



Councillor Briefing Notes

Tuesday 22 September 2026 at 9.30 am

273 Main Street, Bairnsdale 3875

Attendance

Mayor

Cr Jodie Ashworth

Deputy Mayor

Cr Tom Crook

Councillors

Cr Arthur Allen (Online)

Cr Sonia Buckley (Online)

Cr Barry Davis

Cr Joanne Eastman (Online)

Cr Ian Trevaskis

Cr John White

Council Officers

Fiona Weigall

Stuart McConnell

Sarah Johnston

Chris Stephenson

Prue McTaggart

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 Bernie Farquhar

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

Councillor Briefing Session

Reports to Future Council Meeting

1.1 Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee Unconfirmed Minutes 13 August 2026 and New Member Appointment

Councillors received an overview of the Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee meeting held on 13 August 2026, including the Rural Land Use Strategy review, pest animal management advocacy, Council's response to avian influenza and the proposed appointment of two new committee members. Discussion focused on maintaining diverse industry representation, supporting agricultural productivity, emerging opportunities in the visitor economy and the Committee's ongoing role in providing industry advice to Council.

External Presentation

2.1 Stockman Mine Presentation

Councillors received a briefing from Aeris Resources on the current status of the Stockman Mine Project near Benambra, including project design, infrastructure planning, workforce accommodation, environmental management and anticipated project timelines. Discussion focused on opportunities to maximise local employment and economic benefits, support local communities, manage environmental considerations and ensure ongoing community engagement throughout project development.

2.2 Councillor Mandatory Professional Development Session: Land Use Planning - Commenced at 1pm

Attendance

Cr Buckley (online) rejoined the meeting at 1.34 pm after the lunchtime break.

Cr Allen (online) lost connection briefly between 1.41 pm and 1.42 pm.

Cr Eastman (online) left the meeting at 1.58 pm due to power issue and rejoined the meeting (online) at 2.44 pm.

Cr Davis left the meeting at 3.00 pm and did not return.

Councillors received a presentation which forms part of their 2026 Mandatory Annual Professional Development Training. This session focused on Council's strategic planning responsibilities and the broader legislative and regulatory framework governing land use planning in Victoria.

Meeting Close

Meeting closed at: 3.21 pm

Approved by: Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer