government and the community and proposes to freeze the rates for the initial year for primary producers.

For all ratepayers across the Glenelg Shire, like all Councils we have a hardship policy in place that provides options for any ratepayer facing significant financial stress and would encourage anyone to come forward and have a discussion with Council.

2. Place and street names, monuments and plaques.

Clare De Bruin of Cape Bridgewater asked the following question:

- a. *Having walked with Travis Lovett, Deputy Commissioner of the Yoorook Justice Commission and hundreds of others on the Walk for Truth, I now understand the significant role that Portland has in the colonisation of Victoria. I realise we need to acknowledge the past and move to the future together. I hear the Gundjitmara asking for some simple things to change.*
- b. *Does the council agree that a process to alter place and street names, monuments and plaques, to better explain the first peoples history of Portland, is a good thing to do?*

If that is agreed, how will the council put this process into motion?

Councillors acknowledge the complexity of this issue and is currently on a journey to better understand the significance of colonisation and the ongoing impacts to Aboriginal people in our Shire today.

Given the large portion of our Councillor group are new to Local Government, Council has been working towards upskilling and increasing the awareness for all new Councillors in Aboriginal Affairs and what the history of our Shire really looks like, of which the Yoorook Justice Commission Report, which is due at the end of this month will support.

We have an agreed plan with our Aboriginal Partners around this work, which includes cultural awareness training on site and on Country, participation in the Yoorook Commission 'Walk for Truth' and an opportunity for Councillors to discuss and develop an understanding of the collective view and commitment to addressing monuments and other impacts on Gundjitmara people within the Glenelg Shire.

12. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**Recommendation**

That the Council Meeting be closed to members of the public pursuant to Section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, to consider the following reports:

12.1 Contract Provision for Software Systems to Glenelg Shire Council

MOTION

MOVED Cr Noske

That the Council Meeting be closed to members of the public pursuant to Section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, to consider the following reports:

12.1 Contract Provision for Software Systems to Glenelg Shire Council

SECONDED Cr McDonald

CARRIED

FOR: Cr Angelino, Cr Carr, Cr Jowett, Cr McDonald, Cr Noske, Cr Stephens
and Cr Pepper

AGAINST: Nil

13. RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC MEETING

Following the consideration of confidential items, the Council Meeting will be re-opened to members of the public.

Recommendation

That the Council Meeting be opened to members of the public and that the details of item 12.1 be released as deemed appropriate by the Chief Executive Officer.

MOTION**MOVED Cr Carr**

That the Council Meeting be opened to members of the public and that the details of item 12.1 be released as deemed appropriate by the Chief Executive Officer.

SECONDED Cr Jowett**CARRIED**

FOR: Cr Angelino, Cr Carr, Cr Jowett, Cr McDonald, Cr Noske, Cr Stephens
and Cr Pepper

AGAINST: Nil

14. CLOSURE OF COUNCIL MEETING

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6:48 pm.

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