



Unconfirmed Minutes Council Meeting

Tuesday 19 May 2026 at 6.00 pm

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

Councillors

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

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

Vision

To foster inclusive, connected, communities and places where all East Gippslanders prosper, and endeavour not to leave anyone behind.

Our Strategic Themes

1. Community Wellbeing and Social Responsibility
2. Prosperity
3. Making the Most of What We've Got
4. Managing Council Well

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1 Procedural

1.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth welcomed all to the Council meeting and acknowledged the traditional custodians.

Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of this land and pays deep respect to all First Nations peoples and communities with enduring cultural connections to East Gippsland, who have cared for and nurtured Country for tens of thousands of years.

We honour and celebrate the rich diversity, living cultures, and ongoing contributions of all First Nations peoples who live, work, visit, and play across East Gippsland.

We also acknowledge the many First Nations communities who, together, continue to shape and contribute to the region we know as East Gippsland. The place where we, as Local Government, deliver services and support to our community.

1.2 Apologies

Nil

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Cr Tom Crook declared a conflict of interest in relation to items 1.7.1.1 *Save the Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool* and 5.1.1 *Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool - Response to Council Resolution*, as a material interest due to a personal relationship with a nearby landowner.

Sarah Johnston General Manager Business Excellence declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 5.3.3 *CON2026 1733 Krauatungalong Walk, Stage 2 - Section 4 - Construction Works*, as a general interest due to a family connection with one of the tenderers for the contract.

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Motion

That the minutes of the Council meeting held Tuesday 21 April 2026 be confirmed.

Moved: Cr Joanne Eastman

Seconded: Cr Ian Trevaskis

Spoke for the motion: Nil

Spoke against the motion: Nil

Closed the debate: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

For: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Jodie Ashworth, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Tom Crook,
Cr Barry Davis, Cr Joanne Eastman, Cr Bernie Farquhar, Cr Ian Trevaskis and
Cr John White

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

1.5 Next Meeting

The next scheduled Council Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 9 June 2026 at the Corporate Centre, 273 Main Street Bairnsdale commencing at 6.00 pm.

1.6 Requests for Leave of Absence

Nil

Procedural Note

At this point in proceedings, Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth acknowledged the following students who observed the meeting from the public gallery as part of their Junior Rotary Community Awards program:

- Alyssa Pruscino from St Mary's Primary School;
- Ella Crutchfield from St Mary's Primary School;
- Zoe Carton from St Mary's Primary School;
- Hailey Quirke from St Mary's Primary School; and
- John Hall from Eagle Point Primary School.

To acknowledge their participation in this community program, the Mayor presented each student with a Council pin.

1.7 Open Forum

1.7.1 Petitions

Conflict of Interest

Cr Tom Crook, having declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 1.7.1.1, left the Council Chamber at 6.09 pm and was absent during the discussion on this item.

Public Submission

Ms Stephanie Buckland

1.7.1.1 Save the Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Motion

That Council:

1. *receives and notes the petition lodged by head petitioners Ms Stephanie Buckland and Ms Genevieve Wilks requesting Council to:*
 - a. *undertake the necessary repairs to make the Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool safe for staff and the community, and to ensure it is ready to reopen in 2026;*
 - b. *actively consult with the community on the development of any plans for the future of the Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool, including any decisions regarding redevelopment, refurbishment, or changes to its operation; and*
 - c. *acknowledge and affirm that the Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool is an important and valued community asset; and*
2. *considers the matters raised in the petition in conjunction with the Officer report titled Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool - Response to Council Resolution at Item 5.1.1 relating to the Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool; and*
3. *notes that the Chief Executive Officer will arrange for Council Officers to write to the head petitioners advising them of Council's resolution arising from consideration of Item 5.1.1.*

Moved: Cr Bernie Farquhar

Seconded: Cr Arthur Allen

Spoke for the motion: Cr Bernie Farquhar and Cr Arthur Allen

Spoke against the motion: Nil

Closed the debate: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

For: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Jodie Ashworth, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Barry Davis,
Cr Joanne Eastman, Cr Bernie Farquhar, Cr Ian Trevaskis and Cr John White
Against: Nil
Abstained: Nil

Attendance

Cr Tom Crook returned to the Council Chamber at 6.20 pm.

1.7.2 Questions of Council

1.7.2.1 Environmental Health Officer

Ms Faye Carlin submitted the following question which was read out on her behalf by Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer:

Question 1: *“When are we hiring Environmental Officers?”.*

Chris Stephenson General Manager Place and Community provided a response which is summarised below:

Response 1: Council employs specific environmental roles already. Some examples include the Environmental Planning Officer and Natural Environment Coordinator.

1.7.2.2 Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool

Ms Genevieve Wilks asked the following question:

Question 1: *“Community engagement has commenced for the East Gippsland Aquatic Strategy by way of a survey form. However, community members have been communicating with our Council on this topic in many different ways since August 2025.*

We request that Council provide to the developers of the East Gippsland Aquatic Strategy for their consideration and inclusion in the development of the Strategy the following documents as evidence of community members views:

- a. copies of Council meeting video recordings where the future of the Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool was discussed, in particular 19 August, 17 February and 19 May 2026;*
- b. copies of correspondence received by Council via email (feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au) phone records or letters about the future of the Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool since July 2025, with permission sought for this sharing as appropriate;*
- c. copies of communications from community as part of the 2026 budget consultation about the future of the Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool; copy of the mural painting by our children and presented to council on 17 February 2026 date; and*
- d. the petition presented to council today on the Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool.*

Will Council agree to and implement this request?”

Chris Stephenson General Manager Place and Community provided a response which is summarised below:

Response 1: Council meeting recordings are available on the Council website and can be viewed at any time, so we will make sure the consultants are aware of this.

Officers will ensure that the consultants delivering the strategy are provided all documentation relevant to the project and will align the provision of documentation as closely as possible to what is requested, with consideration to relevant privacy legislation.

More generally, Officers will ensure the consultants have the information they need and or request to produce a well-informed strategy.

1.7.2.3 Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool

Ms Stephanie Buckland asked the following questions:

Question 1: *“Does the Project Management Group include representation from key outdoor pool user groups, including:*

- *parents with children in early childhood (not school aged);*
- *people with disabilities;*
- *members of the Aboriginal community; and*
- *outdoor lap swimmers?”.*

Question 2: *“What are council doing to promote survey completion by all members of the community, especially those that do not use the BARC, or are not EGSC leisure members? For example:*

- *parents with children in early childhood (not school aged);*
- *people with disabilities;*
- *members of the Aboriginal community; and*
- *outdoor lap swimmers?*

And what other engagement activities are planned to ensure engagement from the user groups described above?”.

Chris Stephenson General Manager Place and Community provided a response which is summarised below:

Response 1: The Project Reference Group was formed through an open expression of interest process.

Officers aimed to create a diverse group, with representatives from key user groups including local swimming clubs, schools, allied health services, non-swimming user groups; and indoor and Outdoor pool users of our Bairnsdale, Orbost and Lakes Entrance facilities.

While strong representation was achieved, Council acknowledges not all parts of the community are represented, including people who choose not to access our sites. To address this, officers have worked with consultants and other agencies to help connect with more of community.

This work is ongoing as we are currently in the middle of the consultation phase.

Response 2: The survey is being promoted through social media, print marketing and via targeted mail-outs. This is being supported by a number of Council departments to ensure the reach is far and wide, as the strategy is to capture all East Gippsland.

Consultants are also running a range of individual consultation sessions with groups such as our region's youth ambassadors, the chambers of commerce and other place-based community organisations. This work is still ongoing, but survey responses have already been strong, with the survey closing on 29 May 2026.

It's in Councils and communities' best interest to receive feedback from the broadest cross section of the community possible.

1.7.3 Public Submissions

1.7.3.1 Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool

Ms Stephanie Buckland addressed Council on the Save the Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool and spoke at item 1.7.1.1.

1.7.3.2 Gippsland Lakes Share Community Hub

Ms Linda Reardon addressed Council on the Gippsland Lakes Shared Community Redevelopment proposal.

1.7.3.3 CON2026 1755 World Soccer Pavilion and Pitches Construction Works

Mr Jarrah Feather addressed Council on the CON2026 1755 World Soccer Pavilion and Pitches Construction Works.

Mr Feather addressed Council at item 1.7.3 Public Submissions at his request.

1.7.3.4 Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool

Ms Genevieve Wilks addressed Council on the Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool - Response to Council Resolution and spoke at item 5.1.1.

1.7.3.5 Planning Application 2025.105 - 705 Metung Road

Mr Richard Hoxley addressed Council on the Application 2025.105 - 705 Metung Road (3 Lot Subdivision and Creation of Carriageway Easement Adjacent to a Road in a Transport Zone 2) and spoke at item 5.1.2.

1.7.3.6 Planning Application 2025.105 - 705 Metung Road

Ms Faye Carlin addressed Council on the Application 2025.105 - 705 Metung Road (3 Lot Subdivision and Creation of Carriageway Easement Adjacent to a Road in a Transport Zone 2) and spoke at item 5.1.2.

1.8 Items for Noting

Nil

2 Notices of Motion

2.1 Advocacy for Swifts Creek 24 Hour Health Services

Procedural Note

Cr Sonia Buckley amended her own motion.

Motion

That Council:

1. *notes the serious concerns raised at the Swifts Creek stakeholder meeting and in other remote communities in our region regarding:*
 - a. *the sustainability of 24-hour nursing services;*
 - b. *insufficient funding relative to weekend and peak population demand;*
 - c. *emergency response capacity and workforce pressures; and*
 - d. *the absence of local home care, palliative care, and ageing in place support.*
2. *affirms that 24-hour nursing services at Swifts Creek and other remote community health services are essential and critical to community safety;*
3. *acknowledges that:*
 - a. *the current funding model does not reflect actual service demand;*
 - b. *reliance on grants is no longer viable for essential health services; and*
 - c. *community fear and risk are real and escalating.*
4. *welcomes Ambulance Victoria's recent support and recognition of the pressures faced in the Swifts Creek catchment;*
5. *calls on the Victorian Minister for Health to:*
 - a. *guarantee and recurrently fund 24-hour nursing services at Swifts Creek;*
 - b. *reform the funding model to reflect real population and risk;*
 - c. *provide additional paramedic resources;*
 - d. *fund essential infrastructure upgrades; and*
 - e. *support home care, palliative care, ageing at home and other required services for remote communities in East Gippsland.*
6. *requests a formal written response from the Minister for Health outlining decisions, funding commitments, and implementation timeframes; and*
7. *authorises the Mayor (or Deputy Mayor) and CEO to:*
 - a. *write formally to the Minister for Health and local Members of Parliament;*
 - b. *engage in coordinated advocacy with health services, Ambulance Victoria, and community representatives; and*
 - c. *report back to Council on progress.*

Moved: Cr Sonia Buckley

Seconded: Cr Tom Crook

Spoke for the motion: Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Tom Crook, Cr Joanne Eastman and
Cr John White

Spoke against the motion: Nil

Closed the debate: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

For: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Jodie Ashworth, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Tom Crook,
Cr Barry Davis, Cr Joanne Eastman, Cr Bernie Farquhar, Cr Ian Trevaskis and
Cr John White

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

3 Deferred Business

Nil

4 Councillor Delegate Reports

4.1 Cr Arthur Allen

24/04/26 - The Mayor and I attended the Nagle College ANZAC Commemorative service at the school. It was a very moving ceremony and the respect demonstrated by the school community was outstanding, a credit to all involved.

25/04/26 - ANZAC day, I attended the Dawn Service at Lakes Entrance. There was a big turn out to honour the fallen in the early morning light, probably the biggest turn out ever for the Lakes event. At the 11.00 am service there was another big crowd. Well done to the Lakes Entrance RSL and especially well done to the students from Lakes Entrance Primary School, Lakes Entrance Secondary College and St Brendan's Catholic Primary School for their outstanding contributions. It was an honour to lay a wreath on behalf of the Shire at the 11.00 am service.

4.2 Cr Jodie Ashworth

Period: 22 March – 19 May 2026

22/04/26 - One Gippsland Meeting – online meeting with the Hon. David Davis MP.
24/04/26 - ANZAC Day commemorative service at Nagle College.
24/04/26 - Audit and Risk Committee Chairperson, independent members and Officers.
25/04/26 - ANZAC Day commemorative services at both Paynesville and Bairnsdale.
27/04/26 - Meeting with the Hon. Darren Chester.
28/04/26 - Councillor Briefing Session.
29/04/26 - Gippsland Offshore Wind Sector Plan Launch - Port of Sale.
29/04/26 - Community Impact Grant Photo Opportunities.
30/04/26 - Marina Consultative Committee Meeting.
01/05/26 - Grade 4 St Mary's Primary School Visit - Civics and Citizenship.
01/05/26 - Sarsfield Recreation Reserve and Community Hall – Official Opening.
03/05/26 - Opening Ceremony of the 26th Paynesville Bowls Club Autumn Carnival.
04/05/26 - CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting.
05/05/26 - Councillor Briefing Session.
05/05/26 - Welcome Reception – National Indigenous Disaster Resilience Gathering.
05/05/26 - Municipal Association of Victoria – Delegates Pre-State Council Briefing.
09/05/26 - The Longest Waiting Room event Lakes Entrance.
12/05/26 - Councillor Briefing Session.
13/05/26 - Photo Opportunity – Romawi Landcare Group.
13/05/26 - East Gippsland Ratepayers and Residents Association Meeting.
14/05/26 - Australia's Largest Community Lunch – Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House.
15/05/26 - Victorian Local Governance Association Online Webinar – Successfully Navigating a CEO Performance Review Process.
16/05/26 - Surf Life Saving Lakes Entrance Presentation Night.
19/05/26 - Councillor Briefing Session and Council Meeting.

4.3 Cr Tom Crook

Community Representation and Events

- ANZAC Day – Metung (25 April 2026)

I attended the ANZAC Day service in Metung, where I laid a wreath on behalf of Council and the community. The service was well attended and provided a meaningful opportunity to honour the service and sacrifice of those who have served in conflicts, and to reflect on the importance of diplomacy in maintaining peace.

- Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month (6 May 2026)

Council partnered with Gippsland Partners in Prevention to support a community candlelight vigil recognising victims of family and domestic violence. East Gippsland continues to face significant challenges, with the highest rates of family violence in Victoria and a 10.9% increase recorded last year.

The event (held at the Rotunda) included a community walk, speeches, cultural recognition, youth participation and a candlelight vigil. This initiative reinforces Council's commitment to promoting respect, equality and community awareness.

- Australia's Largest Community Lunch – Bairnsdale (14 May 2026)

I attended the community lunch hosted by Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House. The strong attendance highlighted the vital role community organisations play in supporting social connection and wellbeing. I recommend Council further explore opportunities to support and partner with such organisations.

- National Indigenous Disaster Resilience Gathering (7 May 2026)

Held on Gunaikurnai Country, this significant event brought together Indigenous leaders, emergency management agencies and international experts. With approximately 300 attendees, it provided valuable insights into Indigenous-led disaster resilience while delivering strong networking opportunities and positive economic benefits for the region.

Delegate Report

- Australian Coastal Councils Association Meeting (11 May 2026)

Key outcomes and discussions included:

- Membership Fees: A 3.5% increase for 2026–27 was approved, balancing cost pressures with rate-capping constraints.
- Financial Position: The Association remains in a stable financial position, with a portion of term deposits to be reinvested.
- Annual Forum:
 - Ongoing uncertainty around travel costs and election cycles has impacted planning.
 - Consensus was to consider postponing the full conference until 2027.
 - Interim options include a smaller-scale webinar or online event to maintain member engagement and deliver value.

- **Advocacy Work:**
 - Progress on the 2026 Coastal Hazards Survey.
 - Planning underway for a Coastal Roundtable at the ALGA National General Assembly in June.
- **Governance:** Secretariat services contract renewed with a 3.5% increase, with strong support for current arrangements.
- **Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) Workshop – CEO Performance Review (15 May 2026)**

I attended a VLGA “Lunch and Learn” session focused on CEO performance reviews. The workshop provided practical guidance on:

- Aligning KPIs with strategic objectives
- Delivering constructive feedback
- Managing remuneration and contract negotiations

This learning will support effective governance and strengthen Council’s performance review processes.

This reporting period has focused on strong community engagement, regional collaboration and professional development. Key highlights include advocacy in relation to family violence, participation in nationally significant resilience discussions, and ongoing involvement in coastal policy leadership.

I remain committed to representing our community, supporting local organisations, and contributing to informed decision-making at both regional and national levels.

4.4 Cr John White

- Attended all but one briefing this month.
- Spoke at Lindenow Dawn Service on Anzac Day with an amazing 300 or so people in attendance with many from our younger generation.
- Filled in for Cr Allen at Warragul SEATS meeting and took number of notes to include in the report.

5 Officer Reports

5.1 Place and Community

5.1.1 Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool - Response to Council Resolution

Authorised by General Manager Place and Community

Conflict of Interest

Cr Tom Crook, having declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 5.1.1, left the Council Chamber at 6.57 pm and was absent during the discussion on this item.

Public Submission

Ms Genevieve Wilks

Confidentiality Notice

The information contained in **Confidential Attachment 1** is confidential under section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* because it relates to: (a) Council Business Information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations, if prematurely released.

Pursuant to section 66(5)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, if released, the information discussed or considered in relation to this agenda item could signal Council's intended approach, financial parameters, or risk position to the market, reducing competitive tension, limiting Council's ability to secure value for money, and disadvantaging Council in any future commercial negotiations

Procedural Note

Cr Bernie Farquhar moved his own motion.

Motion

That Council:

- 1. notes the findings of the Bairnsdale Aquatic condition and safety Assessment Bairnsdale swimming Pool report, provided at confidential attachment 1;*
- 2. supports the renewal of the Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool including the main pool and the toddler's pool with outdoor heated pools at the current site;*
- 3. exempts this project from Council's normal procurement practices guided by the adopted Procurement Policy and seeks a tender from BEC for a fully costed detailed design including engineering plans;*
- 4. once plans are received and reviewed by Council that Tenders be released for the project including decommissioning works and supply and installation of all infrastructure, plant and equipment necessary to implement the design;*
- 5. makes provision in future budgets to facilitate the replacement of Pools and associated equipment as detailed in Recommendation 4; and*

6. *subject to resourcing, considers and accepts any further recommendations made by the new Aquatic strategy committee and incorporates these works into future budget.*

Moved: Cr Bernie Farquhar

Seconded: Cr Joanne Eastman

Procedural Motion

That Standing Orders be suspended to enable full discussion to take place in relation to Cr Bernie Farquhar's Motion.

Moved: Cr Sonia Buckley

Seconded: Cr John White

For: Cr Jodie Ashworth, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Ian Trevaskis and Cr John White

Against: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Barry Davis, Cr Joanne Eastman and Cr Bernie Farquhar

Abstained: Nil

CARRIED

Procedural Note

The motion was put to the vote, and the result was tied. Accordingly, the Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth exercised a casting vote as required under section 61(5)(d) of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the motion to suspend standing orders was carried.

Standing Orders were suspended at 7.26 pm.

Procedural Motion

That Standing Orders be resumed.

Moved: Cr Sonia Buckley

Seconded: Cr John White

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

For: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Jodie Ashworth, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Barry Davis,
Cr Joanne Eastman, Cr Bernie Farquhar, Cr Ian Trevaskis and Cr John White

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

Procedural Note

Standing Orders resumed at 7.42 pm.

Upon resumption of Standing Orders, the Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth commenced debate and called for any Councillor who wishes to speak against the motion.

Spoke for the motion: *Cr Bernie Farquhar and Cr Joanne Eastman*
Spoke against the motion: *Cr Sonia Buckley*
Closed the debate: *Cr Bernie Farquhar*

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For: Cr Barry Davis, Cr Joanne Eastman and Cr Bernie Farquhar
Against: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Jodie Ashworth, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Ian Trevaskis and Cr John White
Abstained: Nil

Procedural Note

As the Motion was lost, the Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth returned Councillors consideration to the recommendation contained in the report and called for a Councillor to move a Motion.

Motion

That Council:

- 1. notes the findings of Bairnsdale Aquatic Condition and Safety Assessment – Bairnsdale Swimming Pool report, provided at Confidential Attachment 1;***
- 2. notes a summary of the findings of Bairnsdale Aquatic Condition and Safety Assessment – Bairnsdale Swimming Pool report, provided at Attachment 2;***
- 3. notes that the matters addressed in the petition received at item 1.7.1.1 at this same Council meeting will be responded to via correspondence with the head petitioner as follows:***
 - a) based on the independent safety assessment and Council’s obligations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004, the Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool cannot be reopened or repaired in its current condition to enable operation in 2026;***
 - b) Council commits to undertaking broad community consultation on the future of aquatic facilities across East Gippsland, including the Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool, through the development of the East Gippsland Aquatic Strategy;***
 - c) Council acknowledges the important role aquatic facilities play in supporting health, wellbeing and community participation across East Gippsland, and notes that the future role, value and provision of aquatic infrastructure, including the Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool, will be considered through Council’s development of an East Gippsland Aquatic Strategy;***
- 4. resolves that no further remedial action be undertaken in relation to the Bairnsdale Outdoor Pool until the East Gippsland Aquatic Strategy is completed, considered and formally adopted by Council; and***
- 5. resolves that Confidential Attachment 1 to this report, and all discussions relating to this attachment, remain confidential.***

Moved: *Cr Sonia Buckley*
Seconded: *Cr John White*

Spoke for the motion: Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr John White, Cr Jodie Ashworth and
Cr Ian Trevaskis

Spoke against the motion: Nil

Closed the debate: Nil

CARRIED

For: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Jodie Ashworth, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Ian Trevaskis and
Cr John White

Against: Cr Barry Davis, Cr Joanne Eastman, Cr Bernie Farquhar

Abstained: Nil

Attendance

Cr Tom Crook returned to the Council Chamber at 7.54 pm.

5.1.2 Application 2025.105 - 705 Metung Road (3 Lot Subdivision and Creation of Carriageway Easement Adjacent to a Road in a Transport Zone 2)

Authorised by General Manager Place and Community

Public Submissions

Mr Richard Hoxley
Ms Faye Carlin

Motion

That Council, being the Responsible Authority and having considered all the relevant planning matters, determines that Planning Permit Application 5.2025.105.1 is consistent with the requirements and objectives of the East Gippsland Planning Scheme and therefore resolves to issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a permit subject to Conditions as provided at Attachment 6.

Moved: Cr Sonia Buckley

Seconded: Cr Arthur Allen

Spoke for the motion: Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Arthur Allen and Cr Tom Crook

Spoke against the motion: Nil

Closed the debate: Nil

CARRIED

For: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Jodie Ashworth, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Tom Crook,
Cr Barry Davis, Cr Bernie Farquhar, Cr Ian Trevaskis and Cr John White

Against: Nil

Abstained: Cr Joanne Eastman

Procedural Note

In accordance with section 61(5)(e) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, a Councillor who is present at a meeting and abstains from voting is to be counted as a vote against the motion.

Procedural Motion

That Council resolves to extend the duration of the meeting by two hours.

Moved: Cr John White

Seconded: Cr Tom Crook

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

For: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Jodie Ashworth, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Tom Crook,
Cr Barry Davis, Cr Joanne Eastman, Cr Bernie Farquhar, Cr Ian Trevaskis and
Cr John White

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

5.1.3 Planning Scheme Amendment C161egip - Update Lakes Entrance Northern Growth Area (Authorisation)

Authorised by General Manager Place and Community

Attendance

Cr Joanne Eastman left the Council Chamber at 8.28 pm.

Cr John White left the Council Chamber at 8.29 pm.

Cr Joanne Eastman and Cr John White both returned to the Council Chamber at 8.30 pm.

Motion

That Council:

1. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to:

- a) seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendment C161egip to the East Gippsland Planning Scheme in accordance with section 16F of the Planning and Environment Act 1987;***
- b) prepare Planning Scheme Amendment C161egip to the East Gippsland Planning Scheme, generally in accordance with the documentation provided at Attachment 3, subject to ministerial authorisation; and***
- c) place Planning Scheme Amendment C161egip on public exhibition in accordance with section 19 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, subject to ministerial authorisation.***

Moved: Cr Tom Crook

Seconded: Cr Arthur Allen

Spoke for the motion: Cr Tom Crook, Cr Arthur Allen and Cr Sonia Buckley

Spoke against the motion: Nil

Closed the debate: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

For: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Jodie Ashworth, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Tom Crook, Cr Barry Davis, Cr Joanne Eastman, Cr Bernie Farquhar, Cr Ian Trevaskis and Cr John White

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

5.2 Chief Executive Officer
5.2.1 Nicholson Street Mall

Authorised by Chief Executive Officer

Motion

That Council:

- 1. notes the actions Council Officers have initiated as short term mechanisms to address safety and amenity issues within the Nicholson Street Mall precinct;***
- 2. supports the establishment of a Nicholson Street Taskforce as requested by traders, and supports Officers to work with this group and the broader community to identify both short-term and longer-term improvement opportunities for the area;***
- 3. continues to advocate for an increased police presence both in the Nicholson Street Mall and other areas across East Gippsland where antisocial behaviour is a recognised issue; and***
- 4. notes that Council Officers have recently provided the head petitioner with an update on the actions outlined in the report.***

Moved: Cr Sonia Buckley

Seconded: Cr Tom Crook

Spoke for the motion: Cr Sonia Buckley and Cr Tom Crook

Spoke against the motion: Nil

Closed the debate: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

For: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Jodie Ashworth, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Tom Crook,
Cr Barry Davis, Cr Joanne Eastman, Cr Bernie Farquhar, Cr Ian Trevaskis and
Cr John White

