



**WELLINGTON**  
SHIRE COUNCIL

*The Heart of Gippsland*

**RESOLUTIONS IN BRIEF  
SPECIAL MEETING TO CONSIDER  
2024/25 DRAFT BUDGET SUBMISSIONS**

**To be read in conjunction with the Council Meeting Agenda 16 May 2024**

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT**

Cr Ian Bye (Mayor)  
Cr Carolyn Crossley  
Cr Marcus McKenzie  
Cr Carmel Ripper  
Cr Gayle Maher (online)  
Cr Scott Rossetti (online)  
Cr Garry Stephens (online)  
Cr John Tatterson (online)  
Cr Jill Wood (arrived 5.09pm)

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

David Morcom, Chief Executive Officer  
Arthur Skipitaris, General Manager Corporate Services  
Chris Hastie, General Manager Built and Natural Environment  
Andrew Pomeroy, General Manager Development  
Clemence Gillings, General Manager Community and Culture (online)  
Kimberly Salleh, Manager Communications and Media  
Catie Thomson, Governance Officer

**APOLOGIES**

NIL

**SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL TO CONSIDER  
2024/25 DRAFT BUDGET SUBMISSIONS  
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## 1. APOLOGIES

NIL

## 2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT/S OF INTEREST

NIL

## 3. GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

### 3.1. RECEIPT AND CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS RELATING TO THE 2024/25 DRAFT BUDGET

#### ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER CORPORATE FINANCE

#### PURPOSE

To receive and consider any verbal and written submissions (as attached) relating to the 2024/25 Draft Budget.

#### PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

##### Submission 4 – Meerlieu Public Hall Committee of Management

JAMES BLANDFORD, Meerlieu Public Hall Committee of Management and JEN SMITH, Meerlieu Community addressed Council requesting support for their written submission including:

- Formal administration support and capacity from a qualified and experienced council officer to continue seeking grants for the required \$230,000 for the project's requirements. There is one Expression of Interest already submitted and the Committee would like to partner with Wellington Shire to continue to leverage funding from outside of the council budget for this component of the project; and
- \$850,000 for the hall refurbishment from the total budget or a strategy to facilitate the removal of the asbestos and refurbishments of the community facility over the next 3 years.

##### Submission 5 – Jim King

JIM KING, MAFFRA, referred to his written submission, raising several concerns and his request for Council to conduct a survey of all non-sporting community groups within the Shire to ascertain their existing accommodation issues to address a fairer, more balanced allocation of funding into the future.

Jim referred to the article on the budget in the Gippsland Times on 7 May 2024, that raised a couple of questions for him:

- Do lighting and change room upgrades qualify as needed by our local community?
- Does it imply that Council resources will be used to seek external funding for these projects?

Jim stated that rather than Council budgeting for well established sporting groups to modernise existing infrastructure, a moratorium or temporary suspension on major sporting club funding activities should occur to enable for a complete review to be undertaken for the required building works for smaller voluntary based community groups throughout the Shire.

This approach would link in with the Council's Community Managed Facility Strategy 2020-25 document in 3 key areas which includes improved risk management to ensure all facilities are safe for volunteers in the community, stronger strategic planning to develop and invest in facilities where the community will get the most benefit and most importantly for Jim, an improved fairness and equity across all of Wellington Shire.

Jim stated that he, along with many in the community, require decision making that is more prudent and accountable in the allocation of taxpayer and ratepayer funds to ensure an even-handed approach that results in targeted, appropriate and meaningful expenditure occurring across the whole of the community.

COUNCILLOR WOOD arrived during this item at 5.09pm.

**RECOMMENDATION**

***That Council receive and consider any verbal and written submissions (as attached) relating to the 2024/25 Draft Budget.***

**COUNCILLOR CROSSLEY / COUNCILLOR RIPPER**

***That Council receive and consider any verbal and written submissions (as attached) relating to the 2024/25 Draft Budget.***

**CARRIED**

Meeting declared closed at: 5.15pm.

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