



Minutes Unscheduled Council Meeting

Tuesday 31 March 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, Sonia Buckley, Joanne Eastman, Bernie Farquhar (Online), Ian Trevaskis, and John White

Attachments referenced in these minutes can be located in the meeting agenda on East Gippsland Shire Council's [website](#).

Vision

To foster inclusive, connected, communities and places where all East Gippslanders prosper, and endeavour not to leave anyone behind.

Our Strategic Themes

Our Community Vision In 2040, our people, place, environment and economy will be inclusive, connected, sustainable and resilient for the growth and wellbeing of our unique and diverse communities.

- Our Communities: Will include, encourage, respect, and value everyone.
- Our Place: Will be accessible, safe, connected, and healthy.
- Our Environment: Will be managed and preserved for all generations.
- Our Economy: Will be sustainable, innovative, and supportive of existing and emerging industries.

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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 Purpose of Meeting

In accordance with Rule 4.3(3) of Council's Governance Rules, Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth and Councillors, has called an unscheduled Council meeting to consider an item relating to Council business.

Fiona Weigall Chief Executive Officer, as required under Rule 4.3(6) of Council's Governance Rules, has given notice on the Council website of the unscheduled Council Meeting on Tuesday 31 March at 6.00 pm.

1.3 Apologies

Cr Barry Davis

1.4 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

1.5 Next Meeting

The next scheduled Council Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 21 April 2026 at the Corporate Centre, 273 Main Street Bairnsdale commencing at 6.00 pm.

2 Officer Reports

2.1 Assets and Environment

2.1.1 CON2026 1789 Bairnsdale Runway Extension and Lighting Construction Works

Authorised by General Manager Assets and Environment

Confidentiality Notice

The information contained in **Confidential Attachment 1 (CON2026 1789 Contract Award Summary)**, **2 (CON2026 1789 Tender Evaluation Process)** and **3 (CON2026 1789 Probity Report)** are 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 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 pricing and evaluation information.

Motion

That Council:

1. *accepts the tender submitted by _____ for CON2026 1789 Bairnsdale Runway Extension & Lighting Construction works for the Contract amount specified in the CON2026 1789 Contract Award Summary provided at Confidential Attachment 1;*
2. *authorises the Chief Executive Officer to approve variations to CON2026 1789 Bairnsdale Runway Extension & Lighting Construction works up to the contingency amount specified in the CON2026 1789 Contract Award Summary provided at Confidential Attachment 1, subject to the conditions specified in that summary;*
3. *authorises the Chief Executive Officer to include conditions in the contract to make the awarding:*
 - a. *subject to final approval being received from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. This approval relates to environmental vegetation offset management and the impact of removing native vegetation from the proposed runway works site; and*
 - b. *subject to the successful contractor confirming that the project can be completed within the funding timelines once the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water approval is obtained under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999;*
4. *authorises the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and include conditions necessary to address project risks;*
5. *authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to execute the necessary contract documents;*

6. notes that the successful tenderer and contract amount will be published on Council's website following execution of the contract documents and after unsuccessful tenderers have been formally notified; and
7. resolves that the Confidential Attachments to this report and all discussions relating to them remain confidential.

Moved: Cr Arthur Allen
Seconded: Cr Sonia Buckley

Procedural Note

At the commencement of the item, the General Manager Assets and Environment introduced a revised officer recommendation which was displayed on screen. A motion was moved by Cr Arthur Allen and seconded by Cr Sonia Buckley, however given the significance of the contract and the commercially sensitive information involved, Council resolved to move into confidential business pursuant to section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* to consider the associated confidential attachments.

Motion

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

Moved: Cr Sonia Buckley
Seconded: Cr John White

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 Joanne Eastman, Cr Bernie Farquhar, Cr Ian Trevaskis and Cr John White
Against: Nil
Abstained: Nil

The meeting was closed to the public at 6.19 pm.

The meeting was re-opened to the public at 7.05 pm.

Procedural Note

Following the confidential discussion, the Mayor confirmed the matter had been considered and resolved in the closed session. The motion was carried with seven votes in favour and one against, with Cr Joanne Eastman voting against the motion. The resolution determined in the closed session is recorded below.

Motion

That Council:

- 1. accepts the tender submitted by Fowlers Asphaltting Pty Limited for CON2026 1789 Bairnsdale Runway Extension & Lighting Construction works for the Contract amount specified in the CON2026 1789 Contract Award Summary provided at Confidential Attachment 1;***
- 2. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to approve variations to CON2026 1789 Bairnsdale Runway Extension & Lighting Construction works up to the contingency amount specified in the CON2026 1789 Contract Award Summary provided at Confidential Attachment 1, subject to the conditions specified in that summary;***
- 3. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to include conditions in the contract to make the awarding:***
 - a. subject to final approval being received from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. This approval relates to environmental vegetation offset management and the impact of removing native vegetation from the proposed runway works site; and***
 - b. subject to the successful contractor confirming that the project can be completed within the funding timelines once the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water approval is obtained under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999;***
- 4. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to negotiate contract conditions necessary to manage project risks, including development of a petroleum related price management plan that establishes project hold points and sets a financial limit on petroleum related price impacts for Council endorsement prior to contract execution;***
- 5. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to execute the necessary contract documents subject to recommendation 4;***
- 6. notes that the successful tenderer and contract amount will be published on Council's website following execution of the contract documents and after unsuccessful tenderers have been formally notified; and***
- 7. resolves that the Confidential Attachments to this report and all discussions relating to them remain confidential.***

3 Close of Meeting

Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth declared the Council Meeting closed at 7.05 pm.