



Minutes

Council Meeting

Tuesday 25 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),
Arthur Allen, Sonia Buckley (Online), Mark Reeves (Online),
Trevor Stow, Mendy Urie, Kirsten Van Diggele and John White

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.

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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

Sarah Johnston General Manager Business Excellence declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 5.2.1 CON2022 1432 - *Contract Extension - Schedule of Rates Contract for Bituminous Sealing in East Gippsland* and item 5.2.2 CON2024 1651 *Moroney Street Bairnsdale Upgrade Stage 3B*, as a general interest due to having a family connection with one of the tenderers.

Cr Arthur Allen declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 7.2 Property Matter, as a general interest due to owning a property near the subject of the confidential report.

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Motion

That the minutes of the Council meeting held Tuesday 4 June 2024 be confirmed.

Moved: Cr Trevor Stow

Seconded: Cr Mendy Urie

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

1.5 Next Meeting

The next Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 16 July 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

1.7.1.1 Reduce Speed Limit at Birrells Road, Newlands Arm

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Public Submission

Mr Ian Neale

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report;***
- 2. receives the petition lodged by Mr Ian Neale requesting “this petition of local residents is requesting the responsible authority to reduce the speed limit of Birrells Road, Newlands Arm from 100kph to 80kph.”;***
- 3. that the petition be referred to the General Manager Assets and Environment for consideration and response; and***
- 4. notes that the Chief Executive Officer will arrange for Council Officers to write to the head petitioner advising them of these actions.***

Moved: Cr Arthur Allen

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

1.7.2 Questions of Council

1.7.2.1 Draft Budget 2024/25

Mr John Butler-Cole submitted the following questions which were read out on his behalf by Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer:

- Question 1: *"How is Council addressing the six items identified by the 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey as needing action?"*
- Question 2: *"What items of expenditure in the 2024/25 draft budget have been adjusted, delayed, or eliminated to meet the 2.75% rate cap?"*

Sarah Johnston General Manager Business Excellence provided a response which is summarised below:

Response 1: The community satisfaction survey results are essential for shaping our plans for the upcoming year. Many themes from the survey are addressed in the annual action plan, which you can find in item 5.1.3 of tonight's agenda.

Council remains committed to advocating for East Gippsland's interests, including the transition of the timber industry, securing funding for road improvements, and reforming national disaster recovery funding.

We have reviewed our engagement strategies and are effectively using social media to keep the community informed about upcoming events and capital works projects.

Our feedback collection efforts are expanding, initially focusing on library and service centre customers, to ensure we are asking the right questions and continue responding to community feedback on how we deliver our services.

Response 2: Numerous operational efficiencies have been incorporated into the budget to meet the 2.75% rate cap. Some of these key efficiencies include:

- collaborative procurement;
- shared services with a neighbouring Council;
- changing operational methods, such as leasing one of our caravan parks;
- reducing consultancy costs by utilising in-house capabilities; and
- decreasing our reliance on agency staff.

1.7.2.2 Chinaman's Creek Marina Berths

Mr Morris Borgelt asked the following questions:

Question 1: *"Why haven't they been let to applicants on the Chinaman's Creek berth waiting list?"*

Question 2: *"How many people are there presently on the Chinaman's Creek berth waiting list?"*

Stuart McConnell General Manager Assets and Environment provided a response which is summarised below:

Response 1: There is always movement within the marinas and available berths are constantly being offered to the wait list. This process takes time as Council gives wait list applicants time to respond to offer. The average occupancy over the last two years is 91%. As of June 2024, there were nine vacant berths at the Chinaman's Creek marina.

There are some berths that appear vacant, but the permit holder is paying full fees but not occupied for an extended period. Unless there is a satisfactory reason for this, Council will work with the berth holder to relinquish the berth and make it available in accordance with the wait list.

Response 2: There are 68 wait list applications for Chinaman's Creek Marina berths.

1.7.3 Public Submissions

1.7.3.1 Reduce Speed Limit at Birrells Road, Newlands Arm

Mr Ian Neale addressed Council on the petition to reduce speed limit at Birrells Road, Newlands Arm and spoke at item 1.7.1.1.

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

10 June 2024 was the day to paint the town blue! It was good to join an enthusiastic group at Jemmy's Point to paint a tree blue. There are hundreds of such trees across the country, with the aim of starting conversations about mental health. Great work by all involved.

Later that day, I visited the Lakes Entrance Men's Shed to have a fingernail painted blue, to prompt discussion on the importance of men having a regular PSA test. This simple blood test can save lives. Well done, Moss Mahony, for your relentless work in raising prostate cancer awareness.

On 19 June 2024, St. Mary's Primary Grade 4 classes made their annual visit to the Council Chamber. Well done to Mayor Crook for fielding questions, and great work by the Grade 4 students. Special thanks to the St. Mary's teachers for devoting time and effort to teach these students about local government and our democracy

4.2 Cr Tom Crook

I have actively participated in various engagements and meetings, demonstrating a dedication to fostering community connections, collaboration, addressing significant issues for our region and building partnerships for a better East Gippsland. Below are some highlights of my activities:

At the end of May, I attended the Australian Coastal Councils Conference, in South Australia. This was an excellent opportunity to meet with and learn from expert coastal managers and Councillors from around the country. Below are some salient points and presentations:

- Feedback from delegates at the event has been very positive and that there was also strong support for the conference communiqué.
- The communiqué calls on the Australian, State and Territory Governments to “work with local government to develop a coordinated national response to coastal climate risks and other hazards, including rising sea levels, more severe extreme weather events and widespread coastal erosion.”
- It calls on the Australian Government, in collaboration with the States and Territories, to establish an ongoing National Coastal Adaptation Fund. The communiqué also calls on the Australian Government to consider appointing a Minister for Coasts.
- It is also the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the organisation which has been pivotal in placing coastal issues firmly on the national political agenda.



Above: The Australian Coastal Councils Committee celebrating 20 years.

Highlights of the conference included the following:

Explaining the IPCC AR6 Sea-level Rise Projections

Dr Kathleen McInnes, CSIRO Post-Retirement Fellow, outlined recent trends in sea-level rise and indicated that the rate of sea level rise is increasing, and increases under all future scenarios.

South Australia's Climate Ready Coasts Program

Michael Arman, Program Manager, SA Climate Ready Coasts Program, and Annabel Sandery, of engineering firm, HATCH, presented an overview of the Program, which is a collaboration between state and local government which aims to progress best practice coastal hazard adaptation planning in South Australia.

Short-term Rentals in Urban and Coastal Communities: Impacts and Policy Responses

Nicole Gurran, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, at The University of Sydney, released the interim findings of a new study into the impacts of short-term rentals in urban and coastal areas and suggested policy responses.

Short-term rental properties now firmly part of housing and tourism infrastructure

One of the highlights of the 2024 Coastal Councils Conference was the release of the interim findings of a new study by The University of Sydney into short-term rentals in urban and coastal communities: impacts and policy responses. Of which our council is a part. The new study, which was commissioned by the Australian Coastal Councils Association, updates and extends the landmark research report, Planning responses to online short-term holiday rental platforms, also commissioned by the Association, which was released in 2018.

Presentations from the 2024 Australian Coastal Councils Conference, held at McLaren Vale in South Australia from 29 to 31 May, are now available at the following website: <https://www.coastalcouncils.org.au/australian-coastal-councils-conference/>. I would be most happy to discuss any of these matters with anyone who has an interest.

05/06/24 - I was interviewed on REG-FM to inform listeners of many Council activities. I also filmed several short promotional videos for the Tip Shop to promote the circular economy. Also attending the repair café.

06/06/24 - I met with members of the Bairnsdale Show Committee to discuss how Council could help the Show Committee into the future, especially via cross promotion.

12/06/24 - I attended and helped conduct a citizenship ceremony and presented certificates to over 20 new residents on behalf of Council and the commonwealth.

Later that day, I attend a housing affordability workshop organised by community members in Lake Entrance to discuss what other communities are doing to address the housing crisis.

Retuning to Bairnsdale that evening to run a Planning Consultation Meeting about street dining in Paynesville.

13/06/24 - I travelled to Omeo to chair the Omeo Stakeholder Meeting. A great opportunity to catchup with residents in the high country and hear how we can better work together.

15/06/24 - I Opened the Fox Downhill Mountain Bike State Championships at Mount Tailor, which had over 150 entrants. Later that day, I spoke at the Wy Yung Football Club about their new changeroom facilities and the future need for the Club to move. Both were great events.

17/06/24 - I welcomed Senator Tony Sheldon, Senator for NSW and Special Envoy for Disaster Recovery, to East Gippsland who is visiting in response to an invitation from the East Gippsland Community Recovery Committee Link-up, chaired by Peter Williams. The visit was coordinated between NEMA and EGSC to visit recovery committees and projects across our municipality. I ran a forum with recovery teams and community members and then accompanied the Senator to look at our plan for the extension of the Bairnsdale airport.

16/06/24 - I attended the Lakes Entrance Men's Shed open day morning breakfast and thoroughly enjoyed meeting some of the men who use the service. I was most impressed with the diversity of work being undertaken, the social service this facility provides, and the broad range of benefits Men's Shed are able to achieve.

That evening, after running a Councillors briefing session day, I attended dinner with the Victorian Great Outdoors Taskforce members. Where we highlighted the need to create local jobs from looking after forested areas, the importance of science lead fire management and the opportunities in the visitor economy, good access to forested areas and our support for First Nations aspirations.

19/06/24 - We welcomed around 100 grade four students into the Council Chamber as part of their civics education program on government decision making, answering various questions from the students.

Later that evening, I led an industry round table dinner with several of the region's largest employers. The Industry Roundtable Dinner is an opportunity for Council to engage with key business leaders regarding the East Gippsland regional economy and important issues impacting on business productivity, competitiveness, and growth.

The feedback from the business representatives will contribute to local industry intelligence and support Council to advocate to both State and Federal Governments where relevant. Some key topics included:

- government regulation;
- new market opportunities;
- skills and workforce development;
- regional infrastructure limitations;
- innovation; and
- investment attraction and facilitation.

In attendance were Patties Foods Pty Ltd, One Harvest (Vegco) Pty Ltd, Bulmer Farms, Kennedy Trailers, and Fenning Timbers.

21/06/24 - I attended the East Gippsland Art Gallery and helped procure a beautiful painting by a local indigenous artist to be placed in the foyer of Council's Bairnsdale Corporate Centre as both a mark of respect and a welcoming to residents.

Later that evening, in Lakes Entrance, I spoke at the launch of and opened the East Gippsland Winter Festival. Which this year has over 100 events across the region. Something we can all be proud of.

These engagements reflect my ongoing commitment to a Better East Gippsland, partnership building, and addressing critical issues facing our region.

As always, I encourage residents and ratepayers to contact me to discuss any matters of importance.

4.3 Cr Mendy Urie

Council's Arts Officers organised and hosted a wonderful Festival of Big Ideas at the Forge Theatre on Friday 7 June 2024. With active art displays, local food and wine and a panel of local luminaries speaking with ABC broadcaster Mim Cook. There were also loads of opportunities for conversations around community education and learning. Congratulations for a great event, it highlighted beautifully some of what's new and emerging in East Gippsland.

Victorian Local Government Association (VLGA) elections for two board members have been run remotely over the last couple of weeks. It was good to have a strong field of candidates running with Councillors Janet Pearce and Lana Formoso being duly elected.

Also running online has been the Audit and Risk Committee annual performance survey. The survey is only step one in the process with results being collated and reported back to the whole Councillor Group later in the year.

On Friday 14 June 2024, I attended the Snowy River Campus Community Learning Project presentation as an invited community member. It is always a highlight to meet these young people from all over the state and hear about their positive learning experiences at the campus.

On Saturday 15 June 2024, I attended one of the many Lantern Making workshops being offered as part of the East Gippsland Winter Festival. This one was in the Exhibition Centre in Orbost. There are so many events on offer as part of this growing festival. I encourage everyone to look on the website and make your bookings.

Senator Tony Shelton, special envoy for disaster recovery, visited our Council Chambers on Monday 17 June 2024 before touring East Gippsland, accompanied by our Council Officers. I look forward to his report back a bit further down the track.

Wednesday 19 June 2024 saw a happy and engaged visit by St Mary's Primary School grade 4 school children and their teachers as part of their civics learning program. It was a joy to help answer some of their many probing and interesting questions.

There is a group of people in the community keen to progress Verge Gardening as a way to increase habitat, beautify streetscapes, provide social connection around gardening, provide shade etc and I was happy to accept their invitation to join some of them on Sunday 23 June 2024 in Orbost at the Snowy Growers Community Garden. I am pleased to say there have been some conversations already with Council to make the required online consent process easier and I look forward to further conversations.

I joined the Mayor and Councillors Stow and Allen, as well as community members, for happy hot lunch at Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House (BNH) on Tuesday 25 June 2024. Leanne (BNH Coordinator) spoke with us about the excellent work done by BNH and the ongoing frustrations at not being able to land major funding for redevelopment of the site.

4.4 Cr Jane Greacen OAM

10/04/24 - Meeting with TAFE CEO Laura and Board member Darren McCubbin.

General discussion about where TAFE is engaged. Agreement that EGSC and TAFE should meet regularly and engage with each other. Workforce and economic development and how to drive demand and create supply – eg. building construction, agriculture, local businesses. TAFE has key performance indicators for social welfare – socially disadvantaged, and Koori.

150 people have engaged with TAFE as result of transition out of native forest logging. There are emerging opportunities in the renewable energy sectors. As well as conservation and nature-based tourism.

They now have a Koori Advisory Committee.

10/04/24 - Preparing Australian Communities – Community Vulnerability Mapping - Gippsland Primary Health Network

Looking at disaster ready funding. Considering algorithms for using data (mainly Polar) for health outcomes. They have identified an organisation that will map the vulnerable cohort data.

14/04/24 - Opening of Metung Bowling Green

Delightful event well attended.

15/04/24 - New Energy

16/04/24 - Affordable Housing Project for Swifts Creek.

Cr Stow and I met with Duncan at Dynamic Windows. He described the progress being made for this venture which is for elderly people needing accommodation close to their people in Swifts Creek. It arose from Sue Carroll at the Bush Nurse Centre. There has been a lot of pro bono contribution from the big businesses in Bairnsdale. It is progressing well.

18/04/24 - Unashamedly Human Tale by Juliette Aukema at Forge Theatre

19/04/24 - One Gippsland and Municipal Association of Victoria

This meeting of the Gippsland Mayors was informal information sharing. For example, evidently Minister Catherine King will not fund more than 50% of any project in Victoria, whereas other states she will go as high as 80:20.

The new waste levies along with the 2.75% rate cap was considered unsustainable. There is concern about a new environmental overlay looking at potential contamination audits. There are 125 blocks impacted in Bass Coast.

The Gippsland Regional Plan needs each Council to do it.

Discussion about forestry transition – no information forthcoming. One issue is proposed expansion of plantations into farmland. This is a change in land use. Farmers are pushing back.

VicGrid made a presentation about their role coordinating the transition infrastructure offshore – multiple businesses involved. Vic Grid was established three years ago. Their study area includes Traralgon to Loy Yang to Flynn's Creek to Willung to Gifford.

They are looking to hide transmission lines in plantations and avoid major towns. 500,000 volts by the time gets to Latrobe Valley. This is more future proof. The infrastructure is very big and can be screened to some extent. They have not commenced talking with landholders yet about shore crossings. The actual path has not been determined yet. They are running alongside Basslink as much as possible. Corridor 2kms wide. It will take another two years of planning.

Costs are \$1.5 billion if overhead, and \$4.5 billion underground. This is partly because overhead is steel and aluminium and can be supplied by locals, whereas underground is niche market cables that are imported.

The infrastructure needs to be storm proof.

The next 20 – 50 years is electrification of everything. It is not just about replacing coal. Supply chain issues – the whole world is doing this now and Australia needs to get in the queue.

Wellington, South Gippsland, and Latrobe Councils are meeting regularly about this, not specifically impacted by the transmission lines, but the supply chains and opportunities. The region as a whole, needs to benefit, direct community benefit.

There is opportunity for income from transmission lines. In Europe they are paying \$10,000 per 100 mega volts.

20/04/24 - Bairnsdale 2050 Co-Design Workshop

Well attended, lively contribution from wide range of people.

23/04/24 - Paynesville Planning Scheme, meeting with Tom Camp and RESI Ventures

This meeting was to keep us informed of progress. They were pleased with their discussions and support from the Planning Department. They are wanting their development plan to run in parallel with Council's Planning Scheme amendments and rezoning the land.

24/04/24 - 2024 Nagle College ANZAC Event (Attended with Mayor Tom Crook)

A lovely event, well-orchestrated by the students. Very impressive.

25/04/24 - Lakes Entrance ANZAC Day Event (At the Cenotaph)

Many hundreds of people attended, and the RAAF flew overhead at the right moment. Lovely ceremony.

26/04/24 - Outward Bound Snowy River

This event was to launch the reconstruction of the infrastructure that was lost during the fires at the Snowy River. Also, three new composting toilets. Outward Bound has had a presence at the Snowy River since the 1970s. They first established in 1956. I attended with the Hon. Darren Chester MP.

29/04/24 - Gippsland East Local Learning and Employment Network (GELLEN) 2024 Annual General Meeting

GELLEN is doing well with some programs attracting hundreds of participants.

29/04/24 - Leading Healthy Communities interview with VicHealth and Municipal Association of Victoria

This is a series of interviews with Councillors (Cr Crook) being run by VicHealth with the Municipal Association of Victoria. It is to ascertain the involvement of LGOs with health and what could help.

02/05/24 – Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting

03/05/24 - Morning tea with Friends of Paynesville Library

They are a vibrant and inclusive group.

07/05/24 - Meeting with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria's Governing Board Members

A worthwhile evening meeting the Chairperson and executive staff of the EPA and learning more about their goals.

08/05/24 - Future Proof Project Dinner Celebration (Hosted by GELLEN)

Pleasant evening learning about the work of some of the participants.

09/05/24 - Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee

10/05/24 – East Gippsland Art Gallery Exhibition Opening: Meralin Fawcus and Alice Hesse

Congratulations to the two artists, and in particular Alice Hesse, Mark Reeve's life partner. Turning palm fronds, and driftwood into works of art with weaving

15/02/24 - Meeting with Chief Executive Officer (Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative (GEGAC))

Constructive discussion that hopefully will lead to regular interface between GEGAC Executive and Council's Executive.

17/05/24 - IDAHOBIT Day Flag Raising at Bairnsdale Secondary College

The students were inspirational in their speeches about equity and education and understanding.

21/05/24 - East Gippsland Volunteer Recognition Event – Club Eastwood

A fun half day with proper respect and acknowledgement of the extraordinary people who give so much to their community.

27/05/24 - Bairnsdale Secondary College Reconciliation Assembly

The students spoke well. It was a respectful event.

28/05/24 - New Energy Opportunities Night, Eagle Point Hub

29/05/24 - Reconciliation Day Lunch at mechanics Hall, Lakes Entrance

What a joyful event. A great turnup from the Aboriginal Community and well represented by Council Officers and Councillors.

30/05/24 - Economic Development Advisory Committee

An excellent meeting with good discussion.

30/05/24 - Forever Chemicals Seminar, St Mary's Church Hall

Dr Bradley Clarke spoke to a packed hall about Forever Chemicals. The meeting went on for a long time with many questions and lots of discussion.

31/05/24 - Bairnsdale West Reconciliation Day Assembly

Another magical West Bairnsdale Reconciliation event.

06/06/24 - Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Committee

08/06/24 - Elders vs Young - GEGAC Football Competition Supporting Mental Health Services.

Great day. The Elders won – I was told there was some poor decision-making by the umpires who kept giving the Elders frees.

12/06/24 - Citizenship Ceremony at St Mary's Parish Hall

Always a moving experience.

12/06/24 - Preparing Australian Communities – Community Vulnerability Mapping Project, Project Advisory Group Meeting

A project of the Gippsland Primary Health Network. The intended product will be of great use to all agencies involved with support during emergency events and the recovery afterwards.

12/06/24 - Planning Consultation Meeting

13/06/24 - Omeo Stakeholder Meeting

17/06/24 - Senator Tony Sheldon visit to East Gippsland

19/06/24 - St Mary's Primary School Grade 4 Visit to Council Chambers

A really good attendance by children and Councillors.

19/06/04 - East Gippsland Shire Council Industry Roundtable Dinner

A valuable discussion and pleasant evening with some of East Gippsland's largest industries. They live and work in the same town but did not know each other.

21/06/24 - East Gippsland Winter Festival opening Event at Slipway, Lakes Entrance.

Well-orchestrated, well attended, the food was delicious, and the Mayor spoke well.

5 Officer Reports

5.1 Business Excellence

5.1.1 Adoption of Council Budget 2024/25

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Motion

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. *receives and notes this report and the attachments pertaining to this report;*
2. *adopts the Budget 2024/25 as provided at Attachment 1 (including the schedule of fees and charges) in accordance with section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020;*
3. *in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020, declares the following:*
 - (a) *An amount of \$71,491,409 be declared as the amount that Council intends to raise by general rates, municipal charge and waste collection charges, which is calculated as follows:*

CATEGORY	INCOME
General Rate	\$39,907,716
Commercial / Industrial	\$ 5,796,773
Farm Rate	<u>\$ 5,937,698</u>
TOTAL RATES	<u>\$51,642,187</u>
 Municipal charge	 \$ 8,185,464
 Waste levy	 \$ 1,656,582
 Waste Charges	
Kerbside Waste/recycling collection (120 litre bin)	\$ 1,340,612
Kerbside Waste/recycling/green waste collection (120 litre bin)	\$ 8,498,160
Additional household waste bin	\$ 52,675
Additional Green/Recycling bin	\$ 5,307
Rural Waste Collection Charge	<u>\$ 110,422</u>
Total Waste Charges	<u>\$10,007,176</u>
 TOTAL CHARGES	 <u>\$19,849,222</u>
 TOTAL RATES AND CHARGES	 <u>\$71,491,409</u>

(b) The general rate be declared for the period commencing 1 July 2024 and concluding on 30 June 2025:

i) It be further declared that subject to paragraph (iii) of this Part, the general rates be raised through the application of differential rates.

ii) The following rates in the dollar apply to property classifications:

Category	% of General rate	Rate in the \$
General/Residential Rate	100	0.00265466
Commercial/Industrial Rate	135	0.00358379
Farm Rate	75	0.00199100

iii) Differential rates apply to rateable properties with the following characteristics:

(a) General

General land is any land that is:

- **Used primarily for residential purposes; or**
- **Unoccupied but zoned Residential, Township or Rural Living under the East Gippsland Shire Council Planning Scheme; or**
- **Any land that is not defined as Farm Land or Commercial/Industrial Land.**

(b) Commercial and Industrial

Commercial and Industrial Land is any land used primarily for:

- **the manufacture, or production of, or trade in, goods or services; or**
- **Obviously adapted for the primary use of commercial or industrial purposes; or**
- **Occupied primarily for the purpose of service delivery for tourism leisure and/or accommodation; or**
- **Unoccupied but zoned Business, Industrial, Mixed Use, Special Use or Comprehensive Development Zone under the East Gippsland Shire Council Planning Scheme; or**
- **Conforming to East Gippsland Shire Council guidelines for the classification of property as Commercial/Industrial Land.**

(c) Farm Land

Farm land is defined as any land which:

- Is used primarily for a farming or agricultural business; and,**
- Conforms to the definition of “farm land” as specified within the Valuation of Land Act 1960; and,**
- Conforms to East Gippsland Shire Council guidelines for the classification of property as “farm land” as stipulated within East Gippsland Shire Council’s “Application for Farm Rate”; and**
- The ratepayer has Primary Producer status with the Australian Taxation Office and be located in a Farm Zone in accordance with Council’s planning scheme, or have a permit from Council to operate a farming business.**

- iv) Council has determined that the application of a differential rate for Farm and Commercial/Industrial Land will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of its functions.**
- v) Council has determined that the differential percentage applied to Commercial/Industrial properties for the Economic Development Discretionary fund be 5 percent.**
- vi) Council has determined it will provide a rate rebate equivalent to \$64.19 to eligible properties in the ownership of pensioners who qualify for a Victorian Government approved pension rebate. This rebate is provided in accordance with section 169(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1989 and supports the development of the municipality in that it helps support pensioners to keep and stay in their own homes.**

(c) Municipal Charge

- i) A municipal charge be declared for the period commencing 1 July 2024 and concluding on 30 June 2025.**
- ii) A municipal charge be declared for the purpose of covering some of the administrative costs of Council.**
- iii) The municipal charge be the sum of \$252.00 per each rateable property in respect of which a municipal charge can be levied.**

(d) Waste Levy Charge

- i) An annual service charge Waste Levy of \$51.00 be declared for the period commencing 1 July 2024 and concluding 30 June 2025 to cover the increased costs levied by the Environment Protection Authority on the operation of landfills as well as the increased compliance costs required for the operation of landfills.**
- ii) The charge to be levied on each property to which a municipal charge is applied.**

(e) Waste Collection Charge

- i) A charge for kerbside collection of waste with recycling, and for kerbside collection of waste with recycling and green waste, and a rural waste collection charge be declared for the period commencing 1 July 2024 and concluding on 30 June 2025 as follows:**

Kerbside Waste/recycling collection (120 litre bin)	\$406.00
Kerbside Waste/recycling/green waste collection (120 litre bin)	\$464.00
Additional household waste bin	\$245.00
Additional Green/Recycling bin	\$183.00
Rural Waste Collection Charge	\$274.00

- (f) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to levy and recover the general rates, municipal charge, waste levy, kerbside waste with recycling collection charge, kerbside waste with recycling and green waste collection charge and rural waste collection charge as per section 167 of the Local Government Act 1989.**

- (g) Council allows the following payment options in accordance with section 167 of the Local Government Act 1989, as well as options outlined in Council's Financial Hardship Policy and other options available for individual circumstances:**

<i>In Full</i>	<i>Four Instalments</i>
<i>15 February 2025</i>	<i>30 September 2024</i>
	<i>30 November 2024</i>
	<i>28 February 2025</i>
	<i>31 May 2025</i>

- (h) Interest on unpaid rates and charges will be charged in accordance with section 172 of the Local Government Act 1989.**

Moved: Cr Jane Greacen OAM

Seconded: Cr Mendy Urie

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 Adoption 10-Year Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2033/34 and Four-Year Revenue and Rating Plan 2024/25 to 2027/28

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report;***
- 2. adopts the 10-Year Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2033/34 as provided at Attachment 1, in accordance with section 91 of the Local Government Act 2020; and***
- 3. adopts the Four-Year Revenue and Rating Plan 2024/25 to 2027/28 provided at Attachment 2.***

Moved: Cr Arthur Allen

Seconded: Cr Mark Reeves

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

5.1.3

Draft Annual Action Plan 2024-25

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Attendance

Cr Trevor Stow left the Council Chamber at 7:02 pm and returned at 7:03 pm.

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; and*
- 2. endorses the Draft Annual Action Plan 2024-25, at Attachment 1.*

Moved: Cr Jane Greacen OAM

Seconded: Cr Mendy Urie

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

5.1.4 Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Service Delivery

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report;***
- 2. endorses the submission, provided at Attachment 2;***
- 3. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to augment the draft submission with relevant data or information coming from the local government peak bodies; and***
- 4. notes that Officers will submit, by 28 June 2024, the endorsed submission to the Economy and Infrastructure Committee for consideration.***

Moved: Cr Sonia Buckley

Seconded: Cr Mark Reeves

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 Assets and Environment

5.2.1 CON2022 1432 - Contract Extension - Schedule of Rates Contract for Bituminous Sealing in East Gippsland

Authorised by General Manager Assets and Environment

Conflict of Interest

Sarah Johnston General Manager Business Excellence, having declared a conflict of interest in relation to items 5.2.1 and 5.2.2, left the meeting at 7.18 pm and was absent during the discussion on these items.

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report;*
- 2. approves the contract extension to CON2022 1432 Schedule of Rates Contract for Bituminous Sealing in East Gippsland for a period of 12 months to 30 June 2025, for the tendered schedule of rates to Cranes Asphalting & Bitumen Sealing Pty Ltd;*
- 3. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to sign and seal the contract extension in the form proposed; and*
- 4. delegates the power to the Chief Executive Officer to exercise the final extension option of up to 12-months, subject to the contractor continuing to demonstrate satisfactory performance.*

Moved: Cr Arthur Allen

Seconded: Cr Kirsten Van Diggele

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

Authorised by General Manager Assets and Environment

Confidentiality Notice

Under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* a meeting considering confidential information may be closed to the public. Pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the information contained in **Confidential Attachment 1** to this report is confidential because it contains private commercial information, which if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage by disclosing financial information to competitors.

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report.**
- 2. accepts the tender submitted by Whelans Group Investments Pty Ltd for CON2024 1651, Moroney Street Bairnsdale Upgrade Stage 3B for the contract amount of \$1,071,307.09 exclusive of GST;**
- 3. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to sign the contract in the form proposed; and**
- 4. resolves that Confidential Attachment 1 to this report and all discussions relating to that attachment remain confidential.**

Moved: Cr Jane Greacen OAM

Seconded: Cr Trevor Stow

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

Attendance

Sarah Johnston General Manager Business Excellence returned to the Chamber at 7.28 pm.

Cr Kirsten Van Diggele left the Council Chamber at 7:28 pm and returned at 7.30 pm.

5.2.3

CON2024 1649R Buchan Recreation Reserve Netball/Tennis Court Construction

Authorised by General Manager Assets and Environment

Confidentiality Notice

Under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* a meeting considering confidential information may be closed to the public. Pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the information contained in **Confidential Attachment 1** to this report is confidential because it contains private commercial information, which if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage by disclosing financial information to competitors.

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report;**
- 2. accepts the tender submitted by Clint Kelly Excavations Pty Ltd for CON2024 1649R, Buchan Recreation Reserve Netball / Tennis Court Construction for the contract amount of \$870,224.59 exclusive of GST;**
- 3. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to sign and seal the contract in the form proposed; and**
- 4. resolves that Confidential Attachment 1 to this report and all discussions relating to that attachment remain confidential.**

Moved: Cr Mark Reeves

Seconded: Cr Sonia Buckley

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

Motion

That Council resolves to move into confidential business pursuant to section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020.

Moved: Cr Jane Greacen OAM

Seconded: Cr Trevor Stow

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

The meeting was closed to the public at 7.43 pm.

7 Confidential Business

7.1 Council Insurances

Under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* a meeting considering confidential information may be closed to the public. Pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the information contained in this report is confidential because it contains Council business information being information that would, if released, prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations.

7.2 Property Matter

Under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* a meeting considering confidential information may be closed to the public. Pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the information contained in this report is confidential because it contains Council business information being information that would, if released, prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations.

The meeting was reopened to the public at 8.33 pm.

8 Close of Meeting

Mayor Cr Tom Crook declared the Council Meeting closed at 8.34 pm.