

## PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION - AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT 2025-2026

---

Report Author: Senior Advocacy & Government Relations Advisor  
Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer  
Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

---

*The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.*

### CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public.

### SUMMARY

The Australian Government's delivery of its annual Budget is currently scheduled for 25 March 2025. Before or shortly after that date a federal election will be called by the Prime Minister, with the election required to be held before the end of May 2025.

A submission has been prepared to present to local candidates for election in the Federal seat of Casey and to send to relevant Australian Government Ministers and shadow Ministers seeking to influence decision-making. The suggested projects and programs are drawn from existing Council strategies and plans. The submission is provided in the attachment to this report.

### RECOMMENDATION

***That Council note the Pre-Budget Submission – Australian Government 2025-26 (Attachment 1).***

### RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

None.

### DISCUSSION

#### ***Purpose and Background***

Through the Australian Government's budget cycle, there is an opportunity for organisations and individuals to influence funding allocations made in the federal budget. The forthcoming federal election expands that opportunity to providing a

submission to all candidates and parties outlining the priority projects and policy positions of Council with hope for commitments of funding or policy change as part of the election process.

Yarra Ranges Council regularly meet with local Members of Parliament and has provided such submissions previously.

The projects listed for potential funding commitments sit across a full range of Council's identified priority capital works and programs and are drawn from the adopted Advocacy Agenda, previous pre-budget submission and projects identified in a range of council strategies and plans. The priority list has been developed and reviewed by officers.

There is no guarantee or standing commitment from the Government or candidates to fund projects at Council.

## **FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

There is no financial outlay in providing a submission as part of our advocacy activities. The submission has been prepared by officers as part of business-as-usual activities.

If projects are funded by government, there may be both income and some costs associated with delivering the additional projects. Projects put forward have been identified from our priority pipeline or existing strategies and plans. Full funding of projects is sought and no commitment to co-fund has been made.

## **APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES**

This report contributes to the following action in the Council Plan:

- Consolidate and strengthen advocacy through evidence and stronger relationships to ensure other levels of government are effectively and efficiently engaged to support local services and programs.

## **RELEVANT LAW**

Not applicable.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

### ***Economic Implications***

The Submission puts forward projects or seeks support from the Government that would positively impact the Yarra Ranges' local economy and the financial sustainability of Council.

### ***Social Implications***

The Submission puts forward projects or seeks support from the Government that would positively impact the Yarra Ranges Council's ability to foster social connection through a range of Council programs and activities.

### ***Environmental Implications***

Specific projects put forward for consideration would have positive impacts on the environmental sustainability of our region if funded.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Recent community engagement on Council's Draft Budget 2025-26 also sought responses from our community to identify strategic priorities for Council's advocacy program. The top priority from respondents was for Council to advocate for integrated transport including public transport, road sealing and maintenance, flood mapping and drainage. The second highest priority was for Council to advocate for funding and support for vibrant townships including sporting pavilions and aquatic facilities and streetscape improvements.

The Submission includes advocacy for support and funding to deliver projects and programs in these priority areas.

## **COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Projects, programs and policy changes put forward for consideration in this submission have either been proposed or reviewed by Managers and other staff across the organisation.

Some projects or policy changes are also reflective of advocacy work undertaken with local government sector partners.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

By making submissions to the Australian Budget process, Council seeks to mitigate the following strategic risks:

- SR31: Insufficient planning and support for future generations and vulnerable communities, leads to poorly planned communities, inadequate distribution of services and infrastructure and inappropriate land uses, resulting in low levels of amenity for and trust from the community.
- SR35: Inability to successfully facilitate and advocate for community projects to fulfil community needs.
- SR30: Failure to appropriately plan, respond to or prepare for the impacts of climate change, exposes Council, its assets and services to a range of physical, economic and liability risks.

The financial risk of each initiative described in the submission has been assessed and full funding of projects is being sought without committing Council to contribute. Project deliverability has also been determined as a key reputational and financial risk, which will be addressed through proactive discussions with political stakeholders to ensure the level of committed funding is appropriate and stakeholder expectations are effectively managed.

Full risk assessments on the proposed projects will be undertaken if funding is committed, and as they progress through their planning and delivery stages.

## **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

## **ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT**

1. Pre-Budget Submission Australian Government 2025-26