



# Councillor Briefing Notes

## Tuesday 16 September 2025 at 12.00 pm

273 Main Street, Bairnsdale 3875

### Attendance

#### Mayor

Cr John White

#### Deputy Mayor

Cr Sonia Buckley (Online)

#### Councillors

Cr Jodie Ashworth

Cr Tom Crook

Cr Barry Davis

Cr Joanne Eastman

Cr Bernie Farquhar

Cr Ian Trevaskis

#### Council Officers

Fiona Weigall

Stuart McConnell

Sarah Johnston

Chris Stephenson

Chief Executive Officer

General Manager Assets and Environment

General Manager Business Excellence

General Manager Place and Community

### Apologies

Cr Arthur Allen

### Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

## Councillor Briefing Session

### Office of the CEO

#### 1.1 Draft Community Engagement Policy

Councillors received an overview of the draft Community Engagement Policy, which was benchmarked against best practice, designed for clarity and accessibility, and aimed to strengthen Council's commitment to meaningful engagement. The draft policy provides examples of engagement levels and aligns with the Council Plan. The draft policy will now be released for public comment prior to being formally brought to Council for consideration.

#### 1.2 Engagement Options – Advisory Committees

Councillors were presented with options to re-energise some of the advisory mechanisms used by Council. Based on these discussions a new approach will be designed and piloted to focus a more flexible Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee using online and in-person methods.

### Business Excellence

#### 1.3 Council Plan Year 1 - Implementation Plan

Councillors were briefed on the Council Plan 2025–29 (Plan) Year 1 - Implementation Plan which outlines the first-year deliverables aligned Council Plan. The Implementation Plan reflects extensive cross-departmental collaboration and is designed to ensure transparency, accountability, and alignment with Council priorities.

#### 1.4 Briefing Psychosocial Hazards

Councillors were briefed on the results of the Staff Psychosocial Hazards Survey report, the key findings and recommended mechanisms to be put in place for the organisation.

### Council Meeting Agenda Discussion

#### 2.1 Council Meeting Agenda Discussion

Councillors and Officers reviewed the agenda for the Council meeting today Tuesday 16 September 2025 and raised any matters for discussion prior to the meeting.

### Meeting Close

**Meeting closed at:** 4.59pm

**Approved by:** Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer