



**WELLINGTON**  
SHIRE COUNCIL

# **Agenda Unscheduled Council Meeting**

**Tuesday 27 May 2025, commencing at 5:00 PM**

**Meeting to be held at**

**Wellington Centre – Wellington Room, Foster Street, Sale**

**via MS Teams**

**or stream online at <https://www.youtube.com/@wellingtonshire>**

UNSCHEDULED MEETING OF COUNCIL  
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## **COUNCIL MEETING INFORMATION**

*Members of the public gallery should note that the Council records and publishes Council meetings via YouTube to enhance the accessibility of Council meetings to the broader Wellington community. These recordings are also published and archived on Council's Website for viewing by the public. Recordings may be used for publicity or information purposes.*

*Members of the public in attendance at the Council meeting who wish to communicate with the Council regarding an agenda item or any other matter should advise the Mayor, ideally prior to the meeting starting, to ensure that their submission is called at the appropriate time during the meeting.*

*Would gallery visitors, Councillors and invited online attendees please ensure that mobile phones and other electronic devices are turned off or in silent mode for the duration of the meeting.*

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*Working together to make a difference. We listen and lead to provide quality services that improve life for all.*

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

*"Wellington Shire Council acknowledges our offices are located on the traditional lands of the Gunaikurnai nation. We pay our deep respects to their Elders past, present and future and acknowledge their ongoing cultural and spiritual connections to their land and waters."*

## 1. APOLOGIES

NIL

## 2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT/S OF INTEREST

NIL

## 3. GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

### 3.1. 2025/26 DRAFT BUDGET SUBMISSIONS

#### ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER CORPORATE FINANCE

#### PURPOSE

To receive and consider any verbal and written submissions (as attached) relating to the 2025/26 Draft Budget.

#### PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

#### RECOMMENDATION

*That Council receive and consider any verbal and the attached written submissions relating to the 2025/26 Draft Budget.*

#### BACKGROUND

Council resolved at its meeting held on 6 May 2025 to:

- advertise its proposed 2025/26 Draft Budget and proposed differential rates under section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*; and
- consider submissions on the 2025/26 Draft Budget at an unscheduled Council Meeting on Tuesday 27 May 2025 at 5.00pm.

In accordance with section 96 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council invited interested persons to make written submissions in relation to the 2025/26 Draft Budget by 5:00pm on 21 May 2025 and to also make verbal submissions at the Council meeting on 27 May 2025.

Council received 20 written submissions (as attached) in response to the 2025/26 Draft Budget and will consider these submissions in conjunction with any verbal submissions prior to the Council meeting in June, where it will be recommended that the Budget, including any revisions, be adopted.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft 2025/26 Budget Submissions [3.1.1 - 27 pages]

## **OPTIONS**

Council has the following options available:

1. To receive and consider any verbal and the attached written submissions relating to the 2025/26 Draft Budget; or
2. To seek further information and receive and consider any verbal and written submissions relating to the 2025/26 Draft Budget at a later Council meeting.

## **PROPOSAL**

That Council receive and consider any verbal and attached written submissions relating to the 2025/26 Draft Budget.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

Consideration of submissions may result in changes to the proposed 2025/26 Draft Budget.

## **COMMUNICATION IMPACT**

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

## **LEGISLATIVE IMPACT**

Under s96(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, a Council must develop a budget in accordance with its Community Engagement policy.

## **COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT**

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

## **COUNCIL PLAN IMPACT**

The Council Plan 2021-25 Theme 4 “Services and Infrastructure” states the following strategic outcome:

**Strategic Outcome 4.1:** *"A financially sustainable, high performing organisation."*

This report supports the above Council Plan strategic outcome.

## **RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT**

The consideration of submissions relating to the 2025/26 Draft Budget may have an impact on the level of resources available in the 2025/26 financial year and the staffing levels of Council.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

## **ENGAGEMENT IMPACT**

Section 96(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that Council develop the budget in line with its Community Engagement policy. To ensure that Council provided ample and varied opportunity for community engagement, Council placed the draft 2025/26 Budget on Council's website and advertised that it had done so. Advertisements were placed in local newspapers, on Facebook and Council's website (including the *Your Wellington Your Say* page) seeking community submissions on the draft 2025/26 Budget and inviting the public to speak to, and in support of, submissions at this unscheduled Council meeting.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT**

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

**DRAFT 2025/26 BUDGET SUBMISSIONS**

	CORRESPONDENT	SUBMISSION
1.	Maffra Municipal Band	Request for \$270,000 Contribution towards construction of new Band Room
2.	Gippsland Plains Rail Trail Committee of Management	Request for increased maintenance grant for Gippsland Plains Rail Trail
3.	Fry's Reserve Committee of Management	Request for \$1290 towards various items to maintain Fry's Reserve
4.	Mick Webb	Request for establishment of an off-leash dog park at Loch Sport
5.	Latrobe Valley Aero Club, Latrobe Valley Sports Aero Club and Yarram Aero Club	Request to abandon aircraft landing fees at Latrobe Valley and Yarram Airfields
6	Stephen Brown	Request to abandon aircraft landing fees at Yarram Aerodrome
7	Yarram Aero Club	
8	Andrew Shay	
9	Katherine Spizzica	Request for green waste collection to be provided
10	Angela Wiebenga	
11	Duncan McConnachie on behalf of residents of Buckley's Island Road, Yarram	Request for Buckley's Island Road and Parrots Road to be included in waste pickup boundary
12	Lewis Bolton	Comments re continual rate increases and request for green waste collection to be opt in
13	William Holyoake	Request for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Footpath to continue to the River Inn at Dargo</li> <li>2. Additional street lights for new footpath</li> <li>3. A barbecue in the picnic area opposite the Dargo Hotel</li> <li>4. Benches along the footpath from the Store to the public toilets</li> <li>5. Tip fees be removed at Dargo for Dargo residents</li> </ol>

	CORRESPONDENT	SUBMISSION
14	Maffra Lawn Tennis Club	Request to share funding proposed for Sale Tennis Club to enable lighting upgrade at Maffra Lawn Tennis
15	Nicholas van Loon	Request for 2 full sized outdoor basketball courts in Sale
16	Geoff Cove	Request that Council not collect the Emergency Services & Volunteer Levy for the State Government
17	Lyndal Bass	Request for increased funding for digital library resources
18	Ashleigh Gilbertson	
19	Renee Conoulty	Request for - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An all abilities playground</li> <li>2. Increased funding for digital library resources.</li> </ol>
20	Dr Carol Glover	Comments re rate increases and Council expenditure



No.	1
Submission	Request for \$270,000 Contribution towards construction of new Band Room
Correspondent	Maffra Municipal Band

### **Maffra Municipal Band – Budget Submission 2025-2026.**

#### **Introduction:**

Maffra Municipal Band has been entertaining and educating the community since 1895 in various forms. We have responded to the needs of our community and have experienced unprecedented growth from 1 group and 8 members, a few years ago, to 8 groups and 200 members. From a single concert band, we now have three concert bands, Stage Band, String Orchestra, 2 Ukulele groups & Choir.

This rapid expansion over the past four years has meant that our current facilities are inadequate. As it is a shared facility, during football season March – October, our Tuesday groups must relocate to other venues at extra cost and inconvenience.

#### **Plans:**

Our new building, to be built at the Maffra Recreation Reserve will have two rehearsal rooms, office, storeroom, kitchenette and restrooms. The estimated cost is \$270,000. If we can raise more than that, we would like to include an enclosure for our band trailer and perhaps two tutorial rooms.

#### **Budget:**

Ideally if the Shire could fund the entire amount of \$270,000 that would be both very generous and amazing. However, we realise that there are many worthy causes in our Shire, all seeking funding. We would appreciate as much as you can offer.

We have been very proactive with fundraising having had a very successful Mardi Gras entrant, raising \$23,000, plus winning \$3000 for the best community float.

We have set up a 'Go Fund me Project' thru the Australian Cultural Fund, which means donations over \$2 are tax deductible. We also apply for any applicable Federal, State or Corporate grants. We currently have grant submissions with Qantas, Maffra Community Bendigo Bank, Australia Post, Wellington Shire and the Federal Government.

#### **Benefits:**

Maffra Municipal Band provides quality musical education in a wide range of instruments including brass, woodwind, percussion, orchestral strings, ukulele & voice to all ages and abilities.

