



Minutes

Council Meeting

Tuesday 2 May 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,
and Mendy Urie

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.

Index

1 Procedural	5
1.1 Recognition of Traditional Custodians	5
1.2 Apologies	5
1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest	5
1.4 Confirmation of Minutes	5
1.5 Next Meeting	5
1.6 Requests for Leave of Absence	5
1.7 Open Forum	6
1.7.1 Petitions	6
1.7.1.1 Cease Construction of Fence, Raymond Island	6
1.7.2 Questions of Council	7
1.7.3 Public Submissions	7
1.8 Items for noting	7
2 Notices of Motion	7
3 Deferred Business	7
4 Councillor and Delegate Reports	8
5 Officer Reports	16
5.1 Assets and Environment	16
5.1.1 Petition - Construct Stairs at Christmas Street Reserve Metung	16
5.1.2 Capital Works and Major Projects - Quarter Three 2022-23	16
5.1.3 CON2023 1549 Community Facilities Emergency Power Project	17
5.1.4 CON2023 1499 Shaving Point Boat Ramp Reconstruction, Metung	18
5.2 Business Excellence	20
5.2.1 Advertise Draft Council Budget 2023/24	20
5.2.2 Advertise Draft 10 Year Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2032/33 and Draft Four-Year Revenue and Rating Plan 2023/24 to 2026/27	24
5.2.3 Finance Report Period Ended 31 March 2023	24
5.2.4 Council Meeting Resolution Register	25

5.3 Place and Community	27
5.3.1 Planning Application 30/2023/P - 51 Boyd Court Eagle Point- Three Lot Subdivision	27
6 Urgent Business	28
7 Confidential Business	28
8 Close of Meeting	28

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

Cr Kirsten Van Diggele
Cr John White

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Fiona Weigall General Manager Assets and Environment declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 5.3.1 *Planning Application 30/2023/P - 51 Boyd Court Eagle Point- Three Lot Subdivision*, as a general interest due to owning property in close proximity of the proposed subdivision.

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Motion

That the minutes of the Council meeting held Tuesday 11 April 2023 be confirmed with the following administrative amendment to the resolution for Item 5.2.6 CON2023 1539 Supply and Delivery of Granular Pavement Materials:

That resolution 3(g) be amended from:

***Gippsland Steel Supplies ATF the Bairnsdale Quarries Trust
to:***

Bairnsdale Quarries Pty Ltd ATF the Bairnsdale Quarries Trust

Moved: Cr Trevor Stow

Seconded: Cr Tom Crook

CARRIED

1.5 Next Meeting

The next Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 23 May 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

At this point in proceedings, Cr Mark Reeves Mayor acknowledged Miss Harper Watts, Miss Charlotte Fincher and Ms Margereth Villa who observed the meeting from the public gallery as part of their Rotary Junior Community Awards program. To acknowledge their participation in this community program, the Mayor presented each participant with a Council pin.

1.7.1 Petitions

1.7.1.1 Cease Construction of Fence, Raymond Island

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Public Submission

Mr Ryan Brown

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report;***
- 2. receives the petition lodged by Mr Ryan Brown requesting "We the undersigned, hereby petition East Gippsland Shire Council, East Gippsland Shire Council has approved or are in the process of approving the construction of a fence along Fourth Avenue, Raymond Island. There has been no consultation with residents directly affected by this construction. We request, all construction and decision making stopped until the East Gippsland Shire Council engages residents in a meaningful, respectful and transparent way";***
- 3. notes that a report on this matter will be provided at a future Council meeting; and***
- 4. notes that the Chief Executive Officer will arrange for Council Officers to write to the head petitioner advising them of these actions.***

Moved: Cr Arthur Allen

Seconded: Cr Trevor Stow

CARRIED

Attendance

Cr Sonia Buckley left the meeting at 6:15 pm.

1.7.2 Questions of Council

Nil

1.7.3 Public Submissions

1.7.3.1 Cease Construction of Fence, Raymond Island

Mr Ryan Brown spoke on the petition in relation to the construction of a fence at Raymond Island and was heard at item 1.7.1.1.

1.8 Items for noting

Nil

2 Notices of Motion

Nil

3 Deferred Business

Nil

4 Councillor and Delegate Reports

4.1 Cr Arthur Allen

Cr Arthur Allen spoke to his written report at page 9.

4.2 Cr Trevor Stow

Cr Trevor Stow provided a verbal update.

4.3 Cr Tom Crook

Cr Tom Crook spoke to his written report at page 9.

Attendance

Cr Sonia Buckley returned to the meeting at 6:22 pm.

4.4 Cr Sonia Buckley

Cr Sonia Buckley spoke to her written report at page 9.

4.5 Cr Jane Greacen OAM

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

4.6 Cr Mendy Urie

Cr Mendy Urie spoke to her written report at page 11.

4.7 Cr Mark Reeves

Cr Mark Reeves spoke to his written report at page 12.

Councillor Reports

Cr Arthur Allen

ANZAC day in Lakes Entrance was extremely well supported at both the dawn service and the 11:00 am service. Upward of 250 to 300 people attended the dawn service, a lone piper playing a lament adding poignancy to the occasion. The 11:00 am service saw nearly double that number in attendance to witness a very moving ceremony. Congratulations to the Lakes Entrance RSL for their organisation of both events, both fitting tributes, not only to the fallen, but to all who have served.

On the subject of service, I had the pleasure of meeting Jenny DeFratis of Lakes Entrance Land Care, hard at work cleaning up litter on Bullock Island. Good on you Jenny and your group ensuring our surrounds are kept clean and tidy. The same day I came across long time litter remover Terry Ryan back on the job demonstrating a new level of commitment. Cleaning up around the footbridge with the aid of a walking frame! Legend Terry!

Cr Tom Crook

At the end of March, I attended the Australian Coastal Councils Conference.

For context: More than \$226 billion of private and public assets are projected to be exposed to coastal hazards by 2100.

The Insurance Council of Australia's Actions of the Sea and Future Risks report estimated that \$30 billion in investment is required for large-scale coastal protection and adaptation projects in Australia to address this risk.

The 'Coastal zone' in East Gippsland is an important area for council planning and future activity, as most of our population either lives near or uses coastal areas.

The program for the conference, including links to most of the presentations and some not covered here can be found on the [Coastal Councils website](#).

Cr Sonia Buckley

I attended the ANZAC Ceremony at the Omeo Township, the local children marched with returned service men lead by bagpipes beautifully played all the way down the Main Street of Omeo. The speeches were heartfelt and a good turn out by locals.

I attended the Bairnsdale Field Days and met with many stall holders and community. Many issues were raised.

I attended the Omeo Street Scape community consultation day. Many good ideas were pitched, and the presentation was relaxed professional and inviting. Feedback was collected and further discussion and communication with community is desirable.

Cr Jane Greacen OAM

12 April 2023 - I attended one of the Federation University, Latrobe Valley Authority and Regional Development Victoria collaborative breakfasts online. This one was “Shifting the Dial on Health”, and it featured Dr Sandro De Mayo who is the CEO of VicHealth. He talked about the programs that VicHealth is delivering. He is an inspirational speaker, and VicHealth are clearly a significant force in this space. They have 85 staff, and they are able to speak frankly and openly to the media, which gives them a lot of persuasive power.

Dr De Mayo talked about food insecurity, and postcodes being one of the strongest determinants of life expectancy in Victoria, Australia and the world. Dr De Mayo stated that megatrends are emerging, that have been driven significantly by Covid pandemic:

1. Increased social isolation;
2. The need to address discrimination and racism;
3. Increasing food insecurity – 50% are long term/chronic; and
4. Totally collapsed participation of youth in sport.

Youth identified food security as the area they wanted addressed. This overlaid with poverty, Aboriginality and culturally diverse communities. The increasing move towards ultra-processed foods.

There are 38 Councils engaged in a partnership to change this.

The growth corridors in Melbourne and Regional Victoria are exposed to increased marketing of ultra-processed foods. I look at Main Street in Bairnsdale where we drive by fast food outlet after fast food outlet, and I worry about what this is doing to the community.

VicHealth is working on seven ‘Move the Dial’ investments – youth led programs.

Dr De Mayo said that libraries are an important resource for these programs. They are safe places for people to be, particularly for people with mental health problems, people exposed to racism. Places for people to connect, do homework, collaborate. Dr De Mayo talked about attempts to stop sugary drinks and the huge reactions by the companies – at vending machines.

13 April 23 - I attended the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Forest Management Planning “Closing the Loop” meeting online. This was basically feeding back the compilation of ideas and thoughts that came out of the two days of consultation in January. There is a lot of information there, and it will be very interesting to see what comes out of it later this year.

20 April 23 - I was very pleased to attend the first of Council's Economic Development Advisory Committee meetings and meet the new committee members. It was an introductory meeting, so no outcomes to report. It was an upbeat, enthusiastic and constructive group of people representing the spectrum of interests in East Gippsland. They were impressed by the diversity of representation. I feel optimistic about the value of the input to Council direction in the next two years.

25 April 2023 - ANZAC Day. I attended the Paynesville 10:00 am ceremony. There must have been 400 – 500 people there. The whole event was beautiful and emotive, and properly acknowledged the men and women of WW1, as well as those who were engaged in subsequent wars.

28 April 2023 - Family Violence Prevention Gathering run by Dhelk Dja and Yoowinna Wurnalung.

This was a follow up from last year's event, again facilitated by Uncle Shane Charles. The importance of trauma informed practice training for health workers is a priority, and the multiple complex and continuous impacts of colonisation that has led to family violence becoming something that happens too often in Aboriginal families, where it never before was a part of the culture.

The Foundry in the lane off the Bairnsdale Mall had an exhibition of Otto Macpherson's work that he completed during his two weeks residency on FLOAT. That was a lovely launch with food and wine available in the lane.

The Bairnsdale & District Arts Society 'Autumn Art Show' was also on that evening. Lots of people, lots of art works, and some really lovely paintings.

29 April 2023 - East Gippsland Winter Festival Fundraising Soiree was the official launch of the Winter Festival. It was held at Rivendell which is a farm with a grand homestead that has been turned into an events venue with owners Matt O'Donnell (Albert & Co) and John Marshall. It was a brilliant event, and Adam Bloem is clearly an experienced auctioneer.

There were over 20 items donated by businesses and individuals to be auctioned, to raise funds for the festival, which this year will be a full month from 9 June to 9 July 2023. \$14,503 was raised on the night. The festival promises to be even bigger and better than previous years.

Cr Mendy Urie

12 April 2023 - Innovation breakfast meeting (online) hosted by Federation University, Latrobe Valley Authority (LVA) and Regional Development Victoria (RDV), "Shifting the Dial on Health".

An excellent presentation by Sandro Demaio, CEO of VicHealth (an organisation focused on health information and preventative health, and which led the way to change our habituation to tobacco usage.) The address was focused on the social determinates of health, and the systems which help entrench disadvantage particularly noting the relationship between our postcodes and health outcomes, also the increasing trends of social disconnection and racism, food insecurity and the collapse of participation rates of young people (and particularly women and girls) in sport. VicHealth works closely with approximately 38 local Councils in growth corridors and in regional Victoria and has a particular interest in youth-led community healthy food hubs. A panel of stakeholders later spoke about the importance of collaboration through community shared spaces which provide welcoming, trusted safe and neutral places especially for culturally diverse young people, links between mental health and social media and youth food sharing spaces to counter the fast-food / sugar /fat /alcohol headwinds.

20 April 2023: I attended the launch of the new regional migration business at The Grain Store, Bairnsdale. This is a new branch of a business already operating in the Latrobe Valley and will offer a variety of services including some employment services.

25 April 2023: I was privileged to attend, speak and lay a wreath on behalf of Council at the Dawn ANZAC Service at Buchan South. It was a beautifully organised and moving event which included participation from two of the local primary students and a strong local focus. A gunfire breakfast was offered to the 50+ participants at the entrance to the really lovely avenue of honor. I thank the organisers for the opportunity to participate and to represent our Council on this important day.

28 April 2023: I, along with the Mayor Cr Mark Reeves and Cr Greacen (and our Federal Member, Darren Chester), attended the delightful opening of the Bairnsdale and District Art Society annual exhibition. This busy exhibition featured many of their active artists who have been meeting regularly now for 43 years. There were some newer artists showing their work as well as some excellent and extremely professional work on display. It was a pleasure to chat to some of the members and congratulate them on their work.

29 April 2023: I participated in a wonderful 'Demonstration Day Tour' of our glorious Errinundra to Snowy country, highlighting the multitude of fabulous opportunities for touring, walking, riding and visiting through current and (hopefully future) eco-tourism ventures. This was organised (I think in part) by Eleni McIlroy ('Warm Corners' Consulting), funded by Bushfire Recovery Victoria and supported by Council (including some very helpful Officers). It was a fun day to share with 30-or-so people on busses from Orbost and at least the same number in private vehicles who participated in a variety of activities. I enjoyed a visit to Jarrod Ruch's Hope Seed regenerative farm in Goongerah, lunch (beautifully catered for by new operators of the Bendoc Hotel) and a 3.5 hour walk in the priceless and increasingly rare, never-been-logged, old growth forest, which is to be awed by some massive shining gums. The walk was ably led by members of Parks Victoria and volunteers of Friends of Errinundra. We are so fortunate to have this country in East Gippsland and it was such fun to spend the day with some of the people who appreciate and care for it and are so willing to share their extensive knowledge about what thrives there. That which we love and value, we will fight hard to protect, and this day served just this purpose. (Apologies for any omissions in reporting on the funding and organising this wonderful event).

Looking forward to: Sunrise Rotary's Electric Vehicle exhibition on 20 May 2023 at the St Mary's Parish Centre carpark and the East Gippsland Winter Festival from 9 June 2023 - 9 July 2023. A Fabulous program and bookings can be made online at <https://egwinterfest.com.au/>.

Cr Mark Reeves

The Council Budget is a main topic of our work at present and the Officers are commended for the work in taking on board and exploring the various combinations and permutations of rates, differentiation, and charges that Councillors have investigated.

Council's Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee, sub-committee looking at rates met and is a valuable conduit to provide feedback to the Councillors.

We continue to work with Department of Transport and Local Government Ministers to complete road infrastructure in Lakes Entrance along what is known as the Princes Highway East upgrades.

ANZAC Day at Orbost: 250+ at dawn and maybe more at 11:00 am. This event never ceases to impress, and I thank the RSL subbranch at Orbost and their dedicated and solemn care and ceremony. I was able to lay a wreath on behalf of council, which was one of maybe 40 wreaths. I acknowledge the federal member The Hon. Darren Chester MP for being at the 11:00 am ceremony and speaking so well about the local contribution to war efforts especially the RAAF who served in East Gippsland.

Key points in summary

The last weeks since the previous meeting saw meetings with One Gippsland as a highlight. One Gippsland continue to provide the peak LGA and industry voice to state and federal politicians, advocating for the region. One Gippsland continues to consider the impact of the LVA Latrobe Valley and Gippsland Transition Plan and its intention as a Latrobe or wider representation for the region. Work continues to “onboard” industry partners such as TAFE Gippsland to ensure that this education provider has a voice and place at this table.

We are pleased to be able to introduce the new Economic Development Advisory Committee and the first meeting of it was excellent. This is a diverse and engaged group of people who we have high expectations of. We congratulate and thank them in anticipation for the contribution we know they will make.

The Gippsland Regional Municipal Association of Victoria Mayoral group met after the last One Gippsland Meeting. There is good consensus in this group moving forward ahead of the MAV State Council on 19 May 2023.

We congratulate the Lindenow Lions for again hosting a successful Field Days Event at the Bairnsdale Aerodrome. An iconic event on the East Gippsland calendar proudly run by the Lindenow Lions Club since its inception in 1986. Among the highlights were the very engaging Grown Caught Made trail both days, the return of flu shots, library activities, waste mascot, and the compost workshops and community laws puppets on Saturday, and of course the prizes we had on offer both days!

The overall vibe at our site was great and most customers took the opportunity to engage, ask questions or collect information. Great weather added to the positive atmosphere. We were able to open up our marquee to make to entice people in and through our site.

Some statistics:

- Visitors to our site: 750 approximately (300 Friday and 450 Saturday);
- Flu shots: 90 (40 Friday and 50 Saturday);
- Grown Caught Made farm trail: 150 entries. Many families/siblings chose to complete the trail and questionnaire together, so the engagement number is much higher;
- My Council My Community newsletter new subscriptions: 34;
- Free swim passes handed out: 300 approximately;
- Customer Forms: 20. Nature of the forms was Nicholson Street Mall Bairnsdale, access to (new) Kmart, junk on nature strips, drainage and roads issues, general feedback on great work of Council (no specific information), long grass on private property, general waste enquires and incorrect garbage charge, nature strip trees, subdivision, burning off complaint, dog attack on a pony, Lakes Entrance foreshore development; and
- Thanks to all staff who attended across the two days (and to set up on Thursday), representing many teams across the organisation, and to Councillors for their attendance.

A special acknowledgement to the Children with Additional Needs working Group in developing and implementing, with funding support from the Gippsland Community Foundation and input from Shire Officers. This group has developed Sensory Kit, used to help special needs children cope with emotions, stress and restlessness in an emergency, at each of East Gippsland's Emergency Relief Centers. Each kit contains fidget tools and other resources that have been tested and shown to be effective in providing a calming effect for people with autism spectrum disorders and other special needs.

As a part of the funding agreement, Social Stories, tailored scripts that can be read in calm manner to reduce anxiety in children, have also been developed for each Relief Centre.

Social Stories provide clear, scripted information about the social situation a child might encounter in an emergency, and outline why they happen and what typical responses might be, to help reduce anxiety in children who live with autism spectrum disorder, a language disorder, social-communication difficulties or a cognitive delay.

A big congratulations to the Bairnsdale and district Arts Society on their Autumn Art Show.

For forty-three years, the Society has been at the forefront of promoting art and providing support and education to many local artists, and it has won respect and admiration for its outstanding contribution to the arts community. The Society is the largest community art organisation in East Gippsland, with around 160 local artist members and a committed volunteer committee that dedicates itself to promoting and supporting local artists.

Lastly, a big shout out to the organisers of the Go Deep In The Wild event.

The intention of this one-day tour was to connect one to the unique people, places and experiences between Goongerah and Bendoc in the wild East.

This day-tour was a 'build your own adventure', showcasing the developing nature-based tourism experiences in the Errinundra to Snowy district of East Gippsland, Victoria.

We chose from a range of morning and afternoon activities to shape a day that suits your physical capacity and interests. Everyone shares a community lunch at Bendoc Hall, where you will join conversations with locals to help them shape their nature-based tourism priorities and next steps. The keystone of this day was to experience and celebrate the recently upgraded facilities at the Old Growth Walk, Goongerah Hall and Bendoc Hall funded by Emergency Recovery Victoria. All ticket prices go directly to your guides on the day - passionate locals bursting to share their knowledge and skills with you!

The event was also generously supported by East Gippsland Community Foundation and East Gippsland Variety Tours as a nature-based tourism demonstration day. The shire provided significant in-kind support with staff in attendance.

Morning activities (Goongerah):

- Regenerative Agriculture farm tour;
- Wildlife Education Experience;
- Nature Mono Prints Workshop (All-abilities); and
- Kanukadale Care Farm tour.

Afternoon activities (Bendoc and Gap Road) - choose one of:

- Guided 3-hour Old Growth Walk for the intrepid;
- Cycle/part-Old Growth Walk combo for those that love the wind in their hair;
- Bendoc Town free-time - Peruse the local community mini-market, visit the pub, learn about the history of the town at your own pace (all-abilities);
- The East Gippsland Variety Tours bus picked up (and returned) from Orbost and Goongerah. A self-drive option was also available; and
- Residents of the Errinundra to Snowy district were eligible for a 50% discount - the discount code is available through your neighbourhood house and will be sent in the mail.

Event co-hosts: Friends of Errinundra in collaboration with Bendoc and Goongerah hall committees, with support of the Errinundra to Snowy Community Recovery Committee. Well done to all!

5 Officer Reports

5.1 Assets and Environment

5.1.1 Petition - Construct Stairs at Christmas Street Reserve Metung

Authorised by General Manager Assets and Environment

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; and*
- 2. notes that the Chief Executive Officer will request that Officers write to the head petitioner advising them that the project will be considered when allocating resources for planning of capital works projects. This correspondence will include information on the range of factors considered when planning such a project.*

Moved: Cr Mendy Urie

Seconded: Cr Jane Greacen OAM

CARRIED

5.1.2

Capital Works and Major Projects - Quarter Three 2022-23

Authorised by General Manager Assets and Environment

Motion

That Council receives and notes the Capital Works and Major Projects Report 2022-23 for Quarter Three period ended 31 March 2023 and all attachments pertaining to this report.

Moved: Cr Arthur Allen

Seconded: Cr Tom Crook

CARRIED

5.1.3 CON2023 1549 Community Facilities Emergency Power Project

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 Riviera Pumps & Generators ATF The Milawa Lodge Unit Trust for CON2023 1549 - Community Facilities Emergency Power Project for the contract amount of \$442,429.00 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 1 and all discussions regarding this attachment remain confidential under sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the Local Government Act 2020, the information contained in this attachment is confidential because it contains private commercial information, which if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.***

Moved: Cr Tom Crook

Seconded: Cr Sonia Buckley

CARRIED

5.1.4 CON2023 1499 Shaving Point Boat Ramp Reconstruction, Metung

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 Carter Marine Group Pty Ltd for CON2023 1499 Shaving Point Boat Ramp Reconstruction, Metung for the contract amount of \$809,332.14 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 1 and all discussions regarding this attachment remain confidential under sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the Local Government Act 2020, the information contained in this attachment is confidential because it contains private commercial information, which if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.***

Moved: Cr Tom Crook

Seconded: Cr Trevor Stow

CARRIED

5.2 Business Excellence

5.2.1 Advertise Draft Council Budget 2023/24

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Motion

That Council:

1. *receives and notes this report and the attachment pertaining to this report;*
2. *advertises its draft 2023/24 Budget as provided at Attachment 1 (including the schedule of fees and charges) in accordance with section 96 of the Local Government Act 2020;*
3. *seeks community feedback on the draft 2023/24 Budget until 12 noon on Wednesday 31 May 2023;*
4. *notes the following declarations are proposed for formal adoption at the Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 27 June 2023 at 6.00 pm:*
 - (a) *An amount of \$68,440,728 be declared as the amount that Council intends to raise by general rates, municipal charge and waste collection charges, which is calculated as follows:*

CATEGORY	INCOME
General Rate	\$38,024,847
Commercial/Industrial	\$ 5,552,861
Farm Rate	\$ 5,849,021
TOTAL RATES	<u>\$49,426,729</u>
 Municipal Charge	 \$ 7,830,221
Waste Levy	\$ 1,627,971
 Waste Charges	
Kerbside Waste/recycling collection (120 litre bin)	\$ 1,297,970
Kerbside Waste/recycling/green waste collection (120 litre bin)	\$ 8,114,304
Additional household waste bin	\$ 33,796
Additional Green/Recycling waste bin	\$ 1,602
Rural Waste Collection Charge	\$ 108,135
Total Waste Charges	\$ 9,555,807
 TOTAL CHARGES	 <u>\$19,013,999</u>
 TOTAL RATES AND CHARGES	 <u>\$68,440,728</u>

(b) **The general rate be declared for the period commencing 1 July 2023 and concluding on 30 June 2024:**

i) **It be further declared that subject to paragraph (iii) of this Part, the general rates be raised through the application of differential rates.**

ii) **The following rates in the dollar apply to property classifications:**

Category	% of General rate	Rate in the \$
General/Residential Rate	100	0.00256844
Commercial/Industrial Rate	140	0.00359581
Farm Rate	80	0.00205475

iii) **Differential rates apply to rateable properties with the following characteristics:**

(a) **General**

General land is any land that is:

- **Used primarily for residential purposes; or**
- **Unoccupied but zoned Residential, Township or Rural Living under the East Gippsland Shire Council Planning Scheme; or**
- **Any land that is not defined as Farm Land or Commercial/Industrial Land.**

(b) **Commercial and Industrial**

Commercial and Industrial Land is any land used primarily for:

- **the manufacture, or production of, or trade in, goods or services; or**
- **Obviously adapted for the primary use of commercial or industrial purposes; or**
- **Occupied primarily for the purpose of service delivery for tourism leisure and/or accommodation; or**
- **Unoccupied but zoned Business, Industrial, Mixed Use, Special Use or Comprehensive Development Zone under the East Gippsland Shire Council Planning Scheme; or**
- **Conforming to East Gippsland Shire Council guidelines for the classification of property as Commercial/Industrial Land.**

(c) Farm Land

Farm land is defined as any land which:

- Is used primarily for a farming or agricultural business; and**
- Conforms to the definition of “farm land” as specified within the Valuation of Land Act 1960; and**
- Conforms to East Gippsland Shire Council guidelines for the classification of property as “farm land” as stipulated within East Gippsland Shire Council’s “Application for Farm Rate”; and**
- The ratepayer has Primary Producer status with the Australian Taxation Office and be located in a Farm Zone in accordance with Council’s planning scheme, or have a permit from Council to operate a farming business.**

iv) Council has determined that the application of a differential rate for Farm and Commercial/Industrial Land will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of its functions.

v) Council has determined it will provide a rate rebate equivalent to \$60.36 to eligible properties in the ownership of pensioners who qualify for a Victorian Government approved pension rebate. This rebate is provided in accordance with section 169(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1989 and supports the development of the municipality in that it helps support pensioners to keep and stay in their own homes.

(c) Municipal Charge

i) A municipal charge be declared for the period commencing 1 July 2023 and concluding on 30 June 2024.

ii) A municipal charge be declared for the purpose of covering some of the administrative costs of Council.

iii) The municipal charge be the sum of \$245.30 per each rateable property in respect of which a municipal charge can be levied.

(d) Waste Levy Charge

i) An annual service charge Waste Levy of \$51.00 be declared for the period commencing 1 July 2023 and concluding 30 June 2024 to cover the increased costs levied by the Environment Protection Authority on the operation of landfills as well as the increased compliance costs required for the operation of landfills.

ii) The charge to be levied on each property to which a municipal charge is applied.

(e) Waste Collection Charge

- i) A charge for kerbside collection of waste with recycling, and for kerbside collection of waste with recycling and green waste, and a rural waste collection charge be declared for the period commencing 1 July 2023 and concluding on 30 June 2024 as follows:**

Kerbside Waste/recycling collection (120 litre bin)	\$395.00
Kerbside Waste/recycling/green waste collection (120 litre bin)	\$452.00
Additional household waste bin	\$238.00
Additional Green/Recycling bin	\$178.00
Rural Waste Collection Charge	\$267.00.

- (f) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to levy and recover the general rates, municipal charge, waste levy, kerbside waste with recycling collection charge, kerbside waste with recycling and green waste collection charge and rural waste collection charge as per section 167 of the Local Government Act 1989.**
- (g) Council allows the following payment options in accordance with section 167 of the Local Government Act 1989.**

<i>In Full</i>	<i>Four Instalments</i>
<i>15 February 2024</i>	<i>30 September 2023</i>
	<i>30 November 2023</i>
	<i>28 February 2024</i>
	<i>31 May 2024</i>

- (h) Interest on unpaid rates and charges will be charged in accordance with section 172 of the Local Government Act 1989.**

Moved: Cr Arthur Allen

Seconded: Cr Trevor Stow

CARRIED

**5.2.2 Advertise Draft 10 Year Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2032/33 and Draft
Four-Year Revenue and Rating Plan 2023/24 to 2026/27**

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report and the attachment pertaining to this report;***
- 2. advertises its draft 10 Year Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2032/33 at Attachment 1;***
- 3. advertises its draft Four Year Revenue and Rating Plan 2023/24 to 2026/27 at Attachment 2; and***
- 4. seeks community feedback on the draft 10 Year Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2032/33 and the draft Four Year Revenue and Rating Plan 2023/24 to 2026/27 until 12 noon on Wednesday 31 May 2023.***

Moved: Cr Mendy Urie

Seconded: Cr Tom Crook

CARRIED

5.2.3 Finance Report Period Ended 31 March 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 nine-month period ended 31 March 2023, as outlined in Attachments 1 to 7.***

Moved: Cr Jane Greacen OAM

Seconded: Cr Tom Crook

CARRIED

5.2.4

Council Meeting Resolution Register

Authorised by General Manager Business Excellence

Motion

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

Moved: *Cr Mendy Urie*

Seconded: *Cr Tom Crook*

CARRIED

5.3 Place and Community

5.3.1 Planning Application 30/2023/P - 51 Boyd Court Eagle Point- Three Lot Subdivision

Authorised by General Manager Place and Community

Conflict of Interest

Fiona Weigall General Manager Assets and Environment, having declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 5.3.1, left the Chamber at 7:59 pm.

Motion

That Council:

- 1. receives and notes this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; and***
- 2. being the Responsible Authority and having considered all the relevant planning matters, determines that Planning Permit Application 30/2023/P is consistent with the requirements and objectives of the East Gippsland Planning Scheme and therefore resolves to grant a Planning Permit for a Three Lot Subdivision at 51 Boyd Court Eagle Point, subject to conditions in Attachment 1.***

Moved: Cr Tom Crook

Seconded: Cr Trevor Stow

CARRIED

6 Urgent Business

Nil

7 Confidential Business

Nil

Attendance

Fiona Weigall General Manager Assets and Environment returned to the Chamber at 8:08 pm.

8 Close of Meeting

Mayor, Cr Mark Reeves declared the meeting closed at 8:08 pm