



Councillor Briefing Notes

Tuesday 24 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 (Online)

Cr Barry Davis (Online)

Cr Joanne Eastman

Cr Ian Trevaskis

Cr John White

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 Bernie Farquhar

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

Councillor Briefing Session

Chief Executive Officer

1.1 Homes for Everyone - Position Paper

Attendance

Cr Sonia Buckley and Cr Barry Davis (online) joined the meeting at 9.43 am.

Councillors were briefed on and discussed the draft Homes for Everyone Position Paper. The briefing provided an overview of the proposed approach and emerging principles, including Council's broader leadership and advocacy role and the importance of working in partnership with other organisations. The work also aligns with Council's adopted Housing and Settlement Strategy and the role Council has as a Responsible Authority for Planning. Councillors discussed the need for a clear, evidence informed- framework to support future engagement and advocacy, noting that further work will continue as the approach is refined over time.

The position paper will now proceed to the March Council Meeting for formal consideration.

Assets and Environment

2.1 Slip Road Precinct Future Management Options

Councillors were briefed on and discussed the Slip Road Precinct future management options, including operational considerations, and longer-term strategic opportunities for the site.

Business Excellence

3.1 Quarterly Community Satisfaction, Engagement and Customer Responsiveness Report

Councillors were briefed on the quarterly Community Satisfaction, Engagement and Customer Responsiveness Report, which provided an overview of organisational performance across community engagement activities, communications reach, service responsiveness and customer experience. The report demonstrates continual improvement in most services and customers surveyed.

The briefing provided a high level overview of recent engagement activity and service responsiveness across the organisation. Councillors noted the importance of continuing to review feedback and performance information to support continuous improvement and inform future service planning.

Place and Community

4.1 Flood Review Project

Attendance

Cr Sonia Buckley and Cr Barry Davis (online) joined the meeting at 1.33 pm.

Councillors were briefed on and discussed the progress and outcomes of the Flood Review Project, including work undertaken to update flood studies and planning scheme mapping using the best available data.

The briefing provided a high level overview of recent work and changes in the broader operating environment and outlined how this may inform future processes. Councillors discussed the importance of supporting the community through clear communication and ongoing engagement as this work continues.

The briefing highlighted recent changes to the responsibility for leading Planning Scheme Amendments to incorporate Flood Mapping into councils' planning schemes. With this change made by the Minister for Planning and resulting in catchment management authorities now leading flood related planning scheme amendments.

4.2 The Culture and Creativity Service Review and New Funding Model

Councillors were briefed on and discussed the review and reform of the Culture and Creativity Service Review and alignment of a new funding model with the Council adopted strategy.

The briefing provided a high level overview of current arrangements and emerging directions, with a focus on ensuring future approaches are fair, transparent and aligned with Council's strategic objectives-.

Councillors discussed the importance of supporting a diverse and sustainable creative sector and noted the need for ongoing consultation, clear communication and careful consideration as this work progresses.

Meeting Close

Meeting closed at: 2.45 pm

Approved by: Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer