



Councillor Briefing Notes

Tuesday 30 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 (From 12.11 pm)

Cr Joanne Eastman

Cr Bernie Farquhar

Cr Ian Trevaskis

Council Officers

Fiona Weigall

Stuart McConnell

Portia Branton

Kris Wain

Chief Executive Officer

General Manager Assets and Environment

Acting General Manager Business Excellence

Acting General Manager Place and Community

Apologies

Cr Barry Davis

Sarah Johnston General Manager Business Excellence

Chris Stephenson General Manager Place and Community

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

Councillor Briefing Session

Office of the CEO

1.1 Presentation from Department of Transport and Planning

Councillors received a presentation from the Department of Transport and Planning that provided an overview of their regional operations, including its integrated approach to transport and land use planning, key priorities for Gippsland, ongoing and future infrastructure projects, maintenance strategies.

1.2 Project Management Review

Attendance

Cr Tom Crook entered the Council Chambers at 12.11 pm.

Councillors were briefed on the Project Management Review and the work currently in progress to refresh and enhance Council's revised Project Management Framework (PMF). Based on these discussions, revised Guiding Principles will be presented to Council for formal consideration in November.

1.3 Strategic Advocacy Information Session

Councillors received a presentation on Strategic Advocacy and an independent assessment of the state of play in the lead up to the State Elections.

The overview covered:

- what opportunities may arise ahead of the 2026 state election;
- how to create leverage for advocacy efforts; and
- how advocacy approaches change when dealing with government, the opposition and members of parliament.

Councillors discussed key challenges and key opportunities facing the region.

Assets and Environment

2.1 **CONFIDENTIAL** Commercial Business 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: (a) Council Business Information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations, if prematurely released.

2.2 **CONFIDENTIAL** Contractual Matter

Confidentiality Notice

The information contained is confidential under section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* because it relates to: (g) Private Commercial Information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

Business Excellence

3.1 Audit and Risk Committee Membership Options

Councillors were briefed on the three independent member vacancies on the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC). Councillors discussed their preferred committee composition, recruitment, appointment of the Chair and sitting fees.

Reports to Future Council Meeting

4.1 East Gippsland Shire Council Coastal and Marine Management Plan

Councillors were briefed on the draft report for Council's Coastal and Marine Management Plan. Councillors noted the report, which will be presented to Council for formal consideration at the upcoming Council Meeting on 21 October 2025.

Meeting Close

Meeting closed at: 4.42 pm

Approved by: Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer