



Glenelg Shire Council

Notice of Meeting and Agenda

Council Meeting Tuesday 25 August 2026

Notice is hereby given that a Council Meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Glenelg Shire Offices, 71 Cliff Street, Portland commencing at **5:30 pm** on the above date for the purpose of transacting the business on the attached Agenda, together with such other business as the Chairperson may permit.

Helen Havercroft
Chief Executive Officer

Date of Issue: 20 August 2026

Invited: Mayor, Councillor Karen Stephens
Deputy Mayor, Councillor Matt Jowett
Councillor Duane Angelino
Councillor Michael Carr
Councillor Robyn McDonald
Councillor John Pepper
Councillor Dr Mary Picard

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1. PRESENT**2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

On behalf of this Glenelg Shire Council, I respectfully acknowledge the traditional lands and waters of the Gunditjmara, Jardwadjali and Boandik people and their respective culture heritages. I acknowledge the elders past and present here at today's gathering and through them, to all Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People provide an important contribution to Australia's cultural heritage and identity. We respectfully acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait community living throughout the Glenelg Shire and the contribution they make to the Glenelg Shire's prosperity and wellbeing.

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

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 July 2026, as circulated, be confirmed.

5.2. RECORD OF COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS

David Hol, Director Corporate Services

Summary

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

Background

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.

Council Plan and Policy Linkage

Leading and Engaging – Being an active and transparent leader set up to deliver on our priorities.

Recommendation

That Council receives the record of the Councillor briefing held on 28 July 2026, 11 August 2026 and 18 August 2026.

Attachment List

1. Councillor Briefing Record - 28 July 2026 [**5.2.1** - 1 page]
2. Councillor Briefing Record - 11 August 2026 [**5.2.2** - 1 page]
3. Councillor Briefing Record - 18 August 2026 [**5.2.3** - 1 page]

6. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

6.1. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A Councillor or Officer with a conflict of interest in an item on the Agenda must indicate that they have a conflict of interest by clearly stating:

- The item for which they have a conflict of interest
- Whether their conflict is ***general*** or ***material***; and
- The circumstances that give rise to the conflict of interest.

Declaration of material or general conflict of interest must also be advised by Councillors and Officers at the commencement of discussion of the specific item.

7. COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORTS**Cr STEPHENS, MAYOR**

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments (Optional)
06.07.2026	NAIDOC Week Flag Raising Ceremony at Winda Mara	Heywood	Annual community get together and flag raising ceremony.
06.07.2026	Julia Street Creative Art Space – 50 Years of Deadly Exhibition Opening	Portland	50 Years of Deadly exhibition opening for NAIDOC Week display our amazing local aboriginal artist skills.
07.07.2026	Councillor Briefing session	Portland	Regular Council Briefing session to discuss matters of strategic importance.
10.07.2026	Ron Penrose: Portecology Art Exhibition - Faces of Glenelg Shire	Portland	Official opening of the art exhibition depicting several local volunteers from across Glenelg.
14.07.2026	Portland Foreshore Community Infrastructure Project Reference Group	Portland	Regular meeting of committee
14.07.2026	Councillor Briefing session	Portland	Regular Council Briefing session to discuss matters of strategic importance.
16.07.2026	MAV Regional Meeting	Online	Quarterly meeting – highlighting items for election platform for region.
21.07.2026	Councillor Engagement Session – Library Strategy	Portland	Strategic meeting to plan for the future of library services across our communities.
21.07.2026	Councillor Briefing session	Portland	Regular Council Briefing session to discuss matters of strategic importance.
23.07.2026	Green Triangle Forestry Industry Hub Board meeting	Portland	Regular board meeting.
23.07.2026	Timber Hub Feasibility Study and Future Portland Completion Media Event	Portland	A milestone celebration as two key strategic projects in the Glenelg Shire are completed, highlighting an exciting future for timber production and jobs in our community.
28.07.2026	Meet with members of the Portland Maritime Heritage group	Portland	Met and witnessed the upgraded vessel made possible through a Glenelg Shire Community Grant.
28.07.2026	Council Meeting	Portland	Monthly Council Meeting

