



Councillor Briefing Notes

Tuesday 9 December 2025 at 9.30 am

273 Main Street, Bairnsdale 3875

Attendance

Mayor

Cr Jodie Ashworth

Deputy Mayor

Cr Tom Crook

Councillors

Cr Arthur Allen (Online)

Cr Sonia Buckley

Cr Barry Davis (Online)

Cr Joanne Eastman

Cr Ian Trevaskis

Council Officers

Fiona Weigall

Stuart McConnell

Sarah Johnston

Chief Executive Officer

General Manager Assets and Environment

General Manager Business Excellence

Apologies

Cr Bernie Farquhar

Cr John White

Chris Stephenson General Manager Place and Community

Recognition of Traditional Custodians

East Gippsland Shire Council acknowledges the Gunaikurnai, Monero and Bidawel people as the Traditional Custodians of this land that encompasses East Gippsland Shire, and their enduring relationship with country. The Traditional Custodians have cared and nurtured East Gippsland for tens of thousands of years.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

Councillor Briefing Session

Reports to Future Council Meeting

1.1 Endorse updated Procurement Policy

Councillors were briefed on the draft revised Procurement Policy. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **16 December 2025** Council Meeting for consideration.

Attendance

Cr Arthur Allen joined the meeting online at 9.57 am.

External Presentation

2.1 Councillor Professional Development: Integrity and Decision Making

Councillors received a presentation on integrity and decision making, which included an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor, Councillors, and the CEO, conflict of interest management, gifts, hospitality and personal interests returns and an overview of the distinctions between confidential and sensitive information.

This session forms part of the 2025 Mandatory Annual Professional Development Training for Councillors.

2.2 Councillor Professional Development: Councillor Conduct

Councillors received a presentation on Councillor conduct, which included an overview of the Councillor conduct framework, introduction to other legislative responsibilities of Councillors, the role of integrity agencies, including the Minister for Local Government and effective participation in Council meetings.

This session forms part of the 2025 Mandatory Annual Professional Development Training for Councillors.

Business Excellence

3.1 Workshop 1 - Budget 2026/27 - Budget Process and Engagement

Councillors were briefed on the process and engagement approach for the 2026/27 Budget and discussed preferred methods for Councillor participation and community engagement.

Attendance

Cr Barry Davis (online) left the meeting at 5.03 pm.

Reports to Future Council Meeting (continued)

4.1 Audit and Risk Committee Matters

Confidentiality Notice

The information contained in **Confidential Attachment 4** to 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 of applicants for the East Gippsland Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee.

Councillors were briefed on the draft Audit and Risk Committee Matters report, which included the Councillors and Audit and Risk Committee Annual Joint Meeting notes of 7 October 2025, proposed new sitting fees for independent members, endorsement of the proposed changes to the Committee Charter; and the preferred candidates for appointment to the positions of Independent Chair and Independent Member of the Committee. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **16 December 2025** Council Meeting for consideration.

4.2 Councillor Representation Register 2024-2028 - Annual Review 2026

Attendance

Cr Barry Davis entered the Council Chambers at 5.15 pm.

Councillors were briefed on the draft Councillor Representation Register 2024 – 2028 and noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **16 December 2025** Council Meeting for consideration.

Meeting Close

Meeting closed at: 5.38 pm

Approved by: Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer