



Councillor Briefing Notes

Tuesday 2 September 2025 at 10.00 am

273 Main Street, Bairnsdale 3875

Attendance

Mayor

Cr John White

Deputy Mayor

Cr Sonia Buckley (Online)

Councillors

Cr Arthur Allen

Cr Jodie Ashworth

Cr Tom Crook

Cr Barry Davis (Online)

Cr Joanne Eastman

Cr Bernie Farquhar

Cr Ian Trevaskis

Council Officers

Fiona Weigall

Tegan Vanderslik

Sarah Johnston

Chris Stephenson

Chief Executive Officer

Acting General Manager Assets and Environment

General Manager Business Excellence

General Manager Place and Community

Apologies

Stuart McConnell General Manager Assets and Environment

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

Assets and Environment

1.1 Road Maintenance, Renewal and Upgrade Process

Councillors were briefed on Council's road maintenance, renewal and upgrade processes.

Business Excellence

2.1 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting 25 August 2025

Councillors were briefed on outcomes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 25 August 2025, noting that the full minutes from the meeting will also be presented formally to Council via inclusion in a future Council Meeting.

2.2 Annual Report 2024-25 - 2nd Draft

Councillors were briefed on the draft Annual Report 2024-25.

2.3 **CONFIDENTIAL** Personnel Matter

Confidentiality Notice

The information contained in this report is confidential under section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* because it relates to: (f) Personal Information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

Pursuant to section 66(5)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, if released, the information discussed or considered in relation to this agenda item would unreasonably disclose personal information about the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), including performance expectations and employment-related matters.

Place and Community

3.1 Open Space Strategy

Councillors were briefed on the draft East Gippsland Shire Council Open Space Strategy 2025-2035. The Strategy aims to establish a strategic vision and provide a high-level overarching long-term framework to guide the future planning, development, provision, and management of open space within East Gippsland. The strategy will be complemented with an additional Bushland Strategy (work in progress) that will provide similar guidelines for the management of natural areas. The Strategy has included extensive consultation and will be released to the community for one final round of consultation prior to being brought to Council for formal consideration.

3.2 Slipway Proposed Concept Plan

Councillors were briefed on the proposed site layout and future improvement options for the Old Slipway in Lakes Entrance, noting that the site is currently under an existing commercial lease and licence.

3.3 Holiday Trading Activation Workshop

Councillors workshopped the development of a holiday trading activation program over the peak trading period, with a focus on initiatives that support economic outcomes across the Shire.

Reports to Future Council Meeting

4.1 Annual Allocation Policy Review

A final draft of the annual allocations policy was discussed with the Councillors, with the policy guiding how funds to support minor maintenance are allocated across approximately 80 volunteer run committees of management managing recreation reserves and halls. Councillors noted the draft report, which will be submitted to the Tuesday 16 September 2025 Council Meeting for consideration and that further work is also being undertaken to review the criteria used to set the allocation amounts. This review will lead to further amendments of the policy at a later date.

4.2 Councillor Support and Expenses Policy

Councillors were briefed on proposed changes to the draft Councillor Support and Expenses Policy. These changes which stemmed from an earlier workshop with the Councillor group. The Policy specifies the requirement for Councils to establish and maintain an expenses policy that addresses the reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred by Councillors and members of delegated committees, where applicable. Councillors also discussed how the vast size of the shire could be considered within the policy settings to ensure that remote candidates are encouraged to stand for Council. The draft policy will now be presented to Council on Tuesday 16 September 2025 Council Meeting for consideration.

Meeting Close

Meeting closed at: 4.25pm

Approved by: Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer