



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

The Heart of Gippsland

RESOLUTIONS IN BRIEF ORDINARY MEETING

To be read in conjunction with the Council Meeting Agenda 5 July 2022

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Cr Carolyn Crossley
Cr Marcus McKenzie (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Gayle Maher
Cr Scott Rossetti (via MS Teams)
Cr Carmel Ripper (via MS Teams)
Cr Garry Stephens
Cr John Tatterson
Cr Jill Wood

OFFICERS PRESENT

David Morcom, Chief Executive Officer
Brent McAlister, General Manager Development
Chris Hastie, General Manager Built and Natural Environment
Clem Gillings, General Manager Community and Culture
Denise Teo, Governance Officer
Wendy Reeves, Coordinator Communication and Media

APOLOGIES

Cr Ian Bye (Mayor)

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
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1. APOLOGIES

COUNCILLOR IAN BYE

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT/S OF INTEREST

NIL

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING/S

3.1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

PURPOSE

To adopt the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 21 June 2022.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

NIL

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 21 June 2022.

COUNCILLOR WOOD / COUNCILLOR MAHER

That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 21 June 2022.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ITEM	FROM MEETING	COMMENTS	ACTION BY
NIL			

5. ACCEPTANCE OF LATE AND URGENT ITEMS

NIL

6. NOTICE/S OF MOTION

NIL

7. RECEIVING OF PETITION OR JOINT LETTERS

7.1. OUTSTANDING PETITIONS

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ITEM	FROM MEETING	COMMENTS	ACTION BY
NIL			

8. INVITED ADDRESSES, PRESENTATIONS OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

COUNCILLOR CROSSLEY acknowledged that we are in the midst of NAIDOC Week with the theme of “*Get Up, Stand Up and Show Up*” and highlighted various celebrations and activities being hosted throughout the Shire. She specifically noted the work done by Angela Chittem, Council’s Gallery Indigenous Engagement Officer, in organising the smoking ceremonies around the Shire. She strongly recommended that everyone check out the three exhibitions featuring local indigenous artists - Richard Young (Gunai Vibrations), Auntie Eileen Harrison (Connections to Country) and the new permanent Borun and Tuk feature gallery. Councillor Crossley also read out a number of articles that spoke to her that can be found on the SBS website.

COUNCILLOR MCKENZIE congratulated MP Harriet Shing on her new appointment as the Minister for Water, Regional Development and Equality. He also acknowledged the sad passing of MP Jane Garrett last week, who lost her battle with cancer and will be sadly missed.

Councillor McKenzie also acknowledged NAIDOC week.

- On Monday 4 July 2022, it was an honour to represent Council in recognising NAIDOC Week at the smoking ceremony, to hear from our First Nations Peoples and flag raising at the Port of Sale precinct.
- NAIDOC Week is a time to unite and celebrate. It is also a time to reflect on what a united Australia would look and feel like, and our responsibility as a Council to contribute and lead reconciliation and systemic change.
- One of Council’s key objectives for our new Council Plan is strengthening our relationships and partnerships with our Gunaikurnai community.
- Our Council Plan challenges us to harness the knowledge and practices of our First Nations Peoples in the way we sustain country.
- Partnering with our First Nations Peoples is vital for us to achieve our common environmental, cultural, social and economic objectives.
- Our vision is for First Nations Peoples to have a voice for truth-telling, to feel culturally safe and have improved equitable opportunities. This vision is not new for us however, we recognise that we must work harder every day towards a more reconciled Wellington and Australia.

I know that to achieve this vision it will take courage and leadership.

- Coming together for NAIDOC Week and celebrating our local Indigenous communities is a great way to spark the conversations we need to have.

- I would like to take this opportunity to wish our First Nations Communities an enjoyable NAIDOC Week, which started on Sunday 3 July 2022 with amazing activities and events planned around the country, recognising and celebrating more than 65,000 years of First Nations history in Australia.

Councillor McKenzie also Spoke to a presentation received on behalf of Louise Carns in relation to medical concerns in Loch Sport.

Advocacy of a Loch Sport Hub to provide Medical, Library, Child Support and Kinder plus other services – based on data from the 2022 census. Acknowledge Louise Carns.

1. A deep dive of the Australian Bureau Statistics (“the census”) notes that there are now 1021 permanent residents in Loch Sport, reflecting approximately 25% growth in population since 2016.
2. This makes Loch Sport one of the fastest growing towns in Australia. Consistently, the majority of the population is over 65 at 46.4% compared to the rest of Victoria with 16.8%.
3. 1.67% of the community are of Aboriginal descent compared to Victoria with 1.01% both of which is below the Australian average, 3.19%.
4. Statistics show that Loch Sport is not attracting younger people to the town and this has a direct correlation to the lack of local employment, services and educational opportunities. As an example, to attend kindergarten, our young parents travel approximately 65 kms for a two or three hour kindergarten session. It is known that parents will choose to wait in their cars rather than spend the money on fuel four times per day.

Loch Sport’s median weekly income is \$674, in Victoria income is 2.6 times more than this at \$1759. It is known that low income has a direct correlation to poor health outcomes and access to services.

This is reflected in the census. The towns long-term health conditions are staggeringly higher in all domains than Victoria and Australia. Examples are: 6.4% of Loch Sport residents have cancer (including remission) compared to Victoria at 2.8%, 10.2% have heart disease compared to 3.7%, and 15.9% have mental health conditions compared to 8.8% in Victoria and Australia.

The census continues to show that Loch Sport is a caring community. They have higher rates of people who provide caring duties for a person with a disability or who is ageing at 15.8% compared to Victoria at 12.9% and are more likely to do voluntary work for local organisations at 19.2% compared to 13.3% in Victoria.

Loch Sport also has a higher rate of people who have served in the Australian Defence Force at 6.0% compared to 1.8% in Victoria.

“People living in outer regional, remote or very remote areas were more likely to visit a hospital emergency department than those living in major cities (17.3% compared to 12.2%)” and due to the tyranny of distance and associated costs, there is a delay seeking health and care supports.

5. Earlier this year, Louise wrote a paper requesting support from Central Gippsland Health (CGH) and our local members for the development of medical, aged care and community services in Loch Sport. It has been brought to our attention this past few weeks by Peter McMahon that a Regional Health Infrastructure Fund was released for submissions for funding from the \$790 million fund.

As a council, I ask my fellow Councillors to support the request that our CEO write to the CEO of Central Gippsland Health, Mark Dykgraaf, requesting his 100% support to apply for a grant to provide a medical facility for Loch Sport that closes on 22 July 2022 so we don’t have much time. Our community is reaching out for help so please let’s help.

9. QUESTION/S ON NOTICE

9.1. OUTSTANDING QUESTION/S ON NOTICE

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ITEM	FROM MEETING	COMMENTS	ACTION BY
NIL			

10. DELEGATES REPORT

Presented by Councillor Gayle Maher

As of 1 July 2022, the Waste and Resource Recovery Groups were collapsed making way for the new Authority, Recycling Victoria.

This new entity was created with the *Circular Economy (Waste reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*, gazetted in December of same year and sits within DELWP.

Sitting on the board of Resource Recovery Gippsland (RRG) since 2017 has been a great learning experience, particularly that of governance and management of risk with the development of the Gippsland Waste Resource Recovery Implementation Plan and understanding waste issues in Gippsland.

An important part of this understanding was gained from being part of the Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Forum, to which Councillor Tatterson was recently Deputy Chair. This forum was instrumental in bringing together officers from all six municipalities of Gippsland with nominated Councillors from all six Councils as well as the Executive Officer of RRG, Matthew Peak, Board Chair, Richard Ellis and other board members. It is believed that the forum provided great insight to current issues experienced in Gippsland with respect to waste and its recovery, as well as providing greater understanding to the board. It helped inform State Government about opportunities or impacts to Local Government in their delivery of waste.

The loss of this local forum is of concern as is the loss of a local entity that has grown to understand the needs, the demands, and the opportunities of waste in Gippsland.

Some highlights and achievements of RRG include -

- Collaboration in 2019 of Gippsland, Loddon Mallee, Goulburn Valley and North East Waste and Resource Recovery Groups to successfully obtain funding from Sustainability Victoria to develop a Regional Litter and Dumping plan for each group. This resulted in a partnership between local councils, state government agencies and departments, and community groups to identify the top five litter/dumping priorities for each region.
- Resource Smart Schools provided a decade of successful education in the Gippsland region which involved the delivery of a program that ensured environmental, social, and economic outcomes for students and the broader community. This was a free program to schools and helped them save further expenses in understanding energy, water, and waste minimisation. This was a good program, with a great team that also included Wellington Shire Council's then Sustainability Education Officer, Raquel

Harris, who can answer all the tricky questions on waste, particularly what rubbish goes in which bin!

- Gippswide Kerbside Collaborative Procurement Project aimed to bring a level of standardisation to Gippsland's services and systems for waste and resource management, including the provision of economic leverage through aggregation of material. This has been a successful partnership between all six Gippsland Councils and responds to the Victorian Government's circular economy policy, *Recycling Victoria: a new economy*, furthermore Gippswide Kerbside supports Council's transition to a low carbon circular economy. Final recommendations will be made early this financial year and is currently being managed by Recycling Victoria.
- The evidence needed to embark on this journey commenced with a transport assessment in 2017 (funded by Local Government Victoria, auspiced through Latrobe City) this provided the necessary evidence required to embark on the Gippswide Kerbside initiative.
- Not to mention the responses required with Emergency events, natural disasters, the pandemic, and market failures that we have seen over the last number of years, particularly with National Sword Recycling Crisis, tyre processing disruptions, e-waste disruptions, bushfires, storms and flooding across Gippsland. The gathering of 'on-ground' intelligence is critical and RRG was able to do that.

This is only a glimpse of the work undertaken by RRG and I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of Matthew Peake and his team, also the board, Chair Richard Ellis, and Directors Councillor Trish Jones, Chris Badger, Glenn Campbell, Siska Hester and Kerry Shranck.

Also, local government colleagues who have all worked tirelessly in the waste space, particularly in light of the large changes we are currently seeing. I would like to particularly thank our Wellington Shire officers Tim Rowe, Samantha Nock and Jo Rule who have all attended the forums and worked closely with RRG and who continue the important work on waste in an ever-changing environment that includes climate change, renewables and carbon impacts.

11. GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

11.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

OBJECTIVE

To report on all assembly of Councillor records received for the period 13 June 2022 to 26 June 2022.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

NIL

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 13 June 2022 to 26 June 2022.

COUNCILLOR WOOD / COUNCILLOR STEPHENS

That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 13 June 2022 to 26 June 2022.

CARRIED

11.2. SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR AGENCY STAFF TENDER AWARD

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER PEOPLE AND CAPABILITY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider entering into an agency contract with a panel of providers, for temporary agency staff to fill vacancies, where required, across the organisation.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

NIL

RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. Council adopt the recommendations contained in the attached confidential Tender Evaluation Report of the Council Meeting Agenda for Contract 2022-080 Schedule of Rates for Agency Staff; and**
- 2. The information contained in the confidential attachment Contract 2022-080 Schedule of Rates for Agency Staff and designated confidential under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 by the General Manager Corporate Services on 16 June 2022 because it relates to the following grounds: (g)(ii) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage;**

be designated confidential information under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020, except that once this recommendation has been adopted the name of the successful tenderer can be made public.

COUNCILLOR TATTERSON / COUNCILLOR CROSSLEY

That:

- 1. Council adopt the recommendations contained in the attached confidential Tender Evaluation Report of the Council Meeting Agenda for Contract 2022-080 Schedule of Rates for Agency Staff; and***
- 2. The information contained in the confidential attachment Contract 2022-080 Schedule of Rates for Agency Staff and designated confidential under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 by the General Manager Corporate Services on 16 June 2022 because it relates to the following grounds: (g)(ii) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage;
be designated confidential information under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020, except that once this recommendation has been adopted the name of the successful tenderer can be made public.***

CARRIED

The Deputy Mayor announced the successful tenderers as:

- 1. Workhire Australia***
- 2. GBS Recruitment***
- 3. DFP Recruitment***
- 4. Planned Resources***
- 5. Hays Specialist Recruitment***

12. GENERAL MANAGER DEVELOPMENT

12.1. QUARTERLY BUILDING REPORT - JANUARY TO MARCH 2022

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER REGULATORY SERVICES

PURPOSE

To provide a report to Council on building permits issued in the Wellington Shire during the quarter 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022, for information.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

NIL

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the report of building permits issued from 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022.

COUNCILLOR MAHER / COUNCILLOR WOOD

That Council note the report of building permits issued from 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022.

CARRIED

13. GENERAL MANAGER BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

13.1. SEASPRAY PROPOSED PUMP TRACK

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the community response from recent engagement on the proposed construction of a pump track on Foreshore Reserve, Foreshore Road, Seaspray, and to provide a response to the Seaspray Pump Track petition received by Council on 7 June 2022.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

PAULINE HITCHINS, SEASPRAY: sent in a submission in support of the pump track. The CEO has read out the submission in full for the purpose of the livestream.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Notes that 66% of the survey responses from ratepayers in Seaspray and 83% of the survey responses from ratepayers in The Honeysuckles support the proposed Seaspray Pump Track as described in the community engagement process;***
- 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to progress the development of a pump track on the Seaspray Foreshore Reserve as described in the community engagement process;***
- 3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to inform the ratepayers of Seaspray and The Honeysuckles of Council's decision in relation to this matter; and***
- 4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to inform the Head Petitioner advising them of Council's decision in relation to this matter.***

COUNCILLOR CROSSLEY / COUNCILLOR STEPHENS

That Council:

- 1. Notes that 66% of the survey responses from ratepayers in Seaspray and 83% of the survey responses from ratepayers in The Honeysuckles support the proposed Seaspray Pump Track as described in the community engagement process;***
- 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to progress the development of a pump track on the Seaspray Foreshore Reserve as described in the community engagement process;***
- 3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to inform the ratepayers of Seaspray and The Honeysuckles of Council's decision in relation to this matter; and***
- 4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to inform the Head Petitioner advising them of Council's decision in relation to this matter.***

CARRIED

14. FURTHER GALLERY AND ONLINE COMMENTS

Gallery comments are an opportunity for members of the public to raise any particular matter they wish. This allows those in the gallery to speak directly to Councillors but is not a forum designed for open discussion or debate. We will listen respectfully to what you have to say and make the commitment that if your query requires a written response, we will advise you that a response will be forthcoming, and a copy of that response will be circulated to all Councillors.

This is not a forum for members of the public to lodge complaints against individuals, including Councillors and staff, particularly as that individual gets no public right of reply to any matter raised. We take complaints seriously, and in line with the guidance from the Victorian Ombudsman and the local Government Inspectorate, we request that any specific complaint against an individual be put in writing. This way, your concern can be properly dealt with while ensuring fairness to all parties concerned.

If you wish to speak, we remind you that this part of the meeting is being recorded and broadcast on our website. Council's official Minutes will record that you have spoken to Council and the subject you spoke to Council about but will not record specific comments. We ask you to state your name in full, where you are from, and you have three minutes.

ONLINE COMMENTS -

JIM KING, MAFFRA: The latest Assessment Notices for 2022 Property Revaluations have been forwarded to WSC ratepayers and reflect substantial increases in property valuations which will in-turn generate a substantial increase in Shire revenue. Do Councillors, Executives, General Staff and employees of the Wellington Shire Council receive any exemptions, discounts or other benefits for property/properties they may occupy/own within the Wellington Shire? If so, what are the details of such arrangements?

The CEO has taken the questions on notice and confirmed that a response will be prepared and sent to Mr King with a copy circulated to all Councillors.

FURTHER GALLERY COMMENTS -

NIL

Meeting declared closed at: 3:36pm

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

15. IN CLOSED SESSION

COUNCILLOR

That the meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 to consider matters under Section 66(5)(b) as defined by Section 3(1) being:

- a) Council business information*
- b) Security information*
- c) Land use planning information*
- d) Law enforcement information*
- e) Legal privileged information*
- f) Personal information*
- g) Private commercial information*
- h) Confidential meeting information*
- i) Internal arbitration information*
- j) Councillor Conduct Panel confidential information*
- k) Information prescribed by the regulations to be confidential information*
- l) Information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989*

IN CLOSED SESSION

COUNCILLOR

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