



Date: Tuesday, 27 January 2026
Time: 3.00pm
Location: Loddon Shire Council Chambers, Wedderburn

MINUTES

Council Meeting

**MINUTES OF LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEDDERBURN
ON TUESDAY, 27 JANUARY 2026 AT 3.00PM**

PRESENT: Cr Dan Straub (Mayor), Cr Nick Angelo, Cr Gavan Holt, Cr David Weaver and Cr Miki Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE: Lincoln Fitzgerald (Chief Executive Officer), Wendy Gladman (Acting Director Corporate), Steve Van Orsouw (Director Operations) and Lisa Clue (Manager Governance)

1 OPENING AFFIRMATION

The Mayor read the Opening Affirmation

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chief Executive Officer read the Acknowledgement of Country

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

4 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cr Weaver declared a General Conflict of Interest immediately prior to Agenda Item 13.2, as an owner of land adjacent to Lake Boort.

5 PREVIOUS MINUTES**5.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****File Number: FOL/19/45615****Author: Lisa Clue, Manager Governance****Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer****Attachments: Nil****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council confirm the Minutes of the following meetings as previously circulated to Councillors:

1. Council Briefing of 16 December 2025
2. Council Meeting of 16 December 2025

REPORT

This report seeks Council confirmation of Minutes from the December 2025 Council Briefing and Council Meeting as previously circulated to Councillors.

RESOLUTION 2026/1**Moved: Cr Nick Angelo****Seconded: Cr David Weaver**

That Council confirm the Minutes of the following meetings as previously circulated to Councillors:

1. Council Briefing of 16 December 2025
2. Council Meeting of 16 December 2025.

CARRIED

6 COUNCIL AUSPICED MEETINGS**6.1 RECORD OF COUNCIL AUSPICED MEETINGS****File Number: 02/01/001****Author: Lisa Clue, Manager Governance****Authoriser: Steve Van Orsouw, Acting Chief Executive Officer****Attachments: Nil****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council confirm the records of the following auspiced meeting as detailed within this report:

1. Council Briefing held 16 December 2025.

Rule 35 of Council's Governance Rules requires a record of meetings conducted under the auspices of Council to be presented to the next available scheduled Council meeting for confirmation that must include:

- a) a record of which Councillors and officers attended the meeting;
- b) a summary of the matters considered in the meeting; and
- c) a record of any conflicts of interest disclosed by Councillors and officers and any Councillors or officers that left the meeting whilst a matter that their conflict of interest related to was being discussed.

Section 3 of the Governance Rules defines meetings conducted under the auspices of Council to mean a meeting of the kind described in section 131(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 and includes a meeting which:

- a) is schedule or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors;
- b) is attended by a majority of Councillors;
- c) is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
- d) is not a Council meeting or delegated committee meeting.

This report seeks confirmation of the Council Briefing held on 16 December 2025.

Meeting details	Briefing
Date	16 December 2025
Councillor Attendees	Cr Straub (Mayor) Cr Angelo Cr Holt Cr Weaver Cr Wilson
Staff/ Stakeholder representatives	Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer Wendy Gladman, Acting Director Corporate Nicole Taylor, Acting Director Community Wellbeing Lisa Clue, Manager Governance Marg Allan, Loddon Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee Independent Member/Chairperson – for item 2 below Chalpat Sonti, Media and Communications Coordinator – for item 3 below David Stretch, Manager Tourism and Economic Development – for item 4 below Natalie Martin, Manager Financial Services – for item 5 below Reece Carroll, Acting Manager Organisation Development and Amber Lockhart, Team Leader Records and Customer Service – for item 6 below
Item(s) discussed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of Council Meeting Agenda 2. Audit and Risk Committee – Biannual Report 3. Draft Communications Strategy Workshop 4. Economic Development – What's next (2026) 5. Rate Cap Variation Process 6. Customer Service Charter Workshop 7. Social Infrastructure Strategy – Overview and Options 8. General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2026/27 Budget • Priorities document • Enterprise Agreement
Conflict of Interest Disclosures – Councillor/officer making disclosure	Nil
Councillor/officer left room	N/A

RESOLUTION 2026/2

Moved: Cr Miki Wilson
Seconded: Cr Nick Angelo

That Council confirm the records of the following auspiced meeting as detailed within this report:

1. Council Briefing held 16 December 2025.

CARRIED

7 REVIEW OF ACTIONS**7.1 REVIEW OF ACTIONS****File Number:** 02/01/002**Author:** Lisa Clue, Manager Governance**Authoriser:** Steve Van Orsouw, Acting Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** 1. Status of Council resolution actions**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the status of Council resolution actions, as attached to this report.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

REPORT

A document containing the status of actions associated with Council resolutions is attached to this Agenda report.

There was one outstanding action prior to the December 2025 Council meeting. This action, from the November 2025 Council meeting, relating to updating Council's 2024 Priorities document, has commenced and is not yet complete.

Both actions arising from the December Council meeting resolutions have been acted upon.

RESOLUTION 2026/3**Moved:** Cr David Weaver**Seconded:** Cr Gavan Holt

That Council receive and note the status of Council resolution actions, as attached to this report.

CARRIED

8 MAYORAL REPORT**8.1 MAYORAL REPORT****File Number:** 02/01/001**Author:** Lisa Clue, Manager Governance**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report.

REPORT

Mayor Straub presented a verbal report at the meeting.

Other Council activities	
Date	Activity
22/01/2026	Councillor Financial Workshop
26/01/2026	Australia Day Celebrations – Pyramid Hill and Calivil

9 COUNCILLORS' REPORT**9.1 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS****File Number:** 02/01/001**Author:** Lisa Clue, Manager Governance**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive and note the Councillors' reports.

REPORT

Each Councillor presented a verbal report at the meeting.

Cr Holt

Council activities	
Date	Activity
22/01/2026	Councillor Financial Workshop - Wedderburn
25/01/2026	Wedderburn Harness Racing Cup Meeting
26/01/2026	Australia Day Celebration - Wedderburn

Cr Angelo

Council activities	
Date	Activity
19/12/2025	Tarnagulla Primary School Presentations
22/01/2026	Councillor Financial Workshop - Wedderburn
26/01/2026	Australia Day Celebrations – Newbridge and Eddington

Cr Wilson

Council activities	
Date	Activity
22/01/2026	Councillor Financial Workshop - Wedderburn
26/01/2026	Australia Day Celebrations – Bridgewater and Inglewood

Cr Weaver

Council activities	
Date	Activity
26/01/2026	Australia Day Celebration - Boort

RESOLUTION 2026/4

Moved: Cr David Weaver

Seconded: Cr Nick Angelo

That Council receive and note the Mayoral and Councillors' reports.

CARRIED

10 DECISION REPORTS**10.1 PROPOSAL TO NAME UNNAMED LANE IN PYRAMID HILL TO APPLEBY LANE****File Number:** FOL/19/432722**Author:** Tinu Scaria, Assets and GIS Officer**Authoriser:** David Southcombe, Manager Assets and Infrastructure**Attachments:** 1. Attachment 1 - Proposal received from Pyramid Hill Historical Society**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note the naming proposal submitted by the Pyramid Hill and District Historical Society for an unnamed Lane in Pyramid Hill and endorse commencement of community consultation through the following activities:

1. Preparing and issuing letters to property owners adjacent to the proposed lane.
2. Publishing the naming proposal on Council's Facebook page, Connect@Loddon, and in the Loddon Herald for a minimum period of 30 days.
3. Preparing and issuing letters for feedback from the local emergency services and Pyramid Hill and District Historical Society
4. Contacting the family of the late Mr Appleby to seek written consent for the proposed commemorative naming.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

There has been no previous discussion on this road name.

BACKGROUND

A submission was received from Pyramid Hill and District Historical Society proposing the name "Appleby Lane" to the unnamed road segment in Pyramid Hill, refer to attachment 1 for details of the proposal. The proposal is to name the unnamed lane running east from McKay Street to Buckley Street.



The Historical Society proposes the name Appleby Lane in recognition of Albion Richard “Dick” Appleby (1905–1984). Mr Appleby was long-serving Manager of the Pyramid Hill Co-operative Society, with store and yard properties adjoining the lane and his residence backing onto it. Under his leadership the Co-operative became a major driver of the local economy.

Beyond his business role, Mr Appleby contributed extensively to civic life. He served as a Justice of the Peace, Councillor and President of Gordon Shire, and chaired or held membership on numerous irrigation and development committees across the region. Locally, he was a life member of the Pyramid Hill Bush Nursing Hospital, a foundation member of the Bowling and Senior Citizens Clubs, an active supporter of the Agricultural and Pastoral Society, Historical Society, church and lodge. In recognition of these contributions, he was awarded the MBE.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Council is the responsible naming authority within Shire boundaries and is required to consider all requests for naming or renaming of council assets. Upon receipt of a submission, Council must first check the suggested name for compliance with the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria guidelines as stipulated by the Office of Geographic Names. The following principles apply in this instance:

Principle (A) Ensuring public safety

- Names must not risk public and operational safety for emergency response, or cause confusion for transport, communication and mail services.

Principle (B) Recognising the public interest

- Regard needs to be given to the long-term consequences and short-term effects on the wider community of the renaming.

Principle (C) Linking the name to the place

- Names should be relevant to the local area with preference given to unofficial names used by the local community.

Principle (D) Ensuring names are not duplicated

- Names are not duplicated within a 30km radius in rural or remote areas.

Principle (E) Names must not be discriminatory

- Names must not discriminate.

Principle (H) Using commemorative names

- If named after a person, that person must have been held in high regard by the community.
- Names of people who are still alive must be avoided because community attitudes and opinions can change over time.
- Only the surname of the person being commemorated is to be used for roads.

Principle (L) Assigning extent to a road, feature or locality

- The assigned road extent must apply from where the road starts and stops, or where it intersects with another road.

An initial review of the proposed name change has found that it is relevant to the local area and there is strong community support for the name change (Principles B and C).

A search of the VicNames database identified no duplicate or similar-sounding names within the required 30 km radius, and the proposed name is not considered discriminatory (Principles D and E). As the name commemorates a person, evidence provided confirms that the individual made positive contributions to the community and is deceased (Principle H).

The proposed rename is also unlikely to negatively impact public safety or emergency response (Principle A).

Discussions with the Office of Geographic Names have confirmed that the proposed name is compliant with all of their guidelines.

The next step in the process is community engagement. Officers will undertake consultation with immediately affected property owners, emergency services and assess any feedback received. Following this, a report will be presented at a subsequent Council meeting for consideration of the final naming proposal.

If endorsed, the approved name will be lodged with Geographic Names Victoria for final approval and formal registration. Once registered, Council's register of public roads and associated mapping systems will be updated accordingly.

COST/BENEFITS

The costs incurred by Council will include the purchasing and installation of the new street signs and labour costs related to updating asset registers and Geographic Information System data sets, and officially registering the new name with the Office of Geographic Names.

Naming this previously unnamed section of road will provide benefits to the local community. It will improve addressing, navigation and future service delivery. The proposal is supported by local residents and will provide clearer identification for any future development.

RISK ANALYSIS

There is minimal risk associated with the naming of this lane as 'Appleby Lane'. This name was proposed by the community group in Pyramid Hill for a renowned resident of the place.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The family of the late Mr Appleby will be contacted to seek written consent for the proposed commemorative naming, in accordance with the Geographic Naming Victoria (GNV) Naming Rules. Community consultation will be undertaken prior to finalising the proposed road name. As part of this process, letters will be distributed to adjoining and nearby property owners, and feedback will be sought from relevant emergency service agencies and the Pyramid Hill and District Historical Society. The proposal will also be promoted through Council's Facebook page, including Connect@Loddon, and advertised in the Loddon Herald, to ensure the broader community has an opportunity to comment.

RESOLUTION 2026/5

Moved: Cr Miki Wilson

Seconded: Cr Nick Angelo

That Council note the naming proposal submitted by the Pyramid Hill and District Historical Society for an unnamed Lane in Pyramid Hill and endorse commencement of community consultation through the following activities:

1. Preparing and issuing letters to property owners adjacent to the proposed lane.
2. Publishing the naming proposal on Council's Facebook page, Connect@Loddon, and in the Loddon Herald for a minimum period of 30 days.
3. Preparing and issuing letters for feedback from the local emergency services and Pyramid Hill and District Historical Society
4. Contacting the family of the late Mr Appleby to seek written consent for the proposed commemorative naming.

CARRIED

10.2 ADOPTION OF THE DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026-2029**File Number:****Author:** Jordan Fraser, Community Compliance Coordinator**Authoriser:** Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing**Attachments:**

1. Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029
2. Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 - Submission - personal information redacted
3. Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 - response to feedback

SRECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) was presented at the November 2025 Council meeting at which time Council resolved to place the DAMP on public display seeking community feedback.

BACKGROUND

The DAMP is a document required to be completed by every Council in Victoria under Section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

The Draft DAMP was approved for public display at the November 2025 Council meeting and was subsequently made available to the community for feedback from 25 November 2025 – 21 December 2025.

With the public display period finalised for the Draft DAMP, this report provides Council with information about the feedback received and is now seeking Council adoption of the DAMP.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Community engagement on the DAMP was invited through connect@Loddon:

- 139 participants clicked on the link
- 53 people downloaded the DRAFT Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 document
- One submitted a response via letter.

The one submission received focused on changes to the Community Local Law 2022 and statistical data not included in the DAMP. This is not required under the legislation but is instead reflected in the quarterly reports submitted to Council. For further information please refer to attachment 3 for a summary of the submission and officer comment and attachment 2 which contains the full submission.

COST/BENEFITS

The costs associated with the public display period and finalisation of the DAMP are predominantly officer time. Advertising was undertaken through Council's Facebook page and in Council's weekly update in the Loddon Herald.

RISK ANALYSIS

The lack of responses limits Council's ability to gauge community sentiment or identify potential concerns, although it may also suggest general acceptance of the draft DAMP among those who reviewed it. Consideration of community input informed the development of the DAMP with 50 submissions to the online survey received and 43 residents providing feedback through the listening posts.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement on the draft DAMP was invited between 25 November and 21 December 2025 via the following methods:

- connect@Loddon
- Loddon Herald advertisements
- Promotion on Facebook and Instagram pages
- Loddon Shire Council Website

RESOLUTION 2026/6

Moved: Cr Nick Angelo

Seconded: Cr David Weaver

That Council adopt the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029.

CARRIED

10.3 REGISTER OF PUBLIC ROADS REVIEW AND UPDATE**File Number:** FOL/19/432722**Author:** Tinu Scaria, Assets and GIS Officer**Authoriser:** David Southcombe, Manager Assets and Infrastructure**Attachments:**

1. Register of Public Roads
2. Register of Public Roads - Changes

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the updated register of public roads document as provided in attachment 1
2. Authorises the updated register of public roads document to be published on Council's website in accordance with the Road Management Act 2004.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council's current register of public roads was previously adopted and published in 2014.

At the October 2018 Council meeting, a report was presented to amend the register of public roads to reflect changes to the road network and road hierarchy. In addition, various annual infrastructure and capital works program reports have been presented to Council over time, approving the sealing or upgrading of roads. These works have resulted in changes to road hierarchy and service levels that are not currently reflected in the publicly available register of public roads.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the Road Management Act 2004, Victorian Councils are required to establish, maintain and make available a register of public roads. The register of public roads is a key statutory document that defines Council's road network and Council's responsibilities in relation to the inspection, maintenance and management of public roads.

The legislation requires the register of public roads to include, at a minimum, information such as:

- Road name
- Road segment details and chainage
- Road hierarchy
- Date the road was opened, declared, or adopted as a public road
- The responsible road authority

The register of public roads provides transparency to the community and other stakeholders by clearly identifying which roads Council is responsible for and the level of service that applies to each road. It is also a critical reference document for asset management, maintenance planning, capital works programming, and risk and liability management.

Council's most recent publicly available register of public roads was adopted in 2014 and remains the version currently published on Council's website. Since that time, Council's road network has continued to evolve due to growth, development, and capital investment. While these changes have been reflected in Council's internal asset register and geographic information system, they have not been consolidated into a formally adopted and published register of public roads.

Changes to the road network since 2014 have occurred for a range of reasons, including:

- Opening of new roads to provide access to newly created residential properties
- Sealing of roads that were previously gravel roads, resulting in changes to road hierarchy and service levels
- Upgrading of formed tracks to gravel roads as part of rural subdivision and development
- Realignment or extension of existing road segments
- Administrative corrections to road names, extents, or classifications

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Council is required under legislation to keep a register of public roads current and accurate. The existing publicly available register was last updated in 2014 and no longer reflects the current configuration, standard, and hierarchy of Council's road network.

A review has identified that a few changes have occurred since the 2014 adoption of the register of public roads, including but not limited to:

- Addition of new road segments and segments that were not included in the 2014 register
- Changes in road hierarchy following sealing or upgrading works
- Removal or consolidation of road segments where road extents have changed
- Corrections to road naming and segmentation to align with Council's asset systems

Council officers from the Operations Directorate have undertaken a comprehensive review of the 2014 register of public roads against Council's current spatial data, asset register and construction records. As a result of this review, an updated register of public roads has been prepared.

Attachment 1: register of public roads comprises the full register, including notes on alterations made in comparison to the 2014 road register. Attachment 2: register of public roads - changes provides a summary document outlining the changes made in the updated register.

Adoption of the updated register of public roads will ensure that Council's statutory obligations are met and that the information made available to the public accurately reflects the current road network.

COST/BENEFITS

There are no direct costs associated with adopting the updated register of public roads.

The updates are not expected to result in any significant changes to the costs of managing and maintaining the road network. The update entails the formal adoption of a register of public roads that reflects Council's internal asset register and geographic information system which Council is currently operating.

Adopting the updated register of public roads will ensure compliance with legislative requirements, improve transparency for the community and support effective maintenance planning, budgeting and capital works prioritisation.

RISK ANALYSIS

Maintaining an up-to-date register of public roads reduces Council's operational and legal risks. An outdated register creates a risk of discrepancy between the service levels stated in Council's public documents and the actual condition or construction standard of roads.

Adopting the updated register of public roads will:

- Reduce potential legal and liability risks associated with unclear or inaccurate road responsibilities
- Ensure service levels published by Council accurately reflect the current road network
- Support defensible decision-making in relation to inspection, maintenance and renewal activities

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The review and update of the register of public roads have been undertaken through internal consultation between Council's Assets & Infrastructure and Works departments. These departments worked collaboratively to verify road extents, classifications and hierarchy changes based on construction records and current asset data.

RESOLUTION 2026/7

Moved: Cr Miki Wilson

Seconded: Cr David Weaver

That Council:

1. Adopts the updated register of public roads document as provided in attachment 1
2. Authorises the updated register of public roads document to be published on Council's website in accordance with the Road Management Act 2004.

CARRIED

11 INFORMATION REPORTS

Nil

12 COMPLIANCE REPORTS

Nil

13 URGENT BUSINESS**RESOLUTION 2026/8**

Moved: Cr Miki Wilson

Seconded: Cr Nick Angelo

That due to the timeframes required for submissions, Council accept items of Urgent Business relating to:

1. the Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability, and also
2. to consider making a representation in response to the Federal application for protection of Lake Boort.

CARRIED**13.1 FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY****RESOLUTION 2026/9**

Moved: Cr Miki Wilson

Seconded: Cr Nick Angelo

That Loddon Shire Council updates its submission to the Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability. The update is to include:

- Updated wages and financial data
- The unknown financial and operational impact of Treaty (in Victoria);
- Provide further information and examples of the difference between rural and metropolitan councils
- The impact of updated industrial relations legislation
- Cost shifting to local government
- Taxation changes with the Victorian Government collecting land tax through the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund and Land Tax.

CARRIED

Cr Weaver declared a General Conflict of Interest in relation to the next Agenda item, as an owner of land adjacent to Lake Boort, and left the Chamber.

13.2 FEDERAL APPLICATION FOR PROTECTION OF LAKE BOORT

RESOLUTION 2026/10

Moved: Cr Nick Angelo

Seconded: Cr Gavan Holt

That Loddon Shire Council make a representation opposing the application for protection of Lake Boort which seeks to exclude Duck Hunting.

CARRIED

Cr Weaver returned to the Chamber.

14 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of Council will be held on 24 February 2026 at Wedderburn commencing at 3.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 3.39 pm.

Confirmed this.....day of..... 2026

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CHAIRPERSON