



# Councillor Briefing Notes

Tuesday 24 March 2026 at 9.30 am

273 Main Street, Bairnsdale 3875

## Attendance

### Mayor

Cr Jodie Ashworth

### Councillors

Cr Arthur Allen

Cr Sonia Buckley

Cr Barry Davis

### Deputy Mayor

Cr Tom Crook

Cr Joanne Eastman

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

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

Cr Bernie Farquhar

Cr John White

## Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

## Councillor Briefing Session

### External Presentation

#### 1.1 Councillor Mandatory Professional Development Session: Effective Governance in Council

Councillors received a presentation on Effective Governance in Council, which focused on how Council works, the role of Councillors, and the importance of good governance and ethical leadership.

The session highlighted the importance in governance terms of doing the right thing at the right time, every time..

This training forms part of the 2026 Mandatory Annual Professional Development Training for Councillors, and was designed as refresher training rather than in response to any governance issues.

### Business Excellence

#### 2.1 Year 2 Council Plan Implementation Plan

Councillors received an update on the proposed Year 2 Council Plan, showing how feedback from the February 2026 workshop and Councillor priorities have been used to refine and prioritise actions for the year ahead.

Councillors worked through the proposed priorities, suggested improvements, and provided input to help ensure the plan reflects community needs. The final priorities will guide Council's planning and budgeting.

### External Presentation (continued)

#### 3.1 Advocacy Priorities - Presentation from The Agenda Group

#### Attendance

Cr Arthur Allen entered the Council Chamber at 1.11 pm

Councillors workshopped the Advocacy Priorities for 2026, reviewing Council's current advocacy activities and receiving the first draft of the proposed Advocacy Priorities developed with support from The Agenda Group.

The workshop discussion focused on identifying a clear and realistic set of priorities that can deliver the greatest benefit for the East Gippsland community. Councillors also discussed how these priorities can be better explained, planned and timed, and how Council can work with government, partners and stakeholders to advocate effectively on behalf of the region.

#### Attendance

Cr Barry Davis left the meeting at 1.40 pm and did not return.

## 3.2 CONFIDENTIAL Workshop CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Matters

### 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.

## Reports to Future Council Meeting (For discussion)

### 4.1 CONFIDENTIAL Development Matter

#### 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; (c) Land Use Planning Information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values; and (e) Legal Privileged Information, being information to legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies.

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 could compromise the integrity of compulsory acquisition processes, prejudice Council's commercial and legal position, and encourage speculative behaviour in the land market.

## Place and Community

### 5.1 Omeo Justice Precinct Masterplan

Councillors received an overview of the draft Omeo Justice Precinct Master Plan and discussed its intent to guide the future care and use of the precinct.

The draft Master Plan will be placed on public exhibition, with opportunities for the community and key stakeholders to provide feedback before any decisions are made.

#### Attendance

Cr Ian Trevaskis left the meeting at 4.48 pm and did not return.

## Meeting Close

**Meeting closed at:** 4.53 pm

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