



Councillor Briefing Notes

Tuesday 4 August 2026 at 9.30 am

273 Main Street, Bairnsdale 3875

Attendance

Mayor

Cr Jodie Ashworth

Deputy Mayor

Cr Tom Crook

Councillors

Cr Arthur Allen (Online)

Cr Sonia Buckley (Online)

Cr Joanne Eastman

Cr Bernie Farquhar

Cr Ian Trevaskis

Cr John White

Council Officers

Fiona Weigall

Stuart McConnell

Sarah Johnston

Chris Stephenson

Wayne Richards

Chief Executive Officer

General Manager Assets and Environment

General Manager Business Excellence

General Manager Projects and Planning

Executive Manager Place and Community

Recognition of Traditional Custodians

We would like to acknowledge the First Nation people from the land on which we are gathered and pay our respects to Elders both past and present.

Apologies

Cr Barry Davis (Leave of Absence)

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

Councillor Briefing Session

Officer Briefings and Workshops

1.1 Draft Annual Report 2025/26 - Review of Upfront Draft Content

Councillors were briefed on the first draft of the Draft Annual Report 2025/26 - Draft Report of Operations section and seek feedback to inform the next stage of review and refinement. The report highlighted Council's key activities, achievements, challenges and performance during the 2025/26 financial year, including progress against Major Initiatives, advocacy outcomes, capital works delivery, community programs and organisational performance.

1.2 Quarterly Community Satisfaction, Engagement and Customer Responsiveness Report

Councillors received a presentation on the Community Satisfaction, Engagement and Customer Responsiveness Quarter 4 Report for 2025/26. The presentation summarised community satisfaction and engagement outcomes, highlighting key results, trends and performance measures relating to community engagement activities and customer responsiveness.

1.3 Councillor Gift Policy

Councillors received a presentation on the proposed Councillor Gift Policy and supporting guidance materials. The presentation outlined the key changes including clearer guidance for gifts and hospitality, improved declaration requirements, management of repeat gifts, and supporting tools to assist Councillors in assessing gift offers.

1.4 Health Safety and Wellbeing Quarterly Report and Annual Overview

Councillors were briefed on the fourth quarterly update on the Health Safety and Wellbeing for the period 1 April to 30 June 2026. The brief provided an overview of the achievements for the 2025/26 period as well as the trends identified for focus in the current financial year.

Reports to Future Council Meeting

2.1 Provision of Banking and Associated Services

Attendance

Cr Buckley (online) disconnected from the meeting due to technical issues at 12.35pm.

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.

Councillors were briefed on the draft report, Provision of Banking and Associated. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **18 August 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

2.2 MAV State Council October 2026 Motions

Attendance

Cr Sonia Buckley rejoined the meeting (online) at 2.25 pm.

Councillors were briefed on the draft report, MAV State Council October 2026 Motions. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **18 August 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

2.3 Planning Application 5.2026.361.1 - 236 Bullumwaal Road Wy Yung - Use and Development of a Medical Centre

Attendance

Cr Bernie Farquhar left the Council Chamber at 3.01 pm and did not return.

Councillors were briefed on the draft report, Planning Application 5.2026.361.1 - 236 Bullumwaal Road Wy Yung - Use and Development of a Medical Centre. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **18 August 2026** Council Meeting for consideration.

Meeting Close

Meeting closed at: 3.19 pm

Approved by: Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer