



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

Date: Wednesday 23 April 2025
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: Council Chamber
Cnr Lardil Street & Djinkiya Street
Gununa

MORNINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL

Ordinary Council Meeting

23 April 2025

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

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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 - 26 MARCH 2025

Author: Director Corporate and Community

Attachments: 1. Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes - 26 March 2025

IMPLICATIONS

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council held on Wednesday 26 March 2025 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

**MINUTES OF MORNINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MISSION ROAD, GUNUNA
ON WEDNESDAY, 26 MARCH 2025 AT 9:00 AM**

1 OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting was opened by Mayor Richard Sewter at 9:15am.

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 and Cr Jane Ah Kit.

Gary Uhlmann (Chief Executive Officer) and Skye Price (Director Corporate and Community).

4 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

5 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST – COUNCILLORS AND STAFF

Mayor Richard Sewter – Item 15.3 – Local Advisory Committee – Expression of interest

Councillor Jane Ah Kit – Item 20.1 – Leasing and licencing – Office space

6 CONDOLENCES AND MEMORIALS

A minute's silence was observed.

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**7.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 26 FEBRUARY 2025****OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council held on Wednesday 26 February 2025 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

8 DEPUTATIONS

Dr Chris McLaughlin, Indigenous Land Use Agreement and engagement with Gulf Region Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC).

9 ACTION SCHEDULE

9.1 ACTION SCHEDULE

RESOLUTION 2025/50

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Robert Thompson

That Councillors receive and note the action schedule for March 2025.

CARRIED 5/0

10 POLICY DOCUMENTS

Nil

RECEPTION & CONSIDERATION OF OFFICERS REPORTS

11 MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS REPORTS

To be added.

10:30am, Mayor adjourned the meeting

10:40am, Mayor reconvened the meeting

10:40am, Deputy Mayor Bobby Thompson left the meeting

12 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

12.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

RESOLUTION 2025/51

Moved: Cr Jane Ah Kit

Seconded: Cr Renee Wilson

That Councillors receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's report for March 2025.

CARRIED 4/0

11:35am, Mayor adjourned the meeting
11:41am, Mayor reconvened the meeting

11:41am, Deputy Mayor Bobby Thompson returned to the meeting

13 FINANCE

13.1 FINANCIAL REPORT

RESOLUTION 2025/52

Moved: Mayor Richard Sewter
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Robert Thompson

That Council receive and note the financial report for March 2025.

CARRIED 5/0

12:00pm, Mayor adjourned the meeting
4:00pm, Mayor reconvened the meeting

This enabled a meeting with Gulf Regional Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC)

4:08pm, Mayor departed the meeting
4:12pm, Mayor returned to the meeting

4:08pm, Councillor Farrah Linden departed the meeting
4:12pm, Councillor Farrah Linden returned to the meeting

4:08pm, Councillor Farrah Linden departed the meeting
4:12pm, Councillor Farrah Linden returned to the meeting

4:15pm, Councillor Renee Wilson departed the meeting
4:18pm, Councillor Renee Wilson returned to the meeting

14 HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

14.1 HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

RESOLUTION 2025/53

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

That Council receive and note the human resources report for March 2025.

CARRIED 5/0

15 GOVERNANCE

15.1 CHILD SAFE ORGANISATIONS ACT 2024

RESOLUTION 2025/54

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Cr Renee Wilson

That Council receive and note the report related to introduction of the Child Safe Organisations Act 2024, as well as the accompanying Child Safe Organisations Act standards, universal principle and reportable conduct scheme.

CARRIED 5/0

15.2 INQUIRY INTO CROCODILE CONTROL AND CONSERVATION BILL 2025

RESOLUTION 2025/55

Moved: Deputy Mayor Robert Thompson

Seconded: Cr Farrah Linden

That Council make a submission to the Queensland Parliamentary Health, Environment and Innovation Committee about crocodile control and conservation, by the Thursday 3 April 2025 deadline.

CARRIED 5/0

15.3 LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

RESOLUTION 2025/56

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Robert Thompson

That Council extend a public promotion of Local Advisory Committee Expression of Interest process until 16 April 2025 and consider Helen Moon's Expression of Interest for participation as a part of the Local Advisory Committee with any additional Expressions of Interest, during the April Ordinary Council meeting.

CARRIED 4/0

Mayor Richard Sewter declared an interest in item 15.3. He abstained from discussion and voting, leaving the room during the matter's consideration.

15.4 QUEENSLAND DISASTER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE**RESOLUTION 2025/57**

Moved: Cr Jane Ah Kit
Seconded: Cr Renee Wilson

That Council endorse a formal change of the May Ordinary meeting, from Wednesday the 28 May 2025, to Wednesday 21 May 2025, to accommodate Council participation at the Queensland Disaster Management Conference.

CARRIED 5/0

16 PLANNING AND COMMUNITIES**16.1 152 LARDIL STREET - LEASE SURRENDER AND EXECUTION****RESOLUTION 2025/58**

Moved: Cr Jane Ah Kit
Seconded: Mayor Richard Sewter

That Council receives and notes the report related to surrender of the former lease at 152 Lardil Street for a single dwelling; and subsequent execution of new lease for the duplex that has been constructed at the same address.

CARRIED 5/0

16.2 ACCOMMODATION AND HOSPITALITY REPORT**RESOLUTION 2025/59**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Robert Thompson
Seconded: Cr Renee Wilson

That Council receive and note the report related to accommodation and hospitality for March 2025.

CARRIED 5/0

16.3 QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING TENANCY SERVICES UPDATE**RESOLUTION 2025/60**

Moved: Cr Jane Ah Kit
Seconded: Cr Farrah Linden

That Council receive and note the report related to Queensland Government Department of Housing Tenancy Services for March 2025.

CARRIED 5/0

17 HOUSING DEPARTMENT**17.1 HOUSING & FACILITIES REPORT****RESOLUTION 2025/61**

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Mayor Richard Sewter

That Council receive and note the housing report for March 2025.

CARRIED 5/0

18 FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

Nil

19 ENGINEERING**19.1 ENGINEERING REPORT****RESOLUTION 2025/62**

Moved: Cr Farrah Linden

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Robert Thompson

That Council receive and note the Engineering division report for March 2025.

CARRIED 5/0

20 GENERAL BUSINESS**20.1 LEASING AND LICENCING – OFFICE SPACE***Actions*

- a) That a formal audit of commercial office space for leasing and licencing;
- b) That Local airfare scheme be reviewed and monitored to ensure smoother processes.

Councillor Jane Ah Kit declared an interest related to office space for Jika Kangka Gununamanda Ltd.

21 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Nil

22 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 23 April 2025.

23 CLOSURE

Mayor Sewter closed the meeting at 5:18pm.

Gary Uhlmann
Chief Executive Officer.

Minutes Confirmed:

Mayor

Date: [enter date](#)

Gary Uhlmann
Chief Executive Officer

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

8 DEPUTATIONS

10:00am Mr Luke Bowering, Principal, Mornington Island State School

1:00pm Ms Nicki Tiel, Principal Program Officer & Glenn Chambers, Senior Project Officer,
First Nations Housing and Homelessness – First Nations Housing and Homelessness

9 ACTION SCHEDULE

To be tabled on the day of the meeting.

10 POLICY DOCUMENTS**10.1 ANIMAL MANAGEMENT - DRAFT POLICY**

Author: Director Corporate and Community

Attachments: 1 Animal Council Australia - Local Councils and animal management
2 DRAFT - Mornington Shire Council - Animal Management Policy

PURPOSE (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)

Council has received advice about ongoing dog bites throughout Gununa. To enable Council to proactively address animal management, rather than reactively responding to animal management incidents, a draft animal management policy has been devised and is provided for Elected Member awareness.

BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Council has received anecdotal feedback related to excessive presentations at Mornington Island Hospital, as a direct result of dog bites.

As such, a draft Animal Management Policy has been devised. The draft policy creates a framework for responsible animal ownership and community safety. It also takes account of the Animal Care Australia March 2025 published paper, *Local Councils and Animal Management*.

The draft policy still needs to be refined, particularly in the context of legislative jurisdiction to devise, then implement supporting by-laws, as well as appoint authorised officers.

Introduction of an Animal Management Policy needs to include community education and publicity related to the components of the policy, as well as very clear community information about when the policy will be introduced and become enforceable.

There is also an important education campaign requirement to encourage community members to notify Council when roaming, menacing, or injury occurs. This permits Council to follow-up the alleged incident in real time and retain accurate data pertaining to responsible animal management (or otherwise).

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Animal management activities are undertaken in the context of the Engineering Division's (formerly Technical Services) veterinary services programs.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the draft operational Animal Management Policy.



Local Councils and Animal Management - 2025

“Councils should promote pet keeping”

**Local Councils & Animal Management****1****Version 2 - March 2025**

Animal Care Australia Incorporated – INC1801209

ABN: 36 438 686 995 Tax File No: 508 268 553 CFN:25599

Document development:

Version 1 of this document was approved by the ACA Committee 14th August 2023

Version 2 of this document was updated with grammatical corrections: 20th March 2025

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Animal Management must be about animal care (welfare) and not neighbourhood amenity

This document concentrates on the importance of Council maintaining the right relationship with its residents and not falling victim to the ideologies of animal rights extremist views. Sadly, many Councils across Australia have seen newly elected Councillors attempt to impose their ideological views on the community.

Local Council Animal Management must be about animal welfare!

Animal welfare is NOT about numbers – it is ensuring animals are receiving food and water, the right housing, are well cared for and maintained.

Animal Care Australia strongly recommends Councils adopt an objective of supporting the keeping of animals.

“... Council acknowledges the importance animals play to the wellbeing of our residents. Council’s default position is to encourage and promote the keeping of animals within our local government area ”

Animal care within your Shire/municipality is not achieved by restricting the numbers of animals that can be housed or bred, in fact, restrictions can prove to be detrimental to many individual breeds of animals

and have a plethora of un-intended consequences.

Throughout this document Animal Care Australia shows animal welfare and care is best improved by ensuring compliance with current legislation and educating the public on their responsibilities.

This is the sensible way of improving welfare outcomes, strengthening the relationship between Council and your residents, not arbitrary caps on numbers and heavy-handed tactics by rangers, inspectors or animal management officers.



Who is Animal Care Australia?

Animal Care Australia is a national incorporated association advocating for higher welfare outcomes for animals by educating hobbyists and keepers and lobbying governments.

Animal Care Australia was founded in early 2018 to establish an organisation run solely by volunteers. With extreme animal rights and animal liberationist ideologies influencing government legislation, regulation, and policy at our expense and to the detriment of our animals and pets, it has become necessary to provide government with a balancing voice. The association has a strong committee composed of representatives for each major animal group – dogs, cats, birds, horses, reptiles, farm animals, small mammals, native mammals, and mobile educators.

By uniting the broad spectrum of animal groups, collectively we offer an experienced, sensible approach to animal welfare. By educating our members and the general public about the importance of treating animals with kindness and respect for their needs and promoting the humane treatment of animals to improve animal welfare outcomes, ACA is in the unique position of lobbying and advocating for all animals within our care.

Animal Care Australia does not support irresponsible breeding or individuals who commit acts of cruelty against animals.

Animal Care Australia provides priority to the following:

- **consulting with government for stronger welfare outcomes**
- **encouraging government to increase education of the public in animal welfare and best care techniques**
- **educating the public on handling their animals with kindness & respect and the importance of the animals' needs**
- **educating everyone in the differences between animal welfare and animal rights**

Animal Care Australia is currently recognised nationally by all state government animal welfare departments and we are actively consulting as a key stakeholder in all animal welfare legislation reviews being conducted. We are directly consulting



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and advising the departments including revising codes of practice for the keeping of all pets.

Animal Care Australia opposes attempts to reduce, restrict or impose caps on the numbers of animals being kept in our care.

- ✓ Animal Care Australia implores all levels of government to provide more adequate funding for educating the public on their responsibilities as pet owners including supporting & promoting animal keeper associations & clubs.
- ✓ Animal Care Australia encourages government & local council to educate the public on responsible buying/adopting.
- ✓ Animal Care Australia encourages government and local councils to provide initiatives to the public that ensure people of lower income communities can maintain their animals' welfare needs — such as concessions for veterinary treatment, de-sexing programs, food and housing through vouchers or other assistance.
- ✓ When matters arise that require intervention by Councils, a documented process for the issuing of orders must be implemented.

For example: education must be the first course of action; checking on implementation of that education; then warnings where failure occurs; followed by fines and then restricted ownership orders. Any attempts to reduce the numbers being hoarded must be reasonable, and gradual, to encourage any hoarding behaviour to slow and to provide the resident with an understanding of proper animal care.

- ✓ Clear animal cruelty situations should be dealt with by the relevant compliance and enforcement regulations





What are the solutions?

There is no easy one step fix all solution. The fact of the matter is the more legislation and regulations you implement the greater the incentive to hide. This creates a higher level of non-compliance, becoming more difficult to police and ultimately the victims (the animals) are more greatly impacted with welfare standards diminishing in a bid to avoid detection.

Animal Care Australia strongly advocates more focus should be aimed at changing the main perspective to educating about responsible pet ownership.

Animal Care Australia encourages Council to implement responsible pet ownership programs.

Educating the public is a key step in changing behaviour. Education needs to be themed with the aim of making pet owners more aware of their responsibilities. In general, most people are unaware that there are Codes of Practice that must be followed. They know that animal cruelty laws exist, but they do not generally know what is written in those laws.

Local Councils are in a unique position to provide this education. Ideally education needs to start in our schools but Councils can assist by including responsible pet ownership information in mail-outs/information leaflets, annual reports, or specialised promotional material. Councils often hold fairs and other community events — one of which could be a local pet fair inviting residents, local business, and local animal welfare advocates to share their knowledge and promote responsible ownership. Children are usually the ones seeking to own a pet and they are also the keepers and breeders for the decades that follow. Introducing basic pet care and the responsibility of pet ownership skills to children will enhance the understanding of pet ownership within the community and more specifically will help overcome many barriers within multi-cultural communities, where often pet welfare and ownership has been inherited from different societies with a vastly different understanding of how animals should be kept.

Educating the community about responsible buying and the need to ensure you buy from a reputable breeder is crucial in this era of technology where not-so-credible sellers are attracting the new generations that live in the technological



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space. Once upon a time if you wanted a pet, you read an advertisement, you phoned, you visited the home of the breeder, you saw where and the conditions of how it was bred and you chose the animal you wanted to take home.

Today, pictures of animals are posted, money is transferred and quite often animals are exchanged with the new owners not having seen where they were born, the parents or the standards they had been living in. In an increasing trend no animals are exchanged at all — and the buyer is scammed.

Animal Care Australia acknowledges Local Councils have been left to implement their own additional rules for keeping and breeding animals — yet most residents are completely unaware these policies exist.

Animal keeping associations strongly encourage better welfare standards. Members of animal clubs engage in positive peer pressure to maintain high standards and improve welfare. The sharing of husbandry techniques and awareness of ethical and responsible breeding becomes the norm.

Local Councils should be working with and supporting these associations. Council needs to support the clubs and it needs to see the pet keeping public as one 'large' club where people are incentivised to do the right thing — rather than only concentrating on those doing the wrong thing.

Initiatives to improve animal welfare and in doing so solving neighbourhood amenity issues

Initiatives and incentives are vital in changing societal behaviour. 'Reward the good — punish the bad.' Too much focus is on punishing the bad and very little reward is available for those people doing the right thing.

Local Councils should be providing concessions for veterinary treatment, de-sexing costs, food, and housing for those under hardship circumstances.





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People who register their pets should not be charged a fee for the 'privilege' instead when a pet is registered the owner should be rewarded, with a voucher discounting the cost of their next vaccination or on microchipping the pet.

Improve Council management

- In some States/territories Local Councils are responsible for much of the information not being updated into pet registries and therefore records are constantly inaccurate.
- ✓ **Councils should invest more time and finances into ensuring accurate records are maintained.**

- Local Council fees vary and some are too expensive – discouraging the payment of fees and the intended use of a Registry.
- ✓ **While fees are now an integral part of how Councils cover their costs, Councils should look at alternatives for incentivising pet owners to participate in responsible pet ownership, such as coupons for discounted pet supplies etc. These can be part of building a stronger relationship with pet-based business.**

- Animal Care Australia has concerns pet registries are being used by Councils to ascertain the number of animals at each property and the number of litters being produced – to the detriment of the breeder's privacy – particularly given the high level of flaws and inaccurate information being stored within the Registry.
- ✓ **Councils should have structured methods for ascertaining whether a breeder is exceeding state legislation. Restriction of animal numbers, particularly puppies and kittens, should not be used inappropriately, instead animal welfare should be used as a measure of responsible ownership. If state legislation is not being disregarded then Council really has no business utilising registries or animal management plans in order to easily address local amenity issues.**

- Local Councils mandate expensive DA or permit requirements that actually discourage a relationship with residents.



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- ✓ **Permits should not be a financial burden on pet owners, or a cash grab by Council.**
The requirement for DA's should only be placed on pet keepers who intend on building elaborate breeding facilities and not on everyday pet owners.

- ☒ Most Council's rangers are not adequately trained in species specific husbandry, keeping, housing, and feeding requirements. Some rangers may be versed in dog or cat knowledge, but even that is limited in many council regions.

- ✓ **Councils can do more to ensure their rangers and animal management officers receive broader training on species. However, most 'domestic animal' based legislation is primarily aimed at the keeping of dogs and cats and so it is vital Councils encourage their officers to build relationships with animal keeping associations in order to gain a greater understanding of how species should be kept. This relationship will also prove beneficial when issues arise, as both parties can work together in order to find the best resolutions that place the welfare of the animals first. State or national based associations can still be contacted where local associations are non-existent.**

- ☒ Many Council rangers and Animal Management Officers are ex-animal shelter staff.

- ✓ **While Councils often believe this is beneficial, the opposite can be true. These individuals come from a space where they have seen and experienced the worst of pet ownership, and this only ensures a bias when performing their roles. Their roles must be about encouraging pet ownership — not dictating their personal experiences and/or other ideologies that have been embedded during that previous experience.**

- ☒ Animal Management Plans have in the past been drafted and implemented without the appropriate key stakeholder input and DO NOT reflect key requirements for the keeping of pets and livestock.



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- ✓ **Local neighbourhood sentiment and bias SHOULD NOT be the basis for an animal welfare or management policy.**
- ☒ Still today, most Councils do not provide appropriate notice of an impending review and rarely seek out the local, regional, or state animal keeping associations to consult.
- ✓ **This is vital as these groups and organisations have the greatest level of experience and knowledge of best practices for their specific species.**



It is reprehensible that Councils require rate-paying residents to pay additional exorbitant fees for what is a basic right of owning a pet. This is pure revenue-raising/profitteering and reflects poorly on that Council.

It is outrageous to expect a small animal hobbyist (recreational) breeder to pay a large annual fee to be able to continue to maintain healthy viable breeding lines. Contrary to popular belief hobbyists are not breeding their

animals to make a profit. They are passionate about improving the health and temperament of their animals.

Annual permit fees for additional animals do not improve welfare or protect animals, instead they will cause owners to practice 'underground' and no longer seek to be involved in animal keeping community activities such as the animal related clubs. These clubs and groups are the information hubs on educating best animal welfare and ethical breeding practices to members and the general public, and with Local Council policies enforcing restrictions and revenue-raising, this valuable information by these experts will no longer be shared and put into practice.

Imposing blanket limits on numbers of animals that can be kept, especially when based solely on land size such as is often used in Council management plans is irresponsible and more often impractical.



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Animal Care Australia strongly discourages policies that restrict keeping of animals on the supposed basis of ‘preventing noise, odour, or other issues for neighbours’. Laws are already in place to deal with neighbourhood nuisance issues including matters due to poor animal keeping practices.

In fact, the stronger Council encourages responsible pet ownership, the greater the animal welfare outcomes. These improved outcomes also reduce the number of issues relating to noise, odour, etc. Restricting any companion animal species WILL result in BREED-SPECIFIC EXTINCTIONS.

Parliamentary Inquiries findings

Multiple Parliamentary Inquiries have received a number of submissions that supported a total ban on the breeding of companion animals for commercial purposes or limiting the number of animals allowed to be kept by breeders. While the respective Committees have acknowledged these submissions, the continued finding is that they were unable to articulate how limiting the number of animals might improve animal welfare outcomes. It has also not been possible to determine why an arbitrary number of animals, such as three or ten, was considered the appropriate maximum number of breeding animals allowed, irrespective of the type of breed or whether the animal was a dog or cat etc.

The Committees received no strong evidence that the scale of breeding operations correlated with the welfare of the breeding animals. Indeed, they have received submissions from local councils, animal shelter operators, veterinarians, the RSPCA and Animal Welfare League NSW highlighting inadequate welfare conditions in many small-scale breeding operations consisting of only one or two breeding animals.

With the findings of Parliamentary Committees concluding “the number of animals kept by a breeder is not in itself a factor which determines the welfare of breeding animals” and with many of the potential reasons NOT to place restrictions now being experienced in Victoria where shelters and pounds are inundated because of an increase in underground and unethical breeders

How can your Council justify any restrictions?



Council have a responsibility to be aware of what is happening around them.

While Animal Care Australia focusses on all pets, we acknowledge most Councils have a responsibility for how dogs and cats are kept in the local government area. This responsibility is legislated by the states or territories.

Councils should be adhering to the legislation as it is prescribed but need to remain vigilant when proposals are drafted that introduce further restrictions, such as what has occurred in Victoria.

In 2017 legislation in Victoria was introduced that restricted dog and cat breeding to small numbers of female animals and limited numbers of litters. The legislation introduced in Victoria has seen a drastic increase in:

- X — unhealthy puppies & kittens at veterinary surgeries & shelters***
- X — complaints relating to scammers and non-supply of animals where deposits were paid**
- X — unregistered breeders (essentially ‘puppy farms’ by the very definition)**
- X — prices skyrocketing for all breeds of puppies and kittens (pre-covid19) with exorbitant prices during Covid19.**

- (Source: <https://www.smh.com.au/business/consumer-affairs/penned-in-victorians-pining-for-a-pet-drive-cruel-smuggling-trade-20200731-p55h6n.html>)

There has been a marked decrease in:

- **Registered breeders who are actually breeding their animals**
- **numbers of healthy puppies and kittens**
- **breeding females available to other breeders for genetic diversity**

With the restriction of only ten females per property many shelters & rescues have been unable to take on additional animals — resulting in some needing to be euthanased to maintain numbers as per permits. Statistics in Victoria for 2024 still indicate this is still an ongoing issue. It could be argued that the situation has become worse since that legislation was introduced, with the State Government and Councils having to spend far more money on shelters and rescues.

Despite assurances that services & organisations would be exempt - changes to local council codes have seen many ‘boarding & rescue’ facilities close or run on limited numbers.



Councils should not be over reaching and implementing additional restrictions above those legislated by the state/territory.

Shelters and Councils

Limitations in numbers will not reduce the numbers of animals entering and dying in shelters.

Animal Rights proponents claim number restrictions are necessary to stem the tide of animals entering and dying in shelters.

There is no question that too many animals die in shelters and pounds each year. However, there is no connection between the breeding of a healthy litter of well - tempered, healthy animals and the death of a stray dog in a shelter.

The number of animals in shelters is as a result of uneducated pet owners and unethical breeders.

Irresponsible breeding contributes but it does not solely overload the shelters. Pet buyers buying on the spot without a clue what they are getting themselves and the animals into is the problem and it is not being addressed!

Most responsible breeders are available to answer questions and help new owners to train and protect the health and well-being of their breeds. They are part of the solution to community issues and should not be treated as if they are the problem.

Buyers who purchase from less reputable sources will have less education and training from breeders and this will contribute to increasing the number of animals in shelters. The majority of dogs and cats in shelters is due to a lack of knowledge of the breed's behaviour, temperament, and environmental needs.

This can only be changed by education — NOT restrictions.

Limiting numbers will increase the numbers of breeding animals having to be removed from a responsible person's care.

A 'limit law' penalises a responsible breeder who is not a nuisance or threat to neighbours; who keeps their animals in perfect health and conditions; who places animals responsibly and is a support system for the buyers, and MOST importantly sees them facing the loss of one or more of their companions.



Most people who breed see their animals as part of their family and the emotional cost to the breeder and the risk of homelessness for the animals should be paramount and not be underestimated by Councils or their local laws.

Limiting the numbers a resident can care for will not prevent them from keeping more than they are legally able to.

A number limit is difficult, almost impossible to enforce without increased presence of animal control or policing agencies and will lead to a decrease in micro-chipping and council registration, vetting etc, to prevent cross-referencing.



At any given time, numbers can fluctuate and enforcing over limit numbers is a very difficult task.

- animals will be hidden
- animals that are over the permitted number will not receive veterinary care or other vital welfare needs due to the fear of being exposed to having over the maximum number.
- responsible breeders who have welcomed buyers to their property will be more reluctant to do so if they fear being caught for more than permitted which then promotes online or car park selling

Education — NOT restriction of numbers

Legislation and added restrictions via Council policies are detrimental to animal welfare.

Rather than looking at introducing more laws and regulations we need to be looking at better ways of housing and caring for breeding animals which does not place them in undesirable situations that compromise their welfare.

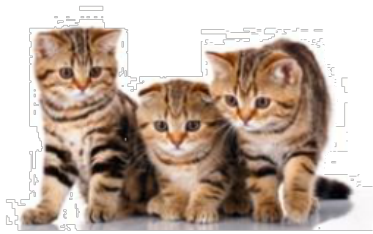
According to recent studies there are approx. 6.4 million dogs owned and approx. 5.3 million cats owned in Australia.

(Source: [Animal Medicines Australia Report 2022](#))



Local Councils & Animal Management

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Each year it is estimated 450,000 puppies and 350,000 kittens are required to replace previous pets due to natural occurrences such as the death of family pets etc. to fill the demand.

Dogs and cats are used for a variety of reasons including companionship and the benefits of

this inter-species relationship with the desire of humans to share their lives with pets is well documented.

This is not something that will change. It is not something Councils should be ignoring or trying to restrict.

The demand for puppies/kittens will continue to exist. People will not miraculously want to buy less animals just because breeders cannot breed as many. Someone will breed these animals to fill the demand.

**When demand is increased values skyrocket!
Increased values equals more incentive to produce irresponsibly**

Encourage Responsible Breeding

Animal Care Australia encourages Councils to introduce incentives that would encourage more reputable, well educated, skillful breeders whose focus is on what is best for the animals in every aspect.

This is not reliant on how many animals they own or breed or what type they breed, or how many litters/young they have or where they choose to sell them. It is solely reliant on how they feel about their animals and their desire to get it right for the welfare of their animals, their breeds, the future generations, and the buyers. These are the breeders who should be encouraged and rewarded for their achievements and their ability to consistently breed beautiful, healthy animals that increases the joy of ownership for those who then provide them with their 'forever homes.'

Ethical breeders are knowledgeable. They run long-term ethical breeding programs maintaining the highest welfare outcomes for their animals and are often mentors to others through club activities, usually as volunteers.

**Local Councils & Animal Management**

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As a Local Council, do not inexplicably paint them as animal abusers and criminals by placing additional burdens on them.

Responsible breeders SHOULD be treated as HEROES - NOT CRIMINALS.

Do not punish the many for the actions of the few!





Pets teach us empathy, compassion, responsibility, unconditional love —to name a few. They are with us for a few years of our lives — but we are with them ALL of their lives!



Surely, a Local Council is not prepared to suggest that Australian families should be deprived of their right to own the animals of their choice, which they have deemed is best suited to their needs, surrounds and circumstances?

Recommendations for species

Policies that restrict keeping of animals in an attempt to pre-empt and hence prevent noise, odour or other issues for neighbours are discouraged. Such restrictions, including permit requirements, inflict an unnecessary compliance burden on residents and staff which only discourages animal keeping needlessly. Laws are already in place to deal with neighbourhood nuisance issues including matters due to poor animal keeping practices.

Birds:

Animal Care Australia strongly opposes specifying bird number limits for any property with an area exceeding one thousand square metres (0.1 ha).

The important factor for Council is the construction of appropriate housing/enclosures and the standard of welfare the birds are maintained under.

States/territories have codes of practice that should be followed and Councils should encourage the keeping of all birds according to those codes

Domestic and aviary birds:

A variety of avian species are routinely kept nationally and all states and territories require some level of licensing for certain native bird species.



Every bird species has its own management, husbandry, enclosure size and welfare requirements.

Many species are best kept as a community, with others kept as bonded pairs. The understanding of their welfare and which applies to each species is best understood by their keepers – not by Council.

Land or enclosure size is an unreliable indicator of noise or odour. Recommended enclosure size varies considerably, along with diet, breeding capacity, and the ability to move excess newly bred birds, making the restriction of numbers extremely unwise.

Fowl and ground birds:

Animal Care Australia recognises the need for many Councils to limit the keeping of roosters and peacocks due to excessive noise produced at the most in-opportune times for neighbours. Having stated that, Animal Care Australia does not support the restriction of these birds in non-residential zones — regardless of land size.



Restricting other ground dwelling birds such as pheasant, duck or quail holds no merit regardless of zoning.

Avicultural Clubs/Associations encourage their members to adhere to existing Codes of Practice. Council Animal Management Plans should point directly to the Associations and Codes of Practice requiring birds to be kept under their guidance.

Cats:

Animal Care Australia does not support the limiting of cats on land sizes greater than $\frac{1}{4}$ acres.

This simply defies logic, particularly if your primary reasoning is 'land size.'

Cats do better as social animals, and should not be restricted to being solely owned (unless that is preferred by the owners' circumstances)



It should be noted Animal Care Australia opposes the limits imposed by breeding restrictive legislations implemented under the guise of anti-puppy farm/cattery ideologies.

Cat containment laws:

Animal Care Australia supports cat containment to the owners' property. Wording of these laws should not imply the keeping of cats solely indoors.

The introduction of such laws should be assisted by Councils via support for DA's required to install outdoor cat enclosures, or installation of netting on or close to the fence-line. Council should not impose a 'metre from boundary' ruling when such an installation is being proposed. This assistance should include the waiving of fees for these DA's.

Animal Care Australia recognises the need to protect native species from predation and prevent nuisance to neighbours, but more importantly the welfare of the cats is paramount. Cats contained to their owner's property are more likely to be protected from:

- Being hit by a car
- Being trapped or poisoned
- Becoming the victim of another animal (eg: dogs)
- Complaints & threats from neighbours
- Being stolen
- Being injured
- Killing native wildlife
- Other territorial cats
- Catching transmissible diseases
- Infestations of fleas/ticks/parasites



It is reasonable to expect cats to be kept contained to their owner's property in the same way that we expect dogs, horses, and rabbits to be contained.

Provisions must be provided for cats to be 'walked' on a lead/harness in the same way they are provided for dogs.



Dogs:

Animal Care Australia does not support the limiting of dogs on land sizes greater than ¼ acres.

This simply defies logic, particularly if your primary reasoning is 'land size.' Many Councils place illogical number restrictions on the keeping of dogs on land sizes greater than a standard residential block and

then go on to provide exclusions for working dogs on these same land sizes.

Councils also forget to consider the requirements for larger dogs is far greater than smaller, and yet they place the same restrictions regardless.

In the opposite context, placing bans on dogs in properties consistent with the size of units, caravans, or town houses completely discounts the ability of residents to keep smaller breed dogs in these premises. The elderly more often than not are the victims of such nonsensical restrictions.

It should be noted Animal Care Australia opposes the limits imposed by breeding restrictive legislations implemented under the guise of anti-puppy farm/cattery ideologies.

Horses and Livestock

When limiting numbers on horses and livestock, emphasis needs to be prioritised to the management system of the animals, the type of property (whether the land is cleared and level, or bush and steep, or contains waterways), and the welfare needs of the animals. The number of animals is simply irrelevant, it is really about how the property is managed and whether the animals are managed in a way that improves the land or degrades it.





A property that is properly set up with equi-central, cell grazing or other rational grazing systems can support many more animals in higher welfare conditions than poorly maintained land with set stocking of only two animals. Proper grazing management also protects properties against fire, and limiting numbers of animals will lead to higher fuel loads and neglect of harder to manage areas, as landowners focus on the easier and cheaper to manage areas. This comes to the detriment of native species in the area, as well as the human inhabitants and their horses and livestock.

Horses and livestock are herd animals and should be kept in groups of more than two to meet their welfare needs and herd dynamics. Not doing so will create new welfare issues for the animals in your region.

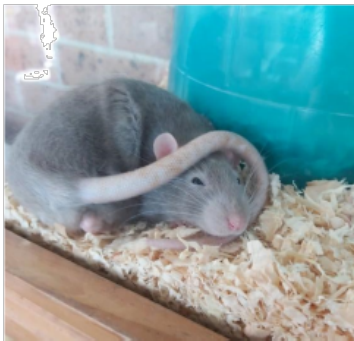
Often Council laws only serve to punish good land managers, and negatively affect the welfare of their animals, and the productivity and appearance of their land. At worst it is discrimination against small acreage owners, preventing them from following proven farming principles utilising grazing behaviours of horses and livestock to properly manage their grazing lands.

Quality rural fringes are diminishing and poor acreage property planning with incorrect restrictive animal numbers is contributing to the degradation and misuse of land, further feeding the perception that animals are to blame for the loss of land quality. This is a misconception and can be rectified with education - of councils as well as of landowners.

Instead of limiting the numbers of horses and livestock to unrealistically, unhealthy, and poor welfare standards, council could invest in property management programs and workshops for acreage owners.

Courses that educate those who are new to the rural lifestyle on how to manage small acreage with animals, identify grass species and weeds, how to protect waterways and natural resources, and preserve native animal habitats on their land has been hugely successful in NSW and Victoria, with little to no cost to participants. These programs are easy to run and encourage landowners to see the value of their investment and take pride in looking after the land and their animals to a high standard. This benefits everyone, not just those that live there, but for tourism as well.



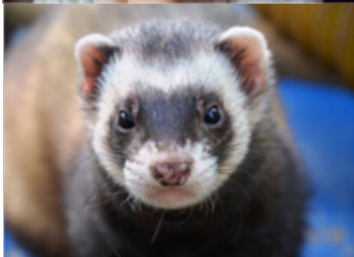


Small Mammals

Rats, mice, rabbits, ferrets, and guinea pigs are primarily indoor pets and invariably kept in small enclosures. These animals do not exhibit extreme noise, are not intrusive and are free of the diseases and pathogens that often plague their wild counter parts. In fact, they pose no health problem to their owners and are renowned for keeping themselves well groomed.



For the club registered breeding community any proposed limitations are generally unrealistic, especially given the average littler size for some of these species is larger than most proposed limits suggesting that these proposals do not consider the biological and social necessities of some species. Additionally, due to their short lifespans it is vital that several adult pairs be kept at any given time to ensure that the diversity and quality of the gene pool is maintained. Without allowing owners to keep 'breeders', the health of the species will invariably suffer.



Owners of these smaller pets work to improve the quality of the animal in health and temperament and Animal Care Australia has policies for registered breeders who are bound by their published Code of Ethics and Code of Practice along with provisions provided within all current animal welfare acts.



It is our stance that number limits on keeping small mammal species is unrealistic. Many of these animals are colony animals, and it is important for their health and well-being to be kept in larger numbers than what most policies are imposing.



In addition Animal Care Australia supports the scientific research (Short Communication: Rats Demand For Group Size - Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science 7 (4) 267-272 – 2004) into ideal colony numbers for rats, which have demonstrated that the restating of numbers is not compatible with the fulfilment of basic social needs and high welfare standards. As companion animals allowing more appropriate colony sizes poses no threat to community, health, or animal welfare.

Councils place restrictions on the keeping of pet rabbits and ferrets to outdoor enclosures only. This is completely inappropriate and places the animals at greater risk of disease and illness.

All small mammals are best kept indoors where their living conditions can be monitored and maintained and reduces the risk of death from biological control methods often utilised by Councils for wild populations of European rabbits or hares.

Councils must not place gender restrictions on the keeping of small mammals.



Reptiles and Amphibians

Animal Care Australia strongly opposes Councils specifying reptile number limits for any property.

Reptile keeping is legislated and monitored by native wildlife licensing legislation in each state and territory. It should be noted that under that legislation there are no limits placed on numbers of reptiles permitted to be kept.

Reptile keepers are strictly monitored, with annual returns required, along with a Code of Practice that requires all reptile keepers to abide by animal standards for husbandry, feeding, enclosure sizes and more.

Council SHOULD NOT be interfering with legislation that already governs the keeping of reptiles.

The vast number of reptiles licensed are kept indoors, in enclosures in children's bedrooms etc as pets.

A variety of reptile species are routinely kept in with many species kept as bonded pairs or as individual animals. The understanding of their welfare and which



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applies to each species is best understood by their keepers – not by council. Land size is not an indicator of noise or odour. There are no noise implications with reptiles. Recommended enclosure size varies considerably, along with diet, breeding capacity, and the ability to move excess animals, making the restriction of numbers extremely unwise.

Animal Care Australia notes most Councils have recognised the keeping of reptiles is managed by state/territory native wildlife legislation and as such do not include reptiles in their animal management plans.





Local Councils & Animal Management

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Animal Care Australia has engaged with government on a range of issues throughout Australia. The list that follows outlines some of these matters, including parliamentary inquiries, Ministerial, MP, Department Director meetings, appointments as major stakeholders, and numerous submissions in jurisdictions nationally.

Animal Care Australia will continue to stand up for pet and domestic animals and their owners. Here is just some of what we have done and will continue to do:

- Lobby for higher animal welfare outcomes in welfare Acts
- Change the narrative of animal welfare from punishment to education
- Make higher animal welfare the 'norm' among pet owners
- Oppose restricted breeding legislations.
- Oppose restrictions on pet numbers that can be kept (now only five animals in some Local Councils)
- Oppose the creation of an unregulated Shelter Industry
- Introduce education about pet ownership into primary & higher school education curriculums
- Encourage education on responsible pet ownership, responsible breeding, and responsible buying of pets.
- Lobby for greater funding of education on responsible pet ownership, responsible breeding, and responsible buying of pets.
- Support pets in strata
- Lobby for greater accountability of animal welfare compliance organisations
- Oppose Animal Rights Extremist propaganda
- Oppose Animal Rights Extremist influences on government
- Oppose 'personhood' rights being provided to animals
- Encourage research into more alternatives for 1080
- Encourage expansion of and education about existing alternatives for 1080
- Support continuation of animals in education arena (zoos, mobile exhibitors etc)
- Support and legislate for the protection of animal victims of domestic violence
- Oppose programs that allow the release or continuance of feral animals in the natural environment
- Support initiatives for the subsidising of de-sexing programs



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- Strengthen animal welfare Acts by removing ambiguity and clearly defining animal cruelty
- Ensuring species specific Standards (Codes Of Practice) for keeping and breeding are regularly reviewed and maintained
- Legislate against leaving animals (not just dogs) in hot vehicles
- Supports the expansion and continuation of native animal keeping with appropriate licensing and welfare standards
- Oppose trail closures to horse riders, carriage drivers and dog walkers

Our goal is to promote and encourage high standards in all interactions with the animals in our care. To encourage responsible pet ownership and the respectful treatment of all animals in our community.



There are many health benefits of owning a pet. They can increase opportunities to exercise, get outside, and socialise. Regular walking or playing with pets can decrease blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and triglyceride levels. Pets can help manage loneliness and depression by giving us companionship.



Animal management policy

1 Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to provide a proactive, responsive, evolving approach to animal management.

This policy provides the framework to address:

- safety
- responsible pet ownership
- registration, licencing and de-sexing
- nuisance behaviours
- dog attacks
- animals in public places
- pound operations

2 Scope

This policy relates to animal management activities undertaken in accordance with legislation, relevant policies and procedures. The policy ensures that Mornington Shire Council's approach towards enforcement and education practices are lawful, safe, fair, practical and consistent with community expectations.

3 Policy statement

This policy relates to the activities undertaken in accordance with legislation or Council policy and relates to enforcement of animal management requirements. The policy ensures that Council's Animal Management approach to enforcement practices is lawful, safe, fair, practical, educational and consistent.

3.1 Safety

Community safety is a priority for Mornington Shire Council and the Animal Management Policy is designed to ensure a safe community for all. Mornington Shire Council provides regulation and management of dogs, cats and poultry to ensure public safety.

3.2 Responsible pet ownership

Pet owners need to be aware of their responsibilities to ensure their pets are cared for appropriately, are controlled in public places and do not adversely impact on others.

Dog and cat owners are required to ensure:

- their animals have adequate food, shelter and water at all times
- they provide regular exercise and appropriate obedience training which will help meet their dog's social needs
- their animals are registered and microchipped
- their animals are not at large in the municipality
- they maintain effective control of their animals at all times

Mornington Shire Council actively encourages responsible pet ownership through education around adequate pet care, nutrition, exercise and training. Where, through the course of attendance upon a premises, or collection or impoundment of an animal, officers suspect an animal has been neglected or abused, a referral will be made to the appropriate external agency.

3.3 Registration, licensing and de-sexing

Registration

Registration assists Mornington Shire Council to identify dogs and cats and their owners, returning lost pets and provides City of Darwin with statistics to inform future planning.

Dogs and cats over three months of age, or those that have been in Gununa, Mornington Island for one month or longer, are required to be registered with Mornington Shire Council and be microchipped.

Fees

Registration fees are updated and charged on an annual basis in line with Mornington Shire Council's fees and charges and the category of the animal to be registered.

Where a dog or cat is de-sexed in the first six months of registration the registration fee may be refunded on a pro-rata basis.

Mornington Shire Council will refund registration fees and licence fees on a pro-rata basis, where a registered dog or cat dies or leaves the local government area in the first six months of registration for the financial year.

3.4 Number of poultry allowed

No more than 20 chickens and no more than two roosters will be permitted to be kept at a single dwelling, on a lot greater than 600 m², or on land used or developed for a community garden or school, provided they are properly contained on the premises.

3.5 Licences to keep more than two dogs or cats on premises

A licence is required to keep more than two dogs or two cats on one premises in the Mornington Shire Council.

The maximum allowable number of either dogs or cats kept on one premises is three.

The maximum allowable number of cats and dogs combined, on one premises is four.

Licence applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

An inspection of the property to consider:

- the size of the property (minimum lot size 400m²)
- whether the fence is adequate to contain the animals
- an overall assessment of the premises as a suitable environment for the number of animals proposed to be kept at the premises
- consultation with adjoining neighbours and surrounding properties
- complaint history including consideration of any previous breach by or substantiated complaint against the owner under the Animal Management By-laws
- consideration of animals' species, breed and temperament.

In addition, Council will only consider new licence applications where:

- the number of dogs at the relevant residential premises does not exceed three
- the number of cats at the relevant residential premises does not exceed three, and
- the total number of animals (dogs and cats) at the relevant residential premises does not exceed four.

3.6 Desexing

In order to promote responsible pet ownership and assist the community in eliminating unwanted, unplanned, uncared for or stray animals, Mornington Shire Council might periodically deliver subsidised desexing and registration events as a part of veterinary services visits to community.

3.7 Nuisance behaviours

Mornington Shire Council will investigate nuisance behaviours, and if an animal is found to be a nuisance, the owner may be issued with a notice to stop the nuisance behaviour, undertake specified training, or an order requiring the owner to prevent the nuisance behaviour from recurring.

Nuisance behaviours include but are not limited to:

- barking
- crowing
- injurious or dangerous to the health of the community, or another person or animal
- fence rushing / fence fighting
- creating excessive noise or odour
- defecation to an extent that causes annoyance to a person other than its owner
- chasing cars, cyclists pedestrians or other animals.

Where a complaint regarding nuisance behaviours is received, Mornington Shire Council officers seek to balance the needs of the complainant, the needs of the animal owner, the welfare of the animals involved and the requirements of the By-Laws.

If, through carrying out an investigation, no nuisance behaviour is substantiated, a further investigation for that property will not be undertaken unless there is a significant change in circumstances.

Barking

If a barking complaint is received by Council, an authorised officer will undertake an investigation to confirm whether the complaint can be substantiated.

In conducting a nuisance barking investigation, Mornington Shire Council officers will consider the times, duration, and frequency of barking, and how it reasonably affects a person's wellbeing.

Mornington Shire Council will undertake a nuisance barking investigation where:

- barking exceeds three minutes in any 30-minute period between 10pm and 7am the following morning
- barking exceeds six minutes in any one-hour period between 7am and 10pm that day.

Mornington Shire Council officers will not undertake a nuisance barking investigation where barking has occurred due to the following circumstances:

- emergency vehicle sirens
- fireworks
- storms in the neighbourhood
- uninvited person on premises
- peak hours of foot traffic, such as school open and closure times
- enticement of a dog through physical or verbal abuse

Fence rushing or fighting

Some dogs fence rush and fence fight while other dogs cannot resist rushing and barking at movement outside their property. Fence rushing behaviour can be caused by a lack of or over- stimulation, frustration, or a display of overly territorial behaviour simply when someone or something approaches or walks past the property. Fence rushing/fighting is a behaviour that is usually learned, and it is the responsibility of the dog owner to correct this behaviour before it becomes a nuisance.

3.8 Menacing, attacking and dangerous dogs

Menacing

Mornington Shire Council identifies three levels of dog attacks and a menacing provision, and the ability to declare a dog to be dangerous.

Attacking

Mornington Shire Council defines three levels of dog attack:

- **Dog attack:** A dog attack occurs when a dog behaves aggressively resulting in physical contact with a person or another animal, or damage to anything worn by the person or the animal.

- **Serious dog attack:** A dog attack is considered serious when a dog bites a person or another animal resulting in bleeding, bone breakage, sprains, scratches or bruising.
- **Aggravated dog attack:** A dog attack that results in substantial injury to, or death of, a person or other animal is considered an aggravated offence and will attract the maximum penalty.

Dangerous dogs and register

A dog can be declared dangerous if the dog menaces or attacks a person or animal, or an authorised officer believes on reasonable grounds that the dog is destructive, dangerous, savage or a threat to the safety of the community.

Mornington Shire Council maintains a declared dog register which records the details of dogs that have committed certain offences and the details of the owner of the dog.

A dog that is placed on the Declared Dogs Register will have additional conditions relating to its care and control placed on its registration.

3.9 Animals in public places

Effective control

Dogs and cats are required to be under effective control at all times in a place other than its usual home.

A dog or cat is taken to be under effective control if it is restrained by a suitable leash or other methods.

A dog is also considered under effective control when it is off-leash, provided that:

- the dog is immediately responsive to a voice command of its owner
- the dog is not a female dog in oestrus, and
- the owner is carrying a suitable leash.

Proper containment

Dogs and cats must be properly contained within a building, fenced yard or other enclosed space, or leashed / restrained at the premises where they are kept. Proper containment promotes responsible pet ownership by supporting animal health and reducing the negative impacts of domestic animals on the natural environment. Cat containment is of particular importance in areas identified as ecologically significant.

Permanent tethering is not considered by Council to be a suitable means of properly containing a dog.

The owner of a dog that is not properly contained commits an offence.

Dogs defecating

An owner or the person in control of a dog must carry a receptacle to collect the dog's faeces whenever they are walking or exercising their dog in a public place.

The owner or the person in control of the dog at the time the dog defecates, either in a public place or on property not owned or occupied by the dog owner, must immediately remove and dispose of the faeces in a manner that is not offensive to another person.

3.10 Abandonment of animals

A person must not deliberately leave or abandon an animal in the Mornington Shire Council local government area. A person who abandons an animal in the local government area commits an offence.

3.11 Pound operations

Dogs or cats that are at large, which are unregistered or unidentified, or where the registered owner cannot be contacted, will be impounded. A written impoundment notice will be issued where the owner of the animal is established.

Mornington Shire Council has determined that where dogs or cats have been impounded for five working days, the pound supervisor may after that time arrange for the rehoming or otherwise humane destruction of the dog or cat.

An animal that is impounded may not be released unless the animal is registered and the appropriate release fees are paid.

A registered owner who is served with a notice of impoundment must collect their dog or cat from the pound. Failure to respond to a notice of impoundment is a regulatory offence. A person commits an offence if the person intentionally abandons an animal in the Mornington Shire Council local government area.

4 Definitions

Assistance Animal means an animal trained or accredited to assist, in a public place, a person with a disability in relation to the disability. Trained or accredited means trained or accredited by a training organisation or State or Territory body prescribed by regulation.

Owner means the person registered as the owner of the dog or cat, or a person who is, for the time being, in control of a dog or cat, or an occupier of a premises where an animal is kept.

Properly Contained means if an animal is, under humane conditions appropriate for the animal and kept inside a building, a fenced yard, an enclosed run or another structure on

the premises from which the animal is unable to escape; or leashed or restrained and unable to escape the premises.

DRAFT

RECEPTION & CONSIDERATION OF OFFICERS REPORTS

11 MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Nil

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

Author: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)

Chief Executive Officer's report related to activities for April 2025.

BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**1. Key Issues**

1. The establishment of an ILUA with GRAC is a high strategic priority with a meeting completed on Wednesday 26 March 2025 and a range of items being progressed between the legal representatives.
2. Finances are still strong with cash flow being the major challenge as we approach the end of the financial year. Some of the aged accounts receivable are proving problematic, due to a lack of supporting documentation.
3. Financial statements from last Financial Year are currently being audited which when completed will bring us up to date with our Statutory financial reporting obligations.
4. We are currently building our budget for next year which will be scheduled for discussion with Council when the draft is completed.
5. The Parks and Gardens and Roads crews have been working together to tidy up the town and are doing an excellent job.
6. Roads funding is available, final inspections of the road fleet are underway and the roads crew is prepared and ready to commence the emergency and approved roads programs.
7. Excellent progress has been made with government on the forward housing 10-year infrastructure program. Work has recommenced on 152 Lardil St duplex; the 30 Lardil St plug-in has been completed; and the tender for the 4x2 bedroom units is included as a part of today's Council agenda.
8. A community meeting is being planned to discuss a range of issues such as the key ILUA agenda items, The Healthy Housing Program, infrastructure projects, the new water treatment plant, waste management initiatives and other Council community oriented matters.
9. A major review of all of Council's systems and financial processes has begun in order to maximise efficiencies, as well as invoicing and revenue generation opportunities.

RECOMMENDATION

That Councillors receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's report for April 2025.

13 FINANCE**13.1 FINANCIAL REPORT**

Author: Financial Accountant

Attachments: 1 March 2025 financial reports

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 31 March 2025.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council is operating within allocated 2024/25 budgets.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the financial report for April 2025.

Monthly Finance Report March 2025

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




This is to ensure that council activities are being undertaken in a financially responsible manner, whilst highlighting potential risks.

This approach helps to ensure a sustainable local government entity, for the benefit of all stakeholders.

- 2 Story
- 3 Learnings
- 4 Revenue and Expenses
- 5 Numbers
- 6 Balance Sheet
- 7 Money
- 8 Cashflow
- 9 Compliance

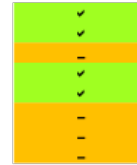
All numbers are year to date up until 31-March-2025

Traffic Lights

	On track
	Need to monitor
	Needs attention

This month Story


Cashflow was negative. Council has \$14m invested with Queensland Treasury Corporation, earning interest.
Cashflow continues to be monitored closely, to last until 30 June 2025.
A major focus was the audit and completing the Financial Statement. There is still much work to be done.
A desktop Audit of assets was conducted as part of the Financial Statement for 2024.
The audit for 2024 has commenced and good progress has been made to date.
Plug-in at 30 Lardil Street has still not been handed to Council.
A new Accounts Receivable officer has been employed part-time.
Budget preparation for 2025-2026 has commenced.



This is the Quarterly report so a little more number focused because we have a statutory requirement to comply with presentation of multiple financial n

Questions and Learnings


How? What? Why? Why? Why?
 Best question to ask is - What keeps you awake at night?
 This month's focus is ratios
 One Cashflow
 Two operating Ratios

Unrestricted Cash Expense Ratio			
Target: Greater than 4 months <i>Total Cash and Equivalents add current Investments and available QTC working Capital Facility less Externally Restricted Cash divided by Total Operating Expenditure less Depreciation and Amortisation less Finance Costs</i>			
Total Cash and Equivalent	3,000,120		
Total Operating Expenditure less Dep	2,215,164	1.35 Months	

What this means is in theory if we get no more revenues in the bank how long will our cash last. The answer currently is Just over a month
 The expectation is that it should be over 4 months

Operating Surplus Ratio			
Target: 0%-10% <i>Net operating result divided by total operating revenue</i>			
Net Operating Result	-3,385,024	-16%	
Total Operating Revenue	20,949,727		

On a purely operational basis we do not make a profit and rely on grant monies
 A one off occurrence is not a problem but if this occurs over many years it can be problematic

Operating Cash Ratio			
Target: Greater than 0% <i>Net operating result add Depreciation Amortisation add Finance Costs divided by total operating revenue</i>			
Net operating result add Depreciation Amortisation add Finance Costs	1,013,252	5%	
Total Operating Revenue	20,949,727		

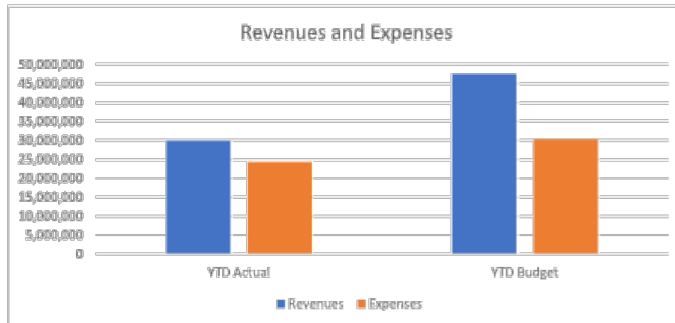
What this means is we are covering our expenses and can fund our capital purchases to the value of the surplus each year

There is more information available on LG Central.

May 2025 will be budgets, then audits.

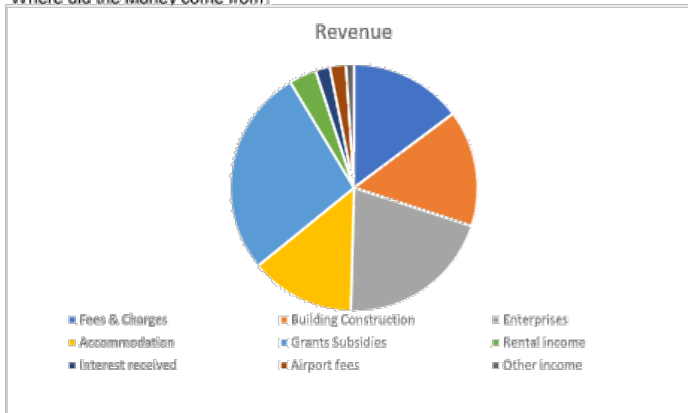
Revenues and Expenses

All numbers are year to date up until 31-March-2025

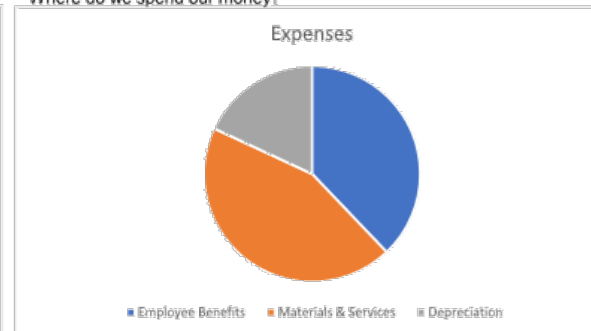


Did we make a profit ?

Where did the Money come from?



Where do we spend our money?



Details in the numbers

Statement of comprehensive Income Year to date up until		31-March-2025			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Last Year	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Revenue					
Recurrent Revenue					
Fees & Charges	3,093,224	3,245,060	-151,836	2,779,545	✓
Sales Revenue - Building Construction	3,193,148	3,830,000	-636,852	790,144	✓
Sales Revenue - Enterprises	4,278,864	4,560,000	-281,136	2,849,934	✓
Accommodation	2,871,072	3,200,000	-328,928	1,986,656	✓
Total Recurrent Revenue	13,436,308	14,835,060	-1,398,752	8,406,280	✓
Capital Revenue					
Capital, Grants, Subsidies, Contributions & Donations	14,685,850	30,655,658	-24,949,135	13,559,080	✗
Total Capital Revenue	14,685,850	30,655,658	-15,969,808	13,559,080	✓
Rental income	751,818	1,107,486	-355,668	648,608	✓
Interest received	394,778	172,860	221,918	148,253	✓
Airport Landing & Passenger fees	442,012	442,611	-599	334,286	✓
Other income	218,289	316,117	-97,828	155,136	✗
	1,806,897	2,039,074	-232,177	1,286,284	
Total Revenue	29,929,055	47,529,792	-17,600,737	23,251,644	✓
Expenses					
Recurrent Expenses					
Employee Benefits	9,216,857	10,842,879	-1,626,022	6,607,897	✗
Materials & Services	10,719,618	15,184,820	-4,465,202	5,968,059	✗
Total Recurrent Expenses	19,936,475	26,027,699	-6,091,224	12,575,956	
Total Expenses	19,936,475	26,027,699	-6,091,224	12,575,956	✗
Net Operating Surplus/ (Deficit) Before Depreciation	9,992,580	21,502,093	-11,509,513	10,675,688	✗
Less: Non Cash Expenditure					
Depreciation	4,398,276	4,341,941	56,335	3,439,948	✗
Total Expenditure	24,334,751	30,369,641	-6,034,889	16,015,904	✓
Net Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	5,594,303	17,160,152	-11,565,848	7,235,740	✗

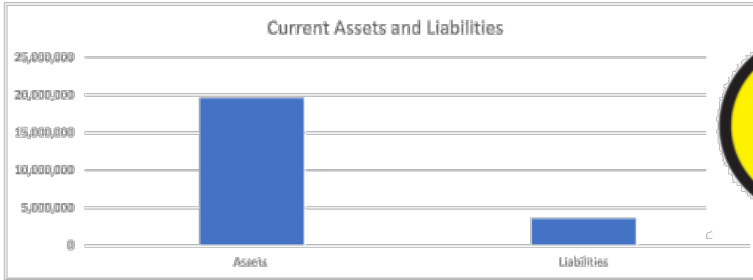
Details in the numbers



Statement of Financial Position	31-March-2025	30-June-2024	30-June-2023	
	YTD			
	2025	2024	2023	2022
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents Unrestricted	3,000,120	2,707,870	4,178,129	1,023,954
Cash and cash equivalents Restricted	11,924,663	3,022,552	8,566,408	7,612,193
Receivables	2,327,841	3,307,589	3,783,665	3,375,253
Inventories	1,997,043	1,346,340	1,022,378	563,998
Contract assets	752,894	2,125,371	2,059,882	1,046,819
Lease receivable	0	252,354	252,355	235,948
Total current assets	20,002,561	12,762,077	19,862,817	13,858,165
Non-current assets				
Lease receivable	5,653,371	6,127,168	6,127,168	6,964,127
Property, plant and equipment	171,344,308	169,791,013	162,049,859	114,489,387
Total non-current assets	176,997,679	175,918,181	168,177,027	121,453,514
Total assets	197,000,240	188,680,258	188,039,844	135,311,679
Current liabilities				
Payables	3,585,357	6,063,628	4,995,172	3,927,004
Contract liabilities	12,400,846	5,357,205	8,566,408	4,906,589
Provisions	59,229	65,703	60,860	46,125
Total current liabilities	16,045,432	11,486,537	13,622,439	8,879,718
Non-current liabilities				
Provisions	1,667,518	1,611,620	1,611,620	1,545,187
Total non-current liabilities	1,667,518	1,611,620	1,611,620	1,545,187
Total liabilities	17,712,950	13,098,157	15,234,059	10,424,905
Net community assets	179,287,290	175,582,102	172,805,785	124,886,774
Community equity				
Asset revaluation surplus	149,526,017	149,526,017	149,526,017	105,443,563
Retained surplus	29,761,272	26,056,084	23,279,768	19,443,211
Total community equity	179,287,290	175,582,101	172,805,785	124,886,774

Cash Position

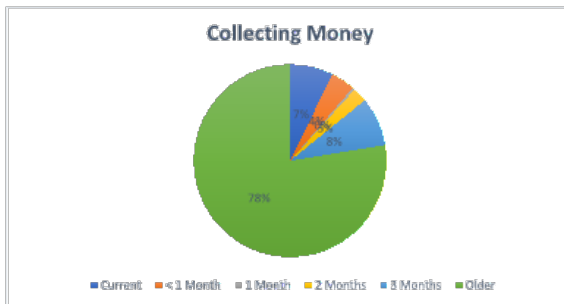
All numbers are year to date up until 31-March-2025




Assets		Liabilities	
Cash at bank Unrestricted	3,000,120	Creditors	1,913,888
Cash at bank Restricted	11,924,663	GST	306,206
Debtors	4,699,880	PAYG	712,394
	<u>19,624,663</u>	Employee entitlements	652,004
			<u>3,584,492</u>

Receivables						
Current	< 1 Month	1 Month	2 Months	3 Months	Older	Total
320,504.14	181,679.39	17,836.75	109,899.84	367,120.13	3,455,957.98	4,452,998.23
30%	8%	2%	2%	2%	56%	100%

Payables						
Current	< 1 Month	1 Month	2 Months	3 Months	Older	Total
701,664.64	116,133.70	1,326.18	1,133.61	383.10	1,093,247.03	1,913,888.26
37%	6%	0%	0%	0%	57%	100%



Who owes us money (Debtors) But hasn't paid soon enough	Over 90 days	Total
AISS (Australian Indigenous Security Service Pty Ltd)	1,347,188	1,494,608
DHLGPPW - Dept of Housing, Local Government, Plann	97,634	96,410
GRAC (Gulf Regional Aboriginal Corporation)	187,533	187,533
GUNUNAMANDA LIMITED T/A Gununamanda Store	389,479	410,968
HC Building and Construction	174,803	174,803
James Construction Queensland Pty Ltd	454,784	496,711
N & J Building & Construction	92,191	92,191
Rex Airlines	174,585	174,586
Total of above and others	<u>\$3,455,958</u>	<u>\$4,452,998</u>

 AISS (Australian Indigenous Security	1,008,750	1,074,766
This is a problematic debt		338,438

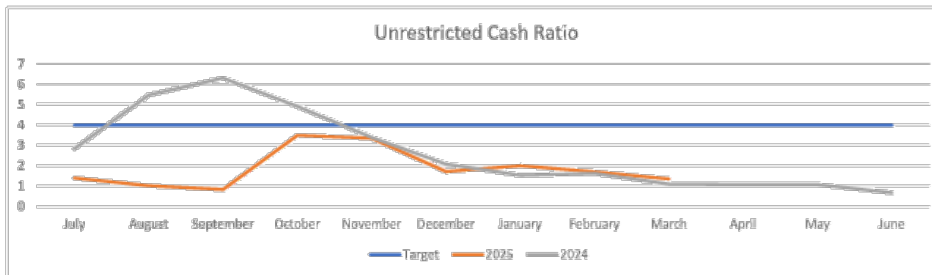
Cashflow

4

All numbers are year to date up until

31-March-2025

Account	Jul 2024	Sept 2024	Dec 2024	Mar 2025
Normal Business				
Money in	6,179,903.59	2,865,109.88	2,502,640.19	1,253,919.04
Money Out	(5,296,899.69)	(2,680,719.14)	(2,823,084.32)	(2,208,478.21)
Difference	883,003.90	184,390.74	(320,444.13)	(954,559.17)
Capital Grants				
Money in	344,779.25	487,991.68	0.00	0.00
Money Out	94,520.18	(641,613.08)	(809,956.80)	(319,002.97)
Difference	439,299.43	(153,621.40)	(809,956.80)	(319,002.97)
Other (Super BAS)	(920,443.18)	(822,997.55)	(2,598,225.05)	459,992.38
	(920,443.18)	(822,997.55)	(2,598,225.05)	459,992.38
	401,860.15	(792,228.21)	(3,728,625.98)	(813,569.76)
Bank				
Start	3,614,859.26	2,728,335.16	7,845,484.50	3,794,471.40
Difference	401,860.15	(792,228.21)	(3,728,625.98)	(813,569.76)
End	4,016,719.41	1,936,106.95	4,116,858.52	2,980,901.64



This year

Unrestricted Cash Expense Ratio

Month	Target	Actual
July	4	1.40
August	4	1.02
Septemb	4	0.83
October	4	3.49
Novemb	4	3.35
Decemb	4	1.71
January	4	2.00
February	4	1.70
March	4	1.35

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

Task	Traffic Light	Due	Due next	Notes
ATD Reporting	✓		21/04/2025	FBT return due in May
Workover	✓		15/09/2025	
Insurance	✓		21/03/2025	All reported on time resulting in a discount
Audit 2024	✓			Revaluations are the final piece of the puzzle
Grant reporting	✓		11/04/2025	Greatly improved quarterly reporting commenced - A first for a considerable time
Paying invoices	✓	Ongoing		With the exception of AISS up-to-date and cleaned up
5 Year Plan	✓	Ongoing		
QTC 10 Year forecast	–	Ongoing		
Policies	–	Over		Draft forecast completed by Shave and Brett
Budget 2026	✓		1/05/2025	To be reviewed and adopted
Debt Recovery	✗			
Contracts Register \$200k+	✗			
Contracts Register All	✗			Minutes to commence for preferred suppliers

Measures of Financial Sustainability

Operating Surplus Ratio

Target: 0%-10%

Net operating result divided by total operating revenue

-16%



Operating Cash Ratio

Target: Greater than 0%

Net operating result add Depreciation Amortisation add Finance Costs divided by total operating revenue

5%



14 HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

14.1 HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Author: Human Resources Manager

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of Human Resources activities for the month of April 2025.

BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Human Resources (HR) Strategic Actions 2025

The following key strategies and actions of the plan were undertaken in respect to the eight strategies:

People and Culture – Attract, Develop and Retain

Staff Movements

The month of April saw resignation of 4 employees and 5 employees commencing.

Recruitment Activity

Two residents have commenced employment in administration at the Airport Café and Workshop. Both new employees will be enrolled as trainees.

Due to recent inability to attract suitable candidates the following positions have been readvertised.

- Senior Carriage Officer
- Works Coordinator (2)
- Diesel Mechanic
- Manager Communities
- Communications Officer
- Senior HR Officer

Employment opportunities for 4 Traffic Controllers will be advertised locally only in May with the view to commencement successful candidates in early June.

HR Innovation and Continuous Improvement

Work continues with development and implementation of the HR Human Resources Information System. Establishment data has now been provided to ELMO which will drive the configuration of the system. Employee base detail will be provided week commencing 28 April. Once the Core HR is configured, work will commence on the recruitment and on-boarding modules.

Investing in our employees and community

Council applied for grant funding under the Remote Jobs & Economic Development (RJED) Program and was successful in achieving funding up to \$1.7 M over three years for the employment of four local unemployed persons to try a trade. The RJED Program is intended to create new jobs that will help people develop the skills and experience needed to transition to sustainable employment.

The funding will support 4 new employees being rotated in three monthly intervals through 4 different trades over the year. After 1-year suitable candidates will be offered apprenticeships and traineeships.

Work will commence on the development of a local only advertising program to be conducted during May with the view to commencing successful candidates in late June.

Training and skills development continues for apprentices and trainees by external Registered Training Organisations supporting them through their apprenticeships.

Department Small Business and Training will be on the Island from the last week of June 24 - 27 2025, to discuss career pathways with the community and provide information around training and development to employment.

HR Metrics and Workforce Analytics

- The organisation's resourcing totals 164 employees (consisting of 126 full-time, 8 part-time and 30 casuals).
- Group and individual meetings are being held with all staff to discuss individual and team attendance and performance impacting productivity and work of council.

Workforce Planning and Performance

The organisation's establishment and organisation structures have been reviewed and finalised. The staffing profile will be used to support assist in the configuration of the HRIS and the organisations budget setting for salaries and wages.

Work towards developing a '*discussion paper*' regarding possible incentives and the issue of managing workplace attendance for Council and addressing the current difficulties the Council is experiencing is being developed.

Employee Workplace Health and Safety

Work with all departments to ensure all required systems and processes are upheld. This is to ensure compliance with requirements for the WHS audit in May 2025, too.

Monthly toolbox meetings are now being held with all departments.

Wormald completed the fire extinguisher inspection on the 11 - 14 March 2025. Waiting for the report to come through to ascertain the faults.

NQ Cranes attended during late March 2025 to conduct hoist and overhead crane inspections in the workshop. The overhead crane and hoists require urgent repairs.

The area for designated Asbestos at the Dump has been determined. However, the asbestos in the skip bin is still waiting to be buried in the designated area.

Ongoing discussions and plans in relation to gas storage and delivery. Gas decanting area is still ongoing but making progress.

Barge shed spill kit has been now received.

Evacuation plans for VAC2, and Tavern have been completed and installed.

Three (3) incidents reported

- 2 break ins.
- 1 faulty roller door switch.

Training

There were nine employees who passed their Forklift license training during late March 2025.

Then the next module of the certificate III in Rural Operations Training will be in May and will include understanding and use of firearms.

Traffic Control training, Test & Tag and First aid/ CPR, enquiries are still ongoing.

The Council's Drug and Alcohol policy will be finalised during April. The SOBERLIVE Self tester and Breathalyzer arrived. Training and installation will occur during May 2025.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council's Human Resources functions are operating within allocated 2024/25 budgets.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the human resources report for April 2025.

15 GOVERNANCE**15.1 LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE - ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

Author: Director Corporate and Community

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)

The purpose of this report is to provide administrative updates for Elected Members related to the Local Advisory Committee.

BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION*Expressions of Interest*

During the February 2025 Ordinary Council meeting, Elected Members resolved to appoint Bereline Loogatha, Roxanne Thomas, Michael Wilson, Delena Juhel, and Talaseah Thompson to the Local Thriving Communities Interim Local Advisory Committee.

Following those appointments, one committee role remained vacant. Subsequently, Friday 21 March 2025, an additional Expression of Interest (EOI) was received from Helen Moon and tabled for Elected Member awareness, during the March 2025 Ordinary Council meeting.

Elected Members resolved to promote EOI opportunities for a further period until before the April 2025 Ordinary Council meeting. As at Friday 18 April 2025, no further EOIs have been forthcoming.

Councillors have the discretion to promote the EOI opportunity for a longer duration or appoint Helen Moon.

Sitting fees

Council has received differing advice pertaining to sitting fees. As such, this has led to an invariable delay honouring sitting fees for the first session that advisory committee members attended Wednesday 19 March 2025.

Sitting fees paid to advisory council members are:

- considered a taxable supply and
- GST should apply if the member is registered for GST.

If the member is not registered for GST, then GST doesn't apply to the payment.

If the council member has an:

- ABN and
- is registered for GST.

They should provide a tax invoice that includes GST.

If the council member doesn't have an ABN, you're required to withhold 47% of the payment as PAYG withholding unless they provide a "Statement by a supplier" form stating that they are not required to have an ABN.

While attendance records are important for internal tracking, they do not replace the need for proper invoicing and compliance with GST and PAYG withholding requirements.

Council's preference is to ensure that 47% of payments are not withheld. As such, advice is being sought about a statement of supplier approach.

Advice has also been sought from the department providing the funding for sitting fees. They have recommended that Council obtain their own independent finance advice.

One of the provisions that the department provided as an afterthought also needs to be clarified and potentially reviewed. Otherwise, it will impede the future operation of the advisory committee. That is feedback from Acting Regional Director, Shaun Wilde, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, dated 11 April 2025 that "...if other agencies want to meet with the LAC outside of the LAC scheduled meetings, the other agencies are liable for the LAC sitting fees". It is very seldom that third-party entities have budget allocations for their community engagement activities, particularly sitting fees.

Induction and orientation

It is intended to invite advisory committee members to an introductory workshop session during May 2025 to provide education related to the endorsed Terms of Reference, ensure that members gain an awareness of the types of topics that they'll be asked to provide feedback about; and to ensure that they understand that the advisory committee will be on an ad hoc/ as needed basis.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Administration of the Local Thriving Communities Interim Local Advisory Committee is funded by the Queensland Government, Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, and Multiculturalism.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report related to the Local Advisory Committee; and

- A) Advertise the Expression of Interest opportunity for an additional period, until the May 2025 Ordinary Council meeting;

OR

- B) Endorse Helen Moon's Expression of Interest for participation as a part of the Local Advisory Committee, as the sixth committee representative.

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 April 2025.

BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**Carriage Limit Operations****Carriage Limit**

For the month ended	28/02/2025	31/03/2025
Total People (# Sales)	2,432	2,322
Total Sales \$	194,597	183,283
Trading days	28	31
Average Price Per Person	80	79

Comparing March to February, there was a decrease of 110 customers (-4.5%) and a decline in total sales revenue by \$11,314 (-5.8%). There have been continual supply chain issues. However, we have navigated these issues as best as we can.

After consultation with the Queensland Police Service, we have implemented 100% breathalysing and it has resulted in a lot less issues and for the most part has been well received by community.

The community bus license has also come back to us for final acceptance after consultation with all parties and anticipate this to be finalised in the coming days.

Tavern Kitchen

The plans for the Tavern kitchen upgrade have been finalized. We are working closely with different builders in Cairns to finalise our building options and begin work on the Tavern upgrades.

Laundry Operations and Training Update

Staff training in the laundry operations remains ongoing. There have been some challenges regarding staff behaviour, particularly in relation to uniforms, presentation and attitude to jobs. Discussions have taken place to reinforce expectations in these areas, with the primary focus on improving attendance, presentation, and overall productivity. The goal is to ensure all team members contribute equitably to daily operations.

We have also initiated discussions with select Cairns-based properties to explore an exchange program for a few of our more dedicated team members. In addition, guest feedback forms have been placed in each motel room, with plans to extend this initiative to the Visitor Accommodation Centre (VAC) in the near future.

Airport Cafe Update

As part of the broader accommodation overhaul, we are working closely with the airport staff to try and facilitate the check-in and check-out system. We have started offering guests who are arriving on delayed flights meals from the Airport when the shop is closed and we have been able to get a pre order in place. This has been well received.

We have also begun stocking Licks ice cream a Cairns company which is very exciting.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report related to accommodation and hospitality for April 2025.

16.2 TENDER – FORWARD REMOTE CAPITAL PROGRAM

Author: Director Corporate and Community
Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)

The purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members with advice about the recent tender process, outcomes and recommendations for the construction of four, two-bedroom social houses.

BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Between Friday, 31 January 2025 and 4pm Friday, 28 February 2025, Council publicly called for tenders in MSC-2025-001 Forward Remote Capital Program - Construct only of 4 new homes (Tender Documents attached). The project involves the construct only of 4 new homes on Lot 926 on SP282722, between Lardill and Wengka Streets, Gununa, Mornington Island (“the Site”) each with carports. Council has commissioned architectural/ engineering designs for all 4 new houses which shall have the following configuration on the Site:

- 2 x 2-bedroom single story fully detached houses
- 2 x 2-bedroom two story fully detached town houses



Map 1 – Housing Locations

This construction scope is from preparation of the site (civil works), construction, through to landscaping, turnkey. It is expected that Council should be able to tenant each new house upon practical completion of this project.

Council is committed to ensuring continued support to working partnerships with local communities in which it operates and encourage the successful Supplier to engage the local workforce and local sub-contractors, wherever possible. It is a requirement that all quotes/ designs comply with applicable social housing standards, which were provided to the tenderer in the Tender Documents.

TENDER ASSESSMENT

The tender panel consisted of:

- Robert Dwyer, Culturev8 (Independent Chair)
- Steve Graham, A/Chief Financial Officer – MSC
- Craig Wallace, Director Housing and Facilities - MSC
- Henry Irving, Building Supervisor - MSC

Two (2) tenders were received by close:

- Wren Constructions Pty Ltd
- NQ Sheds and Patios Pty Ltd t/a QLD Kit Homes

At a meeting on Thursday 6 March 2025, the panel evaluated the tenders as follows:

FORWARD REMOTE CAPITAL PROGRAM	Selection Criteria																				Weighted Score (/100)
	Price (50%)				Remote Area Industry Experience (15%)				Quality Assurance Accreditation (5%)				Program (15%)				Local Contribution and Support (15%)				
	Rob Dwyer	Henry Irving	Steve Graham	Craig Wallace	Rob Dwyer	Henry Irving	Steve Graham	Craig Wallace	Rob Dwyer	Henry Irving	Steve Graham	Craig Wallace	Rob Dwyer	Henry Irving	Steve Graham	Craig Wallace	Rob Dwyer	Henry Irving	Steve Graham	Craig Wallace	
Qld Kit Homes	40	40	50	40	5	8	9	6	0	1	1	2	12	11	9	11	5	5	15	11	70
Wren Constructions Pty Ltd	20	20	10	25	10	8	15	10	1	1	5	4	8	8	15	9	12	5	3	9	50

Table 1 – Evaluation Scoring

It should be noted at the outset, that price has a heavy weighting of 50% in the evaluation criteria, in recognition that proposals must demonstrate value for money. However, that is not the only criteria.

NQ Sheds and Patios Pty Ltd t/a QLD Kit Homes are the preferred tenderer of the panel.

Although Wren constructions showed a small advantage in Remote experience and Quality Assurance, this was not backed by any evidence and their price was significantly higher than NQ Sheds and Patios Pty Ltd t/a QLD Kit Homes.

The written response from Wren Constructions was exceedingly minimal and the panel felt that they did not respond in a manner that suggested any real interest in winning the tender.

It was felt NQ Sheds and Patios Pty Ltd t/a QLD Kit Homes provided a more realistic program of delivery and took the time to demonstrate what the build would include.

Neither respondent provided strong evidence of how they would address Local Contribution and Support.

Following assessment by the panel, clarifications were requested of the preferred tenderer, NQ Sheds and Patios Pty Ltd t/a QLD Kit Homes who responded by 18 March 2025 (attached). The Panel reconvened on Monday 24 March 2025 to consider the preferred tender's clarifications which were unanimously accepted by all panel members.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council has \$7.3M Queensland Government Forward Remote Capital Program funding to deliver this social housing project (GST Free).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to approve the tender of NQ Sheds and Patios Pty Ltd t/a QLD Kit Homes ABN 79 142 579 619 in tender reference MSC-2025-001 (Forward Remote Capital Program - Construct only of 4 new homes), for the lump sum price of \$4,816,080.91 (GST Excl), and provide delegation for the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to sign contracts and pay invoices as and when due.

16.3 QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING TENANCY SERVICES UPDATE

Author: Director Corporate and Community

Attachments: 1 Mornington Island Delivery Report - March 2025

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 team also provide 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 were no proposed property allocations for the month of April 2025.

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 April 2025.

Delivery Update

For Mornington Aboriginal Shire Council – April 2025

Social Housing Properties

- 229 in total Social Housing Properties
 - 1 under an Agency Appointment (Dept. acting as an agent for Council)
 - 228 under a 40yr lease arrangement

Arrears – 0 weeks and higher

- 62 accounts in arrears

Tenancy management sending breach notices to tenants with outstanding rent arrears
 Rent arrears are steadily decreasing.

Tenancy is working with the tenants and discussing payment plans for outstanding rent arrears –
 payments plans increasing and tenants are continuing to keep plans in place

Tenancy management has successfully signed up new payment plans, arrears continue to reduce.
 We will continue to with conversions and support to these tenants.

Temporary Absences being investigated/reviewed – ongoing

- 1

Temporary Absences Approved

- 3

VACANCIES (not including transitional housing)		
126A Wengka St	2	Under Maintenance
166 Dungguh Cl	2	Under Maintenance
72 Djinkiya St	2	Under Maintenance
157A Maammaarn Katha	2	Under Maintenance
285A Yarrbaran St	2	Under Maintenance

Transitional Properties / upgrades



Register of Need – 56 applications

Bedroom	#
1	28
2	13
3	7
4	6
5	1
6	1

Tenancy Management News

- Tenancy Management currently investigating tenants not residing at properties- ongoing
- Tenancy Management continue to talk to tenants around yard maintenance, letters sent to each household – ongoing
- Tenancy Management working on promoting an application drive for the community together with council and other stakeholders – Plan in place to hold a morning tea to attract community members to apply for social housing. Poster with time and date will be sent to Council to put on social media for community.
- Tenancy Management will investigate household numbers and names to help drive up the applications, working with Council – ongoing

Next Schedules Visits

The below trips have been booked and scheduled:

- 6th to 9th to 23rd May – SHO CSM Alexia Kelso and SHO Misty Taaka (pending flight availability)
- 10th to 23rd May – SHO Mary Jo Cragie and SHO Sanita Nuku OT Kathryn Fulton
- 2nd to 6th June – CSM Alexia Kelso and SHO Sanita Nuku
- 16th to 20th - CSM Alexia Kelso and SHO Sanita Nuku
- 30th to 4th July - CSM Alexia Kelso and SHO Sanita Nuku

Tenancy Team

- Alexia Kelso Client Service Manager – 0459 864 881
- Mary Jo Craigie Senior Housing Officer - 0436 632 037
- Sanita Nuku Senior Housing Officer – 0436 632 074
- Misty Taaka Senior Housing Officer – 0436 632 038

Tenancy Team Movements

- Office will be closed when the team is not on the island.
- Tenancy Management will continue to provide a housing service to the community. The team will be available by phone in the hours between 8:30 – 4:30 Monday to Friday.
- Management will commence a new recruitment process for another Local Housing Officer, advertising will be put up in the community to attract applicants. Date to be advised. – ongoing
- We will welcome 2 new team members Sanita and Misty.

Contact Details**Alexia Kelso Customer Service Manager****Ph:** 07 44 372 719**M:** 0459 864 881**Department of Housing and Public Works
19 West St Mount Isa Qld 4825**

16.4 FORWARD REMOTE CAPITAL HOUSING PROGRAM - PRIORITY PLUG-IN CONSTRUCTION LIST

Author: Director Corporate and Community

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)

The purpose of this report is to ensure that Council has updated familiarity with potential plug-in sites and relevant information related to residents at each address. Before further roll out the Forward remote capital housing program, the Department of Housing and Public Works require Council's additional feedback related to a formalised priority list for construction during 2024/25 and 2025/26.

BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

The Department of Housing and Public Works, in consultation with the Mornington Island community and tenancy services has formerly devised a listing of potential Gununa plug-in sites.

There are sixteen (16) potential sites. Eleven (11) sites are in Lardil Street, one in Yarrburkan Street, one in Wurrurku Crescent, one in Dunlyu Street, one in Ngerrawum Street; and one in Djinkiya Street.

Collated information about the potential plug-in sites comprises tenancy names, existing building structure, whether children under thirteen years of age are in attendance; customised comments for each property; and whether the parcel of land can accommodate a plug-in. It is noted that two properties, 316A Lardil Street and 77 Djinkiya Street cannot accommodate a plug-in on site. As such, that negates them from being a part of the priority construction list.

During the Ordinary Council meeting 26 February 2025, Elected Members nominated five properties as priority sites (in order of preference):

- 192 Yarrbarkan Street
- 205 Lardil Street
- 103 Wurrurku Crescent
- 16 Lardil Street
- 9 Lardil Street

The department has since provided additional tenancy information for Elected Member awareness. As such, Council's prioritisation of the remaining properties is now sought.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Mornington Shire Council has been allocated \$7.328m as a part of the Queensland Government Forward Remote Capital Program budget.

Following a 2024 tender process and negotiations with conforming tenderers, Council formally advised the Department of Housing and Public Works that there were insufficient funds to construct five new residential dwellings and four units.

As such, Council has now been given approval to progress four (4) 2-bedroom units and plug-ins with remaining funds.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council review their five (5) absolute priority plug-in sites from February 2025 and select an additional five (5) properties for prioritisation (subject to funding availability during the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years).

16.5 HEALTHY HOUSING PROGRAM - CONSULTATION

Author: Director Corporate and Community

Attachments: 1 Healthy Housing Program - Information pack 1
2 Healthy Housing Program - Information package 2

PURPOSE (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)

The purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members with an update related to the Healthy Housing Program and seek Council's feedback related to information package options for marketing and publicity throughout the community.

BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Monday 14 April 2025 Acting Professor Donohue sent an e-mail advising that the Health Housing Program team have been working on develop options related to the information packs and survey tools.

Acting Professor Donohue attached two options for Council's awareness and consideration.

Package 1 is described as information containing a more in-depth survey (attachment 1).

Package 2 is described as information with a short survey and sign-up form (attachment 2).

Acting Professor Donohue intends to provide information related to the recruitment of a local person to assist with the program rollout and administration, shortly.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Healthy Housing Program is a Queensland Government funded program.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse package 1 for adoption and rollout within the Gununa community;

OR

That Council endorse package 2 for adoption and rollout within the Gununa community.

THE HEALTHY HOUSING PROGRAM IS COMING TO MORNINGTON ISLAND!

SO WHAT'S THE PROGRAM DOING?

We are dedicated to empowering individuals by fostering connections between homes, lifestyles and health and well-being.

We'll work with you & your family to identify healthy living practices that will assist you to be happy and healthy. We will provide advice and information through qualified staff. We will also ensure that health hardware within your home is safe and functional.



**HEALTHY LIVING
SUPPORT & ADVICE**

**HEALTHY HOME
REPAIRS**

**ONGOING
SUPPORT**

There limited numbers available in the first round. **Sign up to the Healthy Housing Program in Mornington Island!**



**Queensland
Government**



WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

- 1 Home Visit: We'll yarn with you about the house and check it out. 
- 2 Healthy Housing Fixes 
- 3 Pest Help: We'll help you deal with pests 
- 4 Healthy Living Session: We'll work together on healthy living practices 
- 5 Final Check: We'll check everything and get your thoughts 

I would like to be part of the Healthy Housing Program

Full Name:

Address:

Mobile:

Name of the Head Tenant:

Head Tenant Mobile:

How many people sleep in the house?

Is anyone in the house sick, very old or disabled?

Please add any comments that might be useful to the team:

For more information, please call the Healthy Housing Program Team

Ph: 0428 814 115

Email: healthyhousing@housing.qld.gov.au



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- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| HEALTHY LIVING
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3

Pest Help: We'll help you deal with pests



4

Healthy Living Session: We'll work together on healthy living practices



5

Final Check: We'll check everything and get your thoughts



For more information, please call the Healthy Housing Program Team

Ph: 0428 814 115

Email: healthyhousing@housing.qld.gov.au



Queensland Government



Healthy Housing Program

This form is to help select which households start the program.

Please a box and write for all questions.

Your name:

House Number:

Your address on Mornington Island:

How many people sleep in the house?

Explain:

Is there enough space for everyone in the house?

Yes No Not sure

Explain:

Is anyone in the house sick, very old or disabled?

Yes No Not sure

Explain:

Is your house safe, so people don't get injured?

Yes No Not sure

Explain:

Can everyone wash in the bathroom daily? Is anything broken?

Yes No Not sure

Explain:

Can you clean and dry clothes and bedding?

Yes No Not sure

Explain:

Turn over to page 2

Can you store and cook food easily at home?

- Yes No Not sure

Explain:

Do you have pests in the house? E.g. bugs, flies, mice...

- Yes No Not sure

Explain:

Is the temperature OK in the house?

- Yes No Not sure

Explain:

Does something need fixing to help you stay healthy?

- Yes No Not sure

Explain:



16.6 CORRESPONDENCE FROM ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS - RELATED TO FOUR TWO-BEDROOM SOCIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Author: Director Corporate and Community

Attachments: 1 Letter - Public housing project - Lot 926 Lardil Street, Mornington Island

PURPOSE (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)

The purpose of this report is to advise that the Acting Director General Department of Housing and Public Works, Ms Sarah Amos, sent correspondence to the Chief Executive Officer dated 10 April 2025.

The letter advised that plans for the four two-bedroom dwellings have been reviewed and deemed not inconsistent with the Mornington Shire Planning Scheme.

BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

All new developments need to be properly considered in the context of compliance with the Mornington Shire Planning Scheme.

Acting Director General Amos states in her correspondence stated that:

I am satisfied the project is 'not substantially inconsistent' with the Mornington Shire Planning Scheme version 1.1, effective 27 June August 2018. In accordance with schedule 6, part 5, section 30 of the Planning Regulation 2017, I have approved for the project to proceed.

The Acting Director General's letter provides formal endorsement for the important community housing capital project to proceed.

This is complementary to the tender assessment report being tabled during the April 2025 Ordinary Council meeting related to construction of the four two-bedroom dwellings.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Mornington Shire Council has been allocated \$7.328m as a part of the Queensland Government Forward Remote Capital Program budget.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the letter from Acting Director General Sarah Amos, Department of Housing and Public Works, providing formal endorsement for the four two-bedroom social housing development at Lot 926 Lardil Street, Gununa, Mornington Island.

Our reference: MN03460-2025

10 April 2025

Mr Garry Uhlmann
Chief Executive Officer
Mornington Shire Council
ceo@mornington.qld.gov.au



Office of the
Director-General

Department of
Housing and Public Works

Dear Mr Uhlmann

Public housing project at Lot 926 Lardil Street, Mornington Island

As you would be aware, the Department of Housing and Public Works has been working with the Mornington Shire Council on a public housing project at Lot 926 Lardil Street, Mornington Island. The development project will comprise four new dwellings in one and two-storey buildings with four on-site car parking spaces. When completed, the project will accommodate First Nations peoples who are listed on the housing register.

I am satisfied the project is 'not substantially inconsistent' with the Mornington Shire Planning Scheme version 1.1, effective 27 June August 2018. In accordance with schedule 6, part 5, section 30 of the Planning Regulation 2017, I have approved for the project to proceed.

In satisfaction of schedule 6, part 5, section 30(2) of the Planning Regulation 2017, please also find enclosed a copy of the plans of the project for Council's reference.

If you require further information or assistance in relation to this matter, Ms Belinda Cox or Ms Cathy Lee, Principal Planning Officers, Social Housing Delivery Office can be contacted on (07) 3007 4218 or by email at shdohgprojectplanning@housing.qld.gov.au.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Amos", with a circular official stamp behind it.

Sarah Amos
Acting Director-General

Encl.

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland 4000
GPO Box 690 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia

17 HOUSING DEPARTMENT**17.1 HOUSING & FACILITIES REPORT**

Author: Director Housing and Facilities

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update of Housing department activities for the month of March 2025.

BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**Q BUILD***SUMMARY 2024/25 FY*

318 - total jobs received via Q Build portal

508 - total jobs invoiced via Q Build portal

14 - upgrades Invoiced to Q Build for 2024/25 FY

15 - solar Hot Water System replacements for 2024/25 FY

40 - total repaints for 2024/25 FY

Q BUILD - WORKS PROGRAMS*QBuild Do & Charge Program*

276 - March Work Orders carried over **QBuild Do & Charge Program**

54 - March Work Orders received into portal.

70 - Do & Charge jobs invoiced to QBuild in the month of March.

March QBuild Purchase Orders Program

0 - bathroom upgrades to Q Build

0 - Solar Hot Water System replacements

9 - repaints were completed and invoiced

0 - Kitchen upgrade

QBuild maintenance requests

- 1) 4 x Major Refurbishment tenders requests
- 2) 1 = Freezer supply and install for Mornington Island State School
- 3) Community's request to have the blue phone relocated has been communicated to Q Build, and they have agreed to move it to a new location at the new admin building. Awaiting confirmation on the timeframe.

Funded programs***\$2.35 million interim capital works program***

The scope of this project is to deliver one duplex and one plug-in and is funded by the Department of Community, Housing and Digital Economy (DCHDE).

This project is nearly complete, approximately two months to completion.

Duplex 152 Lardil Street

The internal and external painting works have been completed as well as kitchen joinery. Electrical fit off is complete. Significant delays are being experienced across all projects due to a shortage in manpower and management capability of James Constructions. Carports arrived and are in the Red Shed. \

Works will start again once James Constructions mobilise to site.

MSC is in discussions over how to complete works in a timely manner.

Currently looking at mid-May 2025 completion date.

Plug-in 30 Lardil Street

All internal and external painting, flooring, kitchen and bedrooms have been completed.

Bathroom is complete just require solar hot water panel installation, robe door installation and final certificates to be handed over for PC.

Issues with contractor not returning to site. PC expected mid-April 2025.

Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC)

The Indigenous Knowledge Centre is funded under the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program (LGGSP). Internal fit-out is complete, defect list with HC Constructions for completion.

ITC final cable fit off completed in March 2025.

Forward Remote Capital Programme \$7,328,042

Architectural Design work on the 4 x 2 bedroom units proposed for Lot 926 Lardil St is complete.

Tender completed and preferred Builder chosen. Presentation to council on 21 April 2025

Preliminary work on additional plug-ins awaiting final contract price for 4 x 2 bedroom project, before plug-in can be nominated.

Once this has been finalised survey work can commence to establish site constraints.

Gulf Trust Grant – Salvation Army Op Shop Refurbishment

Funding has been approved and works have commenced for the Op Shop refurbishment including a front balcony renovation, toilet and shower conversion complete, flooring and painting works as well as a disability ramp installation. Orange Sky mobile laundry unit is now operational.

Ergon Power Upgrade & Motel expansion

The scope of this Motel project expansion will assist Council to increase access and provide a high standard of accommodation in a safe environment to meet the needs of visiting service providers, business travellers and tourists. This project is funded under the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program (2022-2024 LGGSP).

Council has engaged Ergon for the overhead powerlines to be removed and a design for the redirection of the overhead power lines to underground cabling. The purpose of Ergon to provide this design is to allow the expansion of extra motel style cabins.

Underground conduit is now complete, switchboards are to be commissioned in May 25. Cabling is ready to be installed for an anticipated connection to the Ergon supply in May 2025.

The motel cabin design and construction is still in discussion after some constraints were found. Plans finalised by end of April 2025.

Financial & Resource Implications

All housing and facilities projects are operating within designated 2024/25 budget parameters.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the housing report for April 2025.

18 FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

Nil

19 ENGINEERING**19.1 ENGINEERING REPORT**

Author: Director Engineering

Attachments: Nil

PURPOSE (EXECUTIVE SUMMARY)

This report provides an overview of the Engineering division activities for April 2025.

BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**Airport**

- Allan has been managing airport operations during Scott's holiday absence. He has been working extended hours due to Rex Airline flight delays. His dedication and commitment to patrons at the airport is greatly appreciated.

Town Amenities

- Chris Loogatha has been issued a revised maintenance schedule for the township. The plan divides the town into eight sections with a rotating two-week schedule, assigning specific responsibilities to each team member. The new system is working well, and the township's appearance has noticeably improved.

Fencing

- Shannon has been assisting the Building Department with QBuild work orders and completing various tasks around the cemetery.

Roads & Civil

- The road crew have been cleaning gutters throughout the township. Erscon inspected the completed works and expressed satisfaction with the quality of the job.

Workshop

- The workshop has had constant ongoing maintenance, servicing, and repairs of vehicles and machinery.
- A new staff member, Trinity, has joined the team to assist at the front counter and with Accounts.

Batching Plant

- Ross has undertaken small batching jobs. His primary focus this month has been assisting with concrete repairs around town and completing other minor tasks.

1.

Water & Waste

- Staff recently travelled to Brisbane to undergo basic SCADA system training to enhance their understanding of the water systems.
- During their absence, Travis Link maintained water testing and water plant operations.
- Tristan and Breadon are scheduled to attend the Drinking Water Symposium in Weipa during June 2025, which will be a valuable learning opportunity.

2.**Waste & Recycling**

- A new skip bin truck has been purchased.
- A concrete crusher and pulveriser are expected to be acquired in July. These additions will improve operations at the dump, especially with the policy change restricting contractor access.
- The dump continues to be pushed up, but space is becoming limited. DES representatives have visited again and are working on a solution.

3.**Health & animal management**

- Nicola Gong has been actively assisting with animal care in the community, including providing medication, removing lures, and advising concerned pet owners. She has also arranged new homes for three puppies and cared for three other dogs housed at the vet.

4.**Upcoming Projects**

- Water plant upgrades (design and specifications in progress; to be submitted to Council for approval before going to tender)
- Waste facility upgrades (awaiting response from DES)
- Drainage improvements around the football field and workshop (pending approvals)
- Tenders submissions for the 60m x 15m shed close on April 23 2025 (to be submitted to Council following selection)
- Pathways and housing access works to be released for tender in May 2025
- Quotation to be sought for 10m x 10m shed erection and slab
- Two causeways (awaiting approval)

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Engineering division report for April 2025.

20 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

21 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Nil

22 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 21 May 2025

23 CLOSURE