



Council Meeting Agenda



Tuesday 18 February 2025 at 6:00 pm
Council Chambers (and by video conferencing)
East Gippsland Shire Council Corporate Centre
273 Main Street, Bairnsdale 3875



Acknowledgement of Country

East Gippsland Shire Council acknowledges the Gunaikurnai, Monero and the Bidjawan 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.

Council information

East Gippsland Shire Council live streams, records and publishes its meetings via webcasting (youtube.com/c/EastGippsTV) to enhance the accessibility of its meetings to the broader East Gippsland community.

These recordings are also archived and available for viewing by the public or used for publicity or information purposes. At the appropriate times during the meeting, any members of the gallery who are addressing the council will have their image, comments or submissions recorded.

No other person has the right to record Council meetings unless approval has been granted by the Chair.

In line with the *Local Government Act 2020*, Councillors are able to attend Council meetings electronically or in person and the meetings will be open to the public via livestreaming.

Members of the public are invited to view the Council Meeting livestreamed by following the link on Council's website or Facebook page.

Councillors

Cr John White (Mayor)
Cr Sonia Buckley (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Arthur Allen
Cr Jodie Ashworth
Cr Tom Crook
Cr Barry Davis
Cr Joanne Eastman
Cr Bernie Farquhar
Cr Ian Trevaskis

Executive Leadership Team

Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer
Stuart McConnell General Manager Assets and Environment
Sarah Johnston General Manager Business Excellence
Chris Stephenson General Manager Place and Community

Purpose of Council meetings

- (1) Council holds scheduled meetings and, when required, unscheduled meetings to conduct the business of Council.
- (2) Council is committed to transparency in decision making and, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council and Delegated Committee meetings are open to the public and the community are able to attend.
- (3) Meetings will only be closed to members of the public, in accordance with section 66 of the Act, if:
 - (a) there are clear reasons for particular matters to remain confidential; or
 - (b) a meeting is required to be closed for security reasons; or
 - (c) it is necessary to enable the meeting to proceed in an ordinary manner.
- (4) A meeting closed to the public for the reasons outlined in sub-rule 3(b) or 3(c) will continue to be livestreamed. In the event a livestream is not available:
 - (a) the meeting may be adjourned; or
 - (b) a recording of the proceedings may be available on the Council website.

Governance Rules

A copy of East Gippsland Shire Council's governance rules can be found at
<https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/council/council-policies>

Councillors pledge

As Councillors of East Gippsland Shire Council, we solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that we will consider each item on this agenda in the best interests of the whole municipal community.

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	6
1.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians	6
1.2 Apologies	6
1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest	6
1.4 Confirmation of Minutes	6
1.5 Next Meeting	6
1.6 Requests for Leave of Absence	6
1.7 Open Forum	6
1.7.1 Petitions	6
1.7.2 Questions of Council	6
1.7.3 Public Submissions	6
1.8 Items for Noting	6
2 Notices of Motion	7
2.1 Emergency Services Levy	7
3 Deferred Business	8
4 Councillor Delegate Reports	8
5 Officer Reports	8
5.1 Assets and Environment	8
5.1.1 CON2025 1711 Provision of Design Services for Development of Multi-Use Indoor Facility, Lakes Entrance	8
5.1.2 CON2025 1721 Landfill Compactor Purchase MAV VP44019	14
5.2 Business Excellence	18
5.2.1 Councillor Representation Register 2024 - 2028	18
5.2.2 Community Vision 2040	23
6 Urgent Business	43
7 Confidential Business	43
7.1 Property Matter	43
8 Close of Meeting	43

1 Procedural

1.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

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

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held Tuesday 17 December 2024 be confirmed.

1.5 Next Meeting

The next Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 4 March 2025 at the Corporate Centre, 273 Main Street Bairnsdale commencing at 6.00 pm.

1.6 Requests for Leave of Absence

1.7 Open Forum

1.7.1 *Petitions*

1.7.2 *Questions of Council*

1.7.3 *Public Submissions*

1.8 Items for Noting

2 Notices of Motion

2.1 Emergency Services Levy

Take notice that it is my intention to move at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 18 February 2025 at 6:00 pm or at any adjournment of that meeting:

That Council writes to:

- ***the Municipal Association of Victoria;***
- ***Rural Councils Victoria; and***
- ***the Victorian Ratepayers and Residents Association;***

seeking those entities to write to the Treasurer of Victoria, the Hon. Jaclyn Symes MP outlining the significant financial impact of the proposed rates for the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund on Victorian property owners, and advocate for the proposed variable rates to be reconsidered.

Signed: Cr John White

Date: 11 February 2025

Rationale

On 13 December 2024, the Victorian Government announced significant changes to the Fire Services Property Levy. All property owners in Victoria are required to pay this levy except for certain exemptions and concessions.

The current Fire Services Property Levy will be renamed to the Emergency Services and Volunteer Levy which will be calculated using two components: a fixed amount and a variable rate.

From 1 July 2025 the prescribed variable rate component of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund will increase as follows:

- Residential — from 8.7 to 17.3 cents (around a 99% increase).
- Commercial land — from 66.4 to 133 cents (around a 100% increase).
- Industrial land — from 81.1 to 133 cents (around a 64% increase).
- Primary production land — from 28.7 to 83 (around a 189% increase).

In our area the largest impact of this change will be primary producers. We have 3,519 primary producers that will have increases due to the changes in the levy. The increase in the levy will be a substantial and unbudgeted price increase.

As a rural Council that is the second largest in the State and with agriculture being one of the top three industries in our area, I have significant concerns about the new levy and its impact to our farming and commercial community – especially off the back of the timber industry transition in East Gippsland.

These increases will put further pressure on ratepayers who are already struggling during a cost-of-living crisis.

3 Deferred Business

4 Councillor Delegate Reports

5 Officer Reports

5.1 Assets and Environment

5.1.1 CON2025 1711 Provision of Design Services for Development of Multi-Use Indoor Facility, Lakes Entrance

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.

Purpose

To recommend that Council awards contract CON2025 1711 Provision of Design Services for Development of Multi-Use Indoor Facility, Lakes Entrance.

Key Points

Project Background and Benefits

The development of Multi-Use Indoor Facility in Lakes Entrance has been put forward as a priority from the Lakes Entrance community for many years. Emails from the Lakes Entrance Amateur Basketball Association reference requests in the 1980's for additional indoor court space. A feasibility study was commissioned to guide further planning work. This study confirmed a clear need for additional, compliant court space to cater for both the high level of participation and growth in basketball, as well as other indoor sports in Lakes Entrance. Lakes Entrance Basketball report that they are turning away large numbers of participants each year as well as large numbers of Lakes Entrance players travelling to Bairnsdale weekly to play in the Bairnsdale competition.

The project is also identified as a priority in the [East Gippsland Sporting Facilities Plan 2023](#) (Plan). The Plan, which establishes the need for the facility, also provides a masterplan for the Aquadome precinct, including the indoor sports facility.

The Plan provides guidance and recommendations for the development and improvement of indoor sports courts in Lakes Entrance to support increased participation in indoor sports, particularly basketball, and recreational activities.

With a large waiting list, the existing facility is currently at capacity, which is limiting the growth of basketball and other indoor sports. Further, the existing courts are not compliant with current standards, which is a barrier to the Association hosting events and carnivals. As a result, this project is considered the highest priority in the Plan.

The vision is to develop a Multi-Use Indoor Facility at Lakes Entrance, to support basketball and other indoor sports, while also upgrading the tennis facilities, carpark, and additional amenities. This modern design will complement the existing sports services at the Aquadome in Lakes Entrance.

The project is intended to deliver significant recreational and community wellbeing benefits. Importantly, the project will provide opportunities for young people to engage with sport and will encourage young people to remain connected to others and engaged in community organisations. Currently the limited facilities available in Lakes Entrance and the associated waiting lists for participation risks young people disengaging from the opportunity provided by sporting participation.

The capacity to host sporting events and competitions (either in Lakes Entrance or jointly between Lakes Entrance and Bairnsdale) can also be a significant driver of regional visitation with the accompanying benefits to the visitor economy (particularly in non-peak periods).

The Lakes Entrance Multi-Use Indoor Facility is identified by the Lakes Entrance Action and Development Association as its highest infrastructure priority and the project is supported by the relevant local sporting stakeholders.

Scope of proposed Lakes Entrance Multi-Use Indoor Facility

The proposed new Multi-Use Indoor Facility at Lakes Entrance will integrate key components of the site building upon existing functions, such as the pool, gym, customer service and cafe.

The scope for the development of the facility includes the following but is not limited to:

- New three court indoor stadium and tennis court club rooms, including exploration into a shared entrance/ reception area with the Lakes Entrance Aquadome.
- Conversion of two asphalt tennis courts to an acrylic surface.
- Realignment of existing road and carparking to meet new facility placements.
- Removal of existing tennis clubrooms and store.
- Path network to ensure connection and accessibility throughout the complex.
- Where possible, the design will align the new facility with the existing Aquadome to create a cohesive and functional multiuse space. The masterplan for the Aquadome precinct is provided as **Attachment 2**.

Project Funding

The Victorian Government, through Sports and Recreation Victoria, has made an election commitment to fund the design with a grant up to \$800,000 excl. GST.

In this context, the intention is to use the available grant funding to obtain the most complete design outcomes and package, to best:

- inform future decision making;
- support the cost-effective delivery of the facility; and
- reduce risk (through the most complete definition of the project).

This design package will provide the basis for the funding strategy and tender for delivery of the project. Overall project cost (for construction) and risks are best managed through effective investment in the design phase.

While this report recommends awarding a contract for design services, delivery of the project will be subject to a future funding strategy, including grant funding, and a Council resolution.

Procurement of Design Services

Extensive community and stakeholder consultation and collaboration with State and Regional Sporting Associations and Leagues, has contributed to the design brief for the sporting facility.

Community engagement will continue as part of the design process.

The initial design involves assessment, studies of the site alongside the investigations and analysis of traditional owner cultural values, ecology, recreational needs, and social values including community safety and all ability access requirements to inform the layout and orientation.

The development of the concept through to the detailed design of the proposed Multi-Use Indoor Facility provides opportunity to create a new, integrated sports venue and recreational area that accommodates multiple sports and meets both the current and future needs of the community.

The tendered design services include concept design through to detailed design development and tender documentation. This includes conducting all necessary site investigations and studies including assessments of consultant's reports, site conditions, accessibility, circulation, traffic movements, parking, ecology, vegetation, cultural heritage, as well as analysis of surrounding wetlands, and engagement with traditional owners.

Tender submissions have been received for the project and the Tender Evaluation Panel (TEP), have provided a detailed assessment of the submissions for design provision with the selection of a contractor for the project (**Confidential Attachment 1**).

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. accepts the tender submitted by _____ for CON2025 1711 Provision of Design Services for Development of Multi-Use Indoor Facility, Lakes Entrance for the contract amount of \$_____ exclusive of GST on the condition that the funding agreement with Sports and Recreation Victoria is approved and signed;***
- 2. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to sign the contract in the form proposed; and***
- 3. resolves that Confidential Attachment 1 to this report and all discussions relating to that attachment remain confidential.***

Strategic Alignment

This report has been prepared and aligned with the following strategic objectives set out in the Council Plan 2021-2025:

Strategic Objectives 2: 2.2 Infrastructure provision and maintenance supports a diverse range of current and future user needs and activities and is both environmentally and financially sustainable.

Procurement has been undertaken in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy.

Consultation/Community Engagement/Impacts

Detailed stakeholder engagement underpinned the Plan (refer to the Plan for details of this engagement). The Plan identified this project as a priority to meet the current and future needs for indoor sports, particularly the number of people seeking to play basketball.

Extensive community engagement, as part of the design scope at the inception of design is anticipated. In conjunction with the engagement of a Project Reference Group (PRG) with reference to Plan.

Preliminary discussions have also continued with user groups through a working group hosted by the Lakes Entrance Action and Development Association.

This project is to be undertaken in conjunction with a PRG which will be made up of key stakeholders.

Opportunities

Financial

The project is supported by a grant from the Victorian Government through Sports and Recreation Victoria. The grant, which is dependent on the award of this contract, was a 2022 election commitment.

The grant is expected to be up to \$800,000 and a further \$200,000 from Council has been allocated through the adopted budget. Council contribution is primarily to cover project management and other expenses that are not claimable under the grant.

Economic

Independent analysis of the benefit of the Lakes Entrance Aquadome Precinct redevelopment has shown that the project will deliver a positive economic return for the community, estimated to be \$1.2 for every \$1 invested.

Social

This project will engender a sense of pride, participation, and ownership in the area. In addition to providing sporting and recreational opportunities.

Climate Change

This report considers potential climate change risks and impacts relevant to the Officer recommendation and aligns with the applicable climate change legislative obligations.

Legislation: *Local Government Act 2020* (including ss. 8-9) Category.

Environmentally Sustainable Design principles (ESD) are incorporated into all Council buildings and have been adopted for the Lakes Entrance Multi-Use Indoor Facility project.

Adopting sustainable design principles in civil engineering projects can yield long-term cost savings and improved return on investment. Through life-cycle cost analysis, civil engineers can evaluate the financial implications of a project beyond the initial construction phase, considering factors such as operation, maintenance, and energy consumption.

Management of drainage and flood risks will be a key issue to consider in the design of the facility. Implementing water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) principles will be essential to mitigate these risks.

Options

This report considers the awarding of Contract CON2025 1711 Provision of Design Services for Development of Multi-Use Indoor Facility Lakes Entrance. The TEP evaluated all submissions to arrive at a preferred tenderer recommendation as outlined in **Confidential Attachment 1**.

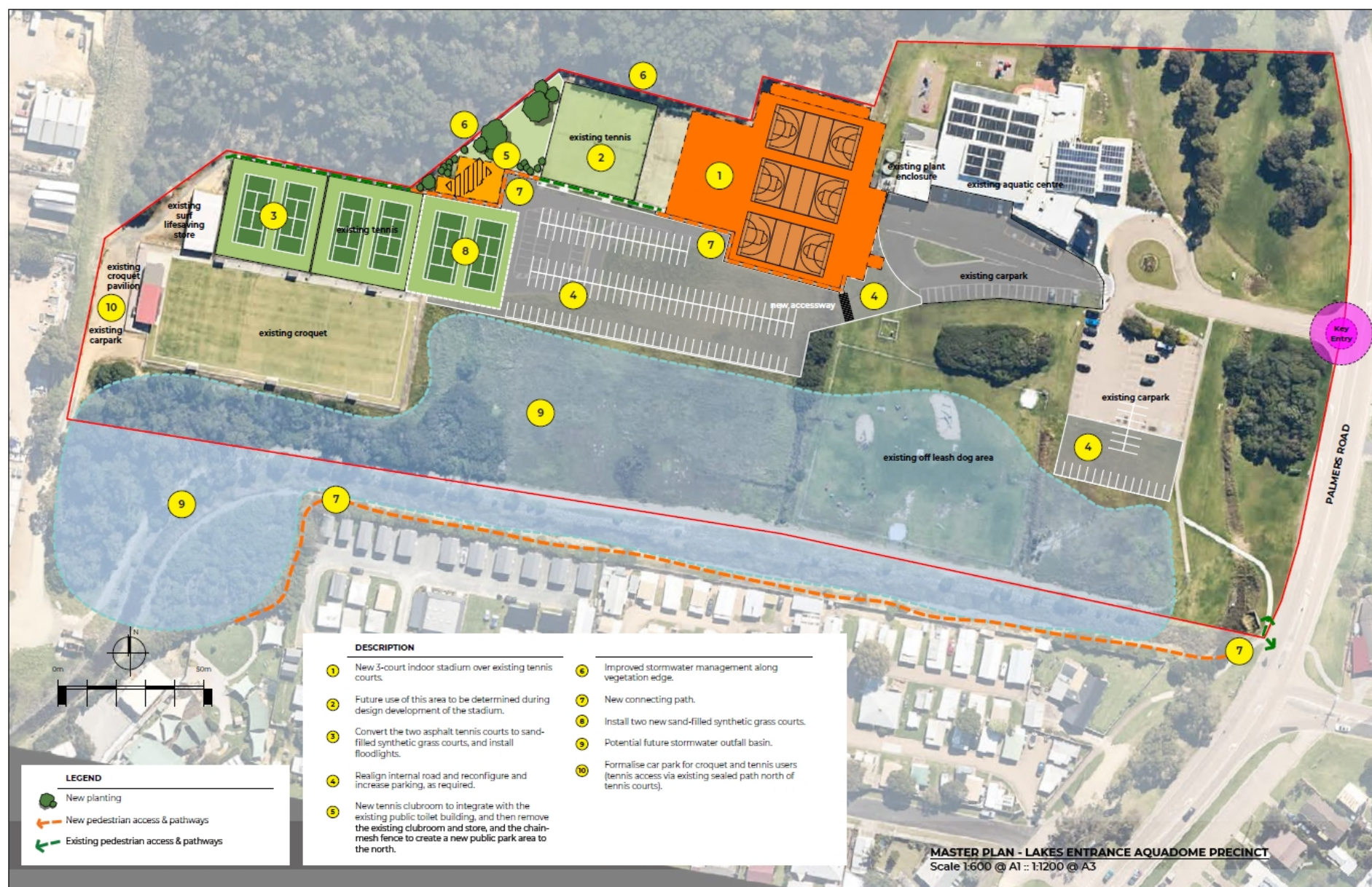
Council has the option to award a contract in accordance with the TEP's recommendation, or to not proceed with the procurement.

Conflicts of Interest

Officers involved have no conflict of interest to declare.

Attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL - CON2025 1711 Development of Multi-Use Indoor Facility, Lakes - TEP - FINAL [5.1.1.1 - 63 pages]
2. Lakes Entrance Aquadome Precinct Master Plan [5.1.1.2 - 1 page]



5.1.2	CON2025 1721 Supply Landfill Compactor MAV VP44019
-------	--

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.

Purpose

This report provides background information to a Request for Quote (RFQ) for the supply and delivery of a replacement Landfill Compactor and seeks Council approval to accept the recommendation of the Evaluation Panel (EP) outlined in the EP report at **Confidential Attachment 1**.

Key Points

The compaction of waste material deposited within the landfill is essential to maximising the value of available airspace within the landfill cell and reduce offsite contamination of waste.

The previous landfill compactor had reached the end of its useful service life, with increased servicing and repairs required by both internal mechanical staff and external contractors. An independent review of the structural integrity of the previous compactor found that it was no longer safe to operate due to failure of rollover testing.

To ensure the effective operation of the landfill, Council has undertaken a hire arrangement until such time as a new compactor can be purchased and delivered. The Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) includes funds for the purchase of a replacement Landfill Compactor with an allocation for purchase available within the 2024/25 financial year.

A RFQ was sought via Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) contract (their reference NPN2.15-2) for the purchase of Heavy Plant Machinery Equipment. This process allows Council to select pre-approved suppliers to submit responses to requests for quote for the provision of goods and services in accordance with terms of the MAV's Head Agreement Preferred Supplier Arrangement and standard terms and conditions for the supply of goods.

Quotes were received by the closing date of 23 December 2024. MAV undertook an initial assessment of the quotes for the completeness of responses and conformance.

The submissions were subsequently evaluated by the EP using a set list of weighted criteria that considered financial value, capacity, capability and occupational health and safety.

The evaluation determined the preferred equipment represented the best value for Council by providing a machine best suited to the site conditions considering the need to operate safely, maximising landfill airspace by improving compaction and meet Council's requirements in terms of ergonomics, occupational health and safety, warranty, servicing, and maintenance.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. accepts the quote submitted by _____ for CON2025 1721 Supply Landfill Compactor MAV VP44019 for the submitted price of \$ _____ exclusive of GST;***
- 2. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to sign the contract in the form proposed; and***
- 3. resolves that Confidential Attachment 1 to this report and all discussions relating to this attachment remain confidential.***

Strategic Alignment

This report has been prepared and aligned with the following strategic objectives set out in the Council Plan 2021-2025:

Strategic Objective 3:3.1 Council works to reduce its own and the communities carbon emissions while supporting the community to mitigate the impact of a changing climate on the environment, safety, health and lifestyles.

