Planning Panels Victoria
Department of Transport and Planning

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Melbourne, Victoria 3001
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4 November 2026

Dear Party

Draft Pyrenees Planning Scheme Amendment C52pyrn:
Pyrenees Flood Studies

The Flood-related Amendments Standing Advisory Committee (the Committee) held a Directions Hearing for the above matter on 29 October 2026. Please find attached:

- Committee Directions
- Distribution List, including a file share link
- Hearing Timetable, including venue details and a video link.

The following dates apply:

Time	Date	Documents to be circulated and other matters	Direction
12 noon	Friday, 6 November 2026	Council to provide relevant flood studies	8
12 noon	Friday, 6 November 2026	Council to confirm expert details	17
12 noon	Wednesday, 11 November 2026	Council to provide the specified updated mapping	9
12 noon	Wednesday, 11 November 2026	Council to provide maps showing submitter locations and key flood-related infrastructure	10
12 noon	Wednesday, 11 November 2026	Council background and context submission	12
12 noon	Monday, 16 November 2026	Council to circulate Version 3 amendment documentation	13
12 noon	Monday, 16 November 2026	Council to file expert statement(s)	18
12 noon	Monday, 20 November 2026	Council main submission	14
12 noon	Friday, 20 November 2026	Other documents or material to be presented on Day 1 of the Hearing	27
10:00am	**Tuesday, 24 November 2026**	**Hearing commences**	

Declarations

The Committee declared no conflicts of interest.

Privacy Statement
Any personal information about you or a third party in your correspondence will be protected under the provisions of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. It will only be used or disclosed to appropriate Ministerial, Statutory Authority, or departmental staff in regard to the purpose for which it was provided, unless required or authorised by law. Enquiries about access to information about you held by the Department should be directed to the Privacy Coordinator, Department of Transport and Planning, GPO Box 2392, Melbourne, Victoria 3001

VICTORIA State Government

Legal Assistance Service

Foley's List Barristers has a Legal Assistance Service that provides low-cost or no-cost legal support to eligible submitters in Planning Panels Victoria hearings. Assistance ranges from preliminary advice to full representation, with fees reduced or waived. To participate, submitters must meet eligibility criteria. Assistance is subject to barrister availability. More information about the service is available on the Planning Panels Victoria website including information about who to contact at Foley's List to apply for assistance.

If you have questions, please contact Chris Brennan, Senior Project Officer of Planning Panels Victoria on (03) 9935 4142 or office@planningpanels.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Sophie Osborn
Committee Chair

OFFICIAL

Administrative directions

If you have any queries regarding the process for circulating and presenting documents to the Committee:

- review guidance on the Planning Panels Victoria (PPV) website
- direct any further queries to PPV at office@planningpanels.vic.gov.au.

If you think you will not meet a deadline in a direction, you must seek an extension from the Committee before the deadline with reasons by email to office@planningpanels.vic.gov.au.

Circulating documents

1. Documents should be no more than 20MB in size, and must:
   a) be relevant to the matters before the Committee
   b) use file names as short as possible and begin with the name of the party as it appears on the Distribution List in the following format:
      [Party name] - [Document Title] - [date of filing].
   c) not contain offensive or defamatory material, or personal information about other people (such as contact details or photographs of people, particularly children).
2. Documents and material must be emailed to all parties on the Distribution List and uploaded to the Planning Panels Victoria Document Portal (see attached Distribution List for the links).

Presenting at the Hearing

3. Submissions, presentations and other material presented at the Hearing must be presented electronically through screen sharing.

All documents are public

4. Any document presented to the Committee is a public document solely for the Committee process unless the Committee directs otherwise. It cannot be used for any other purpose.

Notes

Paper documents will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances. If you have with difficulties providing documents electronically you should contact PPV.

Any request to access a document after the document sharing platform is deactivated will be subject to the Freedom of Information process.

For more information on how your submission will be used, refer to the PPV Website.

Hearing support

5. Council must provide administrative support to manage the Hearing (where requested by PPV).
6. Where relevant, support should be consistent with the Guide to Hearing requirements for in-person, online or hybrid hearings on the PPV website.
7. Council must publish notice of the Hearing on its website including dates and venue and/or video link details as applicable.

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Information to be provided by Council

Flood studies

8. Council must provide the Committee with the relevant flood studies which support the Amendment by **Friday 6 November 2026**.

NCCMA mapping

9. Council must provide the Committee with the updated mapping referred to in the letter from the North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA) to Council dated 8 September by **Wednesday 11 November 2026**.

Maps of submitter locations and key flood related infrastructure

10. Council must provide the Committee with a map or series of maps by 12 noon on **Wednesday 11 November 2026** showing:
    a) the location of submitter properties within a proposed overlay (for referred submissions only)
    b) key infrastructure features relevant to the Amendment (for example flood prevention or mitigation works).

Notes

The exhibited draft Amendment documents are referred to as **Version 1**. The Revised Planning Scheme Amendment documents provided as part of the referred materials are referred to as **Version 2**.

Submissions

All submissions

11. Submissions and material put to the Committee must not address flood study methodology beyond the extent necessary to address the referred matters.

Note

For information on how to prepare and present material at a Hearing, refer to the PPV Website.

Council background and context submission

12. Council must circulate a background and context submission by **12 noon on Wednesday, 11 November 2026** that includes:
    a) a summary of the strategic context, including:
        (i) relevant planning policies and provisions
        (ii) an explanation of how the Amendment addresses the following Ministerial Directions and planning practice notes (and if they are not considered relevant, an explanation as to why):
            - Ministerial Direction 22 (Climate Change Considerations)
            - Planning Practice Note 12: Applying the flood provisions in planning schemes
            - PPN53 (Managing Coastal Hazards and the Coastal Impacts of Climate Change)
    b) a summary of the findings of the 5 Flood Studies on which the draft Amendment is based
    c) confirmation as to whether the flood studies reflect the best available information, noting that some of the flood studies are quite dated
    d) a summary of the conditions or requirements that the Department highlighted should be met in the preparation of the draft Amendment (if any)

e) an explanation of any further changes that Council proposes to make in response to submissions (in addition to the changes already outlined in the Submissions Response Report and the Revised Planning Scheme Amendment document included in the referred material)

Note
Council's background and context submission will be taken as read. Council should allow time for questions at the Hearing.

Version 3 amendment documentation

13. Council must circulate by **12 noon on Monday, 16 November 2026:**
    a) Version 3 Amendment documentation showing any further changes to the proposed mapping or controls (changes to the controls must be shown in track changes) beyond those shown in Version 2 amendment documents provided as part of the referred materials
    b) an explanation of the rationale for the further changes.

Council main submission

14. Council must circulate a main submission by **12 noon on Friday, 20 November 2026** that includes:
    a) a heading for each referred matter
    b) its response to the referred matters
    c) an explanation of any aspects of the Amendment on which they are not agreed with the catchment management authorities (CMAs) (which clearly outlines the positions of each)
    d) the final position of Council and the CMAs on the Amendment.
15. If the main submission addresses any specific properties in responding to the referred matters, it must include a map or diagram showing:
    a) the property
    b) the exhibited mapped extent of the relevant overlay
    c) any proposed changes related to that property including mapping changes and changes to the proposed controls.

    The above information may be taken from the Submissions Response Report where appropriate.

Council reply submission

16. Council's reply submission can be oral. The reply submission:
    a) must not raise new matters
    b) may respond to matters raised in other parties' submissions or evidence
    c) may include Council's final position on the Amendment.

Evidence

Expert details and statements

17. If not already provided, full details of all experts must be circulated by **12 noon on Friday, 6 November 2026**.
18. Expert statements must be circulated by **12 noon on Monday, 16 November 2026**.

19. Expert statements must not address flood study methodology beyond the extent necessary to address the referred matters.

20. An expert statement must:
    a) comply with the PPV Practice Note 1 - Expert Evidence (Expert witnesses (planningpanels.vic.gov.au))
    b) not refer to any individual submitter by name – if necessary, individual submitters should be referred to by submission number. Community groups, organisations, corporations and government agencies can be referred to by name.

Presenting evidence at the Hearing

21. Unless agreed by the Chair, evidence should be presented in no longer than 30 minutes.

22. An expert may present a summary of their evidence at the Hearing, but it must:
    a) not include new evidence
    b) be circulated by 12 noon the business day before that expert is scheduled to appear.

23. If giving evidence online, an expert must:
    a) be alone in the room from which they give evidence and not make or receive any communication with another person while giving evidence except with permission from the Committee
    b) inform the Committee immediately should another person enter the room from which they are giving evidence
    c) not discuss their evidence with any other person during breaks in evidence when under cross examination
    d) not have before them any document, other than their expert statement and relevant joint experts report and supporting documents.

Questions to experts

24. A party, advocate and the Committee may question an expert.

25. Parties must limit questions (including responses) to 30 minutes, unless otherwise agreed by the Committee (the day before the expert appears).

26. If asking questions of an expert, a party must:
    a) be present for the whole of the expert giving their evidence
    b) ask clear, concise and relevant questions, directed to matters of fact or professional opinion, that genuinely assist the Committee in understanding the referred matters
    c) allow the expert time to explain their answer.

Notes

Question time may be limited, and the Chair will regulate questions to ensure they are relevant and efficient.

You may be asked to move on to another topic if the line of questioning is not useful to the Committee.

Things to avoid when asking questions include:
- making a submission or providing your opinion
- giving extensive comment or context as an introduction to your question
- asking questions that are unrelated to the evidence
- arguing with the expert
- commenting on the expert or the evidence
- asking questions that have already been asked by another party.

If you do not support the evidence or basis on which it was prepared, or consider the evidence should not be given weight, detail your reasons in your submission rather than raising these issues in questions.

If you are not experienced in questioning an expert, you are encouraged to write your questions down to ensure they are succinct, structured into themes and able to be asked without long explanations of the context.

For information on how to ask questions of experts, refer to the PPV Website.

Presenting material at the Hearing

27. Submissions, presentations and other material presented to the Committee must:
    a) be presented electronically
    b) be circulated by 12 noon on the business day before the material is to be presented
    c) relate to the matters before the Committee
    d) include a summary of fewer than five pages if the material is more than 40 pages.
28. Parties allocated a time to present in a block must be present at the start of the block. The Committee will hear from submitters in that block according to who is present. If you are not present at the start of your allocated block you may not be able to present to the Committee.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

29. If submissions or evidence have been generated, wholly or in part, using Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI), a declaration must be made in writing to the Committee when circulating the material explaining how AI has been used. Refer to PPV Practice Note 4: Use of Artificial Intelligence in PPV proceedings for further information.

Use of personal information

30. A party must not record, keep, distribute or publish contact details of any other party obtained during the Committee process, or use those contact details for any other purpose.

Note

For more information on how your personal information will be used, refer to the Privacy Collection Notice attached to the Committee's Directions Hearing letter dated 2 October 2026

Distribution List

Draft Pyrenees Planning Scheme Amendment C52pyrn:
Pyrenees Flood Studies

Use this list to circulate documents and information in accordance with the Committee's directions. It must not be used for any other purpose. If you are unsure about whether any material or content is appropriate for the Committee process, please seek guidance from Planning Panels Victoria before circulating the material.

Planning Panels Victoria Document Portal

Upload documents to be tabled via this link: [redacted]
View tabled documents via this link: [redacted]

The email addresses below have been given access to the Document Portal. If you require an additional email address to be given access, please email office@planningpanels.vic.gov.au.

Party list

Party	email address
[redacted]	

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Timetable Version 1

Day 1: Tuesday 24 November 2026

Venue: Planning Panels Victoria – Hearing Room 2, Ground Floor, 1 Spring Street, Melbourne

Microsoft Teams: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/485664876847428?p=6zJfHbjSAj7Ypd5VHQ

Meeting ID: 485 664 876 847 428 **Passcode**: uB3eW9kA

Dial in details (audio only): Call +61 3 9070 4463 and enter phone conference ID 608 815 150#

Time	Party	Sub No	Allocated
10:00am	Preliminary matters		**15 mins**
10:15am	**Pyrenees Shire Council (Council)**, represented by Maddocks, calling hydrology evidence from Mr Ben Hughes, Water Technology		4 hours
11.15am	***Break***		***15 mins***
11.30am	**Council** continued		
12.30pm	***Lunch break***		***1 hour***
1.30pm	**Council** continued		
3.30pm	***Break***		***15 mins***
3.45pm	**Scott McCormick**		10 mins
3.55pm	**Council** closing submission		30 mins
4.25pm	Hearing close		

Hearing Timetable Notes:

1. If you are unable to be present at your scheduled time, please contact Planning Panels Victoria on (03) 9935 4142 or office@planningpanels.vic.gov.au as soon as possible.
2. Please be present or online at least 15 minutes before your scheduled start time.
3. The Committee may amend a party's start time without notice. You will be contacted in advance if you are to be rescheduled to a different day.
4. Time will be made for morning and afternoon breaks each day. Break times will be taken at appropriate points in the proceedings, and break times in the timetable are indicative only.
5. If you have any questions about the timetable, please contact Planning Panels Victoria at office@planningpanels.vic.gov.au.

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