



Councillor Briefing Notes

Tuesday 5 May 2026 at 10.00 am

273 Main Street, Bairnsdale 3875

Attendance

Mayor

Cr Jodie Ashworth

Deputy Mayor

Cr Tom Crook

Councillors

Cr Sonia Buckley (Online)

Cr Barry Davis (Online)

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

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 Arthur Allen
Cr John White

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

Councillor Briefing Session

Assets and Environment

1.1 Capital Works and Major Projects Status as at 31 March 2026

Attendance

Cr Sonia Buckley (online) joined the meeting at 10.04 am and left the meeting at 10.09 am due to technical difficulties.

Councillors were briefed on the Capital Works and Major Projects Status as at 31 March 2026. The briefing provided an overview of progress on key projects, overall spending to date, and how projects are being managed for delivery and financial transparency.

Business Excellence

2.1 Quarterly Community Satisfaction, Engagement and Customer Responsiveness Report

Attendance

Cr Sonia Buckley (online) joined the meeting at 10.54 am.

Councillors were briefed on the quarterly Community Satisfaction, Engagement and Customer Responsiveness report.

The update highlighted strong participation across a range of community activities, including communications, engagement, customer response times and customer satisfaction. Councillors also noted that Officers continue to review feedback and use it to improve service delivery and how residents are kept informed. Where service data from the quarter indicated movement away from positive trends of improvement, Councillors were also briefed on how Officers are addressing this.

Reports to Future Council Meeting

3.1 Organisational Performance Report

Attendance

Cr Benie Farquhar (online) joined the meeting at 1.31 pm.

Councillors were briefed on the draft Organisational Performance Report. This report tracks both performance against the Council Plan actions for the year and financial performance against budget. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **19 May 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

3.2 Planning Scheme Amendment C161egip - Update Lakes Entrance Northern Growth Area (Authorisation)

Councillors were briefed on the draft report, Planning Scheme Amendment C161egip - Update Lakes Entrance Northern Growth Area (Authorisation). Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **19 May 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

3.3 Nicholson Street Mall

Councillors were briefed on the draft report responding to a petition received on the Nicholson Street Mall. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **19 May 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

3.4 Revised Waste Fees and Charges – 2026/27 Budget

Councillors received an overview of the impact of fuel on Waste services and discussed the waste fees and charges for 2026/27 budget that are now necessary to ensure Council can continue providing reliable and essential waste services.

It was acknowledged that service costs have increased due to external factors beyond Council's control, and that fees are reviewed regularly to reflect the actual cost of delivering services fairly and sustainably.

Councillors emphasised the importance of keeping the community informed, monitoring impacts over time, and continuing to look for efficiencies so services remain affordable while meeting regulatory and operational requirements.

Meeting Close

Meeting closed at: 2.50 pm

Approved by: Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer