

Minutes

Council Meeting

20 July 2026

DRAFT

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**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE MITCHELL SHIRE
COUNCIL HELD ONLINE AND AT MITCHELL CIVIC CENTRE, 113
HIGH STREET BROADFORD ON
20 JULY 2026**

THE MEETING OPENED: 7.01pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Cr Bob Humm	Central Ward
Cr Nathan Clark	Central Ward
Cr Timothy Hanson	Central Ward
Cr Andrea Pace	North Ward
Cr John Dougall	North Ward (Chairperson)
Cr Ned Jeffery	North Ward
Cr Claudia James	South Ward
Cr Bob Cornish	South Ward

OFFICERS PRESENT

Les Stokes	Acting Chief Executive Officer
Frank Joyce	Director Organisational Performance
Jo Wilson	Director Partnerships, Economy and Communities
Lidia Harding	Manager Governance and Risk

1 WELCOME

The Mayor formally opens the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomes all present.

Mitchell Shire Council acknowledges the Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waterways in the area now known as Mitchell Shire. We pay our respects to their rich cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging, and other First Nations people who live, work and play in the area.

2 GOVERNANCE DECLARATION

The declaration was read by Cr B. Humm.

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: CR. T. HANSON

SECONDED: CR. A. PACE

THAT the apology for this meeting received from Cr R. Evans be accepted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 130(2)(A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020.
NIL.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: CR. T. HANSON

SECONDED: CR. C. JAMES

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held 15 June 2026, as circulated, be confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6 PETITIONS, JOINT LETTERS AND PRESENTATIONS

6.1 PETITION – ESTABLISHMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Council has received a petition with 628 signatories to establish an Agricultural Advisory Committee to provide strategic advice and improve understanding of food and fibre security, land use, climate impacts and other issues relating to agriculture and agribusiness within the Shire.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: CR. T. HANSON

SECONDED: CR. B. HUMM

THAT Council accept the petition and officers prepare a report in response to the petition.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.2 YOUTH COUNCIL SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Cr J. Dougall, Mayor, facilitated the swearing in of the 2026 Mitchell Youth Council and election of Youth Mayor and Youth Deputy Mayor. 10 Youth Councillors took the oath of office. The following Youth Councillors were elected to office, Evie Birks elected as Youth Mayor, Jacob Hard elected as Deputy Youth Mayor, Jess Stevens as Youth Secretary and Phoebe McDonald as Senior Youth Councillor.

7 PARTNERSHIPS, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES

7.1 SPORT AND RECREATION VICTORIA - LOCAL SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND 2026-2027

Author: Rhys Long - Recreation and Open Space Infrastructure Lead

File No: GT/01/034

Attachments: Nil

Community Vision Theme: Vibrant and Healthy Communities

Council Plan Objective: Enhance the quality of life in our communities by investing in partnerships, services, and programs that improve health and wellbeing outcomes and support community equity and inclusion.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To obtain Council's support to make three applications under Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) Local Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSIF) 2026-2027.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: CR. T. HANSON

SECONDED: CR. N. JEFFERY

THAT Council endorses the following submission of applications to Sport and Recreation Victoria's Local Sports Infrastructure Fund grant funding programs:

1. An \$800,000 multipurpose court and cricket nets project at Chittick Park, Seymour with a council contribution of \$300,000 under the Community Facilities stream.
2. A \$400,000 sports oval lighting project at Chittick Park, Seymour with a council contribution of \$150,000 under the Community Sports Lighting stream.
3. A \$50,000 play space planning project, with a council contribution of \$12,500 under the Planning stream.

The vote resulted in as follows:

For:

CR. N. CLARK
CR. B. CORNISH
CR. J. DOUGALL
CR. T. HANSON
CR. C. JAMES
CR. N. JEFFERY

Against:

CR. B. HUMM

SPORT AND RECREATION VICTORIA - LOCAL SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE FUND 2026-2027 (CONT.)

CR. A. PACE

CARRIED

DRAFT

8 ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE

8.1 GOVERNANCE REPORT: JUNE 2026

Author: El McComish - Senior Governance Officer
Lidia Harding - Manager Governance & Risk

File No: CL/04/001-03

Attachments: Nil

Community Vision Theme: Not applicable

Council Plan Objective: Ensure good governance by promoting transparency, building trust, and strengthening connections with the community.

1. Purpose

1.1 To provide:

- a record of informal meetings of Councillors that have occurred in June 2026, which includes matters considered, and any conflict-of-interest disclosures made by a Councillor.
- a report on activities and deliberations of groups and associations for which Councillors are an appointed delegate for the June 2026 period and other activities attended as a Council representative.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: CR. A. PACE

Seconded: CR. T. HANSON

THAT Council receives and notes the record of informal meetings of Councillors and Delegate Report, and any additional information on Councillor activity shared by Councillors during the Council meeting, for June 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.2 CASH INVESTMENT POLICY REVIEW

Author: Nicole Maxwell - Manager Finance

File No: CM/03/005

Attachments: 1. Cash Investment Policy

Community Vision Theme: Not applicable

Council Plan Objective: Ensure good governance by promoting transparency, building trust, and strengthening connections with the community.

1. Purpose

1.1 To adopt a revised Cash Investment Policy (Attachment 1).

AMENDMENT

MOVED: CR. N. JEFFERY

SECONDED: CR. B. CORNISH

THAT Council endorse the revised Cash Investment Policy with the deletion of paragraph one under part 2 of the policy Socially Responsible Investments.

The vote resulted in as follows:

For:

CR. N. CLARK
CR. B. CORNISH
CR. J. DOUGALL
CR. T. HANSON
CR. B. HUMM
CR. N. JEFFERY
CR. A. PACE

Against:

CR. C. JAMES

The **AMENDMENT** was **CARRIED** and became the substantive motion.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: CR. N. CLARK

SECONDED: CR. T. HANSON

The vote resulted in as follows:

For:

CR. N. CLARK
CR. B. CORNISH
CR. J. DOUGALL
CR. T. HANSON
CR. B. HUMM
CR. N. JEFFERY
CR. A. PACE

Against:

CR. C. JAMES

CARRIED

9 ENVIRONMENT, GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE

9.1 PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION PLP332/17.02 FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE PLANS, PERMIT CONDITIONS AND PERMIT PREAMBLE FOR A CARAVAN STORAGE AND REPAIR FACILITY AT 10 STOTTS ROAD WANDONG

Author: *Jacque Payne - Planning Services Coordinator*

File No: *PLP332/17.02*

Attachments:

1. *Notice of Decision to amend planning permit PLP332-17-02*
2. *Advertising and Objector Map*
3. *Existing permit and endorsed landscape plan*
4. *Development Plans of the caravan storage and repair facility*
5. *Development plans of the retrospective works to the caravan repair building*
6. *Application Form*
7. *Title*
8. *Planning Report*
9. *Plumbers Report*
10. *Swept path assessment*

Property No.:	108724
Title Details:	Lot 1 LP113729 Volume. 9082 Folio. 289
Applicant:	Chris Banon
Zoning:	Farming Zone (FZ)
Overlays:	Erosion Management Overlay (EMO) Vegetation Protection Overlay – Schedule 1 (VPO1) Vegetation Protection Overlay – Schedule (VPO2)
Objections Received:	Yes – Two (2) objections received
Cultural Heritage Management Plan Required:	No. The land is not located within an area of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity.
Summary Recommendation:	Issue a Notice of Decision to Amend Planning Permit P332/17.02
Reason Reported to Council:	The original planning permit P332/17.02 went to Council and had three (3) objections.
Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest:	No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in this matter

1. Site Map

Figure 1: Close up aerial image of the caravan storage operation taken from Nearmaps May 2026

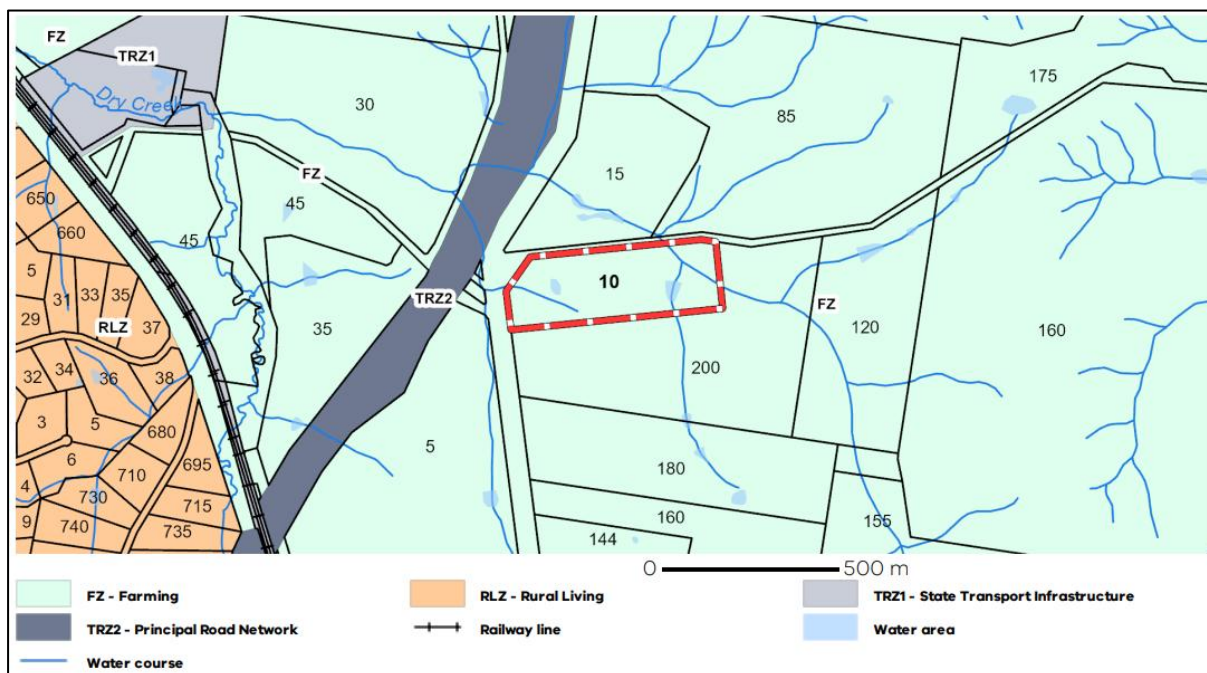


Figure 3: VicPlan Zoning Definition Map

2. Summary

- 2.1 The application seeks approval under Section 72(1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to amend Planning Permit PLP332/17 for an existing caravan storage and repair facility at 10 Stotts Road, Wandong. The amendment proposes an increase in the number of caravans permitted on the land, an increase in employee numbers and amendments to endorsed plans including the workshop and landscaping requirements associated with the operation of the use and amendments to the permit preamble.
- 2.2 The proposal has been assessed against the relevant provisions of the Mitchell Planning Scheme, including the Farming Zone, Clause 52.06 (Car Parking) and Clause 65.01 (Decision Guidelines), together with the relevant state and local planning policies relating to settlement, environmental risks and amenity, environmental and landscape values, natural resource management and economic development.
- 2.3 Following public notification of the amendment application, a total of two (2) objections were received (See attachment 2 – Advertising and Objector map). The grounds of objection relate to:
 - Concerns regarding the scale and intensity of the proposed increase in caravan storage within the Farming Zone, with submitters contending that the use is more appropriately located within an industrial area.

- Concerns relating to visual amenity impacts, loss of rural character and views, landscaping compliance, bushfire risk, emergency access and evacuation constraints associated with Stotts Road, traffic generation, environmental impacts and the cumulative effect of the expanded operation on surrounding rural properties.
 - Concerns regarding the site's history of non-compliance, the retrospective nature of the application, potential impacts on agricultural land use and the precedent this may set regarding further non-rural commercial activity within the locality.
- 2.4 On 12 June 2026, a Section 57A amendment to the application was received to include retrospective works to the caravan storage shed which were undertaken between 2018 and early 2026 and to include works within 100 metres of a watercourse.
- 2.5 The application was referred internally to the following Council departments:
- Engineering.
 - Environmental Health.
 - Environment
 - Landscaping.
 - Waste Management.
- 2.6 The application was referred externally to the following authorities:
- APA (High Pressure Gas Pipeline)
 - Country Fire Authority (CFA).
 - Environment Protection Agency (EPA).
 - Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA).
 - Goulburn Murray Water (GMW).
 - Goulburn Valley Water (GVW).

AMENDMENT**MOVED:** CR. N. JEFFERY**SECONDED:** CR. A. PACE

THAT Council, having complied with the relevant Sections of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, resolve to issue a Notice of Decision to Amend Planning Permit in respect of Application No. PLP332/17 for a caravan storage and repair facility at Lot 1 LP113729, known as 10 Stotts Road, Wandong, subject to the conditions outlined in Attachment 1 excluding condition 41.

The **AMENDMENT** when put was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and became the substantive motion

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED:** CR. N. CLARK**SECONDED:** CR. B. HUMM

The vote resulted in as follows:

For:

CR. N. CLARK
CR. B. CORNISH
CR. J. DOUGALL
CR. B. HUMM
CR. C. JAMES
CR. N. JEFFERY
CR. A. PACE

Against:

CR. T. HANSON

CARRIED

9.2 MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR FIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESERVES.

Author: Elyse Kelly - Environmental Programs Coordinator

File No: ET/01/001-04

Attachments:

1. Community Enagagement summary - Five Environmental Reserves
2. Green's Pinch Reserve Management Plan 2026-2036
3. Catherine Court Reserve Management Plan 2026-2036
4. Fleming Drive Reserve Management Plan 2026-2036
5. Whitemans Reserve Management Plan 2026-2036
6. Highcamp Flora Reserve Management Plan 2026-2036

Community Vision Theme: Nature and Parks

Council Plan Objective: Enhance the quality of life in our communities by investing in partnerships, services, and programs that improve health and wellbeing outcomes and support community equity and inclusion.

Develop spaces that enrich everyday life by supporting sustainable growth, facilitating infrastructure investment, and protecting our natural assets to meet the evolving needs of the community.

Foster a strong sense of civic pride by improving community amenity, and creating opportunities for residents to connect, contribute, and celebrate their shared identity.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek Council endorsement of the attached Management Plans (the Plans) for five Council managed environmental reserves (the Reserves).

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: CR. T. HANSON

SECONDED: CR. C. JAMES

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the attached 2026-2036 Management Plans for Green's Pinch Reserve, Catherine Court Reserve, Fleming Drive Reserve, Whiteman's Reserve, and High Camp Flora Reserve.
2. Acknowledge the contributions made by various community members, groups and organisations in the development of all five management Plans.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.3 OPTIONS FOR MANAGING WASTE VOLUMES FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN IN NAPPIES

Author: Narelle Liepa - Manager Environment and Sustainability
Michelle Jorgensen - Waste and RRC Business Services Coordinator

File No: WM/11/014

Attachments:

1. Options for Managing Waste Volumes for Households with Children in Nappies
2. Tips for Managing Nappy Waste
3. Cost Estimate Calculations for Proposed Options - Confidential

Community Vision Theme: Climate Action

Council Plan Objective: Ensure good governance by promoting transparency, building trust, and strengthening connections with the community.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The report has been prepared in response to the Kerbside Transition 12 Month Implementation Review Council report recommendation, endorsed at the Ordinary Council meeting in May 2026, which requires officers 'to provide a report on options to increase support for families with children in nappies and the associated cost and service impacts'.

RECOMMENDATION

MOVED: CR. A. PACE

SECONDED: CR. B. CORNISH

THAT Council:

1. Note the information in Attachment 1 and support the delivery of existing education programs and materials to support households with children in nappies.
2. Continue to deliver the four-bin kerbside service in line with current policy and contract arrangements.

The **RECOMMENDATION** when put was **DEFERRED**

OPTIONS FOR MANAGING WASTE VOLUMES FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN IN NAPPIES (CONT.)

The vote resulted in as follows:

For:

CR. N. CLARK
CR. B. CORNISH
CR. J. DOUGALL
CR. B. HUMM
CR. C. JAMES
CR. N. JEFFERY
CR. A. PACE

Against:

CR. T. HANSON

CARRIED

10 EXECUTIVE SERVICES

Nil Reports

11 NOTICES OF MOTION

11.1 NOTICE OF MOTION: NO. 1083 - ELIMINATION OF THE OFFICE OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR IN FAVOUR OF ROTATION OF ACTING MAYOR

Author: Nathan Clark - Councillor

File No: GV/10/007

Attachments: Nil

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Council Meeting to be held on 20 July 2026.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: CR. N. CLARK

SECONDED: CR. N. JEFFERY

THAT Council officers prepare a report for consideration for adoption prior to the next Statutory meeting outlining the regulatory pathways, necessary amendments to the Mitchell Shire Council Governance Rules, potential legislative advocacy required to eliminate the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor, replacing them with a model of distributed leadership where the chairing of meetings and traditional civic duties are performed on a rotating basis among all elected councillors.

The **MOTION** when put was **LOST**

The vote resulted in as follows:

For:

CR. N. CLARK

Against:

CR. B. CORNISH
CR. J. DOUGALL
CR. T. HANSON
CR. B. HUMM
CR. C. JAMES
CR. N. JEFFERY
CR. A. PACE

12 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil Reports

13 URGENT BUSINESS

Nil Reports

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of Council is scheduled to be held on Monday 17 August 2026 online and at the Mitchell Civic Centre, 113 High Street Broadford, commencing at 7:00 PM.

15 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting was declared closed at 8.30pm.

16 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

MOVED: CR. C. JAMES

SECONDED: CR. A. PACE

THAT in accordance with Section 66(1) and 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public to consider the following items which relate to matters specified under Section 3(1), as specified below.

16.1 RB Robson Stadium, Wallan Funding Opportunity

16.2 Close of Confidential meeting

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Confirmed this Monday, 17 August 2026

.....
Chairperson
Mayor, Cr John Dougall