Strategic Objective 5:5.4 Continuous improvement systems are strengthened, and organisational efficiency enhanced.

Strategic Objective 5:5.5 Resources are managed to meet current and future needs and priorities.

Opportunities and Risks

Since 2017, Council has undertaken annual surveys of the landfill cell. Maintaining effective compaction of waste and completion of annual surveys is a requirement of the landfill licence conditions. The compaction of landfill waste is also essential for the following reasons:

- maximising available landfill airspace to ensure the forecast lifespan of each cell is achieved;
- compaction increases the return on investment of landfill cell construction (i.e., estimated value of \$205 per cubic meter of landfill cell airspace);
- essential that waste layers achieve consistent compaction to reduce settlement, allow safe operation of machinery across the cell floor (noting that commercial waste disposal trucks enter the landfill cell); and
- compaction of waste prevents instances of wind-blown waste exiting the cell as required by the license conditions.

Climate change

This report considers potential climate change risks and impacts relevant to the Officer recommendation and aligns with the applicable climate change functions, categories, and legislative obligations, as detailed below:

Category

Asset Management: Climate change is considered in the design and maintenance of assets and includes responses to direct and indirect impacts. The purchase of a purpose-built landfill compactor (including digital compaction display within the operator cab) will increase the efficiency of the landfill operations and reduce the use of diesel fuel and associated emissions.

Options

The following options are available:

1. Approve the recommendation of the Evaluation Panel to accept the preferred quote as outlined in **Confidential Attachment 1** (recommended).
2. Seek further information in relation to the purchase of a replacement landfill compactor.
3. Nominate an alternative course of action.

Conflicts of Interest

Officers preparing this report have no conflict of interest to declare.

Attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL - CON2025 1721 Landfill Compactor - Bairnsdale Landfill - TEP
FINAL [5.1.2.1 - 17 pages]

5.2 Business Excellence

5.2.1 Councillor Representation Register 2024 - 2028

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Purpose

To appoint the remainder of Councillor representation on internal advisory Committees and groups for 2025.

Key Points

A critical element of Council's advocacy program is ensuring that Council has properly appointed and effective representation on relevant external and internal advisory Committees and organisations.

Through its membership of and representation on different entities, Council is well placed to represent and advocate for the interests of East Gippslanders through a range of local, regional, and state forums.

Each year, Councillor representation on advisory Committees and organisations is reviewed and determined to ensure the best advocacy and governance outcomes for the community. At the Council meeting held on 3 December 2024, Councillors were appointed to some Committees as part of this annual process. This report seeks to appoint Councillors to the remaining internal advisory Committees.

Councillor representation on these Committees and organisations is guided by Council's Council Representation Policy (Policy).

Councillor representatives are supported in their role with information, advice, and context in respect of any matters being considered.

Councillors are also required under the Policy to provide a report at the next Council meeting about the meetings they have attended.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. appoints:

- a) Cr Bernie Farquhar and Cr Joanne Eastman to the Economic Development Advisory Committee;***
- b) Cr Jodie Ashworth and Cr Arthur Allen to the Marina Consultative Committee;***
- c) Cr Ian Trevaskis to the Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee; and***
- d) Cr Sonia Buckley to the East Gippsland Local Community Road Safety Group; and***

2. notes the Councillor Representation Register 2024-2025 at Attachment 1.

Strategic Alignment

This report has been prepared and aligned with the following strategic objectives set out in the Council Plan 2021-2025:

Strategic Objective 5: 5.2 Strong relationships with government, partners and stakeholders are maintained and strengthened to advocate for the community.

Strategic Objective 5: 5.4 Continuous improvement systems are strengthened, and organisational efficiency enhanced.

Consultation/Community Engagement/Impacts

Councillors have discussed the purposes of the internal advisory committees and external organisations with the Executive Leadership Team.

Opportunities and Risks

Effective representation on relevant external and internal organisations and entities enables Council's advocacy program.

Council can consider which groups hold the most benefit for Council to be a member of.

Membership fees to all groups are fully budgeted.

Climate change

This report is assessed as having no direct impact on climate change.

Conflicts of Interest

Officers preparing this report have no conflict of interest to declare.

Attachments

1. Councillor Representation Register 2024-2028 [**5.2.1.1** - 3 pages]



Councillor Representation Register 2024-2028

NOTE - The expiry date for each of the appointments is October 2025

Council internal Committee	Councillor/s	Position	Term	Contact	Meeting Frequency
Audit and Risk Committee Note - Mayor ex-officio as per Charter	Mayor Cr Joanne Eastman Cr Jodie Ashworth	Ex-officio Committee Member Committee Member	Mayoral Term Annual	<i>Sarah Johnston</i> <i>EA Business Excellence</i>	Quarterly
Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Employment and Remuneration Committee Note – Mayor and Deputy Mayor ex-officio as per CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy	Mayor Deputy Mayor Cr Bernie Farquhar Cr Barry Davis	Ex-officio Ex-officio Committee Member Committee Member	Mayoral Term Annual	<i>Sarah Johnston</i> <i>EA Business Excellence</i>	Quarterly
Economic Development Advisory Committee Note – Mayor ex-officio as per Charter	Mayor Cr Bernie Farquhar Cr Joanne Eastman	Ex-officio Committee Member Committee Member	Mayoral Term Annual	<i>Chris Stephenson</i> <i>EA Place and Community</i>	Bi-monthly
Disability Advisory Committee Note – Not currently active	Cr Cr Cr	Committee Member Committee Member Substitute	Annual	<i>Chris Stephenson</i> <i>EA Place and Community</i>	Bi-monthly
Livestock Exchange Committee Note – Not currently active	Cr Cr Cr	Committee Member Committee Member Substitute	Annual	<i>Stuart McConnell</i> <i>EA Assets and Environment</i>	Quarterly
Marina Consultative Committee	Cr Jodie Ashworth Cr Arthur Allen	Committee Member Committee Member	Annual	<i>Stuart McConnell</i> <i>EA Assets and Environment</i>	Biannual
Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee Note – Mayor ex-officio as per Charter	Mayor Cr Ian Trevaskis	Ex-officio Committee Member	Mayoral Term Annual	<i>Chris Stephenson</i> <i>EA Place and Community</i>	Quarterly
East Gippsland Local Community Road Safety Group	Cr Sonia Buckley	Committee Member	Annual	<i>Stuart McConnell</i> <i>EA Assets and Environment</i>	Biannual
Youth Ambassadors Committee Note – Mayor ex-officio or delegate as per Terms of Reference	Mayor	Ex-officio	Mayoral Term Annual	<i>Chris Stephenson</i> <i>EA Place and Community</i>	Bi-monthly



Councillor Representation Register 2024-2028

External Committee/Group	Councillor/s	Position	Term	Contact	Meeting Frequency
Australian Coastal Councils Association Inc. ** Refer to External Appointments table - delegate	Cr Tom Crook Cr Sonia Buckley	Representative Substitute	Annual	<i>Chris Stephenson</i> <i>General Manager Place and Community</i>	Monthly
Australian Local Government Association Note – Mayor ex officio	Mayor	Ex-officio	Mayoral Term	<i>Sarah Johnston</i> <i>General Manager Business Excellence</i>	Annual
East Gippsland Local Aboriginal Justice Action Committee (LAJAC) Note – Not currently active	Cr Cr Cr	Committee Member Committee Member Substitute	Annual	<i>Chris Stephenson</i> <i>General Manager Place and Community</i>	Monthly
Municipal Association of Victoria Note – Mayor ex-officio	Cr Sonia Buckley Cr John White	Delegate Sub - Delegate	Mayoral Term	<i>Sarah Johnston</i> <i>General Manager Business Excellence</i>	Biannual
Municipal Association of Victoria – Emergency Management Committee	Cr John White Cr Bernie Farquhar	Committee Member Substitute	Annual	<i>Chris Stephenson</i> <i>General Manager Place and Community</i>	Quarterly
One Gippsland Note – Mayor ex-officio as per Terms of Reference	Mayor	Ex-officio	Mayoral Term	<i>Fiona Weigall</i> <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	Monthly
Rail Freight Alliance	Cr Arthur Allen Cr John White	Delegate Substitute	Annual	<i>Stuart McConnell</i> <i>General Manager Assets and Environment</i>	Biannual
Rural Councils Victoria Note – CEO appointed Committee Member for the Rural South East Region	Not currently required	Delegate	Councillor Term	<i>Fiona Weigall</i> <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	Monthly
South-East Australian Transport Strategy Inc (SEATS) ** Refer to External Appointments table - delegate	Cr Arthur Allen	Delegate	Annual	<i>Stuart McConnell</i> <i>General Manager Assets and Environment</i>	Quarterly
Timber Towns Victoria	Cr Barry Davis Cr Ian Trevaskis	Delegate Substitute	Councillor Term	<i>Chris Stephenson</i> <i>General Manager Place and Community</i>	Monthly



Councillor Representation Register 2024-2028

External appointments

Executive Appointments/Gippsland Representatives	Appointed Councillor/s	Position	Term	Date of Appointment	Meeting Frequency
**Australian Coastal Councils Association Inc.- Committee of Management	Cr Tom Crook	State Representative	2 Years	Nov 2023	Monthly
**South-East Australian Transport Strategy Inc (SEATS)	Cr Arthur Allen	Executive Member (Victoria)	4 Years	17/08/23	Quarterly

5.2.2 Community Vision 2040

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Purpose

To present Council with the revised Community Vision 2040 for adoption.

Key Points

In accordance with *Section 88* of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must maintain and adopt a Community Vision in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices.

Council commenced the engagement process for reviewing the Community Vision in July 2024, launching a wide-reaching engagement phase throughout the region. Results were then compiled and presented to a Community Deliberative Engagement Panel for consideration. The Panel met on four occasions throughout December 2024 to finalise the revised Community Vision 2040, refer **Attachment 1**.

Council would like to extend our thanks to all community members and panel members who were involved in this process as we recognise it was a significant investment of time and expertise for the benefit for the East Gippsland community.

The updated Community Vision has not led to major changes from the current vision, indicating that the themes and priorities remain relevant and resonate with the community.

Updates include:

- the Vision Statement was revised to be more concise and clearer; and
- the four Vision Themes remained the same, with only minor wording adjustments to some priorities and the removal of one priority that did not resonate with the community.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the revised Community Vision 2040.

Strategic Alignment

This report has been prepared and aligned with the following strategic objectives set out in the Council Plan 2021-2025:

Strategic Objective 5: 5.2 Strong relationships with government, partners and stakeholders are maintained and strengthened to advocate for the community.

Conflicts of Interest

Officers preparing this report have no conflict of interest to declare.

Attachments

1. Community Vision 2040 [**5.2.2.1** - 18 pages]

Community Vision 2040

Reviewed 2025



Being together - Photo Competition Winning Entry by Charlotte Williams

East Gippsland Shire Council





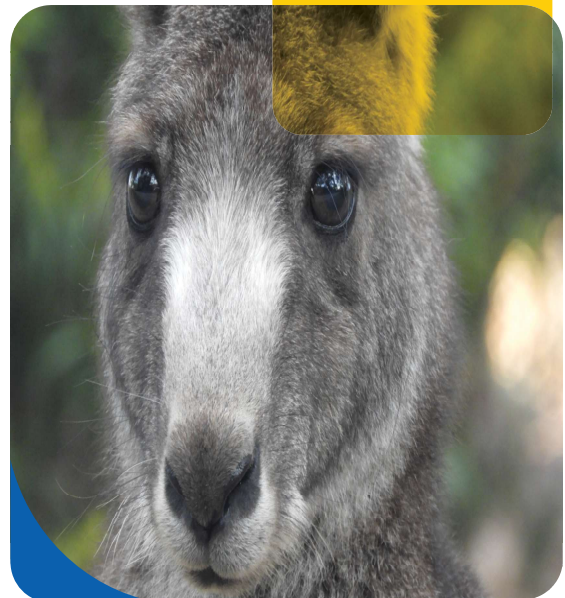
Acknowledgment of Country

East Gippsland Shire Council acknowledges the Gunaikurnai, Nindi-Ngujarn Ngarigo Monero, Bidawel, Duduroa Dhargal, Jaithmathang people as the Traditional Custodians of this land that encompasses East Gippsland Shire, and their enduring relationship with country. The Traditional Custodians have cared for and nurtured East Gippsland for tens of thousands of years.

Council values 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.

Contents

- 2 Acknowledgment of Country
- 4 A Message from the Mayor
- 5 The Vision
- 6 The role of the Community Vision
- 7 Process of reviewing Our Community Vision
- 8 Snapshot of East Gippsland
- 12 Our Community
- 13 Our Place
- 14 Our Environment
- 15 Our Economy
- 17 Monitoring Progress



Eyes of the Wise - Photo Competition entry by Sophia Ciaglia

A Message from the Mayor

On behalf of the East Gippsland Shire Council, I'm proud to present the updated East Gippsland Community Vision 2040. This is a Community Vision created by the community, for the community.

The refreshed East Gippsland Community Vision 2040 was developed through feedback from over 2,500 community members including people from all backgrounds, age groups, regions and communities from across our shire.

The East Gippsland Community Panel played a crucial role in finalising the refresh of the East Gippsland Community Vision. The panel of 21 local community members worked together to confirm the themes and priorities for the Vision. The panel reviewed what the community had told us through our broad engagement and come up with the long-term plan that will meet both current and future needs of our region.

The review process showed that the core themes and priorities remain largely aligned with our original direction, confirming that the Vision is still on track and continues to reflect the community's values and goals.

This updated Vision also incorporates inspiring images from the Community Vision Photo Competition, which invited local residents to submit photographs based on the four key themes. We received 70 entries, and the winning photos are proudly displayed on the front cover and throughout the document.

I want to congratulate all people involved for coming together to create the East Gippsland Community Vision that will guide East Gippsland Shire in the years ahead.



Mayor John White

The Community Vision

In 2040, our people, place, environment and economy will be inclusive, connected, sustainable and resilient for the growth and wellbeing of our unique and diverse communities.

- Our Communities will include, encourage, respect and value everyone
- Our Place will be accessible, safe, connected, and healthy
- Our Environment will be managed and preserved for all generations
- Our Economy will be sustainable, innovative, and supportive of existing and emerging industries

The role of the Community Vision

The Community Vision 2040 reflects the hopes, values, and priorities of the East Gippsland community, guiding us towards the future we want to create by 2040.

This vision isn't something any one group can achieve alone. It's a shared journey that involves collaboration between Council, the community, agencies, and all levels of government. Together, we can turn this vision into reality.

While the vision extends beyond the scope of Council's direct influence, it sets the stage for us to work hand in hand with local and regional partners, advocating for what's needed. It's also a promise of how Council will align and allocate its resources to support the community in shaping our desired future.

As our community grows and changes, we'll review and update the Community Vision to make sure it stays relevant and reflects our collective aspirations. In line with the Local Government Act 2020, this vision will steer Council's efforts, guiding the development of our Council Plan and other key strategic plans. Together, we'll make sure we're always moving in the right direction.

Process of refreshing Our Community Vision

The Community Vision 2040 was first reviewed in 2020, with the community identifying four key themes that are crucial for the future of our region:

- Community
- Place
- Natural Environment
- Local Economy

Building on this, the Community Vision was revisited in 2024 in preparation for the development of the Council Plan 2025-29.

Council would like to express its deep gratitude to the 21 members of the Community Panel, who brought a wealth of experience from our diverse townships and settlements. These dedicated volunteers, from all walks of life, represented a wide range of perspectives across different demographics, sectors, and interest groups. They contributed countless hours crafting recommendations for the updated Community Vision, embracing the process with enthusiasm, respect, integrity, and passion.

Council is incredibly proud of the vision they have helped shape.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the more than 2,500 community members, local groups, and other stakeholders who participated in a variety of engagement activities.

Your valuable input, insights, and dedication to the future of our community are what make this place so special. We deeply appreciate your contributions, which will help guide us toward an even brighter future for our region.

I thought this was a brilliant way for council to engage with community on shaping the future of East Gippsland, and to do that through a community panel and I think a community panel is a very modern and inclusive community engagement process. I really, really enjoyed this process. I have been on some Community panels before, but I have to say I really liked this one.

- 2024 Community Panel Member

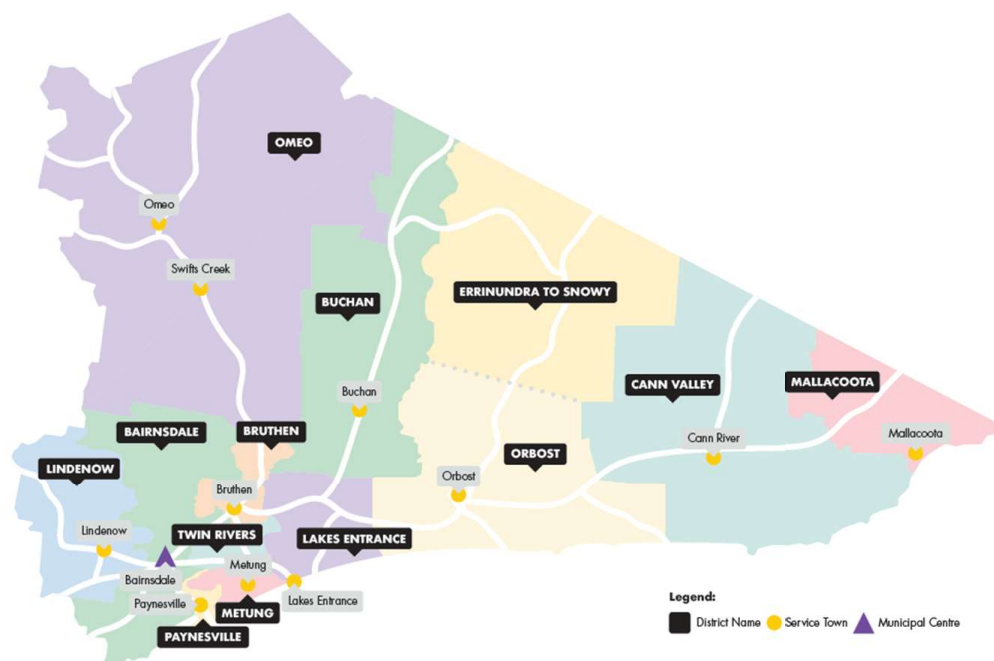
”

Snapshot of East Gippsland

Nestled at the easternmost edge of Gippsland, East Gippsland is a region of remarkable geographic and social diversity. As Victoria's second-largest Shire, it spans 10 per cent of the state, covering 20,940 square kilometres, from Providence Ponds to the New South Wales border. Almost 80 per cent of this vast area (16,578 km²) is Crown land, including 39 per cent designated as National Parks (6,474 km²), with the remaining area made up of state forests, parks, and reserves. The amount of forested land within catchments is notably high and rare.

East Gippsland is home to some of Australia's most significant natural assets, including the Gippsland Lakes system, iconic rivers like the Mitchell and Snowy Rivers, Ninety Mile Beach, and the Australian Alps. These landscapes support natural ecosystems and biodiversity that are unique to the region. Our environment is rich with diverse landforms and distinct vegetation types, ranging from alpine and sub-alpine areas to forested hills, fertile river valleys, and extensive Red Gum plains. This variety makes East Gippsland one of Australia's most important reserves of native biodiversity.

The layout of the landscape is also distinctive: settled areas exist as islands within a vast sea of natural environments, a pattern that contrasts with most of Victoria, where urban areas typically dominate the natural surroundings.



East Gippsland Region Map



Local beauties in Lindenow - Photo Competition Entry by Susie Morris

East Gippsland is home to a significant First Nations People population, comprising 3.5 per cent of the total population, compared to the state's average of 1 per cent. First Nations People in this region have a profound understanding of their connection to the land, recognising the deep relationship between the environment and the communities who depend on it.

Both long-time residents and newcomers continue to appreciate the unique importance of place and our deep connection to the land. With 145 localities, the Shire is made up of distinct areas that come together to form larger districts shaped by long-established social and trade routes. Rivers, roads, and mountains have played key roles in shaping the connections between human settlements, creating a patchwork of communities spread across East Gippsland's varied landscapes—from the high country and coastal areas to inland waterways, rivers, and the Gippsland Plains.

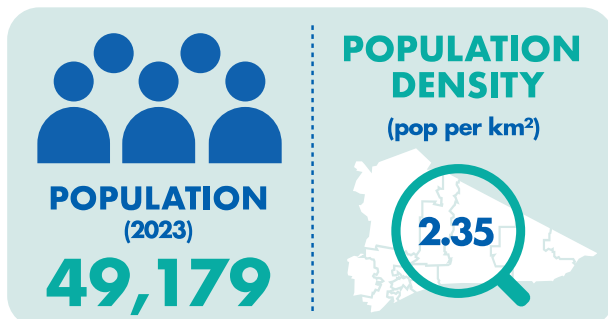
To better understand and meet the diverse needs of our communities, Council has developed a hierarchy of place, organised into 12 districts. This system identifies localities, remote and rural settlements, towns, service towns, suburbs, and the municipal centre, helping us respond to the unique characteristics of each area.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATASET

EAST GIPPSLAND



Figures are from 2021 Census unless otherwise stated



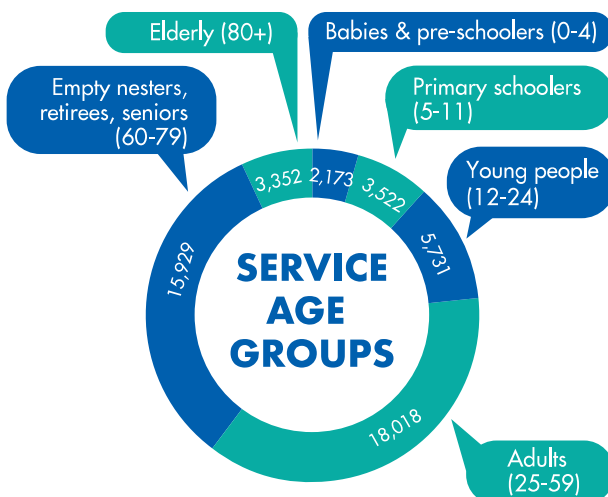
EAST GIPPSLAND POPULATION BY DISTRICT (2023)

DISTRICT:

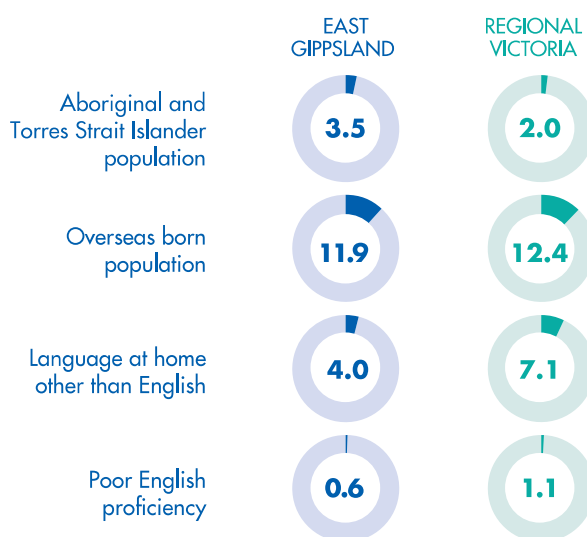
Bairnsdale	17,666	Mallacoota	1,283
Bruthen	1,119	Metung	2,301
Buchan	448	Omeo-Swifts Creek	1,351
Cann River	448	Orbost	4,009
Lakes Entrance	8,716	Paynesville	6,491
Lindenow	2,520	Twin Rivers	2,941

AGE TRENDS

The median age of the community is 52 years, with 39% of the population aged over 60 years. Lone person households make up 29% of all households, with 32.5% of households made up of couples without children, indicative of an older population.



IDENTITY AND DIVERSITY (%)



MEDIAN AGE

EAST GIPPSLAND

52

REGIONAL VICTORIA

43

HEALTH



EAST GIPPSLAND
7.7 %

REGIONAL VICTORIA
6.9 %

Proportion of population with need for assistance due to disability.



Proportion of population with one or more long-term health conditions.

EAST GIPPSLAND

39.7 %

REGIONAL VICTORIA

37.2 %

TOP 3 LONG-TERM HEALTH CONDITIONS



Arthritis

EAST GIPPSLAND

13.6%

REGIONAL VICTORIA

11.2%

Mental Health

10.5%**10.9%**

Asthma

9.2%**9.9%**

HOUSING

Full-ownership of homes is the dominant tenure type in the East Gippsland Shire, with around a quarter of all homes being owned with a mortgage and around a fifth of homes rented. Almost one third of all households are people who live alone. The average household size in the Shire is 2.2 persons per household.



HOUSEHOLDS		% EAST GIPPSLAND	% REGIONAL VICTORIA
	Families with children	19.1	24.6
	Families with young children	10.1	13.5
	Families with mixed-age children	2.8	3.5
	Families with older children	6.2	7.6
	Couples without children	32.5	28.0
	Lone person households	29.0	27.5

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIOECONOMIC WELLBEING



	% EAST GIPPSLAND	% REGIONAL VICTORIA
Labour force participation	48.4	57.4
Employment rate	95.6	95.9
Unemployment rate	4.4	4.1
Change in employment rate 2016-2021	2.0	1.9

TOP 5 INDUSTRIES OF EMPLOYMENT (%)

EAST GIPPSLAND		REGIONAL VICTORIA	
Healthcare & social assistance	16.3	16.2	Healthcare & social assistance
Construction	10.0	9.5	Retail trade
Retail trade	9.7	8.8	Education & training
Education & training	9.0	7.2	Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	8.4	6.6	Accommodation & food services

HOUSING TENURE

Fully owned (%)	
EAST GIPPSLAND	46.5
REGIONAL VICTORIA	37.6
Owned with a mortgage (%)	
EAST GIPPSLAND	25.4
REGIONAL VICTORIA	31.5
Rented (%)	
EAST GIPPSLAND	18.6
REGIONAL VICTORIA	22.6



HOUSING COSTS



	EAST GIPPSLAND	REGIONAL VICTORIA
Monthly mortgage repayments	\$1,300	\$1,430
Weekly rent payments	\$265	\$285

Mortgage stress (%)



12.4



11.2

EAST GIPPSLAND

REGIONAL VICTORIA

Rental stress (%)



29.2



26.2

EAST GIPPSLAND

REGIONAL VICTORIA

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



	EAST GIPPSLAND	REGIONAL VICTORIA
Median household income	\$1,115	\$1,369

MAIN 3 METHODS OF TRAVEL TO WORK

	EAST GIPPSLAND	REGIONAL VICTORIA
Car as driver	63.3%	61.6%
Worked at home	12.6%	15.1%
Did not go to work	11.0%	11.1%

YOUTH DISENGAGEMENT FROM EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT (%)

	EAST GIPPSLAND	REGIONAL VICTORIA
Youth disengagement from education and employment	11.7	9.3
SEIFA index of socioeconomic disadvantage	963	985
SEIFA socioeconomic disadvantage rank out of all Victorian LGAs	63 rd (out of 80)	

Our Communities will include, encourage, respect and value everyone

Our priorities for the future

- Increasingly flexible and innovative delivery of health, community and aged friendly services at the local level is developed to meet the needs of all East Gippsland residents
- The community is supported to come together to create local solutions to local problems
- Opportunities for community participation in creative activities at all levels are supported, to build community cohesiveness, resilience and identity
- Independence, resilience and preparedness in the face of natural disasters and unexpected impacts on the community
- Communities are inclusive and there is an even higher level of tolerance and appreciation of difference
- The involvement of and contribution by local First Nations people is increasingly recognised, and its cultural heritage and role in self-determination about the future of the area are respected
- The need for vulnerable members of our community to be given special assistance to readjust to any major changes to their lives or livelihoods is recognised
- The unique character and history of local communities is celebrated



CFA - Photo Competition Winning entry by Krystal Lewis

Our Place will be accessible, safe, connected, and healthy



Kingfishers Dragonboat Team Hurrah!! - Photo Competition Winning Entry by Kylie Findley

Our priorities for the future

- The municipalities infrastructure systems meet the future needs of the community, businesses, industries and visitors
- Population growth is planned and managed with a focus on attracting and retaining young people and families
- Improved networks of paths and trails to encourage cycling and walking for pleasure and for day-to-day activities
- Planning for future land use balances local priorities with environmental capacity
- New forms of transport to support efficient movement in and between small and dispersed townships and throughout the Shire
- Community infrastructure and facilities are designed and maintained in line with the accessibility standards
- High quality communications networks need to be expanded to enable all communities, businesses and services in the Shire to access new sources of information and take advantage of advances in electronic commerce
- The viability, diversity and attractiveness of our dispersed settlement pattern is maintained through focusing on the strengths and abilities of local communities

Our Environment will be managed and preserved for all generations

Our priorities for the future

- The ecological diversity and beauty of East Gippsland's State national parks, forests, waterways, beaches and oceans is managed and any potentially adverse impacts from human activity and natural events is minimised
- Sustainably managed agricultural land is protected to preserve the productive capacity of our rural industries
- Innovation to reduce emissions and waste including more local solutions for waste reduction
- The resilience of our ecosystem is enhanced through management of the impact of growth and minimisation of fragmentation of important habitats and vegetation corridors
- The community is more involved in planning to adapt to a changing environment and the impact of catastrophic events



Monkey Creek Bruthen - Photo Competition Winning Entry by Emma Cargill

Our Economy will be sustainable, innovative, and supportive of existing and emerging industries

Our priorities for the future

- Younger members of our community are attracted and retained through improved education and employment opportunities and experiences
- Local enterprise is encouraged and supported, to create wrap around services to support the workforce shortages
- Education and workforce development opportunities are available for all levels of the community to ensure businesses across the Shire have access to a skilled workforce
- The region's agri-food production capabilities and efficiencies, and continued growth and expertise in environmentally friendly production practices and circular economy is promoted
- Our energy-driven economy is transformed into one that prioritises alternative energy sources, enhancing the resilience of towns across East Gippsland. This will ensure that that East Gippsland recognised as an environmentally sustainable and future-ready business location
- Investment is in future industries, including education and innovation
- The unique tourism offerings in towns across the Shire are leveraged to create a connected experience
- More cost-effective and efficient freight and passenger transport services
- A diverse mix of economic activity and a broader industry base that maximises the synergies between the various industry sectors
- Natural resource-based industries value-add in a range of innovative ways
- Water for agriculture and industrial processing to be secured through adoption of 'best practice' techniques to minimise demands for fresh water and maximise water reuse and recycling
- A collaborative and integrated approach to industry development and marketing
- Opportunities are identified and developed for natural resource-based industries to value-add in a range of innovative way



On the back, a past and a future - Photo Competition Winning Entry by Sharna Johnson

“ I’ve had a great experience. It was lovely to meet all of you. I didn’t think I’d be the right candidate to be part of this but, it was a very fulfilling, as well as being very daunting and I’ve learnt a lot. It’s been a really good experience, a bit emotional on a personal level.

- 2024 Community Panel Member



Window into our forests - Photo Competition Entry by Marlo Campbell

Monitoring Progress

The Community Vision 2040 reflects the values and priorities of our communities, outlining the path we aim to take for the future. Achieving this vision is a shared responsibility, with Council, our communities, government, and community organisations all playing important roles.

Council will work towards realising the Community Vision through the development of four-year Council Plans, which outline our actions and priorities for each term. These plans will be supported by a set of indicators that will help measure Council's progress in relation to the vision's strategic themes and priorities.

To keep the community informed, Council will provide regular updates on the implementation of the Community Vision 2040. These updates will be communicated through various channels, including quarterly progress reports on the Council Plan and a detailed report in the Annual Report each year.

Community members will also have opportunities to engage in shaping the future of the Community Vision. Every four years, in line with the development of a new Council Plan after elections, the community will have a chance to provide input on what Council should focus on in the next term, ensuring the vision continues to align with community needs, aspirations, and values.

At a local level, community members can influence their place-based Community Plans, contributing directly to the implementation of the Community Vision. These district community plans provide a platform for active participation, where communities work together to bring the vision to life, building on the strengths and diversity of each district and its people.



East Gippsland Shire Council

273 Main Street

PO Box 1618 Bairnsdale VIC 3875



5153 9500



eastgippsland.vic.gov.au



EastGippyShire



PO Box 1618, Bairnsdale 3875



6 Urgent Business

7 Confidential Business

7.1 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.

8 Close of Meeting