30.07.2026	Women in Wood Fibre Committee Meeting	Online	Planning for 2027 event
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Cr JOWETT, DEPUTY MAYOR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments (Optional)
07.07.2026	CEO & Councillor Briefing	Portland	We had an open and frank discussion on many topics vital to our community
07.07.2026	Ron Penrose Exhibition Opening	Portland	I had the opportunity to attend the opening of the Ron Penrose Exhibition.
14.07.2026	Councillor Briefing	Portland	
21.07.2026	Councillor Engagement Session	Portland	Our Library Strategy was discussed in detail.
21.07.2026	Councillor Briefing	Portland	
23.07.2026	Future Fibre Hardwood Timber Manufacturing Hub Feasibility Media Launch	Portland	
26.07.2026	National Tree Day Planting @ Yarraman Park	Portland	Looking forward to this event happening in sites across our shire next year
28.07.2026	Councillor Briefing	Portland	
28.07.2026	July Council Meeting	Portland	
30.07.2026	One On One Meeting with the CEO	Portland	Had a one-on-one conversation with the CEO where I raised a number of matters.

Cr MCDONALD

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments (Optional)
06.07.2026	NAIDOC Week Exhibition	Portland	The launch of a month-long NAIDOC Exhibition organised by Dhauwurd Wurrung Community Service, at the Julia Street Creative Space, was blessed with an incredible Winter morning with clear blue skies and not a breath of wind. Hundreds gathered for a traditional Welcome to Country, a morning tea with live music and an inspiring exhibition of paintings and 3-Dimensional works where viewers were invited to add a coloured ribbon to the

			giant Rainbow Serpent installation.
07.07.2026	Councillor briefing	Portland	
10.07.2026	Ron Penrose Exhibition	Portland	An incredible collection of well-executed portraits of notable Shire identities from across the community.
14.07.2026	Portland Foreshore Community Infrastructure Project Reference Group	Portland	
14.07.2026	Councillor briefing	Portland	
21.07.2025	Councillor briefing	Portland	
23.07.2025	Timber Hub Feasibility Study and Future Portland Completion Media Event.		Announcement by Jacinta Ermacora MP, member for Western Victoria, of the completion of 2 Portland Diversification Fund projects. The Future Fibre Hardwood Timber Manufacturing Hub Feasibility study and the Future Portland Cumulative Impact Dashboard.
28.07.2026	Council Meeting	Portland	
29.07.2026	Healthy Ageing Hub Community Program Launch	Portland	A go-to service offering guidance to relevant services and community groups to prepare 50+ year olds and 45+ First Nations residents for the next stage of living well. The Hub aims to help 'us', yes my demographic, navigate the complexities of existing services and supportive community groups to keep us active, healthy and heard, as we face the challenges of what ageing brings. Through a partnership with Kyeema, the Hub will provide dedicated staff which are accessible locally.

Cr PEPPER

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments (Optional)
07.07.2026	Councillor briefing	Portland	
14.07.2026	Councillor briefing	Portland	

17.07.2026	Merino Digby Lions changeover dinner	Coleraine	
21.07.2026	Councillor briefing	Portland	

Cr CARR

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments (Optional)
21.07.2025	Councillor briefing	Portland	
23/07/2026	Timber Hub Feasibility Study and Future Portland Completion Media Event	Portland	
28.07.2026	Council Meeting	Portland	

Cr ANGELINO

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments (Optional)
07.07.2026	Councillor briefing	Portland	
14.07.2026	Councillor briefing	Portland	
21.07.2025	Councillor briefing	Portland	
28.07.2026	Council Meeting	Portland	
10.07.2026	Ron Penrose	PAC	Artist who painted nominated local community members. A great event and to see so many locals from all communities nominated.
23.07.2026	Timber Hub Feasibility Study and Future Portland Completion Media Event	Portland	A great achievement to see the development of the laminated timber project and future Portland project.

Cr Dr PICARD

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Comments (Optional)
07.07.2026	Councillor briefing	Portland	
14.07.2026	Councillor briefing	Portland	
21.07.2025	Councillor briefing	Portland	
28.07.2026	Council Meeting	Portland	
29.07.2026	Healthy Ageing Hub Community Program Launch (Kyeema Support Services)	Portland	This valuable new service is to support people in linking up services and groups that support them in healthy ageing - so important in our community, with an aging demographic.

Recommendation

That Council notes the Councillor Activity Reports for 1 July 2026 to 31 July 2026.

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

9. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

9.1. CEO EMPLOYMENT AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee

Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the CEO Employment & Remuneration Committee's (the Committee) motion regarding the full year two annual CEO performance and remuneration review, as made at the 4 August Committee meeting.

Background

The Victorian *Local Government Act 2020* section 45 and Council's CEO Employment & Remuneration Policy require the Committee to undertake an annual review of performance and remuneration.

Key Information

The CEO Employment & Remuneration Committee, consisting of all Councillors and the Independent Advisor, met on 4 August 2026 and resolved to recommend the motion terms as minuted.

Risk

As a statutory requirement under the Victorian *Local Government Act 2020* and the executed CEO employment contract, non-completion of this annual review process would be a breach of both legislation and employment contract.

Finance

The 2026-2027 Council Budget includes allocation for the CEO Employment & Remuneration Committee' annual performance and remuneration review. The Committee's motion for a remuneration increase for the CEO for the 2026-2027 period is equivalent to Council's own Enterprise Agreement which provided for a 3% remuneration increase for the 2026-2027 financial year for employees engaged under this agreement.

Consultation

The Independent Advisor has consulted with all members of the Executive Leadership Team and external stakeholders as part of the development of the annual review report in addition to a CEO self-assessment.

Council and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 Alignment

Leading and Engaging – Being an active and transparent leader set up to deliver on our priorities.

Conclusion

The purpose of this report and recommendation is to complete and enact the Committee's motion.

Recommendation**That Council:**

- 1. Receives and notes the CEO review self-assessment and Independent Committee Member report;**
- 2. Approves the current arrangement of 2 weeks additional purchased leave (50/52 arrangement) for the duration of the current CEO contract;**
- 3. Approves a salary increase of 3% effective 29 July 2026 with all current arrangements and contract details remaining in place;**
- 4. Seeks from the CEO a focus in 2026/27 on the following identified areas:**
 - a. Advocacy priorities, approach, applications and outcomes;**
 - b. Communications, media and engagement approach to manage reputational risks;**
 - c. Service Planning approach, areas of focus and updates;**
 - d. Financial reporting including capital works to Councillors on a quarterly basis;**
 - e. Council resolution reporting and actions; and**
 - f. Customer Requests management, approach, systems and reporting to Councillors.**

Attachment List

- 1. *CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting Minutes - 04 August 2026 separately circulated as a Confidential attachment***

9.2. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2025-2026

Director: David Hol, Director of Corporate Services

Summary

The purpose of this report is to brief Council of the municipal emergency management incidents and events that occurred during 2025-2026.

Background

The 2025-2026 emergency management season commenced with preparedness for a forecasted high fire season and hot summer from October 2025 to April 2026.

Before the declared fire danger period commenced Council's Emergency Management staff participated in emergency management, emergency relief centre training, emergency exercises and attended local and regional seasonal briefings.

The Country Fire Authority (CFA) declared the Fire Danger Period (FDP) from 8 December 2025 to 30 April 2026.

A range of diverse incidents for emergency services and Council to respond to arose during the year including:

- October 2025 – The Mount Richmond State Forest bushfire burnt 2,401 hectares. Council assisted by supplying water to Portland Airport for firefighting. Multiple severe weather warnings were issued during the month and Council staff assisted with approx. forty-five (45) customer requests for removing fallen trees, branches and traffic management.
- January 2026 – The first Total Fire Ban Day for the whole State of Victoria and a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating for the Southwest was declared on Friday 9 January. Extreme heatwave and severe weather warnings for damaging winds were also issued by the Bureau of Metrology (BOM). A small number of fires were recorded during the month of which were bought under control quickly by fire agencies. Council Staff attended the Department of Energy Environment Climate Action (DEECA) Incident Control Centre at Heywood.
- February 2026 – A bushfire occurred along Lake Mombeong Track Nelson, Severe Thunderstorms and heavy rainfall warnings were issued by the BOM during the month.
- March 2026 – DEECA commenced scheduled planned burns in the Shire.

The DEECA Incident Control Centre at Heywood was activated seven times, of which Council staff attendance was required on three occasions.

DEECA responded to 10 fires associated with unattended campfires, a fire at Roseneath burnt 18 hectares and in total, 22 Bushfires were recorded.

Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) responded to two hundred and forty (240) emergency incidents of which one hundred and eighty (180) were in FRV district and sixty (60)

supporting other agencies. Key emergencies were: twelve (12) structure fires, thirty-five (35) emergency medical response, fifteen (15) motor vehicle accidents.

The Country Fire Authority (CFA) responded to 169 fire calls of which hundred and one (101) were fire service calls, fifty-eight (58) fire and explosions, thirty-one (31) motor vehicle rescue. A total of 2,308 hectares were burnt within CFA district 4 that CFA responded to.

Through the Australia Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) for response to municipal emergencies for recovery, Council received \$51,650.00 from eligible incidents.

A number of proactive and preventative initiatives were also undertaken during the year including:

- The Glenelg Shire Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) and the Municipal Fire Management Planning Sub Committee met quarterly during 2025-2026 financial year.
- The committees conducted a review of the Victoria Fire Risk Register, Victoria State Emergency Services - Glenelg Flood and Storm Sub-Plan, and the Glenelg Shire Extreme Heat Health Complementary Plan.
- Council, in partnership with DEECA, completed runway sealing works at Casterton Airfield on the main runway to improve aircraft access and operational efficiency. Costings to undertake the works were a co-contribution from State Government (DEECA) and Council.
- Council issued two hundred and sixty one (261) fire prevention notices on private land with two hundred and twelve (212) being compliant prior to the fire danger period declared.
- The Greater South-West Relief & Recovery Collaboration Committee was established with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Moyne Shire Council, Southern Grampians Shire Council, Warrnambool City Council and Glenelg Shire Council to strengthen emergency relief and recovery across the four municipalities. The MOU enables councils to share resources and support one and another during emergencies, recognising each council's capacity to respond. Glenelg Shire Council is the Chair of the committee for the first twelve months.
- Through the Strengthen Local Government and Partnerships Grants - Safer Together, State Government funding for 2026-27, Council has successfully secured funding to hold the Glenelg Emergency Services Expo event in Portland during November 2026.

There are financial obligations for Council to undertake emergency management planning, preparedness, response, relief and recovery in accordance with the State Government Emergency Management legislation.

Council's Emergency Management Unit has a budget of \$251,000 for the 2026-27 financial year, of which \$120,000 is funded by the State Government leaving a residual balance of \$131,000.

The State Government has committed to ongoing funding of \$240,000 for a further two years (2027-2028).

The emergency management update for 2025-26 is provided for Councillor information.

Recommendation

That Council receives the emergency management update for 2025-2026.

Attachment List

Nil

9.3. AMENDMENT C115 DARTMOOR AND NELSON FLOOD STUDY

Director: Brett Jackson, Director Community Services

Summary

The purpose of this report is to enable consideration of the next steps in relation to the proposed planning scheme amendment C115gelg following the receipt of the Planning Panel report.

The Amendment seeks to improve the management of riverine and ocean storm tide flooding risks between Dartmoor and Nelson. It addresses a gap in the lower Glenelg River system by incorporating the findings of the Dartmoor and Nelson Flood Study into the Glenelg Planning Scheme, complementing existing flood mapping and controls and providing a stronger basis for managing future development in flood-prone areas.

Background

Both Dartmoor and Nelson were identified in the 2017 Glenelg Hopkins Regional Floodplain Management Strategy as requiring further flood investigations, as limited information was available at the time to accurately assess and manage flood risk.

On 22 April 2022, Council was successful in obtaining funding to prepare the Dartmoor and Nelson Flood Study, and subsequent planning scheme amendment, through the Australian Government's, Preparing Australian Communities – Local Stream program.

28 January 2025 - Council Meeting

Council resolved to seek authorisation to prepare the draft planning scheme amendment to be exhibited concurrently with the flood study using the standard process, noting the option of a *Standing Advisory Committee* process run by The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) was on offer, and the study at this point in time was incomplete.

DTP responded that a review of the flood schedules and the local floodplain development plan was required to be completed prior to authorisation of Amendment C115gelg, which led to a delay in the project's completion.

26 August 2025 - Council Meeting

Council again resolved to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit the amendment. In this resolution the floodplain mapping followed Scenario 2 with a 1.2 metre sea level rise for Amendment C115gelg.

Authorisation was later received by DTP on 21 October 2025.

11 Dec 2025 to 6 Feb 2026 - Exhibition Period

Five (5) submissions objecting to the amendment were received. The main concerns raised in the submissions include:

- Inaccurate historical and topographical data used in the flood study.

- Adverse risk management approach to floodplain mapping.
- Removal of the proposed flood overlays from specific land parcels.

The Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority also made submission for consideration in support of the Amendment.

24 March 2026 - Council Meeting

Council resolved to request that the Minister for Planning appoints a Planning Panel and that Council refer all submissions to the Planning Panel for consideration under Section 23 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

4 May – 22 July 2026 - C115gelg Panel Hearing Process

The appointed Planning Panel held a Directions Hearing on the 4 May 2026 and subsequent Panel Hearing on the 18 June 2026.

The Planning Panel considered six written submissions as well as verbal presentation by Council's officer, expert witness and one objecting party.

Key Findings from the Planning Panel

The Planning Panel has assessed the Dartmoor and Nelson Flood Study of the Glenelg River and all submissions, issuing its report to Council on the 22 July 2026. In summary the panel supports Amendment C115gelg and the mapping in full; this includes:

- the application of adopting 1.2 metre sea level rise scenario.
- no technical or methodological errors were identified, with the Executive Summary of the report stating "The flood modelling is reliable and suitable for the Amendment, and no changes are needed to the Amendment on flood modelling grounds."

Following this the formal recommendation by the Panel is to:

- Adopt Glenelg Planning Scheme Amendment C115gleg as exhibited.

Council must now consider this Panel Report and any formal recommendations, as part of deciding on Amendment C115gelg under Section 27 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Based on the findings of the Panel Report it is considered appropriate that Council now adopt Amendment C115gelg under Section 29 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and submit to the Minister for Planning for final approval.

Risk

If Council decides to abandon or modify the amendment, the Minister can still choose to approve regardless pursuant to Section 28A or Section 35(1)(a) *Planning and Environment Act 1987* respectively.

Council would need to clearly articulate to the Minister, any rationale behind a decision to not adopt the amendment as exhibited.

Finance

No further financial implications for the Council's budget are foreseen as a result of this decision.

Consultation

Exhibition of the Amendment from 11 December 2025 until 6 February 2026 included:

- Notice in the local newspapers.
- Letters to landowners and occupiers of land directly affected by the proposed extent of the Floodway Overlay (FO1) and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO1).
- Two community drop-in sessions. One in Dartmoor and another in Nelson.

There were six submissions received. In response Council resolved to request that the Minister for Planning appoint an independent planning panel and that the submissions be referred to this panel.

In addition to considering written submissions, the Planning Panel provided opportunity for all submitters to be heard and present to panel on their concerns directly.

The Directions Hearing was held on 4 May 2026 and the Panel Hearing on 18 June 2026.

The Panel Report received has detailed responses and considerations of these submissions. This report is publicly available, and all submitters were notified.

Council and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 Alignment

Leading and Engaging – Being an active and transparent leader set up to deliver on our priorities.

Conclusion

Council has three (3) options available:

- adopt amendment as exhibited
- adopt amendment with modifications; or
- abandon the amendment.

However, based on findings of the Panel Report, it is deemed appropriate that Council now adopt Amendment C115gelg as exhibited under Section 29(1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, and submit to the Minister for Planning for final approval.

Recommendation**That Council:**

- 1. Adopts Amendment C115gelg to the Glenelg Planning Scheme in accordance with documents circulated in Attachment 1 and 2 pursuant to Section 29(1) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.**
- 2. Proceeds to submit to the Minister for Planning for approval pursuant to Section 31 (1) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.**

Attachment List

1. C115gelg Ordinance Combined [**9.3.1** - 50 pages]
2. Amendment C115gelg Flood Maps [**9.3.2** - 6 pages]
3. Glenelg C115gelg Panel Report [**9.3.3** - 34 pages]

9.4. VICTORIAN FISHERIES AUTHORITY & GLENELG SHIRE COUNCIL MOA RE: HOOKED ON PORTLAND 2027

Director: Brett Jackson, Director Community Services

Summary

This report provides Council with an update following review of the 2026 Hooked on Portland Festival and subsequent discussions with the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) regarding facilitation of the 2027 Hooked on Portland Festival.

The proposed Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) establishes a more financially sustainable delivery model for Hooked on Portland, with VFA leading organisation of the 2027 event, and both VFA and Glenelg Shire Council (GSC) providing financial and operational support.

Background

Hooked on Portland is a (free) community and tourism festival celebrating Portland's fishing heritage, local producers, and waterfront. Originally focused on tuna and seafood, the event has evolved since 2018 to incorporate major musical acts. While this has increased attendance, associated event costs have also grown and created ongoing budget pressures for Council.

Council's contribution had increased to \$110,000, before the event budget was reduced to \$45,000 in 2025/26, with this level maintained in 2026/27. The 2026 event cost just over \$132,000, of which Council contributed \$87,500.

The 2026 festival attracted an estimated 5,000 – 6,000 attendees and more than 60 fishing competition participants. However, attendance was impacted by a competing 'Red Hot Summer Tour' event, on the same weekend in Warrnambool, which is scheduled to occur on the same weekend again in 2027.

The financial pressures and competing regional events reinforce the need for a more sustainable delivery model for Hooked on Portland.

Key Information

Following an internal review of the 2026 event, Council has worked with major sponsor the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) to develop a more sustainable delivery model for the 2027 Hooked on Portland.

The proposed MOA would see the VFA take the lead in planning and managing the 2027 event, with Council continuing as co-host and providing financial, operational and promotional support. The event is proposed for Saturday 23 January 2027 as a streamlined, single-day festival with a stronger focus on fishing, seafood and local entertainment.

The partnership aims to increase recreational fishing participation, strengthen Portland's position as a leading sport-fishing destination, and generate tourism and economic benefits by promoting local seafood, food and beverages, fishing opportunities, family activities and local music.

VFA will lead event planning, delivery, logistics, compliance, promotion, budget management, vendor payments, stakeholder coordination and safety services. GSC will lead local and regional promotion, social media and media communications, coordinate food and beverage vendors, oversee setup and pack-down, and support permits, risk management and event-day staffing.

Council will remain actively involved in event planning and retain input into the scope and delivery of the event.

Risk

The current Hooked on Portland format is not financially sustainable for Council, with neither internal event management nor outsourcing the role achievable within the existing budget.

While cancellation remains an option, it carries risks of negative community sentiment, reputational impact and economic loss.

Finance

The 2027 Hooked on Portland budget is \$45,000.

Consultation

Internal stakeholders and VFA have been consulted throughout MOA discussions. Where the MOA is supported by Council, all relevant external stakeholders will be engaged to ensure successful delivery of the event.

Council and Wellbeing Plan 2025-29 Alignment

Thriving Towns and Communities - Fostering proud, safe and inclusive communities that support and promote wellbeing and opportunities for all.

Conclusion

The proposed MOA and partnership with the VFA provides a more financially sustainable model for the continued delivery of Hooked on Portland (2027), while maintaining Council's involvement and influence over the event.

The revised partnership approach reduces Council's event management and financial burden, retains the festival's community and tourism benefits, and refocuses the event on Portland's key strengths in fishing, seafood and local experiences.

This model supports the ongoing growth of Hooked on Portland while better aligning event delivery with Council's current financial and resourcing capacity.

Recommendation**That Council:**

- 1. Endorses the 'Memorandum of Agreement – Hooked on Portland 2027' between Glenelg Shire Council and the Victorian Fisheries Authority.**
- 2. Authorises the CEO to enter into this agreement on behalf of Council and make any minor operational alterations as required.**

Attachment List

1. *Memorandum of Agreement – Hooked on Portland 2027 separately circulated as a Confidential attachment*

9.5. RURAL COUNCILS VICTORIA - INVEST IN RURAL VICTORIA - STATE ELECTION ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

Director: Brett Jackson, Director Community Services

Summary

Rural Councils Victoria (RCV) is advocating for rural communities with an 'Invest in Rural Victoria' Campaign, targeting the political parties competing in the upcoming Victorian State election in November 2026.

A formal, public-facing campaign will support this advocacy platform. While largely driven by RCV centrally, Council is being asked to support local delivery and promotion of the campaign.

Background

Council is a member of the advocacy alliance Rural Councils Victoria (RCV).

The campaign will be non-partisan. It will not endorse any political party or election candidate.

Key Information

The Campaign calls for the establishment of a dedicated \$1 billion Rural and Regional Victoria Productivity and Growth Fund.

Funding would be delivered across four complementary streams:

1. Community wellbeing and local places renewal
2. Economic development
3. Council sustainability and
4. Housing supply

The \$1billion would be spent over four years — meaning about \$500m each year.

RCV is requesting Council support in their efforts to urge all members of parliament (MP) and political candidates to publicly support the RCV platform and act on its recommendations after the election.

More specifically, the proposal seeks Council support to recognise the significant contribution rural communities make to Victoria's economy, particularly through agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, freight, energy production and regional employment.

It also highlights the growing pressures facing rural councils and communities, including infrastructure backlogs, housing shortages, financial sustainability challenges and increasing demands associated with emergency preparedness and recovery.

Council is being asked to endorse the key priorities contained in Rural Councils Victoria's 2026 election platform, including increased investment in rural and regional

roads, local infrastructure and community facilities, housing-enabling infrastructure, emergency preparedness and resilience, council financial sustainability, and regional economic development.

The proposal also supports Rural Councils Victoria's call for the establishment of a dedicated \$1 billion Rural and Regional Victoria Productivity and Growth Fund to help address these challenges and support the long-term prosperity of rural and regional communities.

Proposed Campaign messages include:

- *This election, rural Victoria deserves better*
- *Rural Victoria needs more respect, support and investment*
- *The Victorian Government needs to invest more in rural Victoria*
- *Strong rural communities support a stronger economy*
- *If you respect rural Victoria, you need to invest in rural Victoria*
- *Victoria can't thrive unless rural Victoria thrives*
- *Let's back rural communities.*

RCV has provided a toolkit and templates to support rural Councils to launch the Campaign in their municipalities, for their communities, which includes;

- Community Signage
- Digital Media, and
- Direct Engagement with Candidates

Councils are urged to install co-branded signs at key infrastructure or development sites that illustrate the need for Victorian Government investment in rural communities.

Risk

Any signage erected will be considered 'Electoral Matter', and as such, Council will be required to comply with all relevant laws and local laws regarding placement, whilst also ensuring any signage and visibility risks are managed appropriately.

Finance

Any costs associated with Council's support of this campaign are incurred by Council, and will be determined by the extent, composition and location of signage across the shire.

Consultation

Not Required – Advocacy piece only.

Council and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 Alignment

Leading and Engaging – Being an active and transparent leader set up to deliver on our priorities.

