



Minutes

Council Meeting

Tuesday 4 June 2024 at 6:00 pm

**Council Chambers (and by video conferencing)
East Gippsland Shire Council Corporate Centre
273 Main Street, Bairnsdale 3875**

Councillors

Tom Crook (Mayor), Jane Greacen OAM (Deputy Mayor) (Online), Arthur Allen, Sonia Buckley (Online), Mark Reeves (Online), Trevor Stow, Mendy Urie (Online), Kirsten Van Diggele and John White (Online)

Attachments referenced in these minutes can be located in the meeting agenda on East Gippsland Shire Council's [website](#).

Vision

East Gippsland is an inclusive and innovative community that values our natural environment, puts community at the centre of Council decision-making, and creates the conditions in which communities can thrive.

Our Strategic Objectives

1. An inclusive and caring community that respects and celebrates diversity.
2. Planning and infrastructure that enriches the environment, lifestyle, and character of our communities.
3. A natural environment that is managed and enhanced.
4. A thriving and diverse economy that attracts investment and generates inclusive local employment.
5. A transparent organisation that listens and delivers effective, engaging and responsive services.

Index

1 Procedural.....	4
1.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians	4
1.2 Apologies	4
1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest	4
1.4 Confirmation of Minutes	4
1.5 Next Meeting	4
1.6 Requests for Leave of Absence	4
1.7 Open Forum.....	5
1.7.1 Petitions	5
1.7.2 Questions of Council	5
1.7.3 Public Submissions	5
1.8 Items for Noting.....	5
2 Notices of Motion.....	5
3 Deferred Business	5
4 Councillor and Delegate Reports.....	6
5 Officer Reports.....	8
5.1 Assets and Environment	8
5.1.1 Council Climate Change Advisory Body	8
5.1.2 Addition of Roads to Council's Register of Public Roads	9
5.2 Place and Community	10
5.2.1 Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee Membership Term Extension Request	10
6 Urgent Business	11
7 Confidential Business	11
8 Close of Meeting	11

1 Procedural

1.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

Mayor, Cr Tom Crook welcomed all to the Council meeting and acknowledged the traditional owners.

East Gippsland Shire Council acknowledges the Gunaikurnai, Monero and the Bidawal people as the Traditional Custodians of this land that encompasses East Gippsland Shire, and their enduring relationship with country. The Traditional Custodians have cared and nurtured East Gippsland for tens of thousands of years.

Council value their living culture and practices and their right to self-determination. Council pays respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in East Gippsland, their Elders, past, present, and future.

1.2 Apologies

Nil

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Motion

That the minutes of the Council meeting held Tuesday 21 May 2024 be confirmed.

Moved: Cr Sonia Buckley

Seconded: Cr Arthur Allen

CARRIED

For: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Tom Crook, Cr Jane Greacen OAM,
Cr Mark Reeves, Cr Mendy Urie, Cr Kirsten Van Diggele and Cr John White

Against: Nil

Abstained: Cr Trevor Stow

1.5 Next Meeting

The next Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 25 June 2024 at the Corporate Centre, 273 Main Street Bairnsdale commencing at 6.00 pm.

1.6 Requests for Leave of Absence

Nil

1.7 Open Forum

1.7.1 Petitions

Nil

1.7.2 Questions of Council

Nil

1.7.3 Public Submissions

Nil

1.8 Items for Noting

Nil

2 Notices of Motion

Nil

3 Deferred Business

Nil

4 Councillor and Delegate Reports

4.1 Cr Arthur Allen

The last 2 weeks have been busy. Volunteers Week enabled the shire to publicly acknowledge the great work volunteers do throughout the shire across all aspects of life. In particular we were able to acknowledge the 40 additional people added to the honour roll. The events at Bruthen, Bairnsdale and Buchan attracted a number of people from a wide variety of organisations. Well done to our staff for all your work and to those new inductees as well as all our volunteers.

On 26 May 2024, it was a pleasure to attend a BBQ at Cobungra CFA. Guests of honour were the Echuca strike team that assisted during the 2019/20 fires. Following Volunteers Week, the occasion exemplified how volunteers are the heart of the community and despite the best efforts of remote bureaucracy can achieve great things for their community.

Wednesday 29 May 2024 was the Reconciliation Week Elders lunch at Lakes Entrance. Congratulations to our staff for organising a really enjoyable event with some great entertainment, maybe even including a song from Councillor Buckley!

On Friday 31 May 2024, I represented the shire at the Reconciliation Day at Lakes Entrance Primary School. Four schools gathered for the event, and all can be very proud of their school leaders who all acquitted themselves very well. After the official part of the morning the children rotated through a number of activities and shared a BBQ lunch. Once again, great work by our staff in organising this event.

4.2 Cr Mendy Urie

The final event of Volunteers Week I had the pleasure of attending was at Buchan on 23 May 2024. It is always a pleasure and a privilege to chat to local people who do so much for others in so many capacities, day in, day out. Their contributions make the places where we live so much richer. Thank you to all those people in Buchan. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to say 'thank you' to you.

27 May 2024 was not only the start of a busy Reconciliation Week, with a flag-raising ceremony at the Council Corporate Centre, but also our scheduled Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) meeting.

As per usual procedures, a report from the ARC meeting was provided verbally to Councillors during briefings the next day.

On 28 May 2024, in the evening, was a special event held in the beautiful new Eagle Point Hub building: a New Energy Opportunities night. Hosted by Council and East Gippsland Marking Inc and attended by some 70 people from businesses and organisations. It provided an opportunity to hear from some keen panel members about the huge new offshore wind industry unfolding on East Gippsland's doorstep and to stretch our thinking to ways our businesses could benefit. There were also some great questions about some of the challenges involved in this rapidly unfolding renewable energy field, all which need to be heard and considered. The following day, school children from near and far were to attend a day devoted to looking at all the new job opportunities imagined and yet to be understood in this exciting future.

29 May 2024 was a fantastic Elder's lunch in Lakes Entrance. Primarily organised by Council Officers, it was a wonderful day of music, craft, chatting, food, and fun. Congratulations to Council's Aboriginal Engagement Officer, it really was a fitting way to celebrate the wonderful Elders in our community.

I attended the Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting as an observer on 30 May 2024. It was a full agenda for this group and the minutes can be viewed by the public after they have been to a Council meeting for endorsement.

A public lecture by Dr Bradley Clarke (hosted by Friends of the Gippsland Lakes) on forever chemicals, in particular Pfas and microplastics was held on the same evening. It was very well attended although the information is extremely sobering to hear.

Bairnsdale West Primary School opened their doors to neighbouring schools and kindergartens and many people from the community for another exceptional Reconciliation Day Assembly on Friday 31 May 2024. With the wonderful choir singing in language, many heartfelt speeches and constructions /displays of different aspects of their real Australian history learning journeys filling the hall, it was once again a very moving and gratifying display of this special school's ongoing work. Congratulations to all involved.

5 Officer Reports

5.1 Assets and Environment

5.1.1 Council Climate Change Advisory Body

Authorised by General Manager Assets and Environment

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report;*
- 2. notes:*
 - a. the advice provided by Officers in relation to the costs and benefits of a separate Climate Change Advisory body at this time; and that*
 - b. Officers will continue to establish relevant advisory forums where required for specific climate change projects and pursue opportunities for engagement through community forums and networks;*
- 3. notes that Officers will provide information and quarterly reports to Council meetings:*
 - a. on Council's activities in response to climate change;*
 - b. on activities to embed climate change response across the organisation; and*
 - c. from climate change networks and forums including those referred to in 2b) above;*
- 4. notes that a communication and engagement plan is being prepared as part of the Council project 'Increasing understanding of risk and extending resilience and adaptability building across East Gippsland'; and*
- 5. notes that the Victorian Climate Projections 2019 are a primary source of information to inform Council decision making and that this and other relevant information is accessible via Council's website.*

Moved: Cr Mendy Urie

Seconded: Cr Jane Greacen OAM

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

For: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Tom Crook, Cr Jane Greacen OAM, Cr Mark Reeves, Cr Trevor Stow, Cr Mendy Urie, Cr Kirsten Van Diggele and Cr John White

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

5.1.2 Addition of Roads to Council's Register of Public Roads

Authorised by General Manager Assets and Environment

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report;*
- 2. declares the sections of road listed below as Public Road and be added to Council's Register of Public Roads under the classifications shown; and*

Road Name	Locality	Land Tenure	Principle Places of Residence	Approx. length	Classification
Bastion Point Service Road	Mallacoota	Road Reserve	5	0.110km	Urban Access
Chilas Road	Wy Yung	Road Reserve	1	0.266km	Rural Access
Cobblers Creek Road	Bairnsdale	Road Reserve	4	0.810km	Rural Access
Ellasville Road	Nicholson	Road Reserve	2	0.676km	Rural Access
Sharpe Street	Lucknow	Road Reserve	0	0.199km	Urban Access

- 3. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to update Council's Register of Public Roads to reflect Recommendations 1 and 2 as required by the Road Management Act 2004.*

Moved: Cr Arthur Allen

Seconded: Cr John White

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

For: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Tom Crook, Cr Jane Greacen OAM,
Cr Mark Reeves, Cr Trevor Stow, Cr Mendy Urie, Cr Kirsten Van Diggele and
Cr John White

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

5.2 Place and Community

5.2.1 Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee Membership Term Extension Request

Authorised by General Manager Place and Community

Attendance

Cr Kirsten Van Diggele left the Council Chamber at 6:40 pm and returned at 6:42 pm.

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report;*
- 2. approves a six-month extension for the eight original members of the East Gippsland Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee until 30 June 2025; and*
- 3. delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to advise members of the extension to their period of appointment and release membership information to the public.*

Moved: Cr Mark Reeves

Seconded: Cr John White

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

For: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Tom Crook, Cr Jane Greacen OAM, Cr Mark Reeves, Cr Trevor Stow, Cr Mendy Urie, Cr Kirsten Van Diggele and Cr John White

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

6 Urgent Business

Nil

7 Confidential Business

Nil

8 Close of Meeting

Mayor Cr Tom Crook declared the Council Meeting closed at 6.47 pm.