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

5.3 Assets and Environment

5.3.1 CON2026 1755 WORLD Soccer Pavilion and Pitches Construction Works

Authorised by General Manager Assets and Environment

Confidentiality Notice

The information contained in **Confidential Attachment 1 - CON2026 1755 Contract Award Summary**, **Confidential Attachment 2 - CON2026 1755 Tender Evaluation Report**, **Confidential Attachment 3 Probity Report** and **Confidential Attachment 4 – Life To Date Financials** are confidential under section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* because it relates to: (g) Private Commercial Information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

Pursuant to section 66(5)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, if released, the information discussed or considered in relation to this agenda item would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage, by disclosing financial information to competitors.

Motion

That Council:

- 1. notes the current status of Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act Approval, Town Planning and East Gippsland Water approvals for the WORLD Soccer Precinct project;**
- 2. awards the tender for CON2026 1755 WORLD Soccer Pavilion and Pitches Construction Works to the tenderer identified as the preferred tenderer in the Contract Award Summary provided at Confidential Attachment 1, structured as two separable portions that are contingent on relevant approvals for each portion (1. Site preparation and drainage and 2. Pavillion, pitches and external works) for the contract amount specified in that attachment;**
- 3. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegated General Manager to approve variations to CON2026 1755 WORLD Soccer Pavilion and Pitches Construction Works up to the contingency amount specified in the Contract Award Summary provided at Confidential Attachment 1, subject to the conditions specified in that summary;**
- 4. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to include conditions in the contract to make the awarding subject to any necessary final approvals including approval from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. This approval relates to environmental vegetation offset management and the impact of removing native vegetation from the site;**
- 5. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to execute the necessary contract documents, for each separable portion without further resolution of Council;**

6. ***authorises the Chief Executive Officer to approve a Deed of Variation, if required, to provide for fuel cost recovery in accordance with Road Transport Contractual Chain Order made under Part3B-2 of the Fair Work Act 2009;***
7. ***notes that the successful tenderer and contract amount will be published on Council's website following execution of the contract documents and after unsuccessful tenderers have been formally notified; and***
8. ***resolves that the Confidential Attachments to this report and all discussions relating to them remain confidential.***

Moved: Cr John White

Seconded: Cr Bernie Farquhar

Spoke for the motion: Cr John White, Cr Bernie Farquhar and Cr Sonia Buckley

Spoke against the motion: Nil

Closed the debate: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

For: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Jodie Ashworth, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Tom Crook,
Cr Barry Davis, Cr Joanne Eastman, Cr Bernie Farquhar, Cr Ian Trevaskis and
Cr John White

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

5.3.2 CON2026 1642 Eastern Beach Road Drainage Improvements Construction Works

Authorised by General Manager Assets and Environment

Confidentiality Notice

The information contained in **Confidential Attachment 1 (CON2026 1642 Contract Award Summary)** and **Confidential Attachment 2 (CON2026 1642 Tender Evaluation Report)** is confidential under section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* because it relates to: (g) Private Commercial Information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

Pursuant to section 66(5)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, if released, the information discussed or considered in relation to this agenda item would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage, by disclosing financial information to competitors.

Motion

That Council:

- 1. awards the tender for CON2026 1642 Eastern Beach Road Drainage Improvements Construction Works to the tenderer identified as the preferred tenderer in the Contract Award Summary provided at Confidential Attachment 1, for the contract amount specified in that attachment;***
- 2. authorises the relevant General Manager to approve variations to CON2026 1642 Eastern Beach Road Drainage Improvements Construction Works up to the contingency amount specified in the CON2026 1642 Award Summary provided at Confidential Attachment 1, subject to the conditions specified in that summary;***
- 3. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to execute the necessary contract documents;***
- 4. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to approve a Deed of variation, if required, to provide for fuel cost recovery in accordance with Road Transport Contractual Chain Order made under Part3B-2 of the Fair Work Act 2009;***
- 5. notes that the successful tenderer and contract amount will be published on Council's website following execution of the contract documents and after unsuccessful tenderers have been formally notified; and***
- 6. resolves that the Confidential Attachments to this report and all discussions relating to them remain confidential.***

Moved: Cr Arthur Allen

Seconded: Cr Ian Trevaskis

Spoke for the motion: Cr Arthur Allen and Cr Ian Trevaskis

Spoke against the motion: Nil

Closed the debate: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

For: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Jodie Ashworth, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Tom Crook,
Cr Barry Davis, Cr Joanne Eastman, Cr Bernie Farquhar, Cr Ian Trevaskis and
Cr John White

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

5.3.3 CON2026 1733 Krauatungalung Walk, Stage 2 - Section 4 - Construction Works

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 item 5.3.3, left the Council Chamber at 9.08 pm and was absent during the discussion on this item.

Confidentiality Notice

The information contained in **Confidential Attachment 1 CON2026 1733 Contract Award Summary**, **Confidential Attachment 2 CON2026 1733 Tender Evaluation Process** and **Confidential Attachment 3 CON2026 1733 Probity Report** are confidential under section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* because it relates to: (g) Private Commercial Information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

Pursuant to section 66(5)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, if released, the information discussed or considered in relation to this agenda item would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage, by disclosing financial information to competitors.

Motion

That Council:

- 1. awards the tender for CON2026 1733 Krauatungalung Walk, Stage 2- Section 4, Lakes Entrance – Construction Works to the tenderer identified as the preferred tenderer in the Contract Award Summary provided at Confidential Attachment 1, for the contract amount specified in that attachment;***
- 2. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to approve variations to CON2026 1733 Krauatungalung Walk, Stage 2- Section 4, Lakes Entrance – Construction Works up to the contingency amount specified in the 2026 1733 Award Summary provided at Confidential Attachment 1, subject to the conditions specified in that summary;***
- 3. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to execute the necessary contract documents;***
- 4. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to approve a Deed of variation, if required, to provide for fuel cost recovery in accordance with Road Transport Contractual Chain Order made under Part3B-2 of the Fair Work Act 2009;***
- 5. notes that the successful tenderer and contract amount will be published on Council's website following execution of the contract documents and after unsuccessful tenderers have been formally notified; and***
- 6. resolves that the Confidential Attachments to this report and all discussions relating to them remain confidential.***

Moved: Cr Tom Crook

Seconded: Cr Arthur Allen

Spoke for the motion: Cr Tom Crook and Cr Arthur Allen

Spoke against the motion: Cr John White and Cr Sonia Buckley

Closed the debate: Cr Tom Crook

CARRIED

For: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Jodie Ashworth, Cr Tom Crook, Cr Barry Davis,
Cr Joanne Eastman and Cr Bernie Farquhar

Against: Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Ian Trevaskis and Cr John White

Abstained: Nil

Attendance

Sarah Johnston General Manager Business Excellence returned to the Council Chamber at 9.19 pm.

5.4 Business Excellence

5.4.1 Organisational Performance Report

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Motion

That Council:

- 1. notes and endorses the full year forecast operating and capital budgets, including the revised capital forecast as detailed in the Organisational Performance Report, provided at Attachment 1, for the period to 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026; and***
- 2. notes that if endorsed, the Organisational Performance Report for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, provided at Attachment 1, will be published on Council's website.***

Moved: Cr Tom Crook

Seconded: Cr Arthur Allen

Spoke for the motion: Cr Tom Crook and Cr Arthur Allen

Spoke against the motion: Nil

Closed the debate: Nil

CARRIED

For: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Jodie Ashworth, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Tom Crook,
Cr Barry Davis, Cr Joanne Eastman, Cr Ian Trevaskis and Cr John White

Against: Cr Bernie Farquhar

Abstained: Nil

5.4.2 Council Meeting Resolution Register

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Confidentiality Notice

The information contained in **Confidential Attachment 2** and **Confidential Attachment 4** is confidential under section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* because it relates to: (h) Confidential Meeting Information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a).

Pursuant to section 66(5)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, if released, the information discussed or considered in relation to this agenda item could undermine the integrity of Council decision-making processes, disclose sensitive discussions or deliberations, or reveal personal, legal, or commercial information that may prejudice Council or third parties.

Motion

That Council receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report.

Moved: Cr Barry Davis

Seconded: Cr Tom Crook

Spoke for the motion: Cr Tom Crook

Spoke against the motion: Nil

Closed the debate: Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

For: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Jodie Ashworth, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Tom Crook,
Cr Barry Davis, Cr Joanne Eastman, Cr Bernie Farquhar, Cr Ian Trevaskis and
Cr John White

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

6 Urgent Business

Nil

7 Confidential Business

Nil

8 Close of Meeting

Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth declared the Council Meeting closed at 9.29 pm.