



Minutes

Council Meeting

Tuesday 18 August 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) (Online),
Arthur Allen (Online), Sonia Buckley, Barry Davis, 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

Index

1 Procedural.....	5
1.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians	5
1.2 Apologies	5
1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest	5
1.4 Confirmation of Minutes	5
1.5 Next Meeting	6
1.6 Requests for Leave of Absence	6
1.7 Open Forum.....	6
1.7.1 <i>Petitions</i>	6
1.7.2 <i>Questions of Council</i>	7
1.7.3 <i>Public Submissions</i>	10
1.8 Items for Noting.....	10
2 Notices of Motion.....	11
2.1 Planning Delegations Policy	11
2.2 Buchan Dump Point	12
3 Deferred Business	13
4 Councillor Delegate Reports.....	13
5 Officer Reports.....	18
5.1 Projects and Planning	18
5.1.1 Planning Application 5.2025.361.1 - 236 Bullumwaal Road Wy Yung - Use and Development of a Medical Centre.....	18
5.1.2 CON2026 1786 Howitt Park Pedestrian Bridge Replacement.....	20
5.1.3 CON2026 1784, CON2026 1785, CON2026 1787 Bridge Replacements Contracts - Lees Road Mossiface, Hollands O'Briens Road Swifts Creek and Healeys Road Marlo	22
5.2 Chief Executive Officer.....	24
5.2.1 Municipal Association of Victorian October 2026 State Council Motion	24
5.3 Business Excellence	25
5.3.1 Provision of Banking and Associated Services	25

5.4 Place and Community	26
5.4.1 CON2023 1527 Recreation Centre Plant Room Maintenance - Extension Option	26
6 Urgent Business	26
7 Confidential Business	27
8 Close of Meeting	27

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, delivered services and support to our community.

1.2 Apologies

Nil

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Sarah Johnston General Manager Business Excellence declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 5.1.1 *Planning Permit Application 5.2025.361.1 - 236 Bullumwaal Road Wy Yung - Medical Centre* as a general interest due to owning a property within the vicinity of the planning permit.

Cr Bernie Farquhar declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 5.4.1 - *CON2023 1527 Recreation Centre Plant Room Maintenance - Extension Option* as a material conflict of interest due to business relationship between his company and the contractor.

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Motion

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

Moved: Cr Joanne Eastman

Seconded: Cr Bernie Farquhar

Spoke for the motion: Cr Joanne Eastman

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 Council Meeting scheduled is to be held on Thursday 17 September 2026 at the Corporate Centre, 273 Main Street Bairnsdale commencing at 2.00 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:

- Poppy Glassborow from St Mary's Primary School;
- Archie Modrich from St Mary's Primary School;
- Leo Dwyer from St Mary's Primary School; and
- Dylan Bates from Bairnsdale 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

Nil

1.7.2 Questions of Council

1.7.2.1 Planning Permit Application 5.2025.361.1 - 236 Bullumwaal Road Wy Yung - Medical Centre

Mr Bruce Hall addressed Council and asked the following questions:

Question 1: *“Have all Councillors inspected the proposed site at 236 Bullumwaal Road Wy Yung?”*

Question 2: *“Are all Councillors familiar with the site at 236 Bullumwaal Road Wy Yung and comfortable with the development proposed there?”*

Councillors responded individually. In summary, Councillors advised that they were familiar with the site through site inspections and supporting documentation. Councillors also advised that they had received detailed briefings from Officers regarding the proposal and associated assessments.

Mr Hall had also submitted the following questions prior to the meeting but did not ask these questions during Public Question Time. These were read out by Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer:

Question 1: *“Are you aware that six people have been killed along this approximately 200m of Bullumwaal Road?”*

Question 2: *“Are you all aware that if this permit application is approved it will increase the danger significantly along this strip of Bullumwaal Road Wy Yung 3875?”*

Chris Stephenson General Manager Projects and Planning provided a response which is summarised below:

Response 1: Bullumwaal Road is a State Road managed by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). Council referred the proposal to the DTP for their review and comment, including the review of crash data. DTP were satisfied that the proposed use and anticipated traffic movements from the site were reasonable and they did not object.

Response 2: The DTP are the responsible authority for Bullumwaal Road and they did not object. Furthermore, the applicant provided a Traffic Impact Assessment which looked at traffic volumes and movements. Officers have determined that whilst there will be an increase in traffic movements during hours of operation, they are not unreasonable in this context.

1.7.2.2 Planning Permit Application 5.2025.361.1 - 236 Bullumwaal Road Wy Yung - Medical Centre

Ms Janeen Sharp asked the following question:

Question 1: *“Can you please confirm whether Councillors are required to physically inspect a site that is the subject of a planning application and objections and, if not, whether Councillors have physically inspected the site at 236 Bullumwaal Road to assist their understanding of the matters raised in the objections?”.*

Chris Stephenson General Manager Projects and Planning provided a response which is summarised below:

Response 1: There is no requirement for Councillors to inspect sites that are the subject of planning permit applications. However, Councillors will often undertake site visits, particularly where objections have been received and the application is to be determined by Council.

In relation to planning permit application 5.2025.361.1 - 236 Bullumwaal Road, Wy Yung - Medical Centre, Councillors have been briefed on the application and participated in a Planning Consultation Meeting, where they received an overview of the proposal and heard from both the applicant and objectors.

1.7.2.3 Planning Permit Application 5.2025.361.1 - 236 Bullumwaal Road Wy Yung - Medical Centre

Mr Gary Keys asked the following question:

Question 1: *“Is all the vegetation at the front of the property being removed, or only partially removed, as implied in the 22.5.26 Application Amendment?”.*

Chris Stephenson General Manager Projects and Planning provided a response which is summarised below:

Response 1: The vegetation within the property frontage will be partially retained, as outlined in the amended planning permit application (5.2025.361.1 - 236 Bullumwaal Road Wy Yung - Medical Centre).

1.7.2.4 Planning Permit Application 5.2025.361.1 - 236 Bullumwaal Road Wy Yung - Medical Centre

Ms Nicole Mann submitted the following questions which were read out on her behalf by Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer:

Question 1: *"I would like to ask how can Council determine to grant the permit when Condition 21 of the Notice of Decision clearly anticipates potential amenity impacts arising from the use and development, and how Council intends to enforce and monitor compliance with this condition?"*

Question 2: *"Under Section 54 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, Council requested additional information regarding the restrictive covenant and native vegetation impacts. The applicant was requested to provide legal advice. The response from the applicant did not adequately address these requests. As a result key statutory environmental considerations remain unresolved. It appears the amendment of the carpark did meet some guidelines but what about the rest of the property and the existing garden that may be removed to make way for septic upgrades and drainage?"*

Chris Stephenson General Manager Projects and Planning provided a response which is summarised below:

Response 1: The amenity concerns raised in the objections were considered as part of the assessment of the application. The application is compliant with the Planning Scheme, and it is the Officer's view that potential amenity impacts can be appropriately managed through planning permit conditions, including Condition 21. Should Council become aware of any non-compliance with permit conditions, it has powers under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to investigate and enforce compliance.

Response 2: The applicant provided additional information regarding the restrictive covenant, which satisfied Council's request. Council Officer's only assessed the vegetation that was proposed to be removed as part of the application and determined that the removal was reasonable. If additional vegetation was required to be removed elsewhere on the site, then the application would need to be amended to reflect that.

1.7.3 Public Submissions

1.7.3.1 Planning Application PA2503991 - Bengworden Plantation Project

Ms Kellie Puddy addressed Council on the planning application for the Bengworden Plantation project.

1.7.3.2 Planning Permit Application 5.2025.361.1

Ms Nicole Mann addressed Council on the planning permit application 5.2025.361.1 - 236 Bullumwaal Road Wy Yung - Medical Centre and spoke at item 5.1.1.

1.7.3.3 Planning Permit Application 5.2025.361.1

Mr Richard Hoxley addressed Council on the planning permit application 5.2025.361.1 - 236 Bullumwaal Road Wy Yung - Medical Centre and spoke at item 5.1.1.

1.7.3.4 Planning Permit Application 5.2025.361.1

Mr Michael Chippindall addressed Council on the planning permit application 5.2025.361.1 - 236 Bullumwaal Road Wy Yung - Medical Centre and spoke at item 5.1.1.

1.8 Items for Noting

Nil

2 Notices of Motion

2.1 Planning Delegations Policy

Motion

That Council:

- 1. requests the Chief Executive Officer or delegate prepare a report on options to amend the Planning Delegations Policy relating to planning permit applications proposed to be refused under delegation, including:***
 - a. extending the current call-up period from seven days to 14 days, allowing Councillors to request that a planning permit application proposed to be refused under delegation be determined by Council;***
 - b. notification arrangements for Councillors, including direct email notification of an officer's intention to refuse an application, with any call-up period commencing from the date of the email;***
 - c. ensuring the weekly planning update provided to Councillors continues to include:***
 - 1. the application number;***
 - 2. the property address;***
 - 3. the applicant's name (where permitted);***
 - 4. a brief description of the proposal; and***
 - 5. the proposed officer determination;***
 - d. options for improving Councillor access to information on planning applications that are not publicly advertised; and***
 - e. any consequential amendments required to Council policies, delegations or Governance Rules.***
- 2. requests that the report be provided no later than the second Ordinary Council Meeting following adoption of this resolution.***

Moved: Cr Joanne Eastman

Seconded: Cr Bernie Farquhar

Spoke for the motion: Cr Bernie Farquhar, Cr Joanne Eastman 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

Motion

That Council requests the Chief Executive Officer or delegate prepare a report on the Buchan dump point project, including the current status of the project, delivery timeframes, key milestones, project risks, funding status and the anticipated completion date, including any matters impacting delivery of the project by December 2026.

Moved: Cr Bernie Farquhar

Seconded: Cr Ian Trevaskis

Spoke for the motion: Cr Bernie Farquhar 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

3 Deferred Business

Nil

4 Councillor Delegate Reports

4.1 Cr Arthur Allen

On 6 August 2026, along with the Mayor Cr Ashworth, I attended the Marina Consultative Committee at Paynesville Cruiser Club. After the meeting the Committee had a tour of the 'Squatters Row' project which is all but completed and looking good.

On 14 August 2026, I attended the Rail Freight Alliance Meeting in Melbourne. Members were updated on a range of issues from the Melbourne to Brisbane project to the allocation of funding in the budget for works on the Bairnsdale line. A report had been submitted. A well attended meeting.

Reid Mather, Chief Executive Officer, reported that, currently, there are 19 member Councils. Of interest to East Gippsland Shire was the allocation of \$127 million in the State Budget, including for some works on the Gippsland Line, but no details were provided as to the specific works.

Members were briefed on the implications of the Federal Government's decision to terminate the Melbourne to Brisbane Freight line at Parkes. However, there is private interest in completing it through to Gladstone. Work has already commenced in removing the crossovers at Sunshine Station to facilitate the Airport Rail project, meaning all inland freight will now have to be routed through Geelong.

The guest speaker was Professor Russell Thompson PhD, who presented on 'logistics into the future, the European model'.

4.2 Cr Jodie Ashworth

21/07/26 - Councillor Briefing Session

22/07/26 - Visit from Jess Wilson MP to Bairnsdale Regional Health Service

23/07/26 - Municipal Association of Victoria Regional Meeting - Gippsland

23/07/26 - Climate Emergency Australia Webinar: Communities and Councils for Climate Compensation

24/07/26 - One Gippsland Annual Planning Meeting

27/07/26 - Audit and Risk Committee Workshop

28/07/26 - Councillor Briefing Session

29-30/07/26 - East Gippsland Cross Border Forum in Mallacoota

31/07/26 - Meeting with the Hon. Kristy McBain MP

03/08/26 - CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Meeting

04/08/26 - Councillor Briefing Session

05/08/26 - 'Uni Your Way' Pop-up Open Day

06/08/26 - Marina Consultative Committee Meeting

06/08/26 - Australian Local Government Women's Association Victoria Committee Meeting

08/08/26 - Newlands Arm Landcare / Coastcare Group - Community Sausage Sizzle

11/08/26 - Councillor Briefing Session

12/08/26 - Leaders Symposium - 2026 Victorian Tourism Conference

12/08/26 - Victorian Top Tourism Awards Ceremony

13/08/26 - Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee Meeting and Tour

13/08/26 - Gippsstar Awards - Annual Awards Night

15/08/26 - Bairnsdale Fire Brigade Annual Dinner

4.3 Cr Tom Crook

Reporting Period: 23 June - 21 July 2026

Over the reporting period I continued to represent East Gippsland communities through stakeholder engagement, advocacy, strategic planning discussions and participation in regional and national forums. Key themes included tourism development, environmental stewardship, active transport, coastal management, regional economic development and community infrastructure.

25 June 2026 - Emerald Link Workshop, Nowa Nowa

I attended the Emerald Link Workshop in Nowa Nowa, bringing together government agencies, tourism operators and community groups to discuss how the region's natural assets can be better managed and leveraged to support both economic development and environmental stewardship.

The workshop explored opportunities to strengthen nature-based tourism, improve coordination between agencies and community organisations, and ensure East Gippsland's environmental values continue to underpin long-term regional prosperity.

26 June 2026 - Orbost and District Stakeholders Meeting (Chair)

I chaired the Orbost and District Stakeholders Meeting, attended by representatives. The meeting provided an important forum to discuss local priorities and coordinate advocacy efforts.

Key Matters Discussed

- *Marlo Shared Pathway*

The Marlo Ratepayers and Residents Association continued its advocacy for the proposed shared pathway. Members advised that Parks Victoria is seeking further funding opportunities for the project. I will continue to advocate for this important piece of community infrastructure.

- *Feral Animals Strategy*

A follow-up discussion occurred regarding the Feral Animals Strategy, including engagement with Moogji Aboriginal Council East Gippsland Inc. and Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action. Advocacy and discussions remain ongoing.

- *Future of Orbost District Project*

An update was provided on the Future of Orbost District Project. I will continue advocacy efforts as appropriate to support positive outcomes for the district.

- *2026–27 Council Budget*

Feedback was provided regarding the 2026–27 Council Budget. This item was subsequently considered by Council on 23 June 2026.

- *Solstice Energy*

An update was provided on Solstice Energy activities and ongoing advocacy priorities.

- *Review of the Snowy Scheme*

The Marlo Ratepayers and Residents Association advised it would be making a submission to the review process. I undertook to share my own submission with stakeholders.

- *Meeting Governance*

Feedback was sought on the Stakeholders Meeting Terms of Reference.

- *Community Information Sharing*

Stakeholders discussed opportunities to promote swimming lessons and share information about upcoming Council events throughout the district.

Strategic Issues

- *Cape Conran Cabins*

Stakeholders were advised that ten cabins have now been delivered to Cape Conran. Parks Victoria indicated that it is unlikely the cabins will be open by Christmas. Given the importance of the accommodation to the local visitor economy, I will continue advocating for progress on the project.

- *State Government Advocacy*

Discussion was held regarding ongoing advocacy priorities requiring support and investment from the Victorian Government.

- *Timber Transition*

The group discussed aspects of the Timber Transition Program and its ongoing impact on local communities and businesses.

Orbost and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry Matters

Items raised included:

- 2026 Shire Small Grants Program for Events
- Traffic management plans and requirements for event permits
- Cape Conran cabin and camping park opening dates
- Curlip Festival matters
- Tree maintenance throughout the Orbost township

1 July 2026 - East Gippsland Active Transport Meeting

I organised and facilitated a meeting between senior Council staff and representatives of the East Gippsland Active Transport Group.

Discussions focused on:

- the Bairnsdale Mall redevelopment;
- plans for a future connector trail between Bairnsdale and Paynesville; and
- opportunities to strengthen active transport links around East Gippsland's major population centres.

The meeting highlighted the growing importance of active transport infrastructure in supporting healthy communities, improving connectivity and enhancing visitor experiences.

3 July 2026 - Australian Coastal Councils Association

As one of two Victorian Councillor representatives on the Australian Coastal Councils Association, I attended the Association's meeting.

Discussions centred on:

- development of a National Coastal Adaptation Strategy;
- coastal erosion and shoreline management;
- protection of coastal infrastructure; and
- building resilience in coastal communities facing increasing environmental challenges.

These discussions are particularly relevant to East Gippsland given the significance of our coastline and coastal communities.

8 July 2026 - Gippsland Critical Minerals Test Pit Inspection

I attended the Gippsland Critical Minerals test pit demonstration and heard directly from company representatives regarding their proposal to develop a mineral sands mining operation in the region.

While the demonstration pit provided some insight into how the operation may function, the true scale of the proposed mine remains difficult to envisage. Company representatives advised that the four test separators currently in operation would be replaced by approximately 600 separators should the project proceed.

A number of significant questions remain regarding:

- water use;
- radiation management;
- dust control; and
- impacts on surrounding agricultural land and farming operations.

These matters will be examined through the Environmental Effects Statement (EES) process.

While I remain open-minded about the project, I retain significant concerns regarding how some key impacts are proposed to be managed if the project proceeds. I will be paying close attention to issues surrounding dust management, water use and impacts on neighbouring farms.

13 July 2026 - Rural Land Use Strategy Workshop

I attended the Rural Land Use Strategy Workshop and was encouraged by the progress being made on this important strategic piece of work. The strategy will play a key role in protecting valuable agricultural land, supporting sustainable rural industries and promoting sound environmental stewardship across East Gippsland. I look forward to its completion and adoption.

15 July 2026 - Errinundra Tourism and Community Visit

I travelled through the Errinundra region with local tourism operators and Member for Eastern Victoria, Tom McIntosh MP.

The visit provided an opportunity to experience the region's magnificent giant trees firsthand and hear directly from tourism operators about their vision and future plans for the area.

A particular highlight was visiting the historic Bendoc Hotel and speaking with local residents about opportunities and challenges facing the community. These conversations reinforced the importance of supporting tourism and economic opportunities in our more remote communities.

16 July 2026 - Official Opening of Hoddinott Street Playground Upgrade

I attended the official opening of the Hoddinott Street Playground Upgrade in East Bairnsdale. This project represents a successful partnership between East Gippsland Shire Council, the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation and the Victorian Government.

While relatively modest in scale, the upgraded playground provides an important community asset for local families and demonstrates the value of collaboration between all levels of government and community partners in delivering positive local outcomes.

Summary

Throughout this reporting period I continued to advocate strongly for East Gippsland communities on matters including tourism development, environmental stewardship, active transport, coastal management, community infrastructure and regional economic opportunities. Through local stakeholder meetings, regional workshops or national advocacy forums, my focus remains on ensuring East Gippsland communities have a strong voice and are well positioned to meet future challenges and opportunities.

5 Officer Reports

5.1 Projects and Planning

5.1.1 Planning Permit Application 5.2025.361.1 - 236 Bullumwaal Road Wy Yung – Medical Centre

Authorised by General Manager Projects and Planning

Conflict of Interest

Sarah Johnston General Manager Business Excellence, having declared a conflict of interest in relation to 5.1.1, left the meeting at 6.44 pm and was absent during the discussion on this item.

Public Submissions

Ms Nicole Mann
Mr Richard Hoxley
Mr Michael Chippindall

Motion

That Council

- 1. notes that Council being the Responsible Authority and having considered all the relevant planning matters, determines that Planning Permit Application 5.2025.361.1 is consistent with the requirements and objectives of the East Gippsland Planning Scheme; and*
- 2. resolves to issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit for the use and development of a medical centre, removal of native vegetation, display of business identification signage, and creation of access to a road in a Transport Zone 2 at 236 Bullumwaal Road Wy Yung, subject to permit conditions as provided at Attachment 1.*

Moved: Cr Arthur Allen

Seconded: Cr Tom Crook

Spoke for the motion: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Tom Crook and Cr Jodie Ashworth

Spoke against the motion: Cr Joanne Eastman, Cr Bernie Farquhar and Cr John White

Closed the debate: Cr Arthur Allen

LOST

For: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Jodie Ashworth and Cr Tom Crook

Against: Cr Barry Davis, Cr Joanne Eastman, Cr Bernie Farquhar, Cr Ian Trevaskis and Cr John White

Abstained: Cr Sonia Buckley

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.

As the motion was lost, the Chief Executive Officer advised that the loss of a motion to approve a planning application did not automatically mean that the application had been refused. A planning application cannot be determined simply because a recommendation fails to obtain majority support. As no further motion was foreshadowed or debated by Councillors on the matter, the application was not determined and the matter remained unresolved.

Procedural Note

The meeting was adjourned for a short recess at 7.44 pm.

Attendance

Sarah Johnston General Manager Business Excellence returned to the Council Chamber at 7.45 pm.

Procedural Note

The meeting resumed at 7.47 pm.

Authorised by General Manager Projects and Planning

Confidentiality Notice

The information contained in **Confidential Attachment 1 – Contract Award Summary and Confidential Attachment 2 -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 if released, would unreasonably expose the 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. accepts the tender for CON2026 1786 Howitt Park Pedestrian Bridge Replacement 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 General Manager Projects and Planning to approve variations to the contract up to the contingency amount specified in the Contract Award Summary provided at Confidential Attachment 1, subject to the conditions specified in that attachment;**
- 3. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to execute the necessary contract documents for the contract awarded under clause 1;**
- 4. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to approve a Deed of variation, if required for the contract awarded under clause 1, 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 Barry Davis*

Seconded: *Cr John White*

Spoke for the motion: Cr Barry Davis 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

5.1.3 CON2026 1784, CON2026 1785, CON2026 1787 Bridge Replacements Contracts - Lees Road Mossiface, Hollands O'Briens Road Swifts Creek and Healeys Road Marlo

Authorised by General Manager Projects and Planning

Confidentiality Notice

The information contained in **Confidential Attachment 1 – Contract Award Summary and Confidential Attachments 2, 3 and 4 – Tender Evaluation Reports** 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 1784 – Lees Road Mossiface Bridge Replacement 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. awards the tender for CON2026 1785 – Hollands O'Briens Road Bridge Replacement, Swifts Creek 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;***
- 3. awards the tender for CON2026 1787 – Healeys Road Marlo Bridge Replacement 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;***
- 4. authorises the General Manager Projects and Planning to approve variations to each contract up to the contingency amount specified for that contract in the Contract Award Summary provided at Confidential Attachment 1, subject to the conditions specified in that attachment;***
- 5. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to execute the necessary contract documents for each contract awarded under clauses 1 to 3;***
- 6. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to approve a Deed of Variation, if required, for each contract awarded under clauses 1 to 3, to provide for fuel cost recovery in accordance with the Road Transport Contractual Chain Order made under Part 3B-2 of the Fair Work Act 2009;***

- 7. notes that the successful tenderer and contract amount for each contract 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 Sonia Buckley

Spoke for the motion: Cr John White 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 Municipal Association of Victoria October 2026 State Council Motion

Authorised by Chief Executive Officer

Motion

That Council approves the Sovereign Wealth Fund motion provided at Attachment 1, for submission to the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council meeting to be held on 23 October 2026.

Moved: Cr Sonia Buckley

Seconded: Cr Tom Crook

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

Spoke against the motion: Cr Joanne Eastman

Closed the debate: Cr Sonia Buckley

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.

5.3 Business Excellence

5.3.1 Provision of Banking and Associated Services

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

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: (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 contains commercially sensitive information relating to the provision of services to Council.

Motion

That Council:

- 1. approves the exercise of the first two-year extension option available under the State Purchasing Contract (SPC) for Banking and Financial Services, continuing the Purchase Order Contract with National Australia Bank (NAB) for the period 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2028; and***
- 2. authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or delegate, to execute the necessary documentation to give effect to this extension; and***
- 3. resolves that Confidential Attachment 1 to this report and all discussions in relation to the attachment remain confidential.***

Moved: Cr Ian Trevaskis

Seconded: Cr Arthur Allen

Spoke for the motion: Cr Ian Trevaskis 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 Tom Crook,
Cr Barry Davis, Cr Joanne Eastman, Cr Bernie Farquhar, Cr Ian Trevaskis and
Cr John White

Against: Nil

Abstained: Nil

5.4 Place and Community

5.4.1 CON2023 1527 Recreation Centre Plant Room Maintenance - Extension Option

Authorised by Executive Manager Place and Community

Conflict of Interest

Cr Bernie Farquhar, having declared a conflict of interest in relation to 5.4.1, left the meeting at 8.13 pm and was absent during the discussion on this item.

Confidentiality Notice

The information contained within **Confidential Attachment 1** of this 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 a Council contractor, the disclosure of which could unreasonably expose the contractor to disadvantage.

Motion

That Council:

- 1. approves the twelve-month extension of CON2023 1527 Recreation Centre Plant Room Maintenance from 20 August 2026 to 20 August 2027, in accordance with the tendered schedule of rates to Roejen Services Pty. Ltd. ATF The Roejen Services Unit Trust as provided in Confidential Attachment 1;*
- 2. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to execute the necessary contract documents; and*
- 3. resolves that Confidential Attachment 1 to this report and all discussions relating to it remain confidential.*

Moved: Cr Sonia Buckley

Seconded: Cr Arthur Allen

Spoke for the motion: Cr Sonia Buckley 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 Tom Crook,
Cr Barry Davis, Cr Joanne Eastman, 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 8.16 pm.