



# Councillor Briefing Notes

Tuesday 3 March 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

Cr Joanne Eastman

Cr Bernie Farquhar

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

Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of this land and pays deep respect to all First Nations peoples and communities with enduring cultural connections to East Gippsland, who have cared for and nurtured Country for tens of thousands of years.

We honour and celebrate the Rich diversity, living cultures, and ongoing contributions of all First Nations peoples who live, work, visit, and play across East Gippsland.

We also acknowledge the many First Nations communities who, together, continue to shape and contribute to the region we know as East Gippsland. The place where we, as Local Government, deliver services and support to our community.

## Apologies

Nil

## Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

## Councillor Briefing Session

### External Presentation

#### 1.1 CONFIDENTIAL CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Matters (Inc. Mandatory Professional Development Training)

##### Attendance

Cr Sonia Buckley entered the Council Chamber at 9.40 am.

##### Confidentiality Notice

The information for this brief 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 about the Chief Executive Officer, including performance expectations and employment-related matters.

This session also formed part of the 2026 Mandatory Annual Professional Development Training for Councillors.

## Chief Executive Officer

#### 2.1 Call for Motions - MAV State Council May Meeting

Councillors received an overview of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council process for submitting motions, which provides councils with an opportunity to raise matters of state-wide significance for consideration.

Councillors discussed a range of potential issues relevant to East Gippsland and broader rural and regional communities, with a focus on identifying a small number of priority matters to progress.

Further work will be undertaken to refine potential motions in line with the MAV process before consideration by Council in the next Council meeting.

## External Presentation (continued)

### 3.1 East Gippsland Livestock Exchange Commercial Review

#### Attendance

Cr Barry Davis entered the Council Chamber at 11.30 am.

#### Confidentiality Notice

The information contained in this report is confidential under section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* because it relates to: (a) Council Business Information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations, if prematurely released.

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 reveal commercially sensitive financial modelling, proposed operating and governance models, market and supplier information, and strategic commercial assumptions for the operation of the East Gippsland Livestock Exchange. Disclosure of this information could adversely affect Council's commercial interests and negotiating position.

## Reports to Future Council Meeting

### 4.1 Organisational Performance Report - September to December 2025

Councillors were briefed on the draft report Organisational Performance Report - September to December 2025. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **17 March 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

## Assets and Environment

### 5.1 Capital Works and Major Projects Status as at 31 Jan 2026

Councillors were briefed on the Capital Works and Major Projects Status as at 31 January 2026. The briefing provided an overview of progress on key projects, overall spending to date, and how projects are being managed to stay aligned with Council priorities. Councillors discussed the importance of strong project management, effective risk oversight, clear public reporting, and ensuring capital works continue to support long-term financial sustainability and community outcomes.

### 5.2 Workshop 2 Budget 2026/27 - First Cut Capital Works Budget

Councillors workshopped the First Cut Capital Works budget for 2026/27. The discussion focused on ensuring the proposed budget is realistic, affordable and aligned with Council Plan priorities, while balancing the delivery of essential services and infrastructure.

Councillors considered key financial pressures, the timing and staging of major projects, and long-term financial sustainability, and provided feedback to help refine the budget as it continues through the budget development and reporting process.

## Meeting Close

**Meeting closed at:** 4.49 pm

**Approved by:** Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer