



Minutes

Council Meeting

Tuesday 14 November 2023 at 6:00 pm

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

Councillors

Tom Crook (Mayor), Jane Greacen OAM (Deputy Mayor),
Arthur Allen, Sonia Buckley (Online), Mark Reeves, Trevor Stow,
Mendy Urie, 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

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 17 October 2023 and the Statutory Meeting held Thursday 26 October 2023 be confirmed.

Moved: Cr Trevor Stow

Seconded: Cr Arthur Allen

CARRIED

1.5 Next Meeting

The next Council Meeting is scheduled be held on Tuesday 28 November 2023 at the Corporate Centre, 273 Main Street Bairnsdale commencing at 6.00 pm.

1.6 Requests for Leave of Absence

Nil

1.7 Open Forum

1.7.1 Petitions

Nil

1.7.2 Questions of Council

1.7.2.1 Lakes Entrance Carnival 2024

Mr Morris Borgelt asked the following question:

"It is rumoured that Council is not doing an expression of interest for the December 2024 Carnival. Instead, it is giving the present operation an extra year. Is this true?"

General Manager Place and Community provided a response which is summarised below:

Currently the arrangements for the Lakes Entrance Carnival beyond December 2024 are under consideration and as a result it is not appropriate to provide further information at this time.

1.7.3 Public Submissions

1.7.3.1 Declaring A Climate Emergency

Ms Nola Kelly addressed Council on declaring a climate emergency and spoke at item 1.7.3.1.

1.7.3.2 Climate Change Initiatives

Mr Tony Peck addressed Council on the notice of motion at item 2.1 Climate Change Initiatives and spoke at item 2.1.

1.7.3.3 Climate Change Initiatives

Ms Angela Crunden addressed Council on the notice of motion at item 2.1 Climate Change Initiatives and spoke at item 2.1.

1.7.3.4 Climate Change Initiatives

Ms Robyn Hermans addressed Council on the notice of motion at item 2.1 Climate Change Initiatives and spoke at item 2.1.

1.7.3.5 Climate Change Initiatives

Ms Rosemary Gooch addressed Council on the notice of motion at item 2.1 Climate Change Initiatives and spoke at item 2.1.

1.7.3.6 Climate Change Pledge

Ms Robyn Hermans addressed Council on the notice of motion at item 5.1 Climate Change Pledge and spoke at item 5.1.

1.8 Items for Noting

Nil

2 Notices of Motion

Public Submissions

Mr Tony Peck
Ms Angela Crunden
Ms Robyn Hermans
Ms Rosemary Gooch

2.1 Climate Change Initiatives

Motion

That:

- 1. officers provide a report to a future Council meeting regarding the benefits and costs of establishing a climate change advisory body to Council that would be responsible for, but not limited to:**
 - a. supporting the delivery of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-2032 and Action Plan 2022-2026;**
 - b. working with other East Gippsland agencies on climate adaptation and mitigation and reporting measures;**
 - c. hosting a public climate change forum; and**
 - d. developing a communication strategy to discuss Climate change issues in our communities.**
- 2. when implementing current and considering future strategies and actions to manage climate change impacts on our Shire, officers would be informed by relevant publicly available, up-to-date scientific information, the links to which would be available via Council's website.**

Moved: Cr Mendy Urie

Seconded: Cr Jane Greacen OAM

CARRIED

Procedural Note

Cr Mark Reeves called for a division.

For: Cr Tom Crook, Cr Jane Greacen OAM, Cr Mark Reeves, Cr Mendy Urie and
Cr Kirsten Van Diggele

Against: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Trevor Stow and Cr John White

3 Deferred Business

Nil

4 Councillor and Delegate Reports

Cr Arthur Allen

On 21 October 2023, the annual berth holders meetings were held at Metung and Paynesville. Both meetings were well attended with good input from those in attendance. Thank you to Officers for their presentations and for fielding questions. Also a big thankyou to the Marina Committee for their commitment and input throughout the year.

On 3 November 2023, I attended the Rail Freight Alliance Committee meeting via zoom. As usual this meeting was packed with information on a number of projects across the State, New South Wales and into Queensland. The guest speaker was Paul O'Conner of VAGO who gave an insight to VAGO's findings into the Murray Basin enquiry.

I would like to record my congratulations to both Cr Crook (Mayor) and Cr Greacen OAM (Deputy) on their recent election and wish them all the best for the year ahead.

I would also congratulate Cr Reeves on his two year term as Mayor, Mark, yours has been a great contribution to the Council and has been very much appreciated. In particular, I would like to record my thanks to Mark for his support and guidance to me as his Deputy. Thank you, Mark.

Cr Jane Greacen OAM

22/10/23 - I attended the Crashendo! Concert at St Mary's Church. Absolutely wonderful music. A thoroughly enjoyable concert followed by afternoon tea.

25/10/23 - Reconciliation Action Plan - Reconciliation after the Referendum. This webinar offered the opportunity to hear the Reconciliation Australia Chief Executive Officer speak about the impact of the No vote, and the need to remain positive and constructive, and work even harder to achieve the changes that are necessary.

25/10/23 - East Gippsland Art Gallery - Annual General Meeting. As usual, it was well attended, and the Annual Report was an excellent summary of the year's events and shows.

26/10/23 - Statutory Meeting.

30/10/23 - Council In Community – Paynesville and Eagle Point. An excellent day. Really impressed with what we saw. The Eagle Point Hub will be a beautiful and very useful asset for the area.

31/10/23 - I visited the Riviera Christian Centre with Cr Kirsten Van Diggele and Cr Trevor Stow. The meeting was instigated by Kirsten. Impressed with their commitment to support the community, in particular the underserved population. They bought 30 acres in farm zone land, and want to build 150 houses, half of which would be social and affordable housing. Manager Planning advised them on what their approach needs to be to get State Government to agree to rezone of this property.

31/10/23 - Gippsland Primary Health Network had a meeting on Supporting Health in Gippsland Communities through past, present and future disasters. Two speakers presenting interesting evidence.

1/11/23 - Councillor Development hour with consultants, Julie and Jonny from Julie A Reid & Associates.

11/11/23 - I attended the Bairnsdale Show and watched Cr Trevor Stow put his dog Elle through her paces. A lovely exercise with a very happy dog.

13/11/23 - Meet and Greet new Audie and Risk Committee member, Susan Lloyd.

Cr Kirsten Van Diggele

Crashendo! 10th Anniversary

I was really happy to attend the Crashendo! 10th Anniversary event at the St Mary's Church in Bairnsdale on 22 October 2023. The event brought together Vivian Horn, Melbourne Strings and Friends, and Crashendo musicians to bring us a wonderful performance. I have always been a really big fan of Crashendo and the amazing opportunity they provide for local string musicians to learn, connect, and perform for a wide range of audiences. It makes me really wish I learnt to play the violin when I was younger!

Disability Advisory Committee

The Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) met on 23 October 2023 via Teams and at the Bairnsdale Library. There were a range of items on the agenda, including guest speaker Jess Moller from Gippsland Lakes Community Health (GLCH) who discussed an upcoming project concept for assistive technology at the Bairnsdale Library. Lou-Anne Mooney, the new Council's Partnerships Facilitator talked to the group about the Well Placed for Wellbeing Plan and sought feedback from the group about what sections they would be interested in working with Council to support in delivering. At the meeting, we were also joined by a community member who shared her concerns about the Marveloo changing place in Lakes Entrance, after the Marveloo changing place was temporarily moved to go to the Grand Prix. The community member was concerned about the fact that there was no notice or advertising that it was going to be unavailable for a period of time. DAC want to write to Councillors about their recommendations for Marveloo moving forward, including leaving it in place until the official Changing Places has been constructed in Lakes Entrance.

Councillor Road Trip

Alongside the other Councillors, I attended (half) the day at the road trip throughout Eagle Point and Paynesville.

Youth Art Prize

I was stoked to be attending the Youth Art Prize event again this year, given it gives young people a chance to showcase their amazing work and talent. The artwork presented this year was incredible and extremely diverse. At the last moment, I was asked to present the prizes to the winners alongside Cr Trevor Stow. Opportunities like this are rare and I am grateful that Council runs this event every year to give young people a chance to show off their skills and hard work.

Youth Ambassadors

The Youth Ambassadors are starting to wrap up for the year. This was the second last meeting for the year, which involved seeking feedback from Councillors from their homelessness presentation, planning their start-up camp, planning a beach day in Lakes Entrance over the summer, and promotion for the Youth Ambassador recruitment.

Bairnsdale Show

I attended the Bairnsdale Show on 11 November 2023 and was asked by Julie Webb to be a judge for the baby competition. I did this alongside Cr Trevor Stow and his wife Shirley. We were lucky that there weren't many entries, with baby boy who won by default and three baby girls who each received a sash (1st, 2nd, 3rd). I stayed at the event for five hours and enjoyed the sunshine, live music and was surprisingly excited by the wood chopping competitions!

Cr Mendy Urie

An important annual event to recognise, celebrate and thank our staff and many of their exceptional achievements was held on 18 October 2023. I was able to attend briefly, along with the Mayor and enjoyed the fun and collegiate festivities.

On the same day, I also attended the Youth Ambassador's meeting, as an observer. Lots of items to discuss for this active and engaged group and I was interested to hear about their many projects and plans.

23 October 2023 - I attended as a Councillor representative the Disability Advisory Committee meeting. As well as a busy list of agenda items, we heard some important feedback about the Marveloo being temporarily moved from its position at the Lakes Entrance footbridge. There was good discussion about how Council can better communicate with people who need to know when this facility is not available for use for whatever reason.

Councillors and Officers had the opportunity to make a facilitated visit to Aeris Stockman mine, Benambra on 25 October 2023. It was interesting to receive updated information and to experience on-site the distances and geography of the proposed mine.

Also on 25 October 2023, I attended the East Gippsland Art Gallery's (EGAG) annual general meeting. The Board, volunteers and staff of this organisation achieve such wonderful outcomes from their hard work and dedication to their task, they are to be sincerely congratulated. The Annual Report is recommended reading as a record of their very busy year and their rich contribution to our East Gippsland community. Congratulations and best wishes to the newly appointed Board.

I was pleased to attend a Councillor development session on 8 November 2023 with a good number of my colleagues. This was an important opportunity to focus on our skill-development around communication and decision-making and renew our determination to apply ourselves diligently for the final year of our Councillor term.

11 November 2023 was the Annual Bairnsdale Agricultural Show, which I attended to judge the Ag Art and the single stem rose competitions. Bruthen Primary school were major (but not the only) participants in the Ag Art and there were some wonderfully innovative costumes made of recycled materials and with the theme of 'Remembrance Day', so lots of poppies. Great to see all the fantastic show activities and people having such fun. Huge congratulations to the show organisers for their hard work.

5 Officer Reports

5.1 Assets and Environment

5.1.1 Climate Change Pledge

Authorised by General Manager Assets and Environment

Attendance

Cr Kirsten Van Diggele left the Chamber at 6.50 pm and returned at 6.54 pm.

Public Submission

Ms Robyn Hermans

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report;*
- 2. endorses a voluntary Council pledge under Victoria's Climate Change Act 2017 by writing to the Minister for Climate Action, the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, and submitting the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-2032; and*
- 3. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to submit and sign the pledge and letter.*

Moved: Cr Mark Reeves

Seconded: Cr Jane Greacen OAM

CARRIED

Procedural Note

Cr Sonia Buckley called for a division.

For: Cr Tom Crook, Cr Jane Greacen OAM, Cr Mark Reeves, Cr Mendy Urie and
Cr Kirsten Van Diggele

Against: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Trevor Stow and Cr John White

5.1.2 Capital Works and Major Projects - Quarter One 2023/24

Authorised by General Manager Assets and Environment

Motion

That Council receives and notes the Capital Works and Major Projects (Landfill Rehabilitation Projects) Report 2023-24 for Quarter One period ended 30 September 2023 and all attachments pertaining to this report.

Moved: Cr Mendy Urie

Seconded: Cr Jane Greacen OAM

CARRIED

5.1.3 CON2024 1617 Replacement of Air Handling Unit - Lakes Aquatic Centre Plant Installation Works

Authorised by General Manager Assets and Environment

Confidentiality Notice

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 **Confidential Attachment 1** to this report is confidential because it contains private commercial information, which if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage by disclosing financial information to competitors.

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report;***
- 2. accepts the tender submitted by JPC Air Conditioning Pty Ltd trading as ASM Chilltech for CON2024 1617 Replacement of Air Handling Unit - Lakes Aquatic Centre Plant install Works for the contract amount of \$1,059,185.00 exclusive of GST;***
- 3. authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to finalise the terms and to sign the contract in the form proposed; and***
- 4. resolves that Attachment 1 to this report and all discussions relating to that attachment remain confidential.***

Moved: Cr Arthur Allen

Seconded: Cr Kirsten Van Diggele

CARRIED

5.2 Business Excellence

5.2.1 Council Meeting Resolution Register

Authorised by Acting General Manager Business Excellence

Motion

That Council receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report.

Moved: Cr Mark Reeves

Seconded: Cr Mendy Urie

CARRIED

5.2.2 Finance Report Period Ended 30 September 2023

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; and***
- 2. adopts the Finance Report for the three-month period ended 30 September 2023, as outlined in Attachments 1 to 7.***

Moved: Cr Arthur Allen

Seconded: Cr Trevor Stow

CARRIED

5.3 Place and Community

5.3.1 Planning Delegations Policy 2022 - 12 Month Review

Authorised by General Manager Place and Community

Attendance

Cr Trevor Stow left the Council Chamber at 7:52 pm and returned at 7.54 pm.

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report;***
- 2. adopts the updated Planning Delegations Policy as provided at Attachment 1;***
- 3. notes the operation of the Planning Delegations Policy will be reviewed after two years, with the review reported to Council; and***
- 4. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to amend the adopted Planning Delegations Policy without formal Council consideration, if the amendments required are of a minor administrative nature.***

Moved: Cr Mark Reeves

Seconded: Cr Mendy Urie

CARRIED

Procedural Note

Cr Sonia Buckley called for a division.

For: Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Tom Crook, Cr Jane Greacen OAM, Cr Mark Reeves,
Cr Trevor Stow, Cr Mendy Urie and Cr Kirsten Van Diggele

Against: Cr Sonia Buckley and Cr John White

5.3.2 East Gippsland Winter Festival Sponsorship Proposal

Authorised by General Manager Place and Community

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report;***
- 2. approves event sponsorship for the East Gippsland Winter Festival – East Gippsland Festivals Ltd of \$50,000 per year for 3 years 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26; and***
- 3. draws \$30,000 per year for 3 years to contribute to the event sponsorship of the East Gippsland Winter Festival, set out in recommendation 2, from the Economic Development Discretionary Fund.***

Moved: Cr Sonia Buckley

Seconded: Cr Kirsten Van Diggele

CARRIED

6 Urgent Business

Nil

7 Confidential Business

Nil

8 Close of Meeting

Mayor Cr Tom Crook closed the meeting at 8.15 pm.