Conclusion

The RCV Campaign broadly reflects Council's current Advocacy priorities and could be considered for local implementation across various platforms (physical collateral, digital, direct engagement) to ensure consistent messaging whilst minimalising unbudgeted expenditure.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Notes Rural Councils Victoria's strong advocacy for rural communities and endorses participating in the RCV campaign and incurring the indicated expense.**
- 2. Acknowledges the critical role rural communities play in supporting Victoria's economy, including through agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, freight, energy production and regional employment.**
- 3. Recognises the significant infrastructure, housing, financial and emergency management challenges currently facing rural councils and communities.**
- 4. Endorses the key advocacy priorities in Rural Councils Victoria 2026 election platform, including:**
 - a. Increased investment in rural and regional roads;**
 - b. Expanded support for local infrastructure and community facilities;**
 - c. Additional investment in housing enabling infrastructure;**
 - d. Greater support for emergency preparedness and resilience;**
 - e. Measures to improve long-term council sustainability and financial capacity;**
 - f. Increased support for regional economic development.**
- 5. Supports calls for the establishment of a dedicated \$1 billion Rural and Regional Victoria Productivity and Growth Fund, as detailed in the Rural Councils Victoria election platform.**
- 6. Urges all MPs and political candidates to publicly support the RCV platform and act on its recommendations after the election.**

Attachment List

- 1. Rural Councils Victoria - Invest in Rural Victoria - State Election Advocacy Campaign [9.5.1 - 12 pages]**

9.6. SOUTH WEST VICTORIA ALLIANCE PARLIAMENT HOUSE DELEGATION

CEO: Helen Havercroft, Chief Executive Officer

Summary

This report shares details of Mayor Cr Stephens and CEO Helen Havercroft recent visit to Parliament House to advocate for regional priorities as part of the South West Victoria Alliance (SWVA).

Background

On 13 August 2026 the SWVA met with 9 members of Parliament (MPs) and 2 policy advisors to discuss the regional asks for funding at a local and statewide level. With a reshuffle of Cabinet on 6 August 2026 following a change in Premier it was also a valuable opportunity to meet Cabinet MPs very early in their tenure and get our needs across.

Key Information

The SWVA met with:

- Liberal Member for South-West Cost, Roma Britnell MP
- Member for Western Victoria, Dr Sarah Mansfield MP
- Shadow Minister for Water, Jade Benham MP
- Liberal Member for Polwarth and host for the day, Richard Riordan MP
- Treasurer of Victoria, The Honourable Colin Brooks MP
- Shadow Minister for Local Government, Bev McArthur MP
- Policy advisors for Minister for Environment, Jaclyn Symes MP
- Minister for Roads and Road Safety, The Honourable Paul Hamer MP
- Minister for Rural and Regional Development, The Honourable Michaela Settle MP
- Shadow Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction, David Davis MP

Meetings were held with all sides of Government and each meeting was specific to the portfolio of the MP. There was a strong economic development focus and significant interest in the roads advocacy. The advocacy by SWVA aligns to the Rural Council's Victoria and Regional Cities Victoria State election platforms, which further amplified the voice of those represented. Additionally, this aligns to the funding sought by Glenelg Shire in its advocacy platform.

Risk

Glenelg Shire Council has been a long standing member of the SWVA and together with the other represented Council's leverages the voice of the region to support its own Advocacy priorities.

Finance

Executing this event was budgeted in the 2026/27 contribution made to SWVA as part of our annual subscription.

Consultation

The SWVA State Election Advocacy Platform was developed iteratively by the Board of the SWVA as local issues gained regional significance.

Council and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 Alignment

Leading and Engaging – Being an active and transparent leader set up to deliver on our priorities.

Conclusion

This report provides an opportunity to demonstrate the advocacy efforts of Council.

Recommendation

That Council notes Mayor Stephens and CEO Helen Havercroft attendance at the South West Victoria Alliance visit to Parliament House, Melbourne on Thursday 13th August 2026.

Attachment List

Nil

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

12. CLOSURE OF COUNCIL MEETING