



Minutes

Council Meeting

Tuesday 21 March 2023 at 6:00 pm

**Council Chambers (and by video conferencing)
East Gippsland Shire Council Corporate Centre
273 Main Street, Bairnsdale 3875**

Councillors

Crs Mark Reeves (Mayor), Arthur Allen (Deputy Mayor),
Sonia Buckley (Online), Tom Crook, Jane Greacen OAM, Trevor Stow,
Mendy Urie (Online), Kirsten Van Diggele and John White (Online)

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

Vision

East Gippsland is an inclusive and innovative community that values our natural environment, puts community at the centre of Council decision-making, and creates the conditions in which communities can thrive.

Our Strategic Objectives

1. An inclusive and caring community that respects and celebrates diversity.
2. Planning and infrastructure that enriches the environment, lifestyle, and character of our communities.
3. A natural environment that is managed and enhanced.
4. A thriving and diverse economy that attracts investment and generates inclusive local employment.
5. A transparent organisation that listens and delivers effective, engaging and responsive services.

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1 Procedural

1.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians

The Mayor, Cr Mark Reeves welcomed all to the Council meeting and acknowledged the traditional owners.

East Gippsland Shire Council acknowledges the Gunaikurnai, Monero and the Bidawal people as the Traditional Custodians of this land that encompasses East Gippsland Shire, and their enduring relationship with country. The Traditional Custodians have cared and nurtured East Gippsland for tens of thousands of years.

Council value their living culture and practices and their right to self-determination. Council pays respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in East Gippsland, their Elders, past, present, and future.

1.2 Apologies

Nil

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Motion

That the minutes of the Council meeting held Tuesday 28 February 2023 be confirmed.

Moved: Cr Arthur Allen

Seconded: Cr Mendy Urie

CARRIED

1.5 Next Meeting

The next Council Meeting is scheduled be held on Tuesday 11 April 2023 at the Corporate Centre, 273 Main Street Bairnsdale commencing at 6.00pm.

1.6 Requests for Leave of Absence

Nil

Procedural Motion

That Standing Orders be suspended to allow time for a presentation to Council on the Wurinbeena Arts Project.

Moved: Cr Mark Reeves

Seconded: Cr Mendy Urie

Standing Orders were suspended at 6.05 pm.

Standing Orders were suspended at this juncture of the meeting to allow an opportunity for a presentation to Council on the Wurinbeena Arts Project by Catherine Larkins OAM and Frances Harrison OAM.

Procedural Motion

That standing orders be resumed.

Moved: Cr Mark Reeves

Seconded: Cr Tom Crook

CARRIED

Standing Orders were resumed at 6.28 pm.

1.7 Open Forum

1.7.1 Petitions

1.7.1.1 Rezoning of Properties

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report;***
- 2. receives the petition lodged by Terese Bartlett stating “We ask the rezoning of properties from Farming Zone to Rural Living Zone to accurately reflect its size and use”;***
- 3. notes the petition has been referred to the Manager Planning for inclusion in the submissions for the Rural Land Use Scheme community feedback process; and***
- 4. notes that Council Officers will write to the head petitioner advising them of these actions.***

Moved: Cr Sonia Buckley

Seconded: Cr Tom Crook

CARRIED

1.7.2 Questions of Council

Nil

1.7.3 Public Submissions

Mr John Leaver spoke on item 5.2.1 *Petition - Objection to Proposed Toilet Block - Raymond Island Koala Trail and Experience*, and spoke at item 1.7.3.

1.8 Items to be table

Residents of East Gippsland received a thank you letter from His Majesty King Charles III for the messages in the Book of Condolence sent following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

Attachments

1. Letter from His Majesty King Charles III [1.8.1.1 - 1 page]

2 Notices of Motion

Nil

3 Deferred Business

Nil

4 Councillor and Delegate Reports

4.1 Cr Jane Greacen OAM

Cr Jane Greacen OAM spoke to her written report at page 10.

Attendance

Cr Kirsten Van Diggele left the Chamber at 6.45 pm and returned at 6.47 pm.

4.2 Cr Mendy Urie

Cr Mendy Urie spoke to her written report at page 12.

4.3 Cr John White

Cr John White expressed his condolences on the passing of local Raymond Island resident, Vale Andrew Bould.

4.4 Cr Kirsten Van Diggele

Cr Kirsten Van Diggele spoke to her written report at page 14.

4.5 Cr Tom Crook

Cr Tom Crook spoke to his written report at page 15.

4.8 Cr Trevor Stow

Cr Trevor Stow provided a verbal update.

4.7 Cr Arthur Allen

Cr Arthur Allen spoke to his written report at page 16.

4.8 Cr Mark Reeves

Cr Mark Reeves spoke to his written report at page 16.

Councillor Reports

Cr Jane Greacen OAM

08/03/23 - I attended the Municipal Association of Victoria workshop on “sorting out the problem of contaminated kerbside recycling – what actually works?” It was an excellent webinar, and I learnt some interesting facts. For example, “What is a Councillor?, An Australian citizen who is not a criminal”.

The webinar was about research undertaken with six Councils into what is required to change people’s behaviour with respect to proper recycling of their waste.

The learnings from the research were;

- Councils that just put a notice on their bins achieved no change in behaviour;
- educational material by itself makes no difference;
- the best results are from looking into bins and giving personalised feedback (not effective in apartment buildings);
- find out what is driving your community. People are bombarded with so much information all the time, that you need to grab attention to get these messages through;
- Facebook is really useful – test the messages before rolling them out. Pay for the messages to be widespread as an advertisement – not use the Council’s Facebook site;
- use a photo of a person. The smiley face makes no difference; and
- focus purely on one thing until change is achieved, then move onto the next thing.

Messages about waste need to be precise and clear and simple – and about what goes into a bin, and not about in and out.

Nilimbuk City Council did bin inspections and personalised feedback with bin tags. They used priming postcards first so not to upset people. There was a significant drop in contamination using the postcard.

08/03/23 - Youth Ambassadors Meeting at the Bairnsdale Library. This meeting was attended by half a dozen young people, who elected their Office Bearers and appointed those responsible for various jobs such as media and promotions. I think the 15-year-old Chairperson, Banjo Jackson will certainly make his mark as time goes by.

09/03/23 - Greater Gippsland Offshore Wind Project. A webinar held by Industry Capability Network (ICN) Victoria and BlueFloat Energy. This project has the capacity to generate up to 2,085 gigawatts of electricity and is located 10 – 43 kilometers from the Gippsland Coast, between Woodside Beach and Seaspray (south-west of Sale).

It will be Australia’s first offshore wind zone, and within the area there will be 139 “bottom-fixed” turbines, two - four offshore substations and associated infrastructure in the Commonwealth waters. There will be a new terminal station in the Gifford area with a connection to the National Electricity Market (NEM) at either Loy Yang Power Station or Hazelwood Terminal Station in Latrobe Valley.

The turbines will be a total height of 285 – 325 metres, and with a clearance from the sea of 35 – 55 metres. The rotor diameter will be 250 – 270 metres.

BlueFloat are currently in the feasibility, development and approvals stage of the project, and expected to be operational in 2030.

ICN Victoria makes connections and provides a gateway for businesses to access the project. They set up this webinar for businesses, suppliers and contractors that might have an interest in participating in the project, they run a social procurement program and aim to help local businesses win.

The scale of the project is massive and will generate a huge amount of work for many industries.

15/03/23 - I attended a part of a two-day discussion about Regenerative Tourism in Lakes Entrance, which was attended by people who have been involved in different aspects of the tourism industry as a part of social enterprise. There was some erudite discussion including about;

- the power of stories to unlock the power of nature, artists, creators, farmers and everyone connected to nature;
- transformational visitor experiences that build liminal connections that will never be forgotten and that lead to considering life differently;
- the small everyday actions that build and build;
- regenerating positive systemic impacts;
- building an ecosystem and social connections through economic, social and environmental means;
- the journey, which needs to be practical and flexible;
- the serotonin that is released when people return to check a tree that they planted as a part of their visit to a place;
- connection with locals – rejuvenation and restoration; and
- guerrilla planting – Landcare to hand out a trees with every box of vegies sold in markets.

There was quite a lot of discussion about the negative impacts of needing to apply for small grants; how much time they take; how they set up a competitive environment that inhibits collaboration; how much reporting is required. Also, about volunteers being burnt out and fatigued.

15/03/23 - The highlight of the week for me was attending the launch of Federation University's National Centre for Reconciliation, Truth and Justice.

The event was held in Ballarat and live streamed to Fed University's Innovation Centre in Morwell.

Federation University has established an associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor Reconciliation position held by Professor Andrew Gunstone. He and his team will be leading the development of their RAP at the Transform level. Professor Bentley, the Vice-Chancellor and President of Federation Uni Australia, is their Reconciliation Action Plan Champion.

Professor Gunstone chaired a panel discussion with Senator Pat Dodson and Dr Jackie Huggins AM. The two Elders talked about their belief in the importance of The Voice. They talked about the fact that it is integral to reconciliation. Dr Jackie said that what reconciliation means to her is recognition, justice and healing. That we must look one another in the eye directly and work together.

Senator Dodson talked about reconciliation living in your heart, and it being two spirits coming together, not absorb or suppress, but the richness of both in celebration and joy.

They talked about needing to galvanise people now, to have discussions about The Voice, and just how hard the days had been under a hostile government who did not want to know us or hear us. The next generation of people will have a foot in both camps and be able to combat racism which is still endemic and confronts them every day.

Pat said that this is about a principle, for Aboriginal people to be recognised. The yes vote is about the liberation it brings to all of us, it's the principle and getting it done, and the detail coming later. "This is your legacy for your children".

They talked about "the tyranny of our dispossession", and the healing needed.

Senator Dodson said that the Voice enshrined in the constitution does not change the constitution at all – it adds a small chapter at the very end, it adds the 9th chapter.

16/03/23 - Closing the Gap at Bairnsdale Regional Health Service (BRHS). This annual event by BRHS was led by Ash Munro, the Lead Coordinator of the Aboriginal Health Unit at BRHS who made an excellent heartfelt speech about Closing the Gap, and the role of health organisations. It was a fun event with dancing and the usual enormous and colourful cakes and sausage sizzle.

17/03/23 - The Victorian Local Government Grants Commission came to talk with Councillors and Officers. This was an invaluable meeting about the role of the Grants Commission preparing recommendations to the Commonwealth Government for the allocation of financial assistance grants to support councils in delivering services to their communities. In 2022-23, Victorian Councils will receive a total of \$680.4 million in financial assistance grants, \$178.5 million for local roads grants and \$501.9 million in general purpose grants. They explained in detail the formulae they have developed to distribute the funds to Victorian Councils.

Council received \$17,991,539 in 2022-23, which is about 16.2% of the Council's recurrent revenue.

Cr Mendy Urie

International Women's Day

We are promoting opportunities for local women to apply for the [Women Leading Locally](#) fellowship. From 6 March 2023 until 14 April 2023, the Institute of Community Directors Australia (ICDA) is accepting applications for the fellowship, an opportunity for women in Victoria to hone their governance and campaigning skills ahead of the 2024 local government elections.

The Victorian Government has funded 65 full-fee places in the fellowship program. The program provides a unique opportunity for Victoria's women to be supported into local government by skilled facilitators who want them to succeed and know what they will need to get to the finish line.

Women from 32 local government areas, including East Gippsland, will be prioritised in the selection process.

The fellowship will build a pathway for participants to stand for Local Government elections through a combination of face-to-face peer support events and online workshops spanning campaigning, leadership and governance. Specialty content and mentoring will be provided by Women for Election, a non-partisan not-for-profit with a mission to inspire and equip more women to run for public office, and other key partners.

On completion of the program, participants will be awarded a 'Women Leading Locally – Community Leader Fellowship', a new designation accredited by the Institute of Community Directors Australia (ICDA). Those who complete the eight compulsory fellowship units will also receive an ICDA Certificate in Community Leadership and Governance (Local Government).

The program is designed to inspire, equip and sustain women to become – and remain – successful local representatives for their communities. Fellows from the 2022 and 2023 cohorts will be encouraged to form a strong alumni, offering mutual friendship and support, and will be supported to keep up the pace all the way to the 2024 local government elections.

You can register your interest in the program to receive communication when it opens at communitydirectors.com.au/training/women-lead.

Attended a wonderful Council event at the Bairnsdale Library on 8 March where the in-person and on-line attendees were treated to hearing the diverse and inspiring stories of four remarkable local women: Glenys Watts (Chair of Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board), Kylie Findley (CFA member), Josephine Jakobi (local artist) and Dr Linda Wilkinson (current career: dog trainer). I think everyone listening enjoyed these stories enormously and would have found them relatable and in some ways instructive. Thank you to the Council officers who organized this, primarily Rebecca and Bec, I believe.

Was delighted to attend a Victorian Local Governance Association luncheon at the Windsor Hotel in Melbourne to commemorate International Women's Day on Friday 10 March. Guest speaker was Dr Andrea Carson, professor of Political Communication in the Department of Politics, Media and Philosophy at La Trobe University who presented to the 30-or-so attendees some of her research findings looking at gender issues in politics and particularly in Local Government. Some of the findings:

- Women Councillors are older (>51 is the average age), X3 more likely to be carers of children or elderly relatives and far less likely to serve multiple terms due to "role strain". There is a 'missing cohort' of women Councillors <45 years.

Gender-based incivility was also discussed, which is also a factor in deterring and retaining women elected members on Council. So, the big challenge is to get more women stand for election and to support them once elected, to stay.

Why is this an ongoing issue? because women are 50% of our communities and there are net benefits when there is equal representation, including less corruption (KPMG research).

Participated in Farmer's for Climate Change online event on 5/3/23 for the launch of the "Farming Forever Report" by Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fishing, Forestry and Emergency Management, Murray Watt. Also some interesting presentations by Dr Kate Andrews, "NRM Regions Australia", Olivia Lawson who outlined many practical measures being taken on their property to reduce on-farm emissions and Charlie Prell (Chair of Farmer's for Climate Action, who highlighted the lack of a national strategy for Climate Action in agriculture and cattle farmer despite the 93% of farmers surveyed of >600 in total indicating a willingness to undertake the critical work of reducing on-farm emissions and the need for leadership and education in the space. [Link to the report provided for reference](#).

We all know that we have many remarkable people in our various communities in East Gippsland. People, who through our personal networks or through our work as Councillors, we are really privileged to know. Their work and contributions often go unsung and unacknowledged

I would like to pay tribute to one such member of the Raymond Island community who recently passed away, Andrew Bould.

Time will not allow for Andrew's full story to be told here but there are some wonderful tributes on the Friends of Paynesville and Raymond Island Facebook site and I would like to thank local historian (and Council Officer), Martin Richardson for recording and sharing a more extensive version.

Andrew had a long family history of residing on Raymond Island (in fact his Mother Irene, also a well-known and much-loved local person was a teacher at Paynesville Primary School when our children were there, hence the personal connection.

Involvement with Paynesville Maritime Museum and History of Raymond Island were two of Andrew's many specialties. The maritime interpretive signage around the Paynesville foreshore and the ferry history on display at the Raymond Island ferry landing are part of his legacy.

Photography was another well-honed skill for which Andrew was very well known. Andrew was a friendly and generous contributor to his local community and will be sorely missed. I offer sincere condolences to Andrew's family and many friends.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has released its latest report [AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023 — IPCC](#). Once again it provides a sobering reminder that with global emissions yet to show any decrease, our current trajectory will see planetary heating more like 3.3 degrees than the 1.5 of the Paris Climate Agreement. We need to urgently step up our actions. Australia and East Gippsland is not exempt from this responsibility.

Cr Kirsten Van Diggele

International Women's Day at Lakes Entrance Surf Life Saving Club

I was lucky enough to be able to attend an International Women's Day Pink Brunch put on by the Lakes Entrance Surf Life Saving Club.

We were able to listen to inspiring stories from members of the Surf Life Saving Club, about the impact of the club in their lives and their journeys more broadly. I was able to bring my best friend along from Mornington, who was also inspired by the stories of some of our amazing local women.

Raymond Island Toilet Block Site Visit

Along with other Councillors, I was able to visit the proposed sites for the Raymond Island Toilet Block, which has received some objections. We visited the preferred site and learned that there are various options that are being investigated. I look forward to hearing more about the ideal location and working alongside the objectors to ensure that Council commit to a fair compromise.

Coaching with Ruth McGowan

I am lucky enough to be receiving group coaching from Ruth McGowan, alongside five other Councillors from across Victoria. Having only got 1.5 years remaining in the role, I recognise a need for me to push my vision for East Gippsland and attempt to plant as many seeds as possible to bring about long-term change in East Gippsland, especially for young people. I have always been passionate about young people and making sure their voices are heard. I am going to work alongside Ruth and these are other amazing women to develop goals that I will act on for the remainder of my Council Term.

Cr Tom Crook

For international Women's Day, I attended a keynote address organised by a legal firm in Sydney. The firm acknowledged the International Women's Day theme film, Cracking the Code: Innovation for a gender equal future, where I heard about the challenges faced by women in sub-Saharan Africa and the foundation that has been established to support education to enhance social mobility and reduce poverty.

As people may already know, Council is leading the development of a new four-year municipal health and wellbeing plan, 'Well placed for Wellbeing 2021-25'. The aim of this plan is to improve the health and wellbeing of all East Gippsland communities. Health and wellbeing clearly needs to be at the 'heart of what Council does' and will be integrated into the Council Plan in the future. Consultation is currently open for public input and comment into the health and wellbeing plan and I urge everyone to make a contribution via our website

The final installment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), an eight-year long undertaking from the world's most authoritative scientific body on climate change, was released on Monday. The report's 8000 pages detail the devastating consequences of rising greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions around the world; the destruction of homes, the loss of livelihoods and the fragmentation of communities, as we have also experienced, as well as the increasingly dangerous and irreversible risks should we fail to change course and reduce (ideally to zero, our production and burning of fossil fuels).

Australia is the world's largest coal exporter, accounting for about 29% of traded coal globally a few years ago and will soon be the world's largest natural gas (LNG) exporter. Australian exports of coal and gas accounted for around 3.6% of global GHG emissions, far greater than the 1.4% of global emissions that Australia generated or accounted for domestically.

Currently and under our Government's plan, we don't count the actual burning of the fossil fuels we dig up and export. Under our current system, these are 'not our problem'.

To extend our influence and responsibility in a positive way, at a future council meeting I will be proposing our council ask the federal government to include the emissions resulting from the burning of the fossil fuels we produce to be included in our domestic carbon emissions profile, so we are truly transparent and accountable for the role we currently play in destabilising the climate and further work towards a system which reduces emissions to the greatest extent possible.

Cr Arthur Allen

03/03/23 - The Mayor and I attended the Big Boys BBQ at Cremin Hall. It was a very well supported event attended by well over 300. The proceeds of the day went to Prostate Awareness and raised over \$70k. Congratulation to Bob Yates and his committee on a great result.

04/03/23 - I attended a Women's International Week event at Lakes Entrance Surf Life Saving Club along with the Mayor and Cr Kirsten Van Diggele. What an inspirational group of speakers, from two young girls currently involved in the clubs programs to two women who spoke of how their service to the club and the community brought opportunities long after their patrol days. The Morrison girls Ava and Tehya spoke of why they are involved in the Surf Life Saving Club and the things they enjoy and the opportunities this community involvement brings for them. Morgan Chester spoke of how her CV showing her commitment and achievements in Surf Lifesaving enabled her to secure her dream placement in her final year of university and, as a result of that opening doors to enable her to return as a professional to her home town. Danielle Ryan spoke of her experience in the lifesaving club and her international career as a Volley Baller and her decision to pursue a teaching career. Most movingly she spoke of her health challenges and how she has adapted to them. A truly inspiring event. Congratulations Julie on your initiative in organising this day.

10/03/23 - I attended an East Gippsland Marketing Inc business breakfast at The Bairnsdale Christian School that focused on what schools need to provide to make students work ready. This was another very well attended event and thanks to East Gippsland Marketing Incorporated and the school for hosting.

17/03/23 - The Mayor, Cr Jane Greacen and I attended a briefing with the Victorian Government Grants Commission. The Grants Commission allocate funding to Councils in two streams. General Purpose Grants and Local Roads Grants. The commissioners explained how the grants are allocated and gave a state wide picture of where the grants are allocated and how vital this funding is to remote Councils such as ours.

Cr Mark Reeves

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This last period has allowed us to present to the Senate Inquiry into bank closures in regional Australia. We were able to prosecute a strong position from the lived experience of our communities.

Key points in summary:

- bank closures have a disproportionate impact on people in regional areas because of distances between towns and services, and particularly for community groups, older people, people with a disability and marginalised people;
- on-line banking services using mobile, fixed or satellite connectivity is only as good as location, internet services offered, capacity to pay and digital literacy, and is contingent on good power supply that is often problematic in East Gippsland, which makes our communities particularly vulnerable to bank closures;
- our communities and businesses are exhausted from consecutive natural disasters and change and need some stability and certainty in their future;
- face to face services are possible, but require a commitment to social and community responsibility beyond values statements and rhetoric;
- if banks can't or won't provide a mechanism for cash circulation in regional communities, then the government needs to step in and provide a suitable alternative mechanism;

- we need innovation, collaboration and a willingness to do better to solve the issue of bank closures; and
- regional people matter. Regional people are important contributors to Australia and its wealth. East Gippsland provides a Gross Regional Product contribution to the economy of Australia in the order of \$2.66 billion every year. East Gippslanders should be afforded banking and other services to reflect their contribution to the State and Nations' economies.

We have arranged meetings with our federal and state local members to maintain a mutual awareness of both significant social issues (such as housing and homelessness) and our capital works programs.

This latter point is important as these levels of Government are often and usually co-funders of our bigger capital projects. It is worth noting that there are 200+ capital projects nearing completion, in or under way, or planned and being scoped at any given time at present. This reflects our significant capital works budget of \$60+ million.

The Deputy Mayor and I attended the Big Bloke BBQ lunch fundraiser event for Prostate cancer. There were 300 or so big (and various other sized) blokes there and the day raised some \$70,000. A congratulations and well done to all those blokes (and non-blokes) who made the day a great success.

As a contrast, in this period we also recognised International Women's day. Well done to the wonderful women at Lakes entrance Surf Lifesaving club for their roles in advocating for women and implementing some great actions.

Mt Taylor Fire Brigade celebrated 80 years of service to the community. This is one of the most vibrant brigades in the shire with more than 100 members. Captain Geoff Crane and the leadership team, all active and support members and families are to be congratulated on their amazing service to the community. They both respond to emergencies and glue the community together.

We welcomed the Youth Ambassadors back and acknowledge the new chair, Banjo. I look forward to this group being able to provide some great youth-focused insight into some of the current and emerging issues we as a council and community wish to address. It was a positive visit to Raymond Island to review the proposed location of a toilet block for the vitally important Koala walk.

The Local Government Grants Commission members, Chair and CEO attended our shire and shared a valuable and informative presentation on the issues and processes used to divided, distribute and allocate the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) across the state.

We do comparatively well, but this allocation of FAGS doesn't preclude our ongoing advocacy to the Federal Government through Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) for a 1% allocation of the FTR (Federal Tax Revenue) for Local Government.

Lastly, congratulations and good walking to Tony Pearce. At the new Bairnsdale Fire Station, we welcomed Victoria's Inspector General for Emergency Management Tony Pearce to East Gippsland. Tony committed to a solo ultra-distance walk from Melbourne to Mallacoota and back to Melbourne - the long way round - to raise awareness about the importance of mental health support for emergency workers.

As Victoria's Inspector General for Emergency Management and volunteer Chair of the Emergency Services Foundation, Tony has seen firsthand the toll that emergency services can have on mental health. He knows that the trauma that our emergency workers face can have lasting impacts on their lives and the lives of those around them. But Tony is not one to sit back and watch. He decided to act and embark on a 1440-kilometer journey, covering much of the area where the Black Summer bushfires occurred, to raise awareness about this important issue.

Tony's journey is a personal physical feat, taking one step at a time to achieve his goal. But it will also be a journey of hope and resilience. By walking through the areas affected by the bushfires, he will acknowledge the mental health impacts that these disasters have had on emergency workers and the community. And he will remind us all the importance of taking care of those who take care of us.

I am proud to be the Mayor of this region that has shown incredible resilience in the face of adversity. Our communities have come together time and time again to support each other and rebuild after disasters. Tony will be well supported by our communities across East Gippsland over the coming days.

5 Officer Reports

5.1 Chief Executive Officer

5.1.1 Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report July to December 2022

Authorised by Chief Executive Officer

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receive and note this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; and*
- 2. note the Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report July to December 2022 as provided at Attachment 1.*

Moved: Cr Arthur Allen

Seconded: Cr Mendy Urie

CARRIED

5.2 Assets and Environment

5.2.1 Petition - Objection to Proposed Toilet Block - Raymond Island Koala Trail and Experience

Authorised by General Manager Assets and Environment

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report; and*
- 2. notes that Officers will write to the head petitioner, notifying them that the plans for an additional public toilet on Raymond Island are still in concept design and will be subject to further design and consultation to determine the specifics of location and toilet type.*

Moved: Cr Jane Greacen OAM

Seconded: Cr Tom Crook

CARRIED

5.2.2 Standing Committee Submission on Road Network

Authorised by General Manager Assets and Environment

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report;*
- 2. endorses the submission to the Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport into the implications of severe weather events on the national regional, rural, and remote road network provided as Attachment 1; and*
- 3. provides a copy of the submission made to the Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport inquiry into the implications of severe weather events on the national regional, rural, and remote road network as outlined in Attachment 1 to the Member for Gippsland Darren Chester MP.*

Moved: Cr Arthur Allen

Seconded: Cr Sonia Buckley

CARRIED

5.2.3 CON2023 1541 Lucknow Recreation Reserve Gymnasium Access Road Construction

Authorised by General Manager Assets and Environment

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report;***
- 2. accepts the tender submitted by J.W Volk Pty Ltd for CON2023 1541 – Lucknow Recreation Reserve Gymnasium Access Road Construction for the contract amount of \$665,476.11 exclusive of GST;***
- 3. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to sign and seal the contract in the form presented; and***
- 4. resolves that confidential attachment to this report and all discussions relating to the attachment remain confidential.***

Moved: Cr Jane Greacen OAM

Seconded: Cr Tom Crook

CARRIED

5.2.4 CON2019 1284 Maintenance and Repair for Mobile Plant - contract extension

Authorised by General Manager Assets and Environment

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report;***
- 2. approves the contract extension to the existing contract CON2019 1284 Maintenance and Repair Services for Mobile Plant for the final contract period of twelve (12) months to 5 April 2024, for the tendered schedule of rates to MWT Holdings Pty Ltd trading as East Vic Trucks; and***
- 3. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to execute the signing and sealing of the contract extension in the form presented.***

Moved: Cr Trevor Stow

Seconded: Cr Kirsten Van Diggele

CARRIED

5.2.5 Electric Vehicle Fleet and Advocacy for Fuel Efficiency Standards

Authorised by General Manager Assets and Environment

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report and the attachment pertaining to this report;***
- 2. becomes signatory to the joint statement by the Cities Power Partnership (Climate Council) of which the Council is a member, calling for the Australian Government to introduce fuel efficiency standards for Australia as provided at Attachment 1; and***
- 3. authorises the Mayor to make a public statement on the joint advocacy statement calling for fuel efficiency standards by the Cities Power Partnership.***

Moved: Cr Tom Crook

Seconded: Cr Jane Greacen OAM

CARRIED

5.3 Business Excellence

5.3.1 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly 2023 – Notices of Motion

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Attendance

Cr Trevor Stow left the Council Chamber at 7:54 pm and returned at 7:56 pm.

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; and***
- 2. approves the submission of the five proposed motions, as provided at Attachment 1, to the Australian Local Government Association for consideration to be included in the agenda for the 2023 National General Assembly.***

Moved: Cr Kirsten Van Diggele

Seconded: Cr Tom Crook

CARRIED

5.4 Place and Community

5.4.1 Review and adoption of Development Plan Policy

Authorised by: General Manager Place and Community

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report;***
- 2. rescinds the existing Development Plan Policy adopted by Council on 9 May 2017;***
- 3. adopts the revised Development Plan Policy as provided at Attachment 1;***
- 4. notes the new Development Plan Procedure at Attachment 2; and***
- 5. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to amend the adopted Development Plan Policy without formal Council consideration, if the amendments required are of a minor administrative nature.***

Moved: Cr Jane Greacen OAM

Seconded: Cr Sonia Buckley

CARRIED

6 Urgent and Other Business

Nil

Motion

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

Moved: Cr Arthur Allen

Seconded: Cr Trevor Stow

CARRIED

The meeting was closed to the public at 8.13 pm.

Consideration of confidential matters under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

7 Confidential Business

7.1 CON2022 1453 WORLD Pavilion Construction Package 3

Under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* a meeting considering confidential information may be closed to the public. Pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the information contained in this report is confidential because it contains private commercial information, which if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

7.2 CON2023 1475 Newmerella Roadside Rest Area

Under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* a meeting considering confidential information may be closed to the public. Pursuant to sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the information contained in this report is confidential because it contains private commercial information, which if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

The meeting was re-opened to the public at 8.45 pm.

8 Close of Meeting

Cr Mark Reeves declared the Council Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.



Attachment 1

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

20th February, 2023

To: The Residents of East Gippsland

The King has asked me to thank you for your messages in the Book of Condolence which was sent following the death of His Majesty's beloved mother, Queen Elizabeth II.

The King was greatly touched by your kindness in expressing your sympathy and profound gratitude to The late Queen for her extraordinary life of service. His Majesty has asked me to send you his warmest thanks and very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. M. S.', written in a cursive style.

Correspondence Secretary