Minutes
Council Meeting
Tuesday 20 October 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, 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, with summaries of Council Briefings also available under Council Briefings.

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

Nil

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Motion

That the minutes of the Council meeting held Thursday 17 September be confirmed.

Moved: ***Cr Barry Davis***
Seconded: ***Cr Joanne Eastman***

Spoke for the motion: Cr Barry Davis
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 is the Statutory Meeting for the election of the Mayor and, if determined, the Deputy Mayor. It will be held on Thursday 12 November 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 Brodie from Lindenow Primary School who observed the meeting from the public gallery as part of his Rotary Junior Community Awards program. To acknowledge Brodie's participation in this community program, the Mayor presented Brodie with a Council pin.

Procedural Note

At this point in proceedings, Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth acknowledged the recent passing of Mr Barry Newcomen AM. Cr Barry Davis extended his condolences to Mr Newcomen's family.

Motion

That Council acknowledges the recent passing of Mr Barry Newcomen AM and extends its sincere condolences to his family.

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

Spoke for the motion: Cr Sonia Buckley 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

1.7 Notice of Appreciation

Procedural Note

Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth called for a Councillor to move a procedural motion to alter the order of business as the recipient of the Notice of Appreciation was unable to be present at this point of the meeting.

Motion

That Council changes the order of business to consider Item 1.7 Notice of Appreciation to later in the meeting.

Moved: ***Cr Tom Crook***
Seconded: ***Cr Sonia Buckley***

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

1.8 Open Forum

1.8.1 Petitions

1.8.1.1 Service Street Taxi Rank Relocation

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Public Submission

Mr Paul Moncrieff

Motion

That Council:

1. ***receives the petition;***

2. ***notes that the petition will be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration; and***

3. ***notes that the Chief Executive Officer will arrange for Council Officers to write to the head petitioner advising them of these actions.***

Moved: ***Cr Barry Davis***
Seconded: ***Cr Ian Trevaskis***

Spoke for the motion: Cr Barry Davis, Cr Ian Trevaskis 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 and Cr Ian Trevaskis and Cr John White
Against: Nil
Abstained: Nil

1.8.2 Questions of Council

1.8.2.1 Service Street Taxi Rank Relocation

Mr Paul Moncrieff asked the following questions:

Question 1: *"When CEO Fiona met with Service Street business owners, she advised that Council's usual internal process had not been followed. What assessment, if any, was completed before Service Street was identified as the proposed taxi rank location?".*

Question 2: *"Which alternative locations or taxi pickup arrangements were assessed before Council identified Service Street, including the existing railway station rank and pickup points elsewhere in Bairnsdale?".*

Ms Prue McTaggart Executive Manager Place and Community provided a response which is summarised below:

Response 1: Fiona Weigall, Chief Executive Officer was referring to our engagement practices which are outlined in the East Gippsland Shire Council Community Engagement Policy. A copy of this policy can be found on our website.

The assessment of a range of sites has considered accessibility, road and pedestrian safety, customer convenience, operational requirements and proximity to key destinations such as supermarkets and other services. Parking, business impacts and deliverability were also considered. No option is impact-free and there will be trade-offs in every scenario.

Response 2: As outlined in the Council report accompanying receipt of the petition, a range of alternative locations have been investigated, including sites in Nicholson Street near Woolworths, Main Street, Pyke Street and other areas within the Bairnsdale central business district.

Council has assessed a range of sites and options against key criteria, including accessibility, safety, customer convenience, operational requirements and proximity to key destinations such as supermarkets and other services. Feedback received on a number of proposed locations has indicated that further investigation and consultation are required.

As discussed with the Service Street traders recently and as outlined in Council's follow-up media release, Council has determined that at this current time, there is no ideal or preferred site, and we are expanding our consideration and assessment criteria.

1.8.3 Public Submissions

Nil

1.9 Items for Noting

Nil

2 Notices of Motion

Nil

1.7 Notice of Appreciation

Council resolved earlier in the meeting to consider this item when the recipient of the Notice of Appreciation was present.

Motion

That Council acknowledges the political career and contribution to East Gippsland made by the Honourable Tim Bull, Member for Gippsland East, and thanks him for his outstanding service to the people of East Gippsland over the past 16 years.

Moved: ***Cr Jodie Ashworth***
Seconded: ***Cr John White***

Spoke for the motion:	Cr Jodie Ashworth, Cr John White, 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 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

17/09/2026 – I had the pleasure of joining the Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth for the citizenship ceremony at Lucknow. As always, it was a happy and excited group who became Australian Citizens, a highlight of the Council program.

29/09/2026 – In the company of the Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth, I attended the Police Remembrance Day service at St John's Bairnsdale. A deeply moving ceremony and it was all the more special for me as I had the opportunity to light a candle in memory of my cousin Clare Francis Bourke shot on duty in 1983. Rest in peace Clare.

07/10/2026 – The Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth and I attended the Staff Awards and Recognition Day at the Riveria Christan Centre. It was a fantastic day as the majority of staff were able to come together to acknowledge achievements and to celebrate milestones. The day reflected a great culture among staff and it was an honour to have been present.

4.2 Cr Jodie Ashworth

18/09/2026 - One Gippsland Local Councillor and Board Meetings

22/09/2026 - Councillor Briefing Session

23/09/2026 - Meeting with Anglicare Victoria

23/09/2026 - Meeting with Lakes Entrance Action and Development Association and Annual General Meeting

24/09/2026 - Fern and Feather Café, Cann River

26/09/2026 - Wild Harvest Seafood Festival, Mallacoota

28/09/2026 - Commercial Vessels Australia Grand Opening

29/09/2026 - National Police Remembrance Day Service 2026

29/09/2026 - Councillor Community Day

30/09 to 01/10/2026 - Visit to communities in Bendoc, Cann River and Orbost

02/10/2026 - Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) Session - Planning Matters

03/10/2026 - Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club - 90th Sailing Season Opening

03/10/2026 - Paynesville Fashion Parade and Fundraiser

04/10/2026 - East Gippsland Musical Extravaganza

05/10/2026 - Election Candidate Meeting

06/10/2026 - Councillor Briefing Session

07/10/2026 - East Gippsland Shire Council All Staff Event

07/10/2026 - Paynesville Cemetery Trust Annual General Meeting

08/10/2026 - East Gippsland Jobs Expo

08/10/2026 - Spring Field Day, Gippsland Agricultural Group (GAgG) Centre

08/10/2026 - Church Leaders Meeting

08/10/2026 - Election Candidate Meeting

08/10/2026 - Municipal Association of Victoria Delegates - Pre State Council Meeting

08/10/2026 - Gippsland Lakes Community Forum on the Gippsland Lakes

09/10/2026 - One Gippsland Councillor and Local Government Meeting

09/10/2026 - Celebrate the Lakes Community Event

09/10/2026 - The Nest - Visit New Owners

09/10/2026 - Election Candidate Meeting

10/10/2026 - Big Bairnsdale Book Bazaar

11/10/2026 - Afghanistan War 25th Anniversary Commemorative Service

11/10/2026 - Durga Navaratri, Bathukamma and Family Celebrations

13/10/2026 - Gippsland Essential Director Update 2026

13/10/2026 - Councillor Briefing Session

14/10/2026 - Seniors Festival Concert

14/10/2026 - Community Meeting at the Paynesville Neighbourhood Centre

15/10/2026 - Meeting Bega Valley Shire Council/Site Visits

16/10/2026 - Mallacoota Stakeholder Meeting

20/10/2026 - U3A Bairnsdale and District Inc - Visit for Seniors Week

20/10/2026 - Councillor Briefing Session and Council Meeting

4.3 Cr Joanne Eastman

29/09/2026 - I joined staff, the Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth and Councillors White, Allen and Trevaskis for the Twin Rivers Councillor in the Community visit. It was wonderful to see what a hive of activity Bruthen is, to get an overview of the development of and dreams for Tambo Honey, and to talk to other locals about alternative tourism ideas.

It was a treat to visit the Johnsonville Men's Shed and to see and hear first-hand what a wonderfully productive and supportive facility it is for long-term locals and newcomers and to see some of the first-class hand-made items they produce and hear about the community projects they support. The day finished off with a trip to Metung to, amongst other things, hear some of the great ideas from the enthusiastic and inspiring young owners of The Local.

30/09/2026 to 01/10/26 - The Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth and I took an informal road trip to Bendoc, Cann River and Orbost where we had the opportunity to meet and hear directly from a number of locals about what's working well, some of their challenges, and ideas they have for economic development and community wellbeing, including how the communities can work together to develop a tourism circuit in some of the most picturesque parts of East Gippsland.

Our visit to Orbost gave us the opportunity to visit the Slab Hut (Tourism Information Centre), the Arts Centre and a feature of the visit to Orbost was the Men's Shed which not only produces some brilliant pieces, primarily from wood, but is also welcoming and inclusive. Many women are learning and honing their woodwork skills at the shed and are producing some incredible, finely crafted pieces of work.

02/10/2026 – Victorian Local Government Association (VLCA) Planning Matters held an online webinar designed to help equip Councillors with information on how to represent the community in planning processes where the Minister has final decision-making authority.

The webinar considered the delineation between the State and local government and the real-world challenges of managing both the short, medium and longer term challenges of development particularly when a number of planning decisions that are now bypassing local government. The importance of early notice of developments can't be stressed enough as so many of the decisions occur in a very short time frame and leave elected representatives scrambling for strategies to understand the impacts on their communities and engage meaningfully in any responses.

08/10/26 - The annual Jobs Expo was very busy, with numerous providers of tertiary education and career opportunities engaging with secondary students exploring opportunities for their future. I was astounded at the number of different agencies offering support for almost every school leaver whether it be for vocational pathways, disability and work readiness, early leaver interventions or mainstream job pathways.

14/10/2026 - Congratulations to Shire staff for organising the Seniors Festival Concert with Wendy Stapleton singing songs of the 60s. The Riviera Christian Centre was packed, the crowd enjoyed a delicious morning tea, and Wendy drew the crowd in with familiar, upbeat music, and encouraging armchair dancing.

14/10/2026 - I attended the Gippsland Agricultural Group's (GAgG) Annual General Meeting where we heard how this fine organisation is going from strength to strength with the work it is doing on its research and leased farms, the first class guest speakers it attracts and the educational opportunities it provides for farmers to improve their practices and outputs. GAgG is an organisation of which we should all be proud and continues to flourish and grow under the Chairmanship of Leecia Angus and management of Jen Smith.

5 Officer Reports

5.1 Projects and Planning

5.1.1 Planning Delegations Policy - Revised

Authorised by Acting General Manager Projects and Planning

Cr Joanne Eastman moved her own motion.

Motion

That Council:

1. *amends Council's Planning Delegations Policy adopted on 21 July 2026 to extend the call-up period for a Notice of Intention to Refuse a Planning Permit Application from seven (7) days to fourteen (14) days;*

2. *adopts the revised Planning Delegations Policy as provided at Attachment 1, amended to reflect the fourteen (14) day call-up period and to clarify how and when Councillors are notified of a proposed refusal to issue a planning permit; and*

3. *authorises the Chief Executive Officer or Delegate to amend the adopted policy without formal Council consideration where the amendments required are of a minor administrative nature.*

Moved: ***Cr Joanne Eastman***
Seconded: ***Cr Bernie Farquhar***

Procedural Motion

That Council suspended standing orders at 6.51 pm to allow clarification of information and further discussion.

Moved: ***Cr Tom Crook***
Seconded: ***Cr Sonia Buckley***

Procedural Note

Cr Joanne Eastman requested to amend the recommended alternate motion.

Procedural Motion

That Council resumed standing orders at 6.54 pm.

Moved: ***Cr Tom Crook***
Seconded: ***Cr Sonia Buckley***

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

Procedural Motion

Council commenced debate on the substantive motion.

Motion

That Council:

1. ***amends Council's Planning Delegations Policy adopted on 21 July 2026 to extend the call-up period from seven (7) days to fourteen (14) days;***

2. ***adopts the revised Planning Delegations Policy as provided at Attachment 1, amended to reflect the fourteen (14) day call-up period and to clarify how and when Councillors are notified of a proposed refusal to issue a planning permit; and***

3. ***authorises the Chief Executive Officer or Delegate to amend the adopted policy without formal Council consideration where the amendments required are of a minor administrative nature.***

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

CARRIED

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

5.2 Place and Community

5.2.1 Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee Unconfirmed Minutes 13 August 2026 and New Member Appointment

Authorised by Executive Manager Place and Community

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: (f) Personal Information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

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 result in the disclosure of personal information relating to the applicants.

Motion

That Council:

1. ***appoints the industry representatives identified in Confidential Attachment 1 to the Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee for a term commencing upon appointment and ending 31 December 2027, with the option to extend for a further two-year period from 1 January 2028 to 31 December 2029;***

2. ***notes that all Expression of Interest applications were assessed against the criteria contained in the Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee Charter;***

3. ***authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to advise all applicants of the outcome of their expression of interest;***

4. ***authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to make a public statement on the membership of the Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee following notification of all applicants of the outcome of the Expression of Interest process;***

5. ***notes the unconfirmed Minutes of the Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee meeting held on Thursday 13 August 2026 as provided at Attachment 2; and***

6. ***resolves that Confidential Attachment 1 to this report and all discussions relating to that attachment remain confidential.***

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

Spoke for the motion: Cr Sonia Buckley 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

5.3 Assets and Environment

5.3.1 Public Amenities (Toilets) Service Review Final Report

Authorised by General Manager Assets and Environment

Motion

That Council:

1. ***endorses the findings and recommendations of the Public Amenities Service Review, as outlined in Attachment 1 to the report; and***

2. ***notes that the Public Amenities Service Review and a summary of its findings and recommendations will be published on Council's website, and the review outcomes communicated to the community members and stakeholders who participated in the review.***

Moved: Cr Sonia Buckley
Seconded: Cr Bernie Farquhar

Spoke for the motion: Cr Sonia Buckley and Cr Bernie Farquhar
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 1746a - Kerbside Collection and Recycling Processing Services

Authorised by General Manager Assets and Environment

Confidentiality Notice

The information contained in the **Confidential Attachments 1 to 3** 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 tenderers to disadvantage by disclosing commercially sensitive information.

Motion

That Council:

1. ***awards Contract CON2026 1746a - Kerbside Collection and Recycling Processing Services to the preferred tenderers identified in the Contract Award Summary provided at Confidential Attachment 1, in accordance with the schedule of rates set out in that attachment for the following separable portions:***

    a. ***Separable Portion A - Kerbside Collection of residential General Waste, Recycling, Organics and Glass (2030/31 Regional Zone only) for an initial term of 10 years commencing 1 March 2027, with two options to extend for periods of two years each;***

    b. ***Separable Portion B - Collection of Public Place Bins (including Street Litter Bins and Public Place Recycling Bins) and Event Services, for an initial term of 10 years commencing 1 March 2027, with two options to extend for periods of two years each;***

    c. ***Separable Portion C - Booked Hard Waste Collections, including Customer Service and Community Education, for an initial term of 5 years commencing 1 February 2028, with two options to extend for periods of two years each; and***

    d. ***Separable Portion D - Material Recovery Facility (MRF) operations, acceptance and processing of Recycling and Glass, for an initial term of 10 years commencing 1 March 2027, with two options to extend for periods of two years each;***

2. ***authorises the Chief Executive Officer to approve variations to each separable portion (shown as part 1a, 1b, 1c and 1d above) in accordance with 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;***

4. notes that the successful tenderers will be published on Council's website following execution of the contract documents and after unsuccessful tenderers have been formally notified; and

5. resolves that all Confidential Attachments to this report and all discussions relating to it remain confidential.

Moved: Cr Bernie Farquhar
Seconded: Cr Tom Crook

Spoke for the motion: Cr Bernie Farquhar, Cr Tom Crook 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 Business Excellence

5.4.1 Annual Report 2025/26

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Motion

That Council adopts the Annual Report 2025/26 as presented at Attachment 1 to the report.

Moved: Cr Jodie Ashworth
Seconded: Cr Tom Crook

Spoke for the motion: Cr Jodie Ashworth 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

5.4.2 Council Meeting Schedule 2027

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Motion

That Council adopts the following Council Meeting dates for the 2027 calendar year, to be held at the Corporate Centre, 273 Main Street Bairnsdale:

Tuesday, 23 February (6.00 pm)	***Tuesday, 17 August (6.00 pm)***
Tuesday, 16 March (6.00 pm)	***Tuesday, 21 September (6.00 pm)***
Tuesday, 20 April (2.00 pm)	***Tuesday, 19 October (2.00 pm)***
Tuesday, 18 May (6.00 pm)	***Thursday, 11 November (Statutory) (6.00 pm)***
Tuesday, 15 June (6.00 pm)	***Tuesday, 16 November (6.00 pm)***
Tuesday, 20 July (2.00 pm)	***Tuesday, 21 December (2.00 pm)***

Moved: ***Cr Bernie Farquhar***
Seconded: ***Cr John White***

Spoke for the motion: 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

5.4.3 S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation Planning and Environment Act 1987

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Motion

That Council:

1. ***in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 147(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, resolves that David Ackland, Planning Compliance Officer and Tian Tian, Strategic Planner be appointed as Authorised Officers for the purposes of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the regulations made under that Act;***

2. ***authorises the Chief Executive Officer to remake and execute the S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation to reflect the above changes to Authorised Officers; and***

3. ***notes that the Instrument will come into force immediately following resolution of Council and will remain in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it, or until the Officer ceases to be employed by East Gippsland Shire Council.***

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

5.4.4 Special Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Motion

That Council notes the confirmed minutes of the Special Audit and Risk Committee meeting held Monday 14 September 2026, as presented at Attachment 1 to the report.

Moved: Cr Tom Crook
Seconded: Cr Barry Davis

Spoke for the motion: Cr Tom Crook and Cr Barry Davis
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 Mayoral Term Address

Mayor, Cr Jodie Ashworth and Deputy Mayor, Cr Tom Crook reflected on their term of office.

7 Urgent Business

Nil

Motion

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

Moved: ***Cr Joanne Eastman***
Seconded: ***Cr Tom Crook***

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

The meeting was closed to the public at 8.16 pm.

8 Confidential Business

8.1 Council Business Matter

The information contained in this report 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 adversely affect Council's ability to appropriately manage the matter and its associated processes

8.2 Contract Matter

The information contained in this report 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 prejudice Council's commercial interests by disclosing information relating to proposed contractual arrangements.

The meeting was re-opened to the public at 8.52 pm.

9 Close of Meeting

Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth declared the Council Meeting closed at 8.52 pm.