



Councillor Briefing Notes

Tuesday 11 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

Cr Sonia Buckley (Online)

Cr Barry Davis

Cr Joanne Eastman

Cr Bernie Farquhar

Cr Ian Trevaskis

Cr John White

Council Officers

Fiona Weigall

Sarah Johnston

Wayne Richards

Chief Executive Officer

General Manager Business Excellence

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

Stuart McConnell General Manager Assets and Environment

Chris Stephenson General Manager Place and Community

Absent

Nil

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer declared a conflict of interest in relation to *item 1.1 Confidential Chief Executive Officer Employment Performance Assessment 2025/26* as a material interest due to the matter relating to her employment at East Gippsland Shire Council.

Cr Bernie Farquhar declared a conflict of interest in relation to *item 3.1 3.1 - CON2023 1527 Recreation Centre Plant Room Maintenance - Extension Option* as a material conflict of interest due to his company's professional association with the contractor.

Councillor Briefing Session

External Presentation

1.1 **CONFIDENTIAL** Personnel Matter

Attendance

Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer having declared a material conflict of interest, left the Council Chamber at 11.15 am and was absent during the discussion on this item.

Confidentially Notice

The information for this item 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 item would unreasonably disclose personal information about the Chief Executive Officer, including performance expectations and employment-related matters.

Officer Briefings and Workshops

2.1 Transparency Portal Update

Councillors were provided with a presentation and demonstration of Council IQ, a portal designed to improve transparency and accessibility by supporting community access to Council data and information. The presentation outlined the purpose of the portal, key benefits, project milestones and the main content areas, including governance, finance and community information.

2.2 Shared Services Update

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: (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 may prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations relating to existing and proposed shared service arrangements.

Councillors were provided with an update on the Shared Services partnership between East Gippsland Shire Council and Wellington Shire Council, including the partnership's achievements, benefits and future opportunities.

2.3 Nicholson Street Mall Feasibility

Councillors were provided with an overview of the Nicholson Street Mall, Bairnsdale project. Discussions focused on activation opportunities, public safety, accessibility, traffic management and future project planning requirements with Councillors supporting progress of work to develop new concepts for the use and vehicle access through the mall.

2.4 East Gippsland Playgrounds Update

Councillors were provided with a presentation and examples of recently completed play space projects to assist in understanding the scope achievable within various budgets. The presentation outlined playground investment levels, recent projects delivered across the municipality and the costs associated with different playground types and supporting infrastructure.

Reports to Future Council Meeting

3.1 CON2023 1527 Recreation Centre Plant Room Maintenance - Extension Option

Attendance

Cr Bernie Farquhar having declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 3.1, left the Council Chamber at 2.30 pm and did not return to the meeting.

Councillors were briefed on the draft report CON2023 1527 Recreation Centre Plant Room Maintenance - Extension Option. Councillors noted the draft Council report, which will be submitted to the **18 August 2026** Council Meeting for consideration. This report will **Proceed to Council**.

Meeting Close

Meeting closed at: 2.34 pm

Approved by: Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer