Statutory Meeting Agenda

Thursday 12 November 2026 at 6.00 pm
Council Chambers (and by video conferencing)
East Gippsland Shire Council Corporate Centre
273 Main Street, Bairnsdale 3875



Acknowledgement of Country

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.

Council information

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

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

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

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

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

Councillors

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

Executive Leadership Team

Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer
Stuart McConnell General Manager Assets and Environment
Sarah Johnston General Manager Business Excellence
Kellinde Chester Acting General Manager Projects and Planning
Prue McTaggart Executive Manager Place and Community

Purpose of Council meetings

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

Governance Rules

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

Councillors pledge

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

Vision

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 Chief Executive Officer presiding

In accordance with section 25(3)(a) of the *Local Government Act* 2020 (Act) the Chief Executive Officer, Fiona Weigall, will chair the meeting until the Mayor is elected.

1.2 Recognition of 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.

1.3 Apologies

1.4 Next meeting

The next Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 17 November 2026 at the Corporate Centre, 273 Main Street Bairnsdale commencing at 6.00 pm.

2 Term of Office of Mayor

Section 26 of the Act requires that before the election of the Mayor a Council must determine by resolution whether the Mayor is to be elected for a one year or two-year term.

In addition, section 26 requires the election for the next Mayor to be held on a day that is close to the end of the term, as reasonably practicable.

Recommendation

That Council determines that the term of office of the Mayor to be for a one year or two-year term.

3 Election of Mayor

Section 25 of the Act requires, a*t a Council meeting that is open to the public, the Councillors must elect a Councillor to be the Mayor of the Council.*

Any Councillor is eligible for election to the office of Mayor.

The election of the Mayor must occur as close as possible to the end of the Mayor's one year or two-year term.

The term of the Mayor elected at this meeting will end at the time and on the day of the election of the next Mayor (refer Item 2 of this agenda).

Section 25 of the Act stipulates that *the Mayor must be elected by an absolute majority of the Councillors*. An absolute majority as defined by section 25(7) of the Act *means the number of Councillors which is greater than half the total number of the Councillors of a Council*. Governance Rule 6.4 requires that the election of the Mayor must be carried out by show of hands.

The Chief Executive Officer will call for nominations from Councillors for the position of Mayor.

Required wording of nomination:

I, Cr _____, nominate Cr _____ for the position of Mayor of East Gippsland Shire Council.

Or

I, Cr _____ nominate myself for the position of Mayor of East Gippsland Shire Council.

Procedural note

The Mayor will be elected in accordance with section 6.5 of the Governance Rules.

The newly elected Mayor will assume the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

4 Office of Deputy Mayor

4.1 Establishment of Office of Deputy Mayor

East Gippsland Shire Council traditionally elects a Deputy Mayor as this provides clarity to all Councillors regarding who steps in for the Mayor if they are unavailable. The Act, in section 21, provides *that the Deputy Mayor must perform the role of the Mayor and may exercise any powers of the Mayor if*:

a) *the Mayor is unable for any reason to attend a Council meeting or part of a Council meeting; or*

b) *the Mayor is incapable of performing the duties of the office of Mayor for any reason including illness; or*

c) *the office of Mayor is vacant.*

Recommendation

That Council establishes the office of Deputy Mayor in accordance with section 27 of the Local Government Act 2020; or

That Council does not establish the office of the Deputy Mayor.

In addition, the establishment of office for a Deputy Mayor will occur following the election of the Mayor.

Procedural Note

If Council resolves to establish the office of Deputy Mayor, the Mayor will proceed to Item 4.2, Election of the Deputy Mayor. If Council does not resolve to establish the office of Deputy Mayor, the Mayor will declare the meeting closed.

4.2 Election of Deputy Mayor

The election of the Deputy Mayor will be conducted by the Mayor in accordance with section 27 of the Act and the Governance Rules (Rule 6 – Election of Mayor), specifically, Governance Rule 6.4 which states that the election of the Deputy Mayor must be carried out by show of hands.

The term of the Deputy Mayor elected at this meeting will end at the time and on the day of the election of the next Mayor.

The Mayor will call for nominations from Councillors for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Required wording of nomination:

I, Cr _____, nominate Cr _____ for the position of Deputy Mayor of East Gippsland Shire Council.

Or

I, Cr _____ nominate myself for the position of Deputy Mayor of East Gippsland Shire Council.

Procedural note

The Deputy Mayor will be elected in accordance with section 6.5 of the Governance Rules.

5 Close of Meeting