



Council Meeting Agenda

UNSCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

14 July 2026 at 1.30pm

COPACC Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

COLAC OTWAY SHIRE UNSCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 14 July 2026

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COLAC OTWAY SHIRE UNSCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the next **UNSCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING OF THE COLAC OTWAY SHIRE COUNCIL** will be held at COPACC on Tuesday 14 July 2026 at 1:30 PM.

AGENDA

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, we seek your blessing and guidance in our deliberations on behalf of the people of the Colac Otway Shire. Enable this Council's decisions to be those that contribute to the true welfare and betterment of our community.

AMEN

2 WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Colac Otway Shire acknowledges the original custodians and law makers of this land, their elders past and present.

RECORDING AND PUBLICATION OF MEETINGS

Please note: Council meetings will be live streamed and recorded when the meeting is held either at COPACC or online. This includes the public participation sections of the meetings. When meetings are held in other locations, Council will endeavour to make an audio recording of the meeting for community access. Matters identified as confidential items in the Agenda will not be live streamed or recorded regardless of venue or mode.

By participating in open Council meetings, individuals consent to the use and disclosure of the information they share at the meeting (including any personal and/or sensitive information).

As soon as practicable following each open Council meeting, the live stream recording will be accessible on Council's website. Audio recordings are also taken to facilitate the preparation of the minutes of open Council meetings and to ensure their accuracy. Recordings will be retained by Council for a period of four years.

This meeting will be livestreamed to the public via Council's YouTube channel (search Colac Otway Shire Council at www.youtube.com).

The sole purpose of this Unscheduled Council meeting is to consider the following agenda item:

- 2026-27 Local Sports Infrastructure Funding Program – Proposed Applications

3 MEETING ADMINISTRATION

3.1 Present

3.2 Apologies

3.3 Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirm the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23 June 2026.

3.4 Declarations of Interest

A Councillor who has declared a conflict of interest, must leave the meeting and remain outside the room while the matter is being considered, or any vote is taken.

Item: 4.1

2026-27 Local Sports Infrastructure Funding Program - Proposed Applications

OFFICER	Nicole Frampton
GENERAL MANAGER	Ian Seuren
DIVISION	Community and Economy
ATTACHMENTS	Nil

1. PURPOSE

This report seeks Council endorsement to submit applications to the 2026–27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund (the Fund) for the Central Reserve Hockey Fields lighting upgrade and municipal tennis infrastructure planning project, and to seek approval for Council’s financial contributions if the applications are successful.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Victorian Government, through Sport and Recreation Victoria, has opened applications for the 2026–27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund.

Officers have assessed potential projects against the program guidelines, project readiness, strategic alignment, available co-contributions and the 28 July 2026 application deadline.

This report recommends that applications be submitted for the Central Reserve Hockey Fields lighting upgrade under the Community Sports Lighting Stream and a municipal tennis infrastructure planning project under the Planning Stream.

The Central Reserve Hockey Fields lighting upgrade would support increased use of a Council-managed recreation asset, improve lighting compliance and help reduce pressure on Central Reserve’s main oval and Colac Otway Rovers Amateur Football Club’s use of Western Reserve oval. The tennis planning project would guide future investment in tennis infrastructure and facilities across the Shire.

Officers have considered a number of projects under the Community Facilities Stream but do not recommend putting them forward for application at this time.

It is a requirement of the funding that Council confirm its financial contributions before applications are submitted. If successful, Council would be required to contribute towards the Central Reserve Hockey Fields lighting upgrade and the municipal tennis infrastructure planning project. Tennis Victoria will also contribute funds towards the tennis planning project.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the submission of an application to the 2026–27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund Community Sports Lighting Stream for the Central Reserve Hockey Fields lighting upgrade seeking a Victorian Government Grant of \$250,000 (excluding GST), with a Council contribution of up to \$83,334 (excluding GST).***
- 2. Endorses the submission of an application to the 2026–27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund Planning Stream for a municipal tennis infrastructure planning project seeking \$40,000 (excluding GST), with a local contribution of \$20,000 (excluding GST), made up of a Council contribution of up to \$15,000 (excluding GST) and a \$5,000 (excluding GST) contribution from Tennis Victoria.***
- 3. Notes that it is recommended that no application be submitted under the Community Facilities stream of the 2026–27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund.***
- 4. Approves the allocation of up to \$83,334 (excluding GST) as Council's contribution towards the Central Reserve Hockey Fields lighting upgrade project under the 2026–27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund to be provided from either the 2026-27 Open Space Renewal Program or the Unallocated Asset Renewal Fund if the application is successful.***
- 5. Approves the allocation of up to \$15,000 as Council's contribution towards the municipal tennis infrastructure planning project under the 2026–27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund to be provided from the Unallocated Discretionary Funds if the application is successful.***
- 6. Notes that it will be required to underwrite the endorsed projects as per standard funding agreement obligations.***
- 7. Notes that Tennis Victoria has confirmed a \$5,000 cash contribution and in-kind support towards the municipal tennis infrastructure planning project.***
- 8. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to submit applications for the endorsed projects to the 2026–27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund.***
- 9. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a funding agreement should the applications for the endorsed projects be successful.***

4. KEY INFORMATION

The Victorian Government, through Sport and Recreation Victoria, has opened applications for the 2026–27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund.

The Fund supports high-quality, accessible sport and recreation infrastructure that increases participation, particularly for communities with lower participation rates. Applications close on 28 July 2026.

Council must confirm its financial contribution before submitting applications. Council must also demonstrate project readiness, including planning, scope, costings, stakeholder engagement and capacity to deliver the projects.

The Fund includes three streams:

Stream	Number of Applications	Maximum total grant amount per applicant	Regional/rural funding ratio
Community Facilities	Unlimited, but cannot exceed \$500,000 in total across all applications per LGA	Up to \$500,000	SRV \$3 : Local \$1
Community Sports Lighting	Unlimited, but cannot exceed \$250,000 in total across all applications per LGA	Up to \$250,000	SRV \$3 : Local \$1
Planning	One Facility Planning or one Municipal Planning application per LGA	Up to \$40,000	SRV \$3 : Local \$1

Officers assessed potential projects against the program guidelines, project readiness, strategic alignment, available co-contributions and the short application timeframe.

Recommended Applications

Officers recommend that Council submits two applications to this round of the Fund.

Project	Stream	Estimated project cost	Proposed funding
Central Reserve Hockey Fields lighting upgrade	Community Sports Lighting	\$333,334	SRV \$250,000, Council \$83,334
Municipal tennis infrastructure planning project	Planning	\$60,000	SRV \$40,000, Tennis Victoria \$5,000 plus in-kind support, Council \$15,000

Central Reserve Hockey Fields lighting upgrade

The recent Colac Otway Football (Soccer) Facilities Feasibility Study identified Central Reserve Hockey Field and Colac Secondary College oval as eligible lighting projects that could support Colac Otway Rovers Amateur Football Club and broader community sport use.

Officers recommend Council prioritise the Central Reserve Hockey Fields because the site is Council-managed and planning has progressed further than the Colac Secondary College option. The project would upgrade the existing halogen lighting at the Central Reserve Hockey Fields to an LED sportsground lighting system to support increased use of the reserve, provide additional training capacity and help reduce pressure on Central Reserve's main oval and Western Reserve oval.

The local contribution for this project can be sourced from the 2026-27 Open Space Renewal Program or the Unallocated Asset Renewal Fund.

Officers do not recommend progressing the Colac Secondary College lighting project in this round. Council would first need to secure agreement with the school and the Department of Education, complete further community engagement and undertake detailed investigations into power and switchboard requirements.

Municipal tennis infrastructure planning project

Council can submit one application under the Planning Stream for either Facility Planning or Municipal Planning.

Officers recommend that Council submits an application for a municipal tennis infrastructure planning project. This work would assess demand, review the current tennis facility network, identify future priorities and guide future investment in tennis infrastructure across the Shire.

The project aligns with Tennis Victoria's Barwon Tennis Strategy 2024–2034 and the Colac Otway Shire Thriving Tennis Communities project. Tennis Victoria supports the project and has confirmed a \$5,000 cash contribution, as well as in-kind support through venue and participation data.

The local contribution for this project could be sourced from Council's Unallocated Discretionary Funds.

Community Facilities Stream

Council can submit unlimited applications under this stream, but the combined funding request across all applications cannot exceed \$500,000.

Several projects have been considered for application under this stream. Some of the identified projects either require further planning, detailed design, confirmed cost estimates, community engagement or unbudgeted Council co-contributions. The following table summarises the considered projects.

Project	Status
Birregurra Pump Track	This project is eligible under this stream. Designs for tender issue, costings, site investigations and supporting documentation have been completed for this project. The estimated total project cost is \$637,204 (excluding GST). If supported for an application, a request of \$477,903 from the program would be sought, with Council needing to co-contribute \$159,301.
Colac Imperials Netball Club – Western Reserve Netball Pavilion Development	This project is identified in the reserve master plan and would be eligible under this stream. Evidence of total project cost including quotes and in-kind contributions were yet to be received for the project at the time of writing this report. If supported for an application under the Community Facilities Stream, the application would seek the maximum \$500,000 (excluding GST). Colac Imperials Football Netball Club have indicated that they would provide the local contribution and has committed to providing the necessary cash and in-kind contributions required to deliver the project.
Donaldson Street Park Redevelopment – Stage 2	The project is eligible, but a previous application was unsuccessful. Further design work, community engagement and a confirmed Council co-contribution are required before a stronger future application can be submitted.
Forrest Playspace Upgrade	This project would be eligible. Site investigations have been completed. Project is supported by the Forrest Common Masterplan, however further design work, community engagement and a confirmed Council co-contribution are required before submitting a future application.
Apollo Bay Recreation Reserve Cricket Nets	The project is eligible; however, two previous SRV applications have been unsuccessful. The club has upgraded the two existing lanes and no longer has Cricket Australia funding available as a co-contribution. A future application would be seeking funding to construct a third cricket net to support the club's use of the reserve. Updated costs and designs would be required for a future application.
Elliminyt Recreation Reserve second netball court	The project is identified in the reserve master plan, but it is not application ready. Council officers are working with the club on design, site investigations and cost estimates.
Colac Golf Club new clubrooms	The project is not a Council asset and requires confirmed site investigations and co-contributions before Council could consider supporting an application.

5. CONSIDERATIONS

Overarching Governance Principles (s(9)(2) LGA 2020)

This report supports the overarching governance principles by assessing external funding opportunities, project readiness, community benefit and financial implications in a transparent way.

The recommended applications would support improved sport and recreation infrastructure, strengthen partnerships with Sport and Recreation Victoria and Tennis Victoria, and help Council plan and deliver facilities that meet current and future community needs.

Policies and Relevant Law (s(9)(2)(a) LGA 2020)

The recommendations are consistent with the Local Government Act 2020 and Council's role in planning, managing and improving community infrastructure.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications (s(9)(2)(c) LGA 2020)

The Central Reserve Hockey Fields lighting upgrade would be designed to meet relevant sports lighting and obtrusive lighting requirements, including managing spill lighting impacts on nearby properties.

Modern lighting infrastructure improves energy efficiency compared with older halogen lighting infrastructure.

Community Engagement (s56 LGA 2020 and Council's Community Engagement Policy)

Council has engaged with relevant clubs, peak sporting bodies and key stakeholders while considering possible projects and determining the recommended projects.

The Central Reserve Hockey Fields lighting upgrade project has been informed by the recently completed Colac Otway Football (Soccer) Facilities Feasibility Study project and is an identified recommendation and interim action for supporting the local club. Further project-specific communication will occur with affected stakeholders if the application is successful.

The tennis planning project would include engagement with clubs, Tennis Victoria and relevant stakeholders to assess demand, review the facility network and identify future priorities.

A thorough design process for the Birregurra Pump Track project has been completed by the Birregurra Community Group. This process included a community engagement process in designing the new pump track.

The Western Reserve Netball Pavilion Development is identified in the Western Reserve Master Plan which was completed as part of the City Reserves Planning Project. Extensive community engagement on the draft master plan was undertaken at the time of completing the project.

A comprehensive engagement process for the Donaldson Street Park Redevelopment project was undertaken with the community in developing the plan for improving the park's infrastructure.

Some of the projects considered for the Community Facilities Stream require further planning, design, cost confirmation and community engagement before Council can consider future applications.

Public Transparency (s58 LGA 2020)

This report identifies the projects assessed under the 2026–27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund's guidelines including investment priorities and provides explanation as to why projects are recommended over others.

The report provides Council and the community with clear information about the proposed applications, required financial contributions and project readiness considerations.

Alignment to Plans and Strategies

Alignment to Council Plan 2025-2029:

Theme 1 - PLACE

1.2 - Enhance our community and social spaces and collaborate with communities to deliver healthy and climate resilient environments

Theme 2 - PEOPLE

2.2 - Build greater community connection through social, cultural, and recreational opportunities.

2.4 - Promote and enable healthy behaviours

3.3 - Build and maintain effective working relationships with all levels of government

There are a range of strategies and plans used to guide how Council manages, provides, and plans sport and recreation infrastructure, including feasibility studies, reserve master plans, the Public Open Space Strategy, and relevant G21 sport strategies.

Financial Management (s101 Local Government Act 2020)

It is a requirement of the program that Council confirm local contributions before submitting applications.

The Central Reserve Hockey Fields lighting upgrade has an estimated project cost of \$333,334 (excluding GST). The application would seek \$250,000 from Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV), with Council contributing up to \$83,334 if the application is successful.

The municipal tennis infrastructure planning project has an estimated project cost of \$60,000. The application would seek \$40,000 (excluding GST) from SRV, with Tennis Victoria contributing \$5,000 cash plus in-kind support, and Council contributing up to \$15,000 if the application is successful.

If any of the identified projects are successful, as per standard funding agreement obligations, Council will be required to underwrite the endorsed projects and meet any cost increases required to deliver the approved projects.

Service Performance (s106 Local Government Act 2020)

The recommended applications support Council's role in providing accessible, fit-for-purpose sport and recreation infrastructure.

The Central Reserve Hockey Fields lighting upgrade would increase the usability of an existing Council-managed recreation asset and provide alternative venue options to relieve use of the main Central Reserve playing field and also Western Reserve.

There are a number of tennis facilities across the shire that are ageing and don't meet modern day expectations and sport requirements. The planning stream of the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund is a way Council can seek funding to complete sports planning. The tennis planning project will help Council to strategically plan for tennis infrastructure and make evidence-based decisions about investment in future tennis infrastructure across the Shire.

Risk Assessment

The main risks are cost escalation, short application timeframes and project delivery requirements if funding is approved.

Officers will manage these risks by confirming project scope, determining final costs (expenditure and co-contributions), grant requirements and delivery responsibilities before submitting applications.

In relation to the Western Reserve Netball Pavilion Development, as per the funding guidelines, Council would be required to underwrite the project. This may be a significant financial risk for Council that may be mitigated through a back-to-back agreement with the Colac Imperials Football Netball Club for them to meet any cost increases required to deliver the project as per the funded approved scope.

Communication/Implementation

If Council endorses the recommended projects and determines to apply under the Community Facilities Stream, officers will finalise and submit the applications before the 28 July 2026 program deadline.

If the applications are successful, the CEO will complete any funding agreement requirements and officers will communicate next steps with relevant clubs, Sport and Recreation Victoria, Tennis Victoria and other affected stakeholders.

Human Rights Charter

Not applicable

Officer General or Material Interest

No officer declared a general or material interest under the *Local Government Act 2020* in the preparation of this report.

Options

Option 1 – Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to submit applications for the nominated projects to the 2026-27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund as presented

This option is recommended as the nominated projects align with strategic direction, meet the program's guidelines and criteria, and are achievable in the timeframes of the program. The nominated projects are supported by planning to a sufficient level of detail to be submitted for funding and will deliver a range of benefits to the community and user groups. This option enables Council to apply for external funding to progress well developed/planned priorities.

Option 2 – Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to submit applications for alternate projects to the 2026-27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund

Council endorsing alternate projects to those recommended to be submitted for application provides an opportunity to maximise available external grant funding opportunities to assist in the delivery of sport and recreation projects.

Option 3 – Do not authorise the Chief Executive Officer to submit any applications to the 2026-27 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund

This option is not recommended as it would mean that an opportunity to obtain external grant funding to assist in the delivery of the projects may be missed.