



Councillor Briefing Notes

Tuesday 12 May 2026 at 9.30 am

273 Main Street, Bairnsdale 3875

Attendance

Mayor

Cr Jodie Ashworth

Deputy Mayor

Cr Tom Crook

Councillors

Cr Sonia Buckley

Cr Joanne Eastman

Cr Bernie Farquhar (Online)

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

Cr Arthur Allen
Cr Barry Davis

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Cr Tom Crook declared a conflict of interest in relation to item *5.5 Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool - Response* to Council Resolution as a material interest due to a personal relationship with a nearby landowner.

Councillor Briefing Session

Business Excellence

1.1 Workshop 10 - Budget 2026/27 - Draft Budget 2026/27, draft Four-Year Revenue and Rating Plan review and Council Plan Year 2 Deliverables

Attendance

Cr Sonia Buckley (online) joined the meeting at 10.53 am and then entered the Council Chamber at 10.59 am.

Councillors workshopped the draft 2026/27 Budget, the updated Four-Year Revenue and Rating Plan, and the Council Plan Year 2 priorities documents.

This was the final workshop before the draft documents are considered by Council.

Place and Community

2.1 Bairnsdale 2050 - Project Update

Councillors were provided with an overview on Bairnsdale 2050 project process, including why the project is being undertaken, what work has been completed so far, and the proposed next steps.

The update explained that Bairnsdale 2050 is a long-term plan to help guide how Bairnsdale grows and develops through to 2050, with a focus on creating a well-planned, liveable and sustainable future for the town. A further briefing on the content of the Bairnsdale 2050 Plan will be organised shortly.

Business Excellence (continued)

3.1 Quarterly Health Safety and Wellbeing Report Quarter 3

Councillors were briefed on the Quarter 3 Health Safety and Wellbeing report, including recent trends in the workplace incidents and hazards, health and safety actions, and current support for staff wellbeing.

External Presentation

4.1 Scotch College - Presentation on Plans for Mallacoota

Representatives from Scotch College provided a presentation to Councillors on their plans to increase investment and strengthen connections with Mallacoota through the establishment of a Year 9 Campus near Mallacoota.

Reports to Future Council Meeting

5.1 CON2026 1642 Eastern Beach Road Drainage Improvements Construction Works

Confidentiality Notice

The information contained in **Confidential Attachment 1 (CON2026 1642 Contract Award Summary)** and **Confidential Attachment 2 (CON2026 1642 Tender Evaluation Report)** is 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—(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

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 the draft report, CON2026 1642 Eastern Beach Road Drainage Improvements Construction Works. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **19 May 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

5.2 CON2026 1763 Community Resilience and Development Program - Phase 2

Confidentiality Notice

The information contained in **Confidential Attachment 1 – Contract Award Summary** and **Confidential Attachment 2 – Tender Evaluation Report - CON2026 1763 Community Resilience and Development Program Phase 2** is 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—(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

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 includes detailed tender evaluation and pricing information, the disclosure of which would unreasonably expose the businesses to disadvantage.

Councillors were briefed on the draft report, CON2026 1763 Community Resilience and Development Program - Phase 2.

This report will *not* proceed to Council Meeting.

5.3 CON2026 1755 WORLD Soccer Pavilion and Pitches Construction Works

Confidentiality Notice

The information contained in **Confidential Attachment 1 - CON2026 1755 Contract Award Summary**, **Confidential Attachment 2 - CON2026 1755 Tender Evaluation Report** and **Confidential Attachment 3 Probity report** 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—(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

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 the draft report, CON2026 1755 WORLD Soccer Pavilion and Pitches Construction Works Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **19 May 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

5.4 CON2026 1733 Krauatungalung Walk, Stage 2 - Section 4 - Construction Works

Confidentiality Notice

The information contained in **Confidential Attachment 1 CON2026 1733 Contract Award Summary**, and **Attachment 2 CON2026 1733 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—(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

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 the draft report, CON2026 1733 Krauatungalung Walk, Stage 2, Section 4 - Construction Works. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **19 May 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

5.5 Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool - Response to Council Resolution

Attendance

Cr Tom Crook having declared a conflict of interest, left the Council Chamber at 4.10 pm and was absent during the discussion on this item.

Confidentiality Notice

The information contained in **Confidential Attachment 1** 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 could signal Council's intended approach, financial parameters, or risk position to the market, reducing competitive tension, limiting Council's ability to secure value for money, and disadvantaging Council in any future commercial negotiations

Councillors were briefed on the draft report and noted that it will be submitted to the **19 May 2026** Council Meeting for consideration. This report will **Proceed to Council**.

Attendance

Cr Tom Crook returned to the Council Chamber at 4.33 pm.

6 Meeting Close

Meeting closed at: 4.34 pm

Approved by: Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer