



Councillor Briefing Notes

Tuesday 25 August 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

Council Officers

Fiona Weigall

Stuart McConnell

Sarah Johnston

Chris Stephenson

Wayne Richards

Chief Executive Officer

General Manager Assets and Environment

General Manager Business Excellence

General Manager Projects and Planning

Executive Manager Place and Community

Recognition of Traditional Custodians

We would like to acknowledge the First Nation people from the land on which we are gathered and pay our respects to Elders both past and present.

Apologies

Cr John White

Cr Barry Davis

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

Councillor Briefing Session

Officer Briefings and Workshops

1.1 Financial Sustainability Strategy

Councillors received a briefing on the draft Financial Sustainability Strategy.

1.2 Rating Model 2027/28 Discussion

Withdrawal of Item

The Mayor and Chief Executive Officer consulted and advised that item *1.2 Rating Model 2027/28 Discussion* was withdrawn from the agenda and deferred to a future Councillor Briefing session.

1.3 Advocacy Election Launch Event

Councillors reviewed a proposed election advocacy launch event and discussed Council's advocacy approach ahead of the upcoming State Election. Discussions focused on engaging with election candidates and promoting East Gippsland priorities and issues of importance to the community.

1.4 Council Meeting Debrief

Councillors discussed the recent planning application that remains unresolved following the Council Meeting held Tuesday 18 August 2026. Officers provided information on the next steps in the process and advised that the application will return to a future Council Meeting for determination.

1.5 Council Business 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.

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 adversely affect Council's ability to appropriately manage the matter and its associated processes.

Reports to Future Council Meeting

2.1 Public Art Policy

Councillors were briefed on the draft report, Public Art Policy. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **17 September 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

Councillors General Business

Confidential Staff 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: (e) Legal Privileged Information, being information to which 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 would disclose legal advice subject to legal professional privilege and may prejudice Council's legal position.

Meeting Close

Meeting closed at: 3.18 pm

Approved by: Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer