



Councillor Briefing Notes

Tuesday 10 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 Joanne Eastman

Cr Bernie Farquhar (Online)

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

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

Cr Barry Davis

Cr John White

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

Councillor Briefing Session

Assets and Environment

1.1 Workshop - Budget 2026/27 - Initial Capex Budget discussion

Attendance

Cr Sonia Buckley entered the Council Chamber at 9.45 am.

Councillors workshopped the Initial Capex Budget which forms part of the 2026/27 Council Budget, and discussed key principles to build a shared understanding of Council's future capital planning and the challenges affecting delivery over the coming years.

Business Excellence

2.1 Quarterly Health Safety and Wellbeing Report October to December 2025

Councillors were briefed on the quarterly update on Health Safety and Wellbeing for the period October – December 2025.

2.2 Workshop 1 - Domestic Animal Management Plan

Attendance

Cr Bernie Farquhar (online) joined the meeting at 1.42 pm.

Councillors workshopped the Domestic Animal Management Plan to provide input into Council's approach to managing animal services across the municipality. The session provided a broad overview of Council's responsibilities, service pressures and future focus areas, and helped build a shared understanding of how animal management activities will be planned and delivered over the coming years.

Attendance

Cr Joanne Eastman left the meeting at 2.30 pm and did not return.

2.3 Delegations - Council to Members of Staff

Councillors were briefed on and discussed Delegations - Council to Members of Staff. Councillors were provided with a high-level overview of Council's legislative Delegations Framework, including the statutory context in which delegations operate, and the mechanisms used to lawfully authorise decision-making across the organisation. This briefing was provided as background to future reports coming to Council relating to Delegations.

Reports to Future Council Meeting (For discussion)

3.1 Annual Insurance Renewal 2026-27

Councillors were briefed on the draft report, Annual Insurance Renewal 2026/27. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **17 February 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

3.2 ALGA Conference - Motions for Adoption

Councillors were briefed on and discussed the draft report, ALGA Conference - Motions for Adoption.

3.3 CON2023 1473 Cleaning of Nominated Buildings - Contract Extension

Councillors were briefed on the draft report, CON2023 1473 Cleaning of Nominated Buildings - Contract Extension. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **17 February 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

3.4 CON2026 1737 Construction of Church St Pedestrian Crossings, Lakes Entrance

Confidentiality Notice

The information contained in **Confidential Attachments: 1 (CON2026 1737 Contract Award Summary)**, and **2 (Tender Evaluation Process)** are 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—(i) relates to trade secrets.

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 expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage, by disclosing financial information to competitors.

Councillors were briefed on and discussed the draft report, CON2026 1737 Construction of Church St Pedestrian Crossings, Lakes Entrance. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **17 February 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

Meeting Close

Meeting closed at: 3.50 pm

Approved by: Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer