



WELLINGTON

SHIRE COUNCIL

The Heart of Gippsland

Resolutions in Brief

**To be read in conjunction with the Council Meeting Agenda
19 November 2019**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Alan Hall (Mayor)
Gayle Maher (Deputy Mayor)
Ian Bye
Carolyn Crossley
Malcolm Hole
Darren McCubbin
Carmel Ripper
Scott Rossetti
Garry Stephens

IN ATTENDANCE

Arthur Skipitaris	- General Manager Corporate Services
John Websdale	- General Manager Development
Chris Hastie	- General Manager Built & Natural Environment
Sharon Houlihan	- General Manager Community & Culture
Denise Teo	- Governance Officer
Wendy Reeves	- Coordinator Communications and Media

APOLOGIES

David Morcom, Chief Executive Officer

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – 19 NOVEMBER 2019

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ITEM A4**ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING/S****OBJECTIVE**

To adopt the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 6 November 2019.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 6 November 2019.

COUNCILLOR BYE/COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI

That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 6 November 2019.

CARRIED

ITEM A5**BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING/S**

NIL

ITEM A6**ACCEPTANCE OF LATE ITEMS**

NIL

ITEM A7(1)**NOTICE OF MOTION – NATIVE TIMBER HARVESTING ENDING**

I, Councillor Malcolm Hole, hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 19 November 2019.

In relation to the State Government's recent announcement that native timber harvesting will be phased out by 2030, with an immediate end to old growth logging, that:

1. the Mayor write to the Premier of Victoria, expressing this Council's profound disappointment with this surprise decision. It is particularly vexing that mill operators, Councils, the directly affected communities and other key industry stakeholders were given no opportunity for input or comment into a critical decision that was taken unilaterally and in an apparent shroud of government secrecy. This decision is at odds with the Government's publicly stated aim of establishing community engagement platforms like Regional Partnerships to recognise that "... local communities are in the best position to understand the challenges and opportunities faced by their region".

Further, that Council seeks specific comments from the Premier regarding:

- a. In the interests of transparency, the Government must make public the scientific and peer reviewed evidence that it used on which to base its decision and conclude that existing forestry practices are unsustainable;
- b. The impact this decision will have on regional employment. By way of example, Australian Sustainable Hardwoods in Heyfield employs 170 local Gippsland workers, around 114 of these in their rapidly growing advanced manufacturing as the domestic demand for quality hardwood continues to grow. Ironically, the Government owns 49% of this business that also supports approximately 10,000

downstream jobs located throughout Victoria. What assurance and evidence can the Government provide that all these jobs will be secured?

While the Government has moved to retain employment security at Australian Paper in the Latrobe Valley, there seems scant regard for the hundreds of timber workers who will be impacted elsewhere. The announcement of \$120m to assist two 'Community Transition Leaders' work with affected workers, communities and businesses comes with no detail and no strategy other than a vague assurance that the Government will 'help us work through this'. Will the Government guarantee that there will be no net job losses in these communities as a result of this decision?

There are no details for any support packages, which we understand will not become available until 2024. Why won't they be made available immediately?

- c. Council has already heard many bushfire experts advising that with these announced changes to forestry practices, the potential for bushfire emergency will become catastrophic. Specifically, the decision will lead to large capacity machines like bulldozers, excavators and graders being removed from fire prone forests, including the local knowledge of the machine operators, that are invaluable in the event of a large-scale fire.

Further, existing access roads will be closed or fall into disrepair, with many of these roads normally being used as a 'Plan B' or secondary route in the event of a large-scale fire. What is the Government's plan to fund the upkeep of these roads, and who will fill the gap left by Forest Fire Management Victoria after their departure?

In short, what specific plans does the Government have to ensure our local communities are not subjected to increased risk?

2. the Mayor send a copy of the motion to the Premier, to:
- a. The Gippsland Local Government Network Councils, seeking their support in a combined position;
 - b. The Municipal Association of Victoria, Timber Towns Victoria, The National Timber Councils Association, The Victorian Association of Forest Industries, Australian Forest Products Association, local Federal Member Darren Chester, Federal Minister for Agriculture the Hon Bridget McKenzie, all Victorian upper and lower house Members representing Gippsland, and the owners of all timber mills and timber processing businesses in eastern Victoria.



.....
COUNCILLOR MALCOLM HOLE

Dated: (12 November 2019)

COUNCILLOR HOLE/COUNCILLOR MCCUBBIN

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stakeholders were given no opportunity for input or comment into a critical decision that was taken unilaterally and in an apparent shroud of government secrecy. This decision is at odds with the Government's publicly stated aim of establishing community engagement platforms like Regional Partnerships to recognise that "... local communities are in the best position to understand the challenges and opportunities faced by their region".

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While the Government has moved to retain employment security at Australian Paper in the Latrobe Valley, there seems scant regard for the hundreds of timber workers who will be impacted elsewhere. The announcement of \$120m to assist two 'Community Transition Leaders' work with affected workers, communities and businesses comes with no detail and no strategy other than a vague assurance that the Government will 'help us work through this'. Will the Government guarantee that there will be no net job losses in these communities as a result of this decision?

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- c. Council has already heard many bushfire experts advising that with these announced changes to forestry practices, the potential for bushfire emergency will become catastrophic. Specifically, the decision will lead to large capacity machines like bulldozers, excavators and graders being removed from fire prone forests, including the local knowledge of the machine operators, that are invaluable in the event of a large-scale fire.

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In short, what specific plans does the Government have to ensure our local communities are not subjected to increased risk?

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 - a. The Gippsland Local Government Network Councils, seeking their support in a combined position;
 - b. The Municipal Association of Victoria, Timber Towns Victoria, The National Timber Councils Association, The Victorian Association of Forest Industries,

Australian Forest Products Association, local Federal Member Darren Chester, Federal Minister for Agriculture the Hon Bridget McKenzie, all Victorian upper and lower house Members representing Gippsland, and the owners of all timber mills and timber processing businesses in eastern Victoria.

DIVISION:

Councillors For: *Councillor Rossetti, Councillor Maher, Councillor Crossley, Councillor Bye, Councillor McCubbin, Councillor Ripper, Councillor Stephens, Councillor Hall, Councillor Hole*

Councillors Against: *NIL*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ITEM A8(1) OUTSTANDING PETITIONS

NIL

ITEM A8(2) RESPONSE TO PETITION: DECIDUOUS TREES IN DESAILLY STREET, SALE

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider a petition presented at the Ordinary Council meeting of 18 October 2019 raising concerns with the leaf drop and powerline clearance requirements of existing English Oak (*Quercus Robur*) trees in Desailly Street, Sale and the request to remove these trees.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

RECOMMENDATION

That, in response to the petition presented at the Ordinary Council meeting of 18 October 2019, Council;

- 1. Decline the request to remove trees in Desailly Street, Sale;***
- 2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to write to the head petitioner to advise them of Council's decision, and to provide information regarding Council's Autumn street sweeping schedule which would allow residents to rake leaves into the gutters for collection at scheduled times;***
- 3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to also inform the head petitioner that the long-term health and amenity of the trees will be maintained and improved through the future bundling of the low voltage powerlines along Desailly Street in line with the established Aerial Bundle Cabling program.***

COUNCILLOR MCCUBBIN/COUNCILLOR BYE

That, in response to the petition presented at the Ordinary Council meeting of 18 October 2019, Council;

- 1. Decline the request to remove trees in Desailly Street, Sale;***
- 2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to write to the head petitioner to advise them of Council's decision, and to provide information regarding Council's Autumn street sweeping schedule which would allow residents to rake leaves into the gutters for collection at scheduled times;***
- 3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to also inform the head petitioner that the long-term health and amenity of the trees will be maintained and improved through the future bundling of the low voltage powerlines along Desailly Street in line with the established Aerial Bundle Cabling program.***

CARRIED

ITEM A8(3)

RECEIPT OF PETITION – REQUEST FOR OFF-ROAD BIKE PATH FROM SALE TO MAFFRA

OBJECTIVE

To present Council with a petition in relation to a request for an off-road bike path from Sale to Maffra.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

NORBERT FUESSEL, SALE (HEAD PETITIONER)

- Read from Attachment 1

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the attached petition in relation to a request for an off-road bike path from Sale to Maffra.

COUNCILLOR CROSSLEY/COUNCILLOR MCCUBBIN

That Council receive the attached petition in relation to a request for an off-road bike path from Sale to Maffra.

CARRIED

ITEM A9

INVITED ADDRESSES, PRESENTATIONS OR ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

COUNCILLOR CROSSLEY

7 NOVEMBER 2019

- 2019 National Architects Awards held in Brisbane
- 35 award winners and projects including 12 commendations
- Port of Sale was one of eight nominees shortlisted for the Public Architecture award
- Port of Sale architects, FJMT, received a national commendation under this section

ITEM A10(1)**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

At the 6 November 2019 Council Meeting, Councillor Maher asked the following Question on Notice:

COUNCILLOR MAHER

There are currently signs warning of footpath hazards around the Alberton township. Can the CEO inform the Council about whether there are proposed works to be undertaken to address the footpath hazards, what is the proposed timeline to complete these works and have Alberton residents been notified?

The following information is supplied in response:

Defect inspections for footpaths are undertaken routinely in line with Council's Road Management Plan requirements. During previous inspections, a number of footpath defects were identified along the shared path in the Alberton township. As a result, yellow hazard signs have been installed at key locations to assist in highlighting the defects, alerting the public to the hazards and indicating that renewal works are programmed for the path.

Council awarded contract 2020-004 Footpath Renewal Works at its ordinary meeting of 6 November 2019. Works under this contract include renewal of the Alberton shared path, from Thomson Street to north of Rankin Street. On site works are programmed to occur between December 2019 and February 2020. Hazard signage related to path defects will be removed once path renewal works have been undertaken.

Residents abutting this path will be notified when specific on-site construction timing has been determined prior to the commencement of works.

ITEM A11(1)**MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR ACTIVITY REPORT****RECOMMENDATION**

That the Mayor and Councillor Activity report be noted.

COUNCILLOR MCCUBBIN/COUNCILLOR BYE

That the Mayor and Councillor Activity report be noted.

CARRIED

ITEM B**DELEGATES****COUNCILLOR HOLE**

14 NOVEMBER 2019

- Attended Timber Towns Victoria meeting with Wellington Shire Council General Manager Development
- Issues discussed include the future of plantations, funding to other areas of contention and the closing down of the native timber industry
- Resolved to write to the Premier about disappointment and the lack of consultation with community and the reports/data used to come to this conclusion be released to the public including the plans to address future needs for plantation and the surrounding communities
- To be followed up at the MAV Rural Gippsland Regional Meeting on Friday 29 November 2019

ITEM C1.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

That the Chief Executive Officer's Report be received.

COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI/COUNCILLOR MAHER

That the Chief Executive Officer's Report be received.

CARRIED

ITEM C1.2 OCTOBER 2019 PERFORMANCE REPORT

OBJECTIVE

For Council to receive and note the October 2019 Council Performance Report.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the October 2019 Council Performance Report as attached.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS/COUNCILLOR RIPPER

That Council receive and note the October 2019 Council Performance Report as attached.

CARRIED

**ITEM C1.3 WELLINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO THE VICTORIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT RATING SYSTEM REVIEW**

OBJECTIVE

To note Wellington Shire Council's submission, as attached, in response to the Victorian Local Government Rating System Review.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note Wellington Shire Council's submission to the Victoria Local Government Rating System Review panel.

COUNCILLOR CROSSLEY/COUNCILLOR BYE

That Council note Wellington Shire Council's submission to the Victoria Local Government Rating System Review panel.

CARRIED

ITEM C2.1**ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS****OBJECTIVE**

To report on all assembly of Councillor records received for the period 30 October 2019 to 13 November 2019.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 30 October 2019 to 13 November 2019.

COUNCILLOR BYE/COUNCILLOR RIPPER

That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 30 October 2019 to 13 November 2019.

CARRIED**ITEM C3.1****PLANNING DECISIONS****OBJECTIVE**

To provide a report to Council on recent planning permit trends and planning decisions made under delegation by Statutory Planners during the month of September 2019.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note the report on recent Planning Permit trends and Planning Application determinations between 1 September and 30 September 2019.

COUNCILLOR MAHER/COUNCILLOR CROSSLEY

That Council note the report on recent Planning Permit trends and Planning Application determinations between 1 September and 30 September 2019.

CARRIED**ITEM C3.2****PROPOSED SALE OF LOT 21 WEST SALE AIRPORT****OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this report is to seek Council authorisation to progress the sale of Council land described as Lot 21 Williams Drive, Fulham at West Sale Airport (WSA) (refer Figure 1).

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

RECOMMENDATION

That;

- 1. Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to offer for lease and then sale Council Land described as Lot 21, Williams Drive, Fulham at West Sale Airport;***
- 2. Council advertise its intention to lease and sell land at West Sale Airport with the sale of land being at or above market value, subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1989 sections 189, 190 and 223, including calling for submissions in relation to the proposed sale;***
- 3. Subject to not receiving any submissions, Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to progress the sale at or above the current market value including executing necessary documents; and***
- 4. The information contained in the Confidential Attachment at Item F1.1 and designated under Section 77 Clause (2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1989 as confidential by the General Manager Development on 12 November 2019 because it relates to the following grounds under Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989: h) any other matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person be designated confidential information under Section 77 Clause (2)(b) of the Local Government Act 1989.***

COUNCILLOR MCCUBBIN/COUNCILLOR BYE

That;

- 1. Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to offer for lease and then sale Council Land described as Lot 21, Williams Drive, Fulham at West Sale Airport;***
- 2. Council advertise its intention to lease and sell land at West Sale Airport with the sale of land being at or above market value, subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1989 sections 189, 190 and 223, including calling for submissions in relation to the proposed sale;***
- 3. Subject to not receiving any submissions, Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to progress the sale at or above the current market value including executing necessary documents; and***
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CARRIED

ITEM C5.1**QUICK RESPONSE GRANT SCHEME****OBJECTIVE**

For Council to note the information regarding applications received under the Quick Response Grant Scheme (QRGS) for the period July to October 2019 as at Attachment A.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note the information regarding applications received under the Quick Response Grant Scheme for the period July 2019 to October 2019 as at Attachment A.

COUNCILLOR MAHER/COUNCILLOR CROSSLEY

That Council note the information regarding applications received under the Quick Response Grant Scheme for the period July 2019 to October 2019 as at Attachment A.

CARRIED

Councillor Bye declared an indirect conflict of interest under section 77B due to a conflict of duty and left the chamber at 7:20PM

Councillor Bye returned to the chamber at 7:22PM

ITEM C5.2**BRIAGOLONG RECREATION RESERVE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MINUTES****OBJECTIVE**

For Council to:

- Receive the minutes from the Briagolong Recreation Reserve Committee of Management's General Meeting held on 14 October 2019; and
- Note the committee is in the process of developing rules of behaviour for users, a draft is attached for information. Once endorsed by the committee it will be brought to a future Council meeting for approval as per the Terms of Reference.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receive the minutes from the Briagolong Recreation Reserve Committee of Management's General Meeting held on 14 October 2019; and***
- 2. Note the committee is in the process of developing rules of behaviour for users, a draft is attached for information only. Once endorsed by the committee it will be brought to a future Council meeting for approval as per the Terms of Reference.***

COUNCILLOR RIPPER/COUNCILLOR HOLE

That Council:

- 1. Receive the minutes from the Briagolong Recreation Reserve Committee of Management's General Meeting held on 14 October 2019; and***
- 2. Note the committee is in the process of developing rules of behaviour for users, a draft is attached for information only. Once endorsed by the committee it will be brought to a future Council meeting for approval as per the Terms of Reference.***

CARRIED

ITEM D

URGENT BUSINESS

NIL

ITEM E

FURTHER GALLERY AND CHAT ROOM COMMENTS

CHAT ROOM –

ALAN HEYWOOD, PEARSONDALE

- Raised concerns about traffic movement in Foster Street, Sale

GALLERY COMMENTS –

JUDY RICHARDS, LLOWALONG

- Concerned about future use of the Courthouse in Stratford
- Started a Neighbourhood House, partly based in the Courthouse and other parts run from the library; main issues relate to the upgrade of the facilities for improved accessibility for all

KEITH MILLS, CROOKED RIVER

- Commends Council on drought relief efforts
- Concerned about the deficiencies on Wonnangatta Road, Dargo including underground pipes
- Spoke on behalf of Yarram resident concerned about the costs involved in releasing animals from the pound and asked if Council would consider waiving release costs for service animals

JOHN MCLINDEN, LONGFORD

- Re letter to council 13 September 2019, seeking conversation

Meeting declared closed at: 7:42pm

The live streaming of this Council meeting will now come to a close.

G. IN CLOSED SESSION

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS/COUNCILLOR CROSSLEY

That the meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989 to consider:

- a) personnel matters*
- h) any other matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person*

CARRIED

IN CLOSED SESSION

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS/COUNCILLOR MAHER

That Council move into open session and ratify the decision made in closed session.

CARRIED

Councillor McCubbin declared an indirect conflict of interest under section 77B due to a conflict of duty and left the chamber at 7:39PM

Councillor McCubbin returned to the chamber at 7:42