



Councillor Briefing Notes

Tuesday 26 May 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 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

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 Barry Davis

Cr Bernie Farquhar

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

Councillor Briefing Session

External Presentation

1.1 Councillor Mandatory Professional Development Session: Advanced Public Speaking

Councillors received a presentation on advanced public speaking.

The session provided an overview of effective communication, including expectations for professional conduct in public and community settings, strategies for responding to challenging interactions, and communication in the Council Chamber.

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

Chief Executive Officer

2.1 MAV May State Council Meeting Motions - Officer Recommendation

Councillors reviewed and discussed motions to be considered at the May State Council Meeting of the Municipal Association of Victoria, including matters relevant to Local Government advocacy and Council priorities.

Business Excellence

3.1 Councillor Briefing Documents - Report Hub SharePoint

Councillors were briefed on and received a demonstration on a new Councillor document hub within Council's software, designed to improve access to Council reports and documents.

The hub has been introduced to make it easier for Councillors to locate and retrieve briefing and meeting reports.

Reports to Future Council Meeting

4.1 Culture and Creativity Grants Program

Councillors were briefed on the draft report, Culture and Creativity Grants Program. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **9 June 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

4.2 Planning Permit Application 5.2025.18.1 - 200 Johnstons Road Forge Creek - Composting Facility

Councillors were briefed on the draft report, Planning Permit Application 5.2025.18.1 - 200 Johnstons Road Forge Creek - Composting Facility. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **9 June 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

Attendance

Cr Tom Crook left the Council Chamber at 3.22 pm and did not return.

Meeting Close

Meeting closed at: 3.32 pm

Approved by: Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer