



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

The Heart of Gippsland

RESOLUTIONS IN BRIEF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 1 April 2025, commencing at 5:00 PM

To be read in conjunction with the Council Meeting Agenda 1 April 2025.

Cr Scott Rossetti (Mayor)	David Morcom, Chief Executive Officer
Cr Cindy Madeley (Deputy Mayor)	Chris Hastie, General Manager Built and Natural Environment
Cr Catherine Bannerman	Barry Hearsey, Acting General Manager Development
Cr Liz Foat	Carly Bloomfield, Manager Organisational Performance & Governance
Cr Edward Lowe	Kim Salleh, Manager Communications & Media
Cr Carmel Ripper	Catie Thomson, Governance Officer
Cr Garry Stephens	
Cr Geoff Wells	

APOLOGIES

Cr John Tatterson

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
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1. APOLOGIES

COUNCILLOR TATTERSON

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT/S OF INTEREST

Councillor Foat declared a general conflict of interest for item 13.1 – Plant and Equipment Services Panel.

Councillor Madeley declared a general conflict of interest for item 14.1 – Quick Response Grants November 2024 to February 2025.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING/S

3.1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE

RECOMMENDATION	
<i>That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 18 March 2025.</i>	
COUNCILLOR FOAT / COUNCILLOR LOWE	
That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 18 March 2025.	
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

6.1. NOTICE OF MOTION - UNDERGROUND TRANSMISSION LINES

ACTION OFFICER: COUNCILLOR FOAT

I, Councillor Foat, hereby give notice that at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on Tuesday 1 April 2025 I will propose the following notice of motion.

Motion

That Council writes to the State Energy Minister, Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio and VicGrid confirming its position for the undergrounding of electricity infrastructure in relation to Offshore Wind transmission as its preferred method, for the following reasons:

1. **Enhanced Aesthetic and Safety:** Underground electricity transmission infrastructure conserves the visual appeal of our region, preserving our natural landscapes and reducing visual clutter. It also minimizes the risk of bushfire ignition during extreme weather conditions of which our region is very prone to experiencing in Gippsland.
2. **Improved Reliability:** Underground cables are less susceptible to weather-related disruptions such as storms and high winds, thereby improving the reliability of electricity supply to our residents and businesses throughout Victoria.
3. **Long-Term Cost Efficiency:** Despite higher initial installation costs, underground transmission lines require less maintenance and have a longer lifespan compared to overhead lines, leading to cost savings over the long term.
4. **Community Preference:** Our community has expressed a preference, as have all of us during our election period in running for council, for underground electricity transmission due to its minimal impact on the wider community, and overall quality of life for our residents. I have heard time and time again from community members their preference for underground transmission in Gippsland and we as Council should also formally take on this position.



.....
COUNCILLOR FOAT

Dated: 24 March 2025

COUNCILLOR FOAT / COUNCILLOR MADELEY

That Council writes to the State Energy Minister, Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio and VicGrid confirming its position for the undergrounding of electricity infrastructure in relation to Offshore Wind transmission as its preferred method, for the following reasons:

- 1. Enhanced Aesthetic and Safety: Underground electricity transmission infrastructure conserves the visual appeal of our region, preserving our natural landscapes and reducing visual clutter. It also minimizes the risk of bushfire ignition during extreme weather conditions of which our region is very prone to experiencing in Gippsland.**
- 2. Improved Reliability: Underground cables are less susceptible to weather-related disruptions such as storms and high winds, thereby improving the reliability of electricity supply to our residents and businesses throughout Victoria.**
- 3. Long-Term Cost Efficiency: Despite higher initial installation costs, underground transmission lines require less maintenance and have a longer lifespan compared to overhead lines, leading to cost savings over the long term.**
- 4. Community Preference: Our community has expressed a preference, as have all of us during our election period in running for council, for underground electricity transmission due to its minimal impact on the wider community, and overall quality of life for our residents. I have heard time and time again from community members their preference for underground transmission in Gippsland and we as Council should also formally take on this position.**

CARRIED

6.2. NOTICE OF MOTION - EMERGENCY SERVICES AND VOLUNTEERS FUND (ESVF)

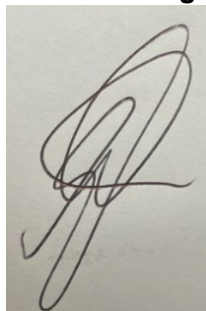
ACTION OFFICER: COUNCILLOR WELLS

I, Councillor Wells, hereby give notice that at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on Tuesday 1 April 2025 I will propose the following notice of motion.

Motion

That Council writes to the Premier of Victoria, the Victorian Minister for Local Government and Municipal Association of Victoria (to advocate for Councils), to remove the requirement for Victorian Councils to collect the increased emergency services tax - the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund - on behalf of the State Government, on the basis that the;

- 1. Victorian Government should utilise the State Revenue Office to directly manage the collection of the new tax;***
- 2. Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund represents a state tax reform and a doubling of the levy, which will unfairly impact regional ratepayers, particularly Victorian farmers;***
- 3. Administrative burden and increased complexity places too great of an impact on council staff and the reconfiguration of council systems to manage the collection of the State Government tax.***



.....
COUNCILLOR WELLS

Dated: 24 March 2025

COUNCILLOR WELLS / COUNCILLOR LOWE

That Council writes to the Premier of Victoria, the Victorian Minister for Local Government and Municipal Association of Victoria (to advocate for Councils), to remove the requirement for Victorian Councils to collect the increased emergency services tax - the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund - on behalf of the State Government, on the basis that the;

- 1. Victorian Government should utilise the State Revenue Office to directly manage the collection of the new tax;**
- 2. Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund represents a state tax reform and a doubling of the levy, which will unfairly impact regional ratepayers, particularly Victorian farmers;**
- 3. Administrative burden and increased complexity places too great of an impact on council staff and the reconfiguration of council systems to manage the collection of the State Government tax.**

CARRIED

7. RECEIVING OF PETITION OR JOINT LETTERS

7.1. OUTSTANDING PETITIONS

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ITEM	FROM MEETING	COMMENTS	ACTION BY
Get lights installed at Stead Street Reserve, Sale.	4 March 2025	Response at Item 13.2 of this Agenda.	General Manager Built and Natural Environment

7.2. RECEIPT OF PETITION: COMMUNITY INTEREST IN SEALING THE ROAD AT MANN'S BEACH

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION
<i>That Council receive the attached petition regarding Community Interest in Sealing the Road at Mann's Beach and refer it to the General Manager Built & Natural Environment for a report to a future Council Meeting.</i>
COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR WELLS
That Council receive the attached petition regarding Community Interest in Sealing the Road at Mann's Beach and refer it to the General Manager Built & Natural Environment for a report to a future Council Meeting.
CARRIED

8. INVITED ADDRESSES, PRESENTATIONS OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

COUNCILLOR MADELEY acknowledged the opening of the Flooding Creek section of the Sale Common Wetlands Trail which she attended on Saturday. This is a project that has been undertaken over the past 6 years by the Rotary Club of Sale led by Philip Davis. There is now a fantastic 4.5 kilometre gravel track that completes the loop for walking, cycling and jogging. This new section allows people to experience the beauty of the Sale Wetlands like never before, connecting the Sale CBD to Lake Guyatt and the Sale Commons and making it the perfect spot for both locals and tourists to enjoy. Cr Madeley congratulated the Rotary Club of Sale, Parks Victoria, the Wellington Shire Council and other partners and stakeholders for the hard work and determination in bringing the project to fruition.

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 REPORTS

COUNCILLOR MADELEY provided an update on the Aqua Energy Redevelopment Project meeting which she attended with Councillor Tatterson last week. The project is progressing well with 95% of steelworks completed and 40% of roofing works completed.

Over the next couple of months there will be a lot of work happening such as tiling, grouting, window framing completed and pool plant equipment will be installed. The community is very excited to get to see the pool finished. Currently the winter timetable is being finalised and the bulk of the aquatic activity will be moved to the West Sale pool during the colder months.

To stay up-to-date, Councillor Madeley encouraged people to refer to the Aqua Energy Facebook page.

COUNCILLOR WELLS attended a meeting for the Gippsland Critical Minerals Community Reference Group on 18 March held in Lindenow that provided an overview of the new project. It was explained that nothing from the old project is 'live', nor will any aspect of the old project occur. The key issues that were looked at was water - where they would get it from and how they were going to get it; how water would be re-used and what would happen with the waste water. Dust and noise were also discussed.

Councillor Wells explained a 'demo' will be set up to trial all their new equipment and other items on a small area. A site tour was conducted for the 'demo' area.

There was further general chat. Some people who were present were 'anti' the project and some people were 'for' the project. Councillor Wells gave credit to everyone that attended as people were well behaved and it was a positive meeting. He noted that East Gippsland Shire was not represented at the meeting.

There is a very long way to go, but there are positives for establishing the mine in Lindenow.

11. GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

11.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS REPORT

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 10 March 2025 to 23 March 2025.

COUNCILLOR MADELEY / COUNCILLOR LOWE

That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 10 March 2025 to 23 March 2025.

CARRIED

11.2. C6 INSTRUMENTS OF DELEGATION - COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEES

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE

RECOMMENDATION

In exercise of the power conferred by s65 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council resolves that:

- 1. All current C6 Instruments of Delegation to Community Asset Committees are revoked;*
- 2. That from the date of this resolution, there be established five Community Asset Committees as detailed in the attached C6 Instruments of Delegation to Community Asset Committees; and*
- 3. The power to approve committee member appointments to these Community Asset Committees is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer.*

COUNCILLOR LOWE / COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN

In exercise of the power conferred by s65 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council resolves that:

- 1. All current C6 Instruments of Delegation to Community Asset Committees are revoked;**
- 2. That from the date of this resolution, there be established five Community Asset Committees as detailed in the attached C6 Instruments of Delegation to Community Asset Committees; and**
- 4. The power to approve committee member appointments to these Community Asset Committees is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer.**

CARRIED

11.3. UPDATED RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND RISK APPETITE STATEMENTS

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the updated Risk Management Strategy and Risk Appetite Statements as attached.

COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN / COUNCILLOR LOWE

That Council adopt the updated Risk Management Strategy and Risk Appetite Statements as attached.

CARRIED

12. GENERAL MANAGER DEVELOPMENT

12.1. QUARTERLY BUILDING REPORT - OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2024

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER REGULATORY SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the report of building permits issued from 1 October 2024 to 31 December 2024.

COUNCILLOR FOAT / COUNCILLOR WELLS

That Council note the report of building permits issued from 1 October 2024 to 31 December 2024.

CARRIED

12.2. REGIONAL HOUSING SUPPLY - PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER LAND USE PLANNING

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the officer submission (refer Attachment 12.2.1) made to the Victorian Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Committee in relation to the Parliamentary inquiry into the supply of homes in regional Victoria.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR WELLS

That Council note the officer submission (refer Attachment 12.2.1) made to the Victorian Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Committee in relation to the Parliamentary inquiry into the supply of homes in regional Victoria.

CARRIED

13. GENERAL MANAGER BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

13.1. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT SERVICES PANEL TENDER 2025-147

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER BUILT ENVIRONMENT

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receives and considers this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; and***
- 2. Accepts the Schedule of Rates for Plant and Equipment Services for a two-year term with two extension options of twelve months to be made available solely at Council's discretion as outlined in the confidential attachment as submitted by:***
 - *Whelans Group Investments Pty Ltd*
 - *Cranes Asphaltting & Bitumen Sealing Pty Ltd*
 - *RP&JM Orchard*
 - *Conways Earthmoving*
 - *Kiernan Tilt Tray Service*
 - *Macalister Earthmoving*
 - *McInnes Earthmoving Pty Ltd*
 - *Gippsland Directional Drilling*
 - *CD Willox Pty Ltd*
 - *Heathfield Building Group Pty Ltd*
 - *Bryco Civil construction Pty Ltd*
 - *D & J O'Brien Plumbing & Gasfitting*
 - *Dirt Maintenance Pty Ltd*
 - *East Vic Land Management*
 - *MJMEXC Pty Ltd*
 - *Total Drain Cleaning Services Pty Ltd*
 - *R. C. Elliott Excavations Pty Ltd*
 - *A1 Crane Hire Pty Ltd*
 - *Smolenaars Plumbing Pty Ltd*
 - *H & H Contracting Pty Ltd*
 - *Hallam Earthworks*
 - *GMA Waste Water Services Pty. Ltd.*
 - *Rollers Australia*
 - *Bairnsdale Road Services*
 - *Kirkham Farms*
 - *Schuback Excavations and;*
- 3. The information contained in the confidential attachment Contract 2025-147 Tender Evaluation Plant and Equipment Supply is designated confidential under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 by the General Manager Built and Natural Environment on 21 March 2025 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 tenderers can be made public.

Councillor Foat declared a general conflict of interest under section 127 at this item.

Councillor Foat left the Council meeting at 5.34pm.

COUNCILLOR LOWE / COUNCILLOR RIPPER

That Council:

- 1. Receives and considers this report and all attachments pertaining to this report; and**
- 2. Accepts the Schedule of Rates for Plant and Equipment Services for a two-year term with two extension options of twelve months to be made available solely at Council's discretion as outlined in the confidential attachment as submitted by:**
 - Whelans Group Investments Pty Ltd
 - Cranes Asphaltting & Bitumen Sealing Pty Ltd
 - RP&JM Orchard
 - Conways Earthmoving
 - Kiernan Tilt Tray Service
 - Macalister Earthmoving
 - McInnes Earthmoving Pty Ltd
 - Gippsland Directional Drilling
 - CD Willox Pty Ltd
 - Heathfield Building Group Pty Ltd
 - Bryco Civil construction Pty Ltd
 - D & J O'Brien Plumbing & Gasfitting
 - Dirt Maintenance Pty Ltd
 - East Vic Land Management
 - MJMEXC Pty Ltd
 - Total Drain Cleaning Services Pty Ltd
 - R. C. Elliott Excavations Pty Ltd
 - A1 Crane Hire Pty Ltd
 - Smolenaars Plumbing Pty Ltd
 - H & H Contracting Pty Ltd
 - Hallam Earthworks
 - GMA Waste Water Services Pty. Ltd.
 - Rollers Australia
 - Bairnsdale Road Services
 - Kirkham Farms
 - Schuback Excavations and;
- 3. The information contained in the confidential attachment Contract 2025-147 Tender Evaluation Plant and Equipment Supply is designated confidential under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 by the General Manager Built and Natural Environment on 21 March 2025 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 tenderers can be made public.

CARRIED

The Mayor announced the successful 26 Panel providers listed in the recommendation will be included in the Panel for supply of Plant and Equipment services.

Councillor Foat returned to the Council meeting at 5.38pm.

13.2. RESPONSE TO PETITION - LIGHTS AT STEAD STREET OVAL RESERVE

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

RECOMMENDATION

That the Chief Executive Officer write to the head petitioner advising that Council will undertake further planning work to program the installation of lighting into Stead Street Oval Reserve, Sale.

COUNCILLOR MADELEY / COUNCILLOR STEPHENS

That the Chief Executive Officer write to the head petitioner advising that Council will undertake further planning work to program the installation of lighting into Stead Street Oval Reserve, Sale.

CARRIED

14. GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

14.1. QUICK RESPONSE GRANTS – NOVEMBER 2024 TO FEBRUARY 2025

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER COMMUNITIES, FACILITIES AND EMERGENCIES

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the information regarding applications received under the Quick Response Grant Scheme (QRGS) for the period November 2024 to February 2025 as per Attachment 14.1.1.

Councillor Madeley declared a general conflict of interest under section 127 at this item.

Councillor Madeley left the Council meeting at 5.39pm.

COUNCILLOR RIPPER / COUNCILLOR FOAT

That Council note the information regarding applications received under the Quick Response Grant Scheme (QRGS) for the period November 2024 to February 2025 as per Attachment 14.1.1.

CARRIED

Councillor Madeley returned to the Council meeting at 5.43pm.

15. 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

NIL

FURTHER GALLERY COMMENTS

NIL

Meeting declared closed at 5.43pm.

The live streaming of this Council meeting came to a close.

16. 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

NIL