



Councillor Briefing Notes

Tuesday 9 September 2025 at 10.00 am

273 Main Street, Bairnsdale 3875

Attendance

Mayor

Cr John White

Deputy Mayor

Cr Sonia Buckley

Councillors

Cr Arthur Allen

Cr Jodie Ashworth

Cr Barry Davis (Online)

Cr Joanne Eastman

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 Tom Crook

Absent

Cr Bernie Farquhar

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

Place and Community

1.1 Next Steps Planning Scheme Amendment C170egip - Rural Land Use Strategy

Councillors workshopped the Rural Land Use Strategy, a high-level strategic framework tailored to East Gippsland. This provides the strategic work required to inform any future changes to the East Gippsland Planning Scheme. Councillors and Officers discussed next steps for the Planning Scheme Amendment C170egip which has been authorised by the Minister for Planning for exhibition, but is yet to be exhibited.

Business Excellence

2.1 Procurement Policy and Procurement Process Workshop

Councillors workshopped the draft Procurement Policy, focusing on aligning with the Municipal Association of Victoria's best practice standards and ensuring the policy will create local contractor engagement opportunities.

Assets and Environment

3.1 Approved Capital Program 25/26 - Identifying the most reporting priorities for Councillors

Councillors were presented with an overview of the status of the Capital Program for 2025/26, including an overview on full project list, a shortlist of priority projects, budget allocations, delivery targets, and reporting options. Discussions were held to ensure that the information presented to the Councillors during briefings meets their information needs.

3.2 Capital Works - Year in Review

Councillors were presented with a comprehensive overview of the 2024/25 Capital Works program, including highlights from the year, an overview of projects completed, projects still in delivery and some of the major challenges the 2024/25 program faced.

3.3 WORLD Centre - Update

Councillors were presented with a detailed update on the WORLD Centre project, covering its multi-stage delivery, current status of the final stage (soccer and hockey facilities), budget breakdown, value management efforts, funding sources, risks of delay. The final stage of the project will now proceed to tender.

Business Excellence (continued...)

4.1 Service Review Program 2025/26

Councillors received a presentation on the scope and timelines for two planned service reviews this financial year— public amenities (public toilet) services and community services—covering project objectives, in-scope and out-of-scope elements, roles and responsibilities, and the process for providing feedback and aligning with council priorities.

Reports to Future Council Meeting

5.1 Updated Service Review Policy

This report presents the draft revised Service Review Policy (Policy) for Council's consideration and formal endorsement. The revised Service Review Policy, aligned with the Council Plan 2025–2029 and the *Local Government Act 2020*, outlines Council's commitment to conducting regular service reviews to ensure services remain responsive, effective, and financially sound. Councillors noted the draft Council report will be submitted to a future Council meeting for consideration.

5.2 Raymond Island Ferry Portable Passes

This report seeks Council's endorsement to make changes to the Raymond Island Ferry resident pass system, addressing key issues with the current portable pass model. The proposed changes aim to improve equity in pass allocation, reduce operational challenges, and support the ongoing financial sustainability of the ferry service. Councillors noted the draft report, which will be submitted to the 16 September 2025 Council Meeting for consideration.

5.3 Renewal East Gippsland Road Management Plan

This report seeks Council adoption of a revised Road Management Plan following detailed review and public consultation. As a part of the *Road Management Act 2004* and the *Road Management (General) Regulations 2016*, Council is required to undertake a review of its Road Management Plan every four years. Councillors noted the draft report will be submitted to the 16 September 2025 Council Meeting for consideration.

Meeting Close

Meeting closed at: 6.15pm

Approved by: Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer