



Councillor Briefing Notes

Tuesday 3 February 2026 at 9:30 am

273 Main Street, Bairnsdale 3875

Attendance

Mayor

Cr Jodie Ashworth

Deputy Mayor

Cr Tom Crook

Councillors

Cr Arthur Allen

Cr Sonia Buckley

Cr Barry Davis (Partly online)

Cr Joanne Eastman

Cr Bernie Farquhar

Cr Ian Trevaskis

Cr John White

Council Officers

Fiona Weigall

Stuart McConnell

Sarah Johnston

Chief Executive Officer

General Manager Assets and Environment

General Manager Business Excellence

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.

Apologies

Chris Stephenson General Manager Place and Community

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Cr Ian Trevaskis declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 5.2 *Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee (ASAC) - Travel Allowance*, as a general interest due to a family member on the committee.

Councillor Briefing Session

Reports to Future Council Meeting

1.1 Community Engagement Policy Review Adoption

Attendance

Cr Barry Davis (online) joined the meeting at 9.28 am.

Councillors were briefed on the draft report, Community Engagement Policy Review Adoption. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **17 February 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

External Presentation

2.1 ID Profile - Community Characteristics and Engagement

Councillors were provided with an overview of East Gippsland's community demographics and how this information can help shape more effective community engagement. Council will use these insights to adapt its engagement approaches, choosing methods that reflect each community's access to technology, communication needs, and ways of participating, to help ensure that everyone in the community has meaningful opportunities to be involved. This briefing also met one of Councillors mandatory training requirements.

Attendance

Cr Barry Davis (online) left the meeting at 10.57 am.

Assets and Environment

3.1 Capital Works and Major Projects Status as at 31 December 2025

Attendance

Cr Barry Davis entered the Council Chamber at 11.26 am.

Councillors were briefed on the status of the Capital Works and Major Projects as of 31 December 2025. This includes a review of current capital projects and outlines proposed adjustments to ensure alignment with strategic priorities and delivery timelines.

Business Excellence

4.1 Year 2 Council Plan

Councillors workshopped the draft Year 2 Council Plan 2026/27.

Councillors worked through the priorities that matter most for delivery in the year ahead and identified other areas that may need to be paused or discontinued progressing.

Workshops and Reports to Future Council Meeting (continued)

5.1 Planning Scheme Amendment C159egip - Update Erosion Management Overlay Schedule

Councillors were briefed on the Planning Scheme Amendment C159egip - Update Erosion Management Overlay Schedule. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **17 February 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

5.2 Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee (ASAC) - Travel Allowance

Conflict of Interest

Cr Ian Trevaskis, having declared a Conflict of Interest in relation to item 5.2, left the Council Chamber at 4.10 pm.

Councillors were briefed on the Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee (ASAC) - Travel Allowance. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **17 February 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

Attendance

Cr Ian Trevaskis returned to the Council Chamber at 4.19 pm.

Meeting Close

Meeting closed at: 4.20 pm

Approved by: Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer