



# Councillor Briefing Notes

Tuesday 28 April 2026 at 10.00 am

273 Main Street, Bairnsdale 3875

## Attendance

### Mayor

Cr Jodie Ashworth

### Deputy Mayor

Cr Tom Crook

### Councillors

Cr Sonia Buckley

Cr Barry Davis (Online)

Cr Joanne Eastman

Cr Ian Trevaskis

Cr John White

### Council Officers

Fiona Weigall

Sarah Johnston

Stuart McConnell

Chris Stephenson

Chief Executive Officer

General Manager Business Excellence

General Manager Assets and Environment

General Manager Place and Community

## 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.

## Apologies

Cr Arthur Allen  
Cr Bernie Farquhar

## Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

## Councillor Briefing Session

### Business Excellence

#### 1.1 Workshop 9 Budget 2026/27 - Draft Budget 2026/27

##### Attendance

Cr Barry Davis (online) joined the meeting at 10.59 am.

Councillors workshopped the draft 2026/27 Budget 2026/27 and discussed how the elements at the various budget workshops are now being brought together and reflected in the draft Budget.

The discussion focused on the overall financial position, the key factors shaping the draft budget, and areas still being finalised. Councillors also considered how previous Council decisions have been reflected and noted the importance of planning for Council's long-term financial sustainability to support future services. Further information will be considered as part of upcoming budget discussions in May 2026.

#### 1.2 Workshop 9 Budget 2026/27 - Rating and Revenue Plan 2026/27 - 2029/30

Councillors workshopped the draft Revenue and Rating Plan (Plan) as part of the draft 2026/27 Budget, focusing on the proposed Plan settings and providing early input.

Discussions focused on how rates and charges are set and collected and consideration of different payment options to balance affordability, fairness and administration. Councillors noted the importance of clear communication and community understanding, and that the Plan will be further refined and returned to Council for formal consideration as part of the budget process.

## Reports to Future Council Meeting

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

Councillors were briefed on the draft report, Application 2025.105 - 705 Metung Road (3 Lot Subdivision and Creation of Carriageway Easement Adjacent to a Road in a Transport Zone 2). Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **19 May 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

### 2.3 Raymond Island Ferry Passes

Councillors discussed recent feedback relating to the Raymond Island ferry service pass. It was agreed that a further face to face consultation opportunity be organised with the Raymond Island community, prior to a report being brought to a future Council meeting on this matter.

## Chief Executive Officer

### 3.2 Nicholson Street Mall Precinct Revitalisation

Councillors received an update on the Nicholson Street Mall and discussed both the short-term and longer-term actions that Officers are undertaking to address the lack of activation and consequent anti-social behaviour being experienced in this area.

A report responding to the recent community petition on this matter will also be brought to the May Council meeting.

## Meeting Close

**Meeting closed at:** 2.50 pm

**Approved by:** Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer