



Councillor Briefing Notes

Tuesday 2 June 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 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

Cr Barry Davis (Leave of Absence)

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

Councillor Briefing Session

External Presentation

1.1 Financial Sustainability Strategy - Presentation

Attendance

Cr John White entered the Council Chamber at 10.06 am, followed by Cr Bernie Farquhar at 11.11 am.

Councillors were provided with a presentation and then workshopped the Financial Sustainability Strategy. Discussions focused on establishing a long-term, sustainable financial position for Council. This workshop focused on setting the Vision and Principles for the strategy and identifying the Financial Levers that Councillors which to have included as tools in the Strategy

Business Excellence

2.1 Workshop 11 - Budget 2026/27 - Draft Budget 2026/27 and Financial Plan 2026/27 to 2035/36

Councillors workshopped the draft Budget 2026/27 and Financial Plan 2026/27 to 2035/36, with discussions focusing on financial position, sustainability pressures, and clarity of communication.

Chief Executive Officer

3.1 Analysis of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Staffing Levels

Councillors were briefed on the Analysis of Full Time Equivalent Staffing Levels within East Gippsland Shire Council over the past seven years.

Councillors and Officers discussed workforce planning in the context of future service needs and financial sustainability.

Assets and Environment

4.1 Capital Works and Major Projects Status as at 30 April 2026

In Attendance: Raghav Thapar Acting Manager Infrastructure Projects

Councillors were briefed on the Capital Works and Major Projects Status as at 30 April 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.

Attendance

Cr Tom Crook left the Council Chamber at 4.22 pm and did not return.

Reports to Future Council Meeting

5.1 Information Communication and Technologies (ICT) Professional Services Panel of Providers - Contract Number 2026-000129

Confidentiality Notice

The information contained in the **Confidential Attachment 1** 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 business to disadvantage.

Councillors were briefed on the draft report, Information Communication and Technologies (ICT) Professional Services Panel of Providers - Contract Number 2026-000129. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **9 June 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

5.2 Endorse Draft Revised Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy

Councillors were briefed on the draft report, Endorse Draft Revised Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy. Councillors discussed further changes required to the Policy. This draft report will *not* proceed to Council.

5.3 Personnel Matter

The information contained in this report and all attachments 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 (CEO), including performance expectations and employment related matters.

Meeting Close

Meeting closed at: 5.27 pm

Approved by: Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer