



Councillor Briefing Notes

Tuesday 6 October 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

Cr Joanne Eastman

Cr Bernie Farquhar

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 Barry Davis

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

Councillor Briefing Session

Officer Briefings and Workshops

1.1 Road Safety Group Brief

Councillors received an update on the Road Safety Group and discussed ways to strengthen collaboration on road safety initiatives and community awareness across East Gippsland. There is strong support within the Councillor group to transition this group to a formal Council Advisory Committee.

1.2 Business and Investment Insights

Councillors received an update on research that has been undertaken to understand both the drivers of external investment in East Gippsland and the business growth aspirations and needs of businesses already operating within East Gippsland. The research will help inform future initiatives that support local businesses, encourage investment and improve the experience of engaging with Council.

1.3 Council Business Matter

In Attendance: Prue McTaggart Executive Manager Place and Community

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 directly impact commercial arrangements.

1.4 Draft Bairnsdale 2050 Plan

Councillors received an update on the ongoing development of the Bairnsdale 2050 project, which is focused on future planning for Bairnsdale and surrounding communities. The draft provides a long term framework for Bairnsdale's growth, investment and planning and brings together community aspirations, existing Council projects and future strategic directions. Councillors provided their informal support for releasing the Draft plan for further Community feedback.

Reports to Future Council Meeting

2.1 Council Business Matter

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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 prejudice Council's commercial interests by disclosing information relating to proposed contractual arrangements.

The item will progress to the October Council meeting.

2.2 CON2026 1746a - Kerbside Collection and Recycling Processing Services

Confidentiality Notice

The information contained in the **Confidential Attachments 1 to 3** 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 tenderers to disadvantage by disclosing commercially sensitive information.

Councillors were briefed on the draft report, CON2026 1746a - Kerbside Collection and Recycling Processing Services. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **20 October 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

2.3 Public Amenities (Toilets) Service Review

Councillors were briefed on the draft report, Public Amenities (Toilets) Service Review. Councillors noted the draft Council report, and the updates that have been made to the review findings based on earlier discussion with the Councillor group. The report will now be submitted to the **20 October 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

Meeting Close

Meeting closed at: 4.29 pm

Approved by: Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer