



**I hereby give notice that an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on:**

**Date: Wednesday 11 December 2024**  
**Time: 9:00AM**  
**Location: Council Chamber**  
**Lardil Street**  
**Gununa**

# **MORNINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Ordinary Council Meeting**

**11 December 2024**

**Gary Uhlmann**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

To empower our Community – Our people  
To feel solid and strong like the rock in Mundalbe  
To taste and hear the breaking waves of change  
To establish clean, safe, healthy lifestyles togetherness  
Pride and respect for each other in our culture, achievements and successes.  
To see and smell the compassion and peacefulness of our community

## Order Of Business

<b>1</b>	<b>Opening of Meeting</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Acknowledgement Of Country</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Present</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Leave of Absence</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Disclosure of Interest – Councillors and Staff</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Condolences and Memorials</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Confirmation of Minutes</b> .....	<b>6</b>
	7.1 Confirmation of Minutes - Ordinary Council Meeting - 27 November 2024 .....	6
<b>8</b>	<b>Deputations</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Action Schedule</b> .....	<b>17</b>
	9.1 Action Items as at 22 November 2024 .....	17
<b>10</b>	<b>Policy Documents</b> .....	<b>18</b>
	Nil	
	<b>Reception &amp; Consideration of Officers Reports</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Mayor and Councillors Reports</b> .....	<b>18</b>
	Nil	
<b>12</b>	<b>Chief Executive Officer Report</b> .....	<b>19</b>
	12.1 Chief Executive Officer's report December 2024 .....	19
<b>13</b>	<b>Finance</b> .....	<b>26</b>
	13.1 Financial report .....	26
<b>14</b>	<b>Human Resources Management</b> .....	<b>37</b>
	14.1 Human Resources report .....	37
<b>15</b>	<b>Governance</b> .....	<b>41</b>
	15.1 Council Meeting Schedule 2025 .....	41
<b>16</b>	<b>Planning and Communities</b> .....	<b>43</b>
	16.1 Accommodation and Hospitality report .....	43
	16.2 Queensland Government Department of Housing and Public Works Healthy Housing Program .....	47
	16.3 Queensland Government Department of Housing Tenancy Services Update .....	49
<b>17</b>	<b>Housing Department</b> .....	<b>50</b>
	Nil	
<b>18</b>	<b>Facilities Department</b> .....	<b>50</b>
	Nil	
<b>19</b>	<b>Engineering</b> .....	<b>51</b>
	19.1 Engineering report .....	51
<b>20</b>	<b>General Business</b> .....	<b>53</b>
	Nil	

**21 Confidential Reports..... 53**  
Nil

**22 Next Meeting ..... 53**

**23 Closure ..... 53**

**1 OPENING OF MEETING****2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, the Lardil people of Mornington Island and pay our respects to Elders past and present. We would also like to acknowledge the Kaiadilt, Yangkaal, Waanyi, Gangalidda and Garrawa people who share our homelands.

**3 PRESENT****4 LEAVE OF ABSENCE****5 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST – COUNCILLORS AND STAFF****6 CONDOLENCES AND MEMORIALS**

**7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**7.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 27 NOVEMBER 2024**

**Author: Director Corporate and Community**

**Attachments: 1. Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes - 27 November 2024**

**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council held on Wednesday 27 November 2024 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

**MINUTES OF MORNINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL  
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, LARDIL STREET, GUNUNA  
ON WEDNESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 9:00 AM**

**1 OPENING OF MEETING**

The meeting was opened by Mayor Richard Sewter at 9:03am.

**2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, the Lardil people of Mornington Island and pay our respects to Elders past and present. We would also like to acknowledge the Kaiadilt, Yangkaal, Waanyi, Gangalidda and Garawa people who share our homelands.

**3 PRESENT**

Mayor Richard Sewter, Deputy Mayor Robert Thompson, Cr Farrah Linden, Cr Renee Wilson, Cr Jane Ah Kit

Gary Uhlmann (Chief Executive Officer), Skye Price (Director Corporate and Community, Jacinta Olds (minute taking).

**4 LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

**5 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST – COUNCILLORS AND STAFF**

Nil

**6 CONDOLENCES AND MEMORIALS**

A minute's silence was observed for loved ones.

**7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****7.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 30 OCTOBER 2024****RESOLUTION 2024/157**

Moved: Cr Jane Ah Kit

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Robert Thompson

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council held on Wednesday 30 October 2024 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

**CARRIED 5/0**

## 8 DEPUTATIONS

11:00am – Commissioner Joanne Kummrow

Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023 (IPOLA Act)

12:30pm - Mr Henry Enchong, Engagement Director, Mr Richard Aspinall, Regional Manager - National Indigenous Australians Agency

1:30pm – Ms Carroll Go-Sam - Director of Indigenous Engagement - School of Architecture University of Queensland

2:30pm - Ms Alexia Kelso - Customer Tenancy Services - Queensland Government Department of Housing

3:30pm - Ms Sarah Isaacs and Thuwathu Warriors representatives

## 9 ACTION SCHEDULE

### 9.1 ACTION ITEMS AS AT 22 NOVEMBER 2024

#### RESOLUTION 2024/158

Moved: Deputy Mayor Robert Thompson

Seconded: Cr Renee Wilson

That the action schedule as tabled be updated and that completed items be removed.

**CARRIED 5/0**

## 10 POLICY DOCUMENTS

Nil

## RECEPTION & CONSIDERATION OF OFFICERS REPORTS

### 11 MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS REPORTS

#### 11.1 MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS VERBAL REPORT

Mayor Richard Sewter – Verbal Report

- Attended Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA) meeting – met new Minister for Cook.  
Alcohol Management Plan (AMP) – support for all communities to abolish the AMP.
- Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) meeting – Council had all community generators checked and they're all are now functioning. Mobile gen sets are also ready for operation.

- Water – new waste facility / water recycling – working with State Government – initial design has been done.

Deputy Mayor Robert Thompson – Verbal Report

- Feedback related to town roads and streets, potholes and water on the road.
- Feedback that Gulf Regional Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC) cannot charge for water. Appropriately qualified advisors should be appointed to ensure that all culturally significance requirements are suitably considered. Lardil representatives should also be included with GRAC.

Cr. Jane Ah Kit – Verbal Report

- Attended GRAC Annual General Meeting.
- Attended Memorial Service.
- Attended Mornington Island Health Council AGM.
- Mornington Island Health Council will now to be included in Disaster Management meetings.
- Attended barbeque with different stakeholder groups for disenfranchised youth.

At 10:17am, Cr Jane Ah Kit left the meeting

At 10:22 am, Cr Jane Ah Kit returned to the meeting

Cr. Farrah Linden – Verbal Report

- Attended 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Memorial Day, Sunday 24 November 2024.
- New memorial garden looks amazing.
- Extend thanks to Noel Retchford, Chef Sadiri, Rhianne Williams and Claire Mousa for their Memorial Day efforts, too.
- Request for introduction of community Christmas decorations in prominent locations like the airport.

Cr. Renee Wilson – Verbal Report

- Digital records system/ catalogue for important community artefacts has been established by Mirndyian Gununa Aboriginal Corporation. With end user improvements and curation, awareness, education and access to important community artefacts and items of cultural significance will be fostered. Additional relevant items in Brisbane museums can potentially be returned to Mornington Island, in the future.

**RESOLUTION 2024/159**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Robert Thompson  
Seconded: Cr Jane Ah Kit

That Council receive and note the Mayor and Councillors' verbal reports for November 2024.

**CARRIED 5/0**

**12 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT****12.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, GARY UHLMANN - VERBAL REPORT**

- Finances are in an excellent position - \$12m in profit over the last 12 months
- Roads program \$16m; building a second road teams to ensure all weather roads to occur
- Building infrastructure program – Indigenous Knowledge Centre (library), footpaths, duplex
- Single men's units – The title might not be appropriate and Council clarification about the accommodation is sought
- Thirteen lot subdivision development planning is ongoing
- Grants Program – Credibility is good with Commonwealth and Queensland Government in terms of performance reporting, expenditure and acquittals, now. Mornington Island is also increasingly being chosen for pilot programs
- Community meetings to be introduced to improve communication between Council and Community
- Communications strategy currently being devised
- 10 year housing and infrastructure program being updated and rolled out
- Tree loppers – Phase 1 of vegetation management and pruning being rolled out, particularly eradication of bean trees
- Focus on each portfolio for Councillors – objectives and responsibilities to occur in the new year
- Establishment of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) is in the early stages of planning and has received Queensland Government funding to assist with establishment
- Local government Association Queensland (LGAQ) is reviewing locality allowances across all local government areas
- Water project review and planning is underway for construction project in 2025. \$3m State Government and \$3m Federal Government funding
- Replace corroded mains water pipes (2.4 kilometres) and sewerage upgrade plan.
- Resource recovery project. Complete new design of dump
- REX subsidised airfares to be rolled out in 2025
- Motel licence / restaurant licence processes are being proactively addressed to enable tavern operations

**RESOLUTION 2024/160**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Robert Thompson  
Seconded: Cr Farrah Linden

That Council receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's verbal report for November 2024.

**CARRIED 5/0**

10:30am, Mayor adjourned the meeting

10:37am, Mayor reconvened the meeting

11:01am to 11:35am – Commissioner Joanne Kummrow – Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023 (IPOLA Act) joined the meeting.

11:38am – Ian McCarthy, Chief Financial Officer joined the meeting to present to Council.

## 13 FINANCE

### 13.1 FINANCIAL REPORT

#### RESOLUTION 2024/161

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Jane Ah Kit

That Council receive and note the financial report for November 2024 and the Queensland Audit Office 2023 Interim Report dated 8 November 2024.

**CARRIED 5/0**

At 11:37 am, Cr Jane Ah Kit left the meeting

At 11:37 am, Mayor Richard Sewter left the meeting

At 11:38 am, Mayor Richard Sewter returned to the meeting

At 11:44 am, Cr Jane Ah Kit returned to the meeting

12:02pm, Mayor adjourned the meeting

12:35pm, Mayor reconvened the meeting

At 12:02pm, Cr Renee Wilson left the meeting

At 12:43pm, Cr Renee Wilson returned to the meeting

12:35pm to 13:16pm – Mr Henry Enchong, Engagement Director and Mr Richard Aspinall, Regional Manager from National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) joined the meeting.

At 13:16pm, Cr Farrah Linden left the meeting

At 13:18pm, Cr Farrah Linden returned to the meeting

13:18pm - Ken Tapfield, Human Resources Manager joined the meeting to present to Council.

## 14 HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

### 14.1 HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

#### RESOLUTION 2024/162

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Robert Thompson

That Council receive and note the human resources report for November 2024.

**CARRIED 5/0**

13:30pm – 14:18pm – Ms Carroll Go-Sam – Director of Indigenous Engagement – School of Architecture and University of Queensland joined the meeting.

At 13:51pm, Cr Jane Ah Kit left the meeting

At 13:52pm, Cr Jane Ah Kit returned to the meeting

14:20pm, Mayor adjourned the meeting

14:25pm, Mayor reconvened the meeting

14:25pm – 14:33pm – Ms Alexia Kelso – Customer Tenancy Services – Queensland Government Department of Housing joined the meeting.

At 14:54pm, Cr Farrah Linden left the meeting

At 14:58pm, Cr Farrah Linden returned to the meeting

## 15 GOVERNANCE

### 15.1 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2024 - 2025 QUARTERLY REPORT

#### RESOLUTION 2024/163

Moved: Deputy Mayor Robert Thompson

Seconded: Cr Jane Ah Kit

That in accordance with Section 174(3) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld), Council receives and notes the 2024-25 Operational Plan – Quarter 1 report for the period July – September 2024.

**CARRIED 5/0**

## 16 PLANNING AND COMMUNITIES

### 16.1 QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING TENANCY SERVICES UPDATE

#### RESOLUTION 2024/164

Moved: Cr Jane Ah Kit  
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Robert Thompson

That Council receive and note the report related to Queensland Government Department of Housing Tenancy Services for November 2024.

**CARRIED 5/0**

Claire Mousa, Director Accommodation and Hospitality joined the meeting to present to Council.

At 14:57pm, Cr Jane Ah Kit left the meeting.

At 15:04pm, Cr Jane Ah Kit returned to the meeting.

At 15:14pm, Cr Renee Wilson left the meeting

At 15:16 pm, Cr Renee Wilson returned to the meeting

At 15:20pm, Cr Renee Wilson left the meeting

At 15:28pm, Cr Renee Wilson returned to the meeting

## **16.2 ACCOMMODATION AND HOSPITALITY REPORT**

### **RESOLUTION 2024/165**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Robert Thompson  
Seconded: Cr Farrah Linden

That Council receive and note the report related to accommodation and hospitality for October 2024.

**CARRIED 5/0**

## **17 HOUSING DEPARTMENT**

### **17.1 HOUSING REPORT**

#### **RESOLUTION 2024/166**

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden  
Seconded: Cr Renee Wilson

That Council receive and note the housing report for October 2024.

**CARRIED 5/0**

At 15:30pm, Mayor Richard Sewter left the meeting.

At 15:31pm, Mayor Richard Sewter returned to the meeting.

**18 FACILITIES DEPARTMENT**

Nil

15:30pm – 16:02pm - Ms Sarah Isaacs and Thuwathu Warriors representatives joined the meeting.

At 16:27pm, Cr Renee Wilson left the meeting

At 16:28pm, Cr Renee Wilson returned to the meeting

**19 ENGINEERING****19.1 ENGINEERING REPORT****RESOLUTION 2024/167**

Moved: Cr Jane Ah Kit

Seconded: Cr Renee Wilson

That Council receive and note the Engineering division report for October 2024.

**CARRIED 5/0**

**20 GENERAL BUSINESS**

- Cr Renee Wilson enquired about a formal Civic Centre opening.  
A formal opening for the Civic Centre and Indigenous Knowledge Centre will occur in 2025 with relevant funding provider representation and community celebration.
- Cr Jane Ah Kit highlighted concern about sale of motorbikes, safety and noise pollution in community.  
Motorbike proprietor is being investigated.
- Cr Jane Ah Kit sought clarification about legislative requirements pertaining to meeting postponement.  
Quorum and chairperson requirements sighted.
- Informal meeting of Councillors to be organised for Monday 2 December 2024, 10:00am for all Councillors.

**21 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**

Nil

**22 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 11 December 2024.

**23 CLOSURE**

Mayor Sewter closed the meeting at 16:45pm

Gary Uhlmann  
Chief Executive Officer.

Minutes Confirmed:

Mayor .....

Date:

Gary Uhlmann  
Chief Executive Officer

Unconfirmed minutes

**8 DEPUTATIONS**

10:00am - Ms Alexia Kelso  
Customer Tenancy Services  
Queensland Government Department of Housing

1:00pm - Mr Cameron Horman (and colleagues)  
First Nations Housing and Homelessness  
Queensland Government Department of Housing and Public Work

**9 ACTION SCHEDULE****9.1 ACTION ITEMS AS AT 22 NOVEMBER 2024**

**Author:** Director Corporate and Community

**Attachments:** Nil

**PURPOSE (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)**

To provide Council with an updated version of the action schedule.

**BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**

At each ordinary Council meeting, when resolutions are passed that require any action, those resolutions are included in Council's action schedule for the appropriate officer or elected member's attention.

At each ordinary meeting of Council, the action schedule is tabled to summarise actions that have been taken in accordance with Council resolutions.

**FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

All Council resolutions are addressed in accordance with budget allocations from general purpose revenue and grants.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the action schedule as tabled be updated and that completed items be removed.

**10 POLICY DOCUMENTS**

Nil

**RECEPTION & CONSIDERATION OF OFFICERS REPORTS**

**11 MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

Nil

**12 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT****12.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT DECEMBER 2024**

**Author:** Chief Executive Officer

**Attachments:** Nil

**PURPOSE (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)**

Chief Executive Officer's report related to reform program undertakings and successful outcomes, and since February 2023.

**BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**

In February 2023, the QLD government was considering appointing an Administrator to the Mornington Shire Council which would have removed significant if not all decision-making powers from elected members.

At that point in time, I was appointed as the CEO of Council and due partly to my expertise and background in organisational review, change and reform, the government decided to appoint a Financial Advisor to assist Council in its recovery process.

The Council at that time was in a precarious situation both financially and operationally and the challenge existed to address the major deficits in statutory reporting and financial management requirements which were of great concern to government.

The reform challenge was therefore to refine the organisational structure, establish a clear strategic direction, policies and priorities, recruit and build a new executive and management team, reform all operational systems and processes, eliminate the existing inefficient and ineffective operational practices and processes and some potentially corrupt practices from the organisation.

**CORE ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE**

- The failure to provide audited financial statements for prior years which was a major violation of Statutory requirements and the subsequent serious qualification by the Queensland Audit Office is nearly fully addressed and has been recognised by government as an outstanding achievement
- The current financial position of the Council has moved from very concerning to strong in 18 months with the financial and operational reforms resulting in a significant increase in revenue and the establishment of the base operations for strong future sustainable Council businesses
- Other statutory reporting requirements such a current Strategic Plan, Operational Plan, up to date Annual Reports and the like are being addressed
- A professional updated Governance Framework including a current policy framework has now been established and meets our statutory requirements
- A strong investment in people (additional employment), systems, assets and training to support the transition process has been made and is accelerating
- A focus on vital community issues such as housing, roads, water, waste, sewerage, social housing maintenance and upgrades and strong support for community cultural events
- A new organisational structure and cultural development and support program has been established however this will be an ongoing and evolving process as the reform program progresses

- A major program of development initiatives has been developed and the success to date of the reform program has allowed government to have the confidence to strongly reinvest in the Mornington Shire Council and community through our highly successful Grants Program
- There would be few local Government Councils that have achieved as much in an 18 month period as the Mornington Shire Council and the positive benefits and outcomes for the Mornington Community in the future are hard to overstate

## SUPPORTING DETAIL AND EXAMPLES

### CASH POSITION:

Council has approximately **\$15m** on deposit with QTC and **\$4m** in our current account with Westpac. These represent both Restricted and Unrestricted funds. Council is in a very strong position financially.

### MAJOR PROJECTS

#### Water Project

A **\$6m** project led by the CEO to ensure that for the first time in modern history that the peoples of Mornington Island will have a secure and safe supply of drinking water.

#### Waste initiatives

An initial **\$1.6m** funding package to clean up the waste on the Island with the purchase of a new garbage truck, removal of car wrecks, batteries, tyres, a waste transfer station to sort waste, a plastics recycling factory, a new skip bin truck, new garbage bins with locks, and a renewal of the management of the current landfill area.

#### Motel and laundry upgrade

A **\$2m** project to provide an extra 10 motel units at the current motel site, the installation of 3 phase power to both the Tavern and motel laundry to allow the operation of the commercial laundry equipment that was purchased 4 years ago that could not be used due to the lack of power. The complete redesign and upgrade of the laundry facility. The additional motel units will have the potential to generate an extra **\$1m** in revenue per annum at an 80% occupancy rate.

#### Workshop shed

Council was successful in sourcing **\$1m** to fund the construction of a 60m long equipment shed to house all the equipment currently left out in the weather. It has been estimated that **\$400k** of this amount will be for the concrete floor and footings which will be supplied by the Council Batching Plant providing further jobs.

#### Barge landing

Council obtained **\$4.548m** under a QRA resilience programme to upgrade the barge landing area. This will involve upgrading the two landing bays for the barge, reinforcing the shore line adjacent to the barge landing to reduce erosion during storms, and paving the area around the barge shed while at the same time lifting the floor level of the shed to allow for future sea level rises. Once again, the concrete component of this work is estimated to be **\$1.5m** of work for Council's batching plant and therefore revenue for Council.

#### Tavern completion and new commercial kitchen:

The project managers were terminated for this project due to failure to manage budget, scope and quality and a project rescue strategy was implemented to finish the tavern and an additional **\$200k**

of QRA funding will be used to complete the tavern works and upgrade the Tavern Kitchen so the Tavern can be classified as a cyclone shelter. Currently, there are no approved cyclone shelters on Mornington. The finalisation of the commercial kitchen will allow the tavern to operate under a motel restaurant licence for the benefit of all of community on a daily basis.

### **New Council administration building and new library**

The project to build the new Council building was in serious trouble with major design issues, quality issues, scope and budget problems and as a result the Project Manager was terminated. A project rescue strategy was established and as a result the project was completed within budget with a high quality beautiful building as the outcome. The project rescue plan allowed Council to quarantine sufficient monies to design and build a new Library for Community which is now close to completion.

### **Additional social housing**

The Interim Remote Capital Works Program to the value of **\$2.5m** to build 2 x 5 bedroom duplexes and one additional family plug in, was seriously stalled and the building was found to be out of alignment. A remediation plan was negotiated with the builder along with compensation and the process was complicated by financial problems faced the builder. The project is now expected to be completed by the end of January 2025.

The Forward Remote Capital Works Program of \$7.2m will construct 4 x 2 bedroom single mens/ womens units (design being finalised and costed) with a variety of other options being considered for the remaining monies especially additional family plugins.

Negotiations with state government officials has resulted in a commitment from government to fund a 10 year housing program beginning with the development of a 13 block housing subdivision on land opposite the airport. Initial Development approvals have now been obtained and land for an additional subdivision has been identified.

### **Staff housing**

Council was recently successful in obtaining a further **\$1.2m** in funding to build accommodation for staff on Cemetery Road. The planning and design for the block has now commenced. On completion this will allow for staff to be moved out of some of Council's current housing and then allow these houses to be returned to the community as additional social housing.

### **Cyclone resilience**

Despite Council's application being rejected, the CEO was able to negotiate directly with the CEO of QRA (General Jake Ellwood) who then agreed to allocate an additional **\$709K** to fund a new Opal fuel tank (55k litres) to ensure supply during the wet as currently we are limited to 10 days supply. In addition it will also fund a new 10 pallet freezer and 10 pallet cold room for the barge shed to hold additional food stocks to provide food resilience during major disasters where for example flooding roads prevent food deliveries to the island. All three units will have generator backup.

### **Sewerage pump upgrade**

This programme was completed last month at a cost of **\$1.9m** and involved the upgrade of our 2 sewerage pumping stations.

### **Mornington Island roads program**

The roads program for Mornington Island has been restructured with the objective to have the roads works being initially undertaken by one local road crew with an additional local road crew being established next year. This operating model allows the majority of the multi \$m program remaining on island rather than paid to contractors off island.

The CEO has sought to multiply the size of the program and to establish a 2 year approved QRA funding program that will enable the rapid expansion of our workforce, our road fleet and the broadening of the road program to include all roads across the island and incorporating outstation roads.

As a result of the CEO's approach, the QRA have for the first time approved a 2 year funding program for 25/26 of \$16m which is a significant increase from the current annual program of approximately \$4m. This has enabled the contracting of professional roads managers to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of the program and to maximise the financial returns to Council.

Council has been advanced 30% or **\$4.8m** of these funds already.

### **Accommodation and hospitality**

A new line of business has been established to manage all accommodation and hospitality services on the island. As an immediate priority a new Visitor Accommodation Centre (30 rooms) was built to provide the accommodation required to support the significant increase in building, maintenance, infrastructure works, government and external service providers working on Island. As a result Council currently has 85 lettable rooms which for the first 4 months of this year has delivered revenue of \$1.5m with an expectation of in excess of \$4m for the whole of the 2025 year compared to \$2.9m for the 2024 year and \$2.3m in 2023.

### **Q Build social housing program**

As a result of concerns about the lack of performance by Council in years from 2021-2023, Q Build awarded a large number of contracts to external contractors rather than to Council. In addition when the CEO arrived on island the backlog of QBuild jobs was 680 dating back to 2021 and it is now approximately 230 with only 2 jobs older than 12 months. With this progress in mind there was a direct intervention and subsequent negotiations initiated with both Q Build and the Department of Housing which has now resulted in a significant increase in the size of the program allocated to Council. This now includes an estimate for this financial year of:

#### **A Painting program \$1.5m**

#### **A do and Charge repair program \$1m (estimate)**

#### **Social housing upgrades \$3.5m**

In addition to this, the CEO is leading the negotiations with Health Department in the establishment of their Healthy Homes initiative which has initial funding to upgrade 50 social houses per annum over 2 years on Mornington Island, commencing early 2025. This has indicative funding of **\$5m per annum** over 2 years.

### **New vehicles and equipment**

The existing vehicles, plant, machinery and equipment had previously been allowed to age and were poorly managed, operated and maintained. Council has embarked on a major upgrade programme where all of the new items are fit for purpose and value for money. Major items already purchased or being purchased include:

- 30 tonne excavator
- JCB
- Water Truck
- Cement Pump
- Generators
- Ride on mowers
- Smooth Drum Roller
- Garbage Truck

- Community Bus
- A range of work vehicles
- Animal Health Vehicle

### Other achievements and initiatives

- A significant increase in employment, trainees and apprenticeships has been achieved (approximately 45) and extensive training programs for employees have been implemented
- A discounted local fare for traditional owners of \$99 for Rex flights has been negotiated
- The Regional Transaction Centre (RTC) has been upgraded
- An extensive upgrade program for Council facilities is being implemented
- A Youth Hub has been renovated and opened to help address the needs of disengaged youth
- The first footpath was delivered for the community with a plan in place to expand this across the whole community
- A portfolio system for Councillors has been designed and is currently being implemented
- A CCTV network has been established for safety purposes
- A self-funded Funeral Fund has been established to support sorry business within the community
- Strong budget support for community and cultural events has been established
- Government Funding has been obtained to support the establishment of an ILUA
- A joint upgraded nursery and market garden program has been established in partnership with Bynoe
- A free phone and internet access capability has been provided for all houses and facilities on the island
- A significant upgrade of the telecommunications system and capability for the island with the objective of communications being possible from every point on the island
- Opening a new café at the airport

### Minor Grants and Projects:

- |                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Meat Vouchers for community  | \$20k           |
| • Gym Toilets upgrade          | \$85K           |
| • Greening Mornington          | \$35k           |
| • Bicycles for community youth | \$40K           |
| • Aircraft Propeller repair    | \$7k            |
| • SES Upgrade and new vehicle  | \$100k          |
| • Salvation Army shop upgrade  | \$30k           |
| • Community Bus                | \$85k           |
| • Orange Sky community laundry | \$25k initially |
| • (then \$15k annually)        |                 |
| • ILUA                         | \$107k          |
| • Causeway Sydney Road         | \$324k          |
| • NIAA community programs      | \$450k          |
| • Employment initiatives       | \$250k          |

## Priorities for the New Year

Major priorities for the new year include the following:

- Completing the financial reform processes and ensuring our financial statements, audit reports, annual reports and all Statutory documents are up to date
- Implementing a range of additional revenue generating activities such as expanding the QBuild program, increasing the painting program, expanding the social housing upgrade program and increasing accommodation capacity
- Improving the efficiency, effectiveness and profitability of Council's current service delivery areas and business units
- Developing a second roads crew from local employment and expanding our road fleet and revenue generation to deliver the \$8m pa program
- Obtaining government approval for our 10 year housing plan and commencing implementation
- Completing the 2 x5 bedroom duplexes, installation of a number of plugins for existing dwellings and commencing the development of the 13 lot social housing project
- Finalising our executive and management teams and local development programs to help enable the Council's and community's self-determination agenda
- Opening the Tavern and expanding our hospitality offerings and revenues
- Developing an additional 10 accommodation units for the motel and some additional staff housing
- Implementing our extensive major projects forward program e.g. the upgrade of the barge area (\$4.5m) expanding our footpaths, upgrading our oval and establishing a recreation facilities plan for the community
- Establishing and supporting a calendar of cultural events for Community
- Improving and expanding current communication initiatives with Community
- Completing and opening the new Indigenous Knowledge Centre (Library)
- Ensuring that the Councillor's portfolio system is implemented and operating well
- Finalizing membership of the Interim Local Advisory Committee and ensuring that it is established and operating effectively
- Establishing an ILUA with GRAC that defines the basis for our future working arrangements
- Implementing a genuine partnership with GRAC where we are working together on jointly agreed community priorities

## Conclusion

The reform project over the last 18 months has been incredibly successful and this is well recognised by the State Government. The capability of the Executive Team has been a major contributor in improving the state government's perception of our Council and its operations.

The State government has been increasingly enthusiastic about partnering with us to support many elements of our reform program and our success to date has helped repair the previous poor perception by government of the Council and its capabilities.

However, the change process is still in its early phases and its future success is vulnerable to significant changes within the Council organisation. A major organisational change such as ours takes 3 years to implement in its basic form and an additional 2 years to create a high performing organisation.

Crucial to this success is stability in the management team and the previous high management turnover was a key reason for the previous problems faced by Council and why the government was considering appointing an Administrator to run the Council.

This project is potentially a once in a generation reform opportunity for Mornington Council and its community; and improving the working partnership between the Councillors and the Executive will be a crucial enabler for our future success.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Councillors receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's reform program report for December 2024.

**13 FINANCE****13.1 FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Author:** Chief Financial Officer

**Attachments:** 1 Finance report December 2024

**PURPOSE (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)**

The purpose of this report is to present Council with a monthly consolidated financial snapshot of key information regarding the financial position of Mornington Shire Council.

**BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**

Finance reports enable Elected Members to monitor Council performance and conduct duties in a financially responsible manner, whilst being made aware of potential risks, ensuring efficient use of resources and aspiring for long-term sustainability.

All figures are year to date until 30 November 2024.

**FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Council is operating within allocated 2024/25 budgets.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the financial report for December 2024.

# Monthly Finance Report November 2024



The purpose of this report is to present to the Council a monthly consolidated financial snapshot of key information regarding the financial position of the Mornington Shire Council  
This is to enable the council to conduct their duties in a financially responsible manner  
Whilst being made aware of potential risks  
Thus enabling decisions to be made regarding the most efficient use of the resources available  
Resulting in a sustainable organisation for the benefit of all stakeholders

- 2 [Executive Summary](#)
- 3 [Questions](#)
- 4 [Revenue and Expenses](#)
- 5 [Money](#)
- 6 [Numbers](#)
- 7 [Cashflow](#)
- 8 [Compliance](#)
- 9 [Actions](#)
- 10 [Project Status](#)
- 11 [Wins](#)

Traffic Lights

✓	On track
-	Need to monitor
X	Needs attention

All numbers are year to date up until 30-November-2024

Executive Summary



Cashflow is good we currently has \$15m in the Queensland Treasury Corporation earning interest.  
 We continue to monitor this closely to last until June 2025. The improved management of the investment funds has increased the amount of interest earned. For 5 months this financial year we have received \$186,752 and for 12 months last financial year it was \$207,170  
 Grant reporting is still yielding regular funds to top this up  
 Audit for the Annual grant reporting will also yield some funds  
 The Audit for 2023 Financial statements is progressing well. Currently under review with the Queensland Audit Office for final sign off  
 Finance staff only had 3 business days to prepare this report which is not enough time to prepare an accurate and professional report. I was in two minds

✓
-
✓
✓
✓
-

## Questions and Learnings

### **How? What? Why? Why? Why?**

Best question to ask is - What keeps you awake at night?

This months focus is the Balance Sheet

The Big Numbers

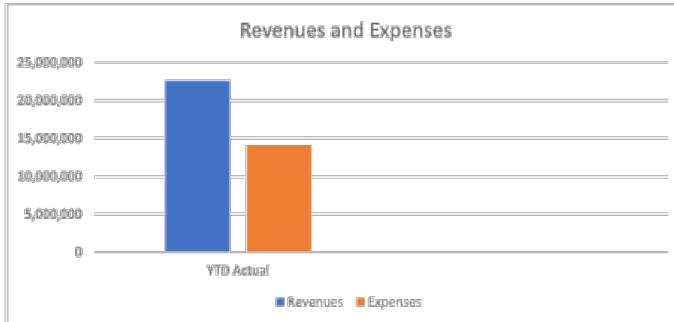
Last month was Profit and Loss This was a snap shot of time

### Revenues and Expenses

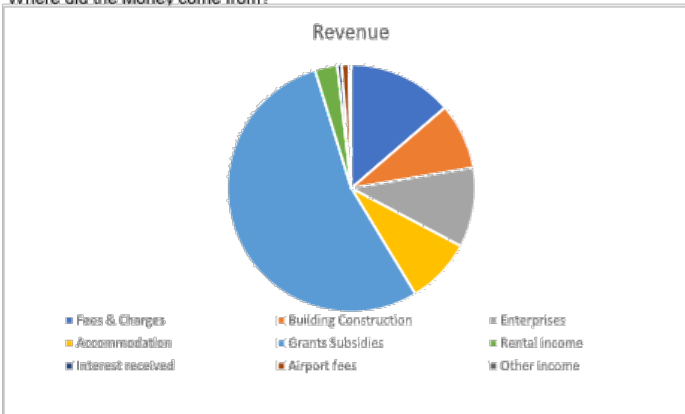
All numbers are year to date up until 30-November-2024



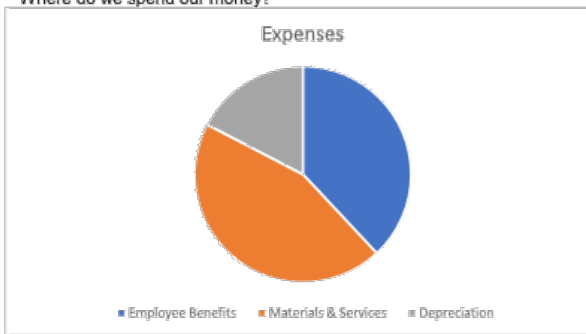
Did we make a profit ?



Where did the Money come from?



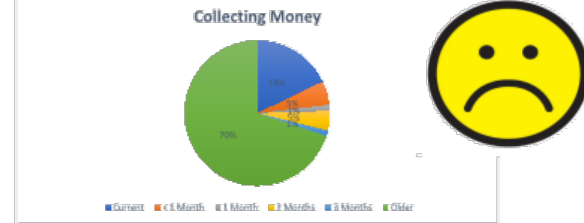
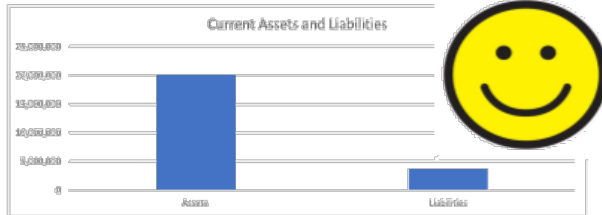
Where do we spend our money?



Cash Position

All numbers are year to date up until

30-November-2024



Assets

Cash at Bank Unrestricted	8,047,738
Cash at Bank Restricted	7,157,862
Debtors	4,532,625
	<u>20,138,225</u>

Liabilities

Creditors	2,125,143
GST	71,896
PAYG	1,034,121
Employee Entitlements	531,604
	<u>3,762,564</u>

Receivables

Current	< 1 Month	1 Month	2 Months	3 Months	Older	Total
645,549.92	251,519.92	64,873.61	207,749.71	59,361.47	3,312,753.91	4,741,808.54
35%	8%	2%	2%	2%	56%	100%

Payables

Current	< 1 Month	1 Month	2 Months	3 Months	Older	Total
1,007,458.00	24,627.86	(189.66)	0.00	91,999.60	1,001,247.43	2,125,143.03
47%	1%	0%	0%	4%	47%	100%

Who owes us money (Debtors)  
But hasn't paid soon enough

	Over 90 days	Total
AISS (Australian Indigenous Security Service Pty Ltd)	1,348,483	1,490,443
Dept of Energy and Public Works - QBuild BASFW	95,280	651,849
DHLGPPW - Dept of Housing, Local Government, Planning and P	97,633	97,633
Gulf Regional Aboriginal Corporation	138,276	187,533
GUNNAMANDA LIMITED T/A Gunnamanda Store	389,479	413,425
HC Building and Construction	160,241	206,614
James Construction Queensland Pty Ltd	349,476	476,282
Rex Airlines	125,000	125,000

Total of above and others **\$3,312,754** **\$4,741,809**



AISS (Australian Indigenous Security Service Pty Ltd)	1,008,750	1,083,107
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Details in the numbers

Statement of Comprehensive Income Year to date up until 30-November-2024

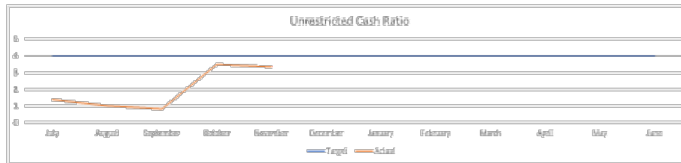
<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Actual</u> \$	<u>Budget</u> \$	<u>Variance</u> \$	
<b>Recurrent Revenue</b>				
Fees & Charges	3,089,624	3,245,060	-155,436	-
Sales Revenue - Building Construction	1,955,071	2,380,000	-424,929	X
Sales Revenue - Enterprises	2,348,067	2,605,000	-256,933	-
Accommodation	1,939,848	1,840,000	99,848	✓
<b>Total Recurrent Revenue</b>	<b>9,332,610</b>	<b>10,070,060</b>	<b>-737,450</b>	
<b>Capital Revenue</b>				
Capital, Grants, Subsidies, Contributions & Donations	12,178,006	20,390,053	-8,212,047	X
<b>Total Capital Revenue</b>	<b>12,178,006</b>	<b>20,390,053</b>	<b>-8,212,047</b>	
Rental income	661,209	817,823	-156,614	✓
Interest received	129,266	96,033	33,233	✓
Airport Landing & Passenger fees	206,293	245,895	-39,602	✓
Other income	73,326	175,620	-102,294	X
	1,070,094	1,335,371	-265,277	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>22,580,710</b>	<b>31,795,485</b>	<b>-9,214,774</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>Recurrent Expenses</b>				
Employee Benefits	5,355,460	6,023,822	-668,362	✓
Materials & Services	6,280,875	8,436,011	-2,155,136	✓
<b>Total Recurrent Expenses</b>	<b>11,636,335</b>	<b>14,459,833</b>	<b>-2,823,498</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>11,636,335</b>	<b>14,459,833</b>	<b>-2,823,498</b>	
<b>Net Operating Surplus/ (Deficit) Before Depreciation</b>	<b>10,944,376</b>	<b>17,335,652</b>	<b>-6,391,276</b>	
<b>Less: Non Cash Expenditure</b>				
Depreciation	2,444,322	2,412,190	32,133	✓
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>14,080,657</b>	<b>16,872,023</b>	<b>-2,791,366</b>	
<b>Net Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	<b>8,500,054</b>	<b>14,923,462</b>	<b>-6,423,408</b>	X

Cashflow

All numbers are year to date up until

30 November 2024

Account	Jul 2024	Aug 2024	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
<b>Normal Business</b>					
Money In	0,370,000.00	2,451,271.35	2,357,406.15	0,423,561.07	1,898,376.33
Money Out	(5,201,899.61)	(1,010,640.07)	(1,679,484.28)	(1,484,118.66)	(1,868,374.57)
Difference	449,999.99	441,631.28	677,921.87	5,944,637.41	(1,121,897.94)
<b>Capital Grants</b>					
Money In	844,770.25	931,495.93	677,591.68	0.00	781,068.47
Money Out	(84,328.18)	(667,529.46)	(646,513.08)	(113,076.13)	(174,188.61)
Difference	439,299.43	(68,033.53)	(118,921.41)	(113,076.13)	3,479.89
<b>Other (Super/BAS)</b>					
	(920,443.18)	(1,150,343.66)	(824,671.83)	1,002,577.99	958,326.35
	(920,443.18)	(1,150,343.66)	(824,671.83)	1,002,577.99	958,326.35
	461,860.16	(1,384,871.88)	(795,279.36)	6,444,859.28	(143,891.34)
<b>Bank</b>					
Start	8,614,858.36	4,016,719.41	2,731,847.61	1,836,548.26	8,395,527.54
Difference	(813,869.15)	(1,384,871.88)	(179,279.35)	6,458,959.28	(115,911.28)
End	4,016,719.41	2,731,847.61	1,836,548.26	8,395,527.54	8,042,036.16



Unrestricted Cash Expense Ratio  
Target: Greater than 4 months

3.4



This year

Month	Target	Actual
July	4	1.40
August	4	1.02
September	4	0.83
October	4	3.49
November	4	3.35

Last year

Month	Target	Actual
Jul-23	4	2.84
Aug-23	4	5.48
Sep-23	4	6.31
Oct-23	4	4.92
Nov-23	4	3.36
Dec-23	4	2.08
Jan-24	4	1.54
Feb-24	4	1.63
Mar-24	4	1.10
Apr-24	4	1.07
May-24	4	1.07
Jun-24	4	0.88

Are we up to date with all the numbers and ticking the boxes



Task	Traffic Light	Due	Due next	Notes
ATO Reporting	✓		21/11/2024	
Workcover	✓		15/09/2025	
Insurance	✓		4/03/2025	
Audit 2023	—			Nearing completion testing awaiting final reviews
Audit 2024	✓			Starting and Auditing 30 June stocktakes Balance Sheet Recs in progress
Grant reporting	✓		31/11/2024	Greatly improved quarterly reporting commenced a first for a considerable time
Issuing Invoices	—			Progressing as a priority changes have been made to improve Qbuild Invoices
Paying Invoices	✓	Ongoing		With the exception of AISS upto date and cleaned up
Audit Committee	X			To be established
5 Year Plan	✓	Ongoing		
QTC 10 Year forecast	—	Ongoing		Draft forecast completed
Policies	—	Over		To be reviewed and adopted
Adherence to Policies	—	Over		Will be an ongoing project

Measures of Financial Sustainability

Operating Surplus Ratio

Target: 0%-10% 38% ✓  
*Net operating result divided by total operating revenue*

Operating Cash Ratio

Target: Greter than 0% 48% ✓  
*Net operating result add Depreciation Amortisation add Finance Costs divided by total operating revenue*

**FURTHER MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION**

## Wins and opportunities



2023 audit is almost finalised and 2024 will commence shortly

Building revenue is improving

Christmas appeal is underway

QRA money has been received, prepaid grant money cannot be accessed (can monthly, once the works are completed)

We have a full grants program for 2025 and an opportunity to make a real difference

Healthy housing program will commence January 2025

Merry Christmas and a profitable New Year

Questions?

What we need to do



Actions	Goal	Resources	Timeline (calendar)
Reworked SharePoint	Easy access to information	Existing resources	Q1 2025
Complete 2023 Accounts	Draft Financials 2023	Existing resources	Complete
Audit 2023	Reduction in management points	Existing resources	Q4 2024
Preparation of 2024 Financials	Draft Financials 2023	Existing resources	Q1 2025
Audit 2024	Reduction in management points	Existing resources	Q1 2025
Debt Recovery	Assess all debts and start recovery	Existing resources	Q1 2025
Contracts Register \$200k+	List of Contracts for last 7 years	Existing resources	Q1 2025
Contracts Register All	List of all new and ongoing	All department	Q1 2025
Local Buy Implementation	Access and basic functionality	Procurement Manager	Q4 2024
Stock Control and analysis	Quarterly Stocktakes	All department	Q2 2025
Online travel booking system	Rex agreement and booking setup	Existing resources	Q4 2024
Review Certified Agreement	A fair agreement for all parties	Existing resources	Q2 2025
Introduction of new travel process	Electronic System for Council	Existing resources	Q1 2025

## 14 HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

### 14.1 HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

**Author:** Human Resources Manager

**Attachments:** Nil

#### **PURPOSE (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)**

This report provides an overview of the Human Resources activities within the Council for December 2024.

#### **BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**

##### **Staff movement**

Council welcomed eight new employees, comprising six permanent staff and 2 casual employees.

##### **Recruitment Activity**

One role of Building Supervisor has been filled, the employee commenced 2 December 2024. Recruitment is also ongoing for the following positions:

- Boilermaker/Steel Fabricator (withdrawn)
- Building Supervisor (filled)
- Indigenous Knowledge Centre Coordinator (advertised)
- Library Officer (advertised)
- Procurement Specialist (Warehouse)
- Youth Worker (advertised locally)
- Works Coordinator (to be advertised)

##### **Human Resources Statistical Report**

As of 4 December 2024, total staff is 177, 125 full-time, five part-time, and forty-five casual employees.

Two employees resigned during the month of November, Manager Facilities and Building Manager (long term workers compensation).

##### **Compensation and benefits**

Members of Roads and Civil team to receive an allowance of \$5 per hour for all works undertaken for QRA. Payment expected to be made prior to Christmas.

##### **Staff Development and Training**

Certificate III Rural Operations training has been rescheduled and will commence on Tuesday 10 December 2024.

Two employees have completed and passed their Medium Combination license in Cairns. Two additional employees are undertaking their training this week.

Further Heavy Rigid training is scheduled for early 2025 and arranged with the Manager Infrastructure.

Training will be scheduled early in 2025 for:

- Dogmen or Riggers tickets. Lifting chains, Slings and Spreader bar which have arrived and are to be used for Barge etc.
- Traffic Control tickets, Forklift, Grader and First aid/ CPR,

In Civil construction, we have changed training providers from Major Training to Martyr Training. The reason for the change is influenced by the quality of training, facilities and resources and industry connections that we believe Martyr training offers within civil construction which will benefit our trainees more.

### **Funding Submissions for the Queensland Government Work Skills Traineeships**

We are still awaiting the funding decision for our submission under Work Skills Traineeships for eight trainees that will provide paid employment opportunities for local candidates – aged 15 to 19 receive a mix of career advice, job preparation skills and foundation skills.

### **Apprenticeship and Traineeship program**

- Funding approval has been received for the engagement of 2 new trainees and two apprentices to commence in 2025.
- Focusing on Certificate III qualifications in Light Vehicle, Business Administration, Civil Construction, Plumbing, and Carpentry. In the Light Vehicle apprenticeship program, all three apprentices are progressing well and have received hands-on training to prepare them for careers in the automotive industry.
- The Business Administration traineeship has seen positive engagement despite one dropout, with new trainees joining and actively participating in their studies.
- In Civil Construction, the program has switched to Martyr Training for enhanced curriculum and industry connections, leading to improved skill development and job prospects for participants.
- In the Plumbing apprenticeship, apprentices are advancing in their training, with one apprentice moving into complex plumbing tasks and two apprentices focusing on foundational skills.
- The Carpentry program has two apprentices developing their skills, with plans for one apprentice to complete their exam in 2025.
- One apprentice is currently attending Cairns TAFE and will complete their training on 6 December 24.
- The Council's dedication to workforce development through comprehensive training programs is to date showing positive outcomes.
- Recommendations include ongoing monitoring of apprentices and trainees, as well as enhancing resources and mentorship programs to further support their learning experiences. By implementing these recommendations, Mornington Shire Council can continue to strengthen its apprentice and traineeship offerings for successful careers in various trades.

### **HR Strategy and Operational Management**

#### **Employee Relations**

Three cases before the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission from past employees have been resolved with claims being withdrawn.

Staff Attendance: Ongoing reviews are being held about employee time and attendance. Employees with excessive leave absences are being counselled.

## **Workplace Health and Safety**

### **Current and Ongoing Matters**

- Carpentaria Electrical RCD and emergency light testing for Council assets have been completed and a complete register is now on file
- A designated asbestos area at the dump needs to be established
- Youth Hub jumping castle and water slide risk assessments and operational/procedural plans have been established
- Restricted access to the barge area being initiated whilst barge is being unloaded, ensuring the safety of staff and community members
- Evacuation plans for VAC2.0 and tavern nearing completion
- Warehouse gas storage area removable bollard has been installed

### **Incident reporting**

Of major concern is a lack of staff commitment to incident reporting.

- There were 4 Incidents reported for November 2024. Overall incidents are down especially break-ins.
- 1 vehicle damage (Hire car)
- 2 conduct related incidents
- Hazard alerts. Need to be more of these completed by all departments

### **Employee Engagement and Initiatives**

To bridge any cultural gap between managers and supervisors development of an internal Managing Employees and Engagement has occurred and due to availability of staff will be rolled out in late January 2025.

The purpose of the program is to educate and skill managers and supervisors on how to better manage the relationship between themselves and employees. The program will cover:

- 
- Introductions and expectations
- Role of Human Resources
- Understanding Code of conduct & important policies
- Safety in the Workplace
- Employee attendance and time Keeping – fraudulent activity
- Reporting absences and leave
- Vehicle use
- Dealing with difficult employees
- Bridging the cultural divide

**Action Plan for January 2025**

- Development 2024 Human Resources Report
- Development of Human Resources strategy for 2025
- Establishment of casual pools for varying service to be established
- Monitoring of timekeeping and leave management
- Review current EBA, analyse terms, conditions and clauses, current wage and structures, benefits, health and safety provisions, allowances and entitlements and current industry standards
- Commencement of discussions re the implementation of an online Human Resource Information System (HRIS). The purpose is to streamline administrative practices associated with the onboarding and management of all employees' records.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the human resources report for December 2024.

**15 GOVERNANCE****15.1 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE 2025****Author:** Director Corporate and Community**Attachments:** Nil**PURPOSE (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)**

The purpose of this report is to enable Councillors to consider and potentially endorse a 2025 schedule of Council meeting dates, to be compliant with Section 277 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

**BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**

In accordance with Section 277 Public Notice of Meetings, Council must, at least once a year, publish a notice of the days and times when:

- Its ordinary meetings will be held; and
- The notice must be published on the local government's website, and in other ways the local government considers appropriate.
- Council must also display in a conspicuous place in its public office a copy of such notice.

Council has traditionally met on the third Wednesday of each month, with exceptions to accommodate the Christmas/New Year break, or anticipated absence of councillors and executive staff during public sector/ industry conferences, school holidays, or gazetted public holidays.

It is recommended that Council where possible going forward, Council meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month to enable report writing and preparation which provides a more holistic representation of the previous month's activities, events and expenditure.

Proposed 2025 meeting dates are as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting type</b>	<b>Comments</b>
29 January	Ordinary	
26 February	Ordinary	
26 March	Ordinary	
23 April	Ordinary	Immediately after Easter and two days before Anzac Day
28 May	Ordinary	
25 June	Ordinary	Term 2 holidays: 30 June – 11 July
23 July	Ordinary	
30 July	Special	Adoption of 2025/26 budget
27 August	Ordinary	

24 September	Ordinary	Term 3 holidays: 22 September – 3 October
29 October		Local Government Association Queensland (LGAQ) Annual Conference, Gold Coast 20 – 22 October 2025
26 November		
10 December		Term 4 school holidays (15 December 2025 – 27 January 2026) and Council shutdown, as well as festive season

All Council ordinary meetings will be held at the Mornington Shire Council Chamber and will be scheduled to commence at 9:00am, pursuant to *Section 258 of the Local Government Regulation 2012*.

The Lardil Street Council Chamber will be the advertised venue for Council meetings.

At the time of preparing this report, key dates for Torres Capes Indigenous Council Alliance (TCICA), the Mayor's Forum, North-West Regional organisation of Councils (NWROC) and other peak body gatherings for 2025 had not yet been confirmed.

Meetings will not be restricted to just these dates. Additional workshop and strategic planning sessions may also be scheduled.

#### **FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Usual expenditure related to Council meetings inclusive of budgeted Councillor attendance fees, staff time, stationary, ICT and catering will be incurred.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the report; and endorse the Council meeting schedule for the 2025 calendar year.

**16 PLANNING AND COMMUNITIES****16.1 ACCOMMODATION AND HOSPITALITY REPORT**

**Author:** Director Accommodation and Hospitality

**Attachments:** Nil

**PURPOSE (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update related to accommodation and hospitality activities for the month of October 2024.

**BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION****School Attendance Dinner**

The recent School Attendance Dinner was an outstanding success. The event, held in collaboration with Mornington Shire School was well-attended, with over 170 guests joining to celebrate the importance of regular school attendance and the achievements of students.

The evening was exceptionally well-received, with the school expressing high praise for the planning, organization, and execution of the event. Their commendations reflect positively on our team's efforts to ensure the event ran smoothly and was enjoyable for all.

Highlights of the evening included:

- **Engagement:** A strong turnout that showcased the community's support for educational initiatives.
- **Recognition:** Opportunities to acknowledge and celebrate the efforts of students, parents and educators.
- **Collaboration:** Strengthening our partnership with the school and reinforcing the shared commitment to improving attendance.

Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with many noting the professional and welcoming atmosphere of the event. This success underscores the value of such initiatives in fostering community spirit and celebrating formal education, too.



### **Airport Café Opening**

The airport café has quickly become a welcoming space for travellers, staff, and the broader community, offering a convenient and comfortable setting for refreshments. Feedback from customers has been positive, highlighting the quality of the food and the friendly service provided by our team.

The café's coffee machine is undergoing repairs. We anticipate having it back in operation by mid-December, ensuring our guests can once again enjoy freshly brewed coffee during their visits. In the meantime, alternative beverages are available, and the team is managing this temporary challenge with great professionalism.

The opening of the café marks an exciting step forward in enhancing the food and beverage offering to the Island and providing a valuable service to the community. We will be welcoming on board and training one of our locals young ladies Winona Wilson once the coffee machine is back and she will be doing lots of training with Sophie especially on the coffee machine and lots of other new and exciting beverage options are coming.





### **Financial & Resource Implications**

Accommodation and hospitality business units are operating within designated 2024/25 budget allocations.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the report related to accommodation and hospitality for December 2024.

**16.2 QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS  
HEALTHY HOUSING PROGRAM**

**Author:** Director Corporate and Community

**Attachments:** Nil

**PURPOSE (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)**

The accompanying report provides summary information related to the Queensland Government Healthy Housing Program. This information is to complement a deputation by Mr Cameron Horman, Manager, Program Delivery.

**BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION****Healthy Housing Program overview**

The Healthy Housing Program is built on three primary pillars - better health, healthier homes, and capacity building - each designed to address key challenges and improve outcomes for communities.

**1. Better Health**

**Reduce Health Risks:** Lower the prevalence of communicable diseases linked to substandard housing conditions.

**Community Engagement:** Provide tailored advice and practical support to promote healthy living practices among residents.

**2. Healthier Homes**

**Enhance the functionality of housing** by addressing critical infrastructure issues, ensuring access to essential utilities.

**Environmental Health:** Mitigate environmental health risks within and around participating households.

**3. Capacity Building**

**Empowered Households:** Improve resident's understanding of home maintenance responsibilities, issue reporting, and healthy living practices.

**Additionally, the program incorporates:**

**Health promotion:** Activities which benefit the wider community, including skin health, hygiene, pest management, and Rheumatic Health Disease prevention.

**Skill Development:** Offer professional development opportunities for local staff, including Environmental Health Workers (EHWs), Housing Officers, and potentially Indigenous Health Workers (IHWs).

**System Strengthening:** Bolster the capacity of council Environmental Health services and housing maintenance systems to better support social housing tenants.

The Healthy Housing Program represents a collaborative approach towards addressing housing-related health challenges, while empowering communities and enhancing service delivery.

**FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Queensland Government First Nations Housing and Homelessness, Department of Housing and Public Works will provide funding for the Healthy Housing Program. Department representatives will provide additional information pertaining to funding and the methodology for project rollout, during a deputation for Council.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the December 2024 report related to the Queensland Government Department Healthy Housing Program.

**16.3 QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING TENANCY SERVICES UPDATE**

**Author:** Director Corporate and Community

**Attachments:** Nil

**PURPOSE (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)**

Ms Alexia Kelso, Customer Tenancy Services, Queensland Government Department of Housing intends to provide a verbal status update related to the two hundred and twenty-nine (229) social housing properties in Gununa, Mornington Island.

**BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**

Written and verbal reports from the Queensland Government Department of Housing Tenancy Services provide advice related to accounts in arrears, temporary absences and subsequent investigations, vacancies, transitional properties and a register of need.

The Department of Housing Tenancy Services team have indicated a commitment to monthly meetings with Council representatives, on island, going forward.

The Department of Housing team is also committed to providing regular reports related to housing allocations and any housing tenancy matters.

The department has also introduced a property allocation form, with proposed Council endorsement and sign-off. There are no proposed property allocations for the month of December 2024. However, the Department of Housing infrastructure team seek Council's priority list for plug-in sites.

**FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial impacts for Council regarding Queensland Government Department of Housing Tenancy Services. (Council does retain the Q Build contract for maintenance and upgrade of social housing. However, this commercial arrangement is considered differently from the administrative allocation of housing for community members).

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the report related to Queensland Government Department of Housing Tenancy Services for November 2024.

**17 HOUSING DEPARTMENT**

Nil

**18 FACILITIES DEPARTMENT**

Nil

**19 ENGINEERING****19.1 ENGINEERING REPORT**

**Author:** Director Engineering

**Attachments:** Nil

**Airport**

Scott and Allan have maintained the airport well for the past few weeks, this week we have had Craig from building services help with the running of the airport with Allan and Scott's absents.

**Painting**

Painters are currently on leave.

**Town amenities**

Chris and Wade are undertaking roadside cleanups.

**Fencing**

Shannon has been installing driveways, helping with the airport memorial garden and cleaning the fencing area at the batching plant for preparation for next year.

**Roads and civil works**

The road crew have been held up due to the intermediate weather conditions, we are hoping the weather will hold out for a couple more weeks, next year we will be looking at starting a second road crew, so we can complete a lot more works over 2025 works schedule.

**Batching plant**

Ross and his team have been busy helping with the causeway and other projects around town, Ross has had the batching plant running well and keeping the area tidy over the past few months, looking great!

**Water and waste**

The water team have maintained water testing regimes. Tristan has been a great help and has been consistent. Modems for the Scada system have been replaced. Communications can now occur through mobile phones and the Teams viewer.

Waste designs are currently being prepared and will be provided early 2025.

**Dump and recycling**

The new recycle precinct is currently being designed.



## Health & animal management

Nikki was on the island 18 – 22 November 2024 to help organise for the arrival of Tropical Vets from 25 – 28 December 2024. During the Tropic Vet visit, 21 dogs and five cats were desexed and more pups were vaccinated. In late January 2025 flea, tick and worming treatments will commence again, which will last a further three months. Animals around town are looking a lot healthier, thanks to Narelle, Hellen, Nikki and Graham for successful Tropical Vets programs.

## Upcoming Projects

Several projects are awaiting funding and approval, including:

- Shed workshop (design approved going to tender)
- Laydown and washdown areas at the batching plant (DES looking at it)
- Water plant upgrades (waiting)
- Dump upgrades (waiting)
- Drainage upgrades around the football field and workshop (waiting)

## FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

All Engineering projects are operating within allocated 2024/25 budgets.

## RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Engineering division report for December 2024.

**20 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil

**21 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**

Nil

**22 NEXT MEETING**

**23 CLOSURE**