Maffra Band also provides entertainment across the Gippsland area from Bairnsdale to Traralgon. In 2024 our groups performed over 50 gigs to nearly 20,000 people.

Even more beneficial is the mental health and well-being outcomes that being part of a community music groups develops. We have connected with many isolated and lonely people of all ages in our community.

No.	2
Submission	Request for increased maintenance grant
Correspondent	Gippsland Plains Rail Trail Committee of Management

To the Councillors of Wellington Shire Council.

Regarding funding of the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail

The Crown land comprising the old railway between Traralgon and Stratford was gazetted as a Rail Trail on 18/11/1999.

The Committee of Management has toiled tirelessly since to create a usable trail. There have been constant head winds. Funding has been piecemeal, and there have been pockets of resistance from vested interests (mainly adjacent landholders).

Despite these problems, a trail has been constructed from Traralgon to Stratford. We have received significant grants over time from a variety of sources including Wellington Shire Council. The big capital grants have been used to build and repair bridges. In total, the capital works expenses over 25 years amount to a few million dollars. There has also been a large amount of volunteer work, especially tree planting and cleaning up.

We do not receive and funding from DELWP for maintenance. Fortunately, the two Councils have provided grants which help, but frankly they are not sufficient. We could not possibly afford to pay contractors to maintain the trail and mow the edges. We have mainly used the money to provide Community groups with equipment to do the work. At the Stratford end, the Maffra Lions Club have been provided with a tractor and other equipment. They have also received assistance with land and money to construct a shed adjacent to the Rail Trail. There are two main groups at the Traralgon end, and many other volunteers including Committee members.

Despite the problems, many people use the trail, and counters at each end register 1000-2000 people each month. We receive many positive comments, but we also receive complaints. Unfortunately, we cannot afford to address most of the complaints.

I do not think we need to dwell on the health and commercial benefits of the trail, they are well known. The benefits increase as the quality of the trail increases.

For some years, The Wellington Shire Council has been providing us with an annual grant of \$22,000 including GST. The Latrobe City Council has an indexed grant which is currently \$33,148.80 including GST per annum.

We respectfully ask for our grant to be increased to equal or exceed that of Latrobe City Council, as there is more of our trail in Wellington Shire. We assure the Council that we will use the money wisely to help provide a first-class piece of infrastructure.

Helen Hoppner  
Chair  
GPRT Committee of Management

No.	3
Submission	Request for \$1290 towards various items to maintain reserve
Correspondent	Fry's Reserve Committee of Management

### Background

Fry's Reserve is a Recreation Reserve located at Manns Beach. This Reserve has a Committee of Management to care for and improve the facilities and the reserve itself. This Committee of Management has no income hence all improvements / maintenance is done voluntarily or receiving money from successful Grant applications. Wellington Shire has supported Fry's Reserve financially in the past.

As this reserve is located within Wellington Shire, we, the Committee of Management are seeking financial assistance from the 2025 / 2026 Budget allocations

### Application

The Committee of Management are requesting funding for the following items as listed

- Fertilizer to enhance the growth of the grass surface.
- Cold Gal Paint to protect the rusting steel external structure of the lean to attached to the storage shed
- A broom to be able to sweep the concrete floor of the storage shed
- Money to purchase fuel to be used for the mowing and brushcutting on the Reserve
- Money to purchase a table / seat combination to be fixed on the Reserve for public use. As an alternative to money Wellington Shire could supply the actual table / seat unit.

Fertilizer \$90.00

Cold Gal Paint \$60.00

Broom \$40.00

Fuel \$100.00

Table/Seat unit \$1000.00 \*

**Total requested \$1290.00**

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\*This is an estimated cost and an accurate quote can be obtained if required

No.	4
Submission	Request for establishment of an off-leash dog park at Loch Sport
Correspondent	Mick Webb

Dear Cindy, Garry and Catherine,

congratulations to you all on your re-election to Wellington Shire Council. I wish you all the best for a successful and productive incumbency.

I'm writing to ask you to give consideration to the need for a fenced, off leash dog park in Loch Sport.

As you are most surely aware, Loch Sport is nestled within an area containing the Lakes National Park and the Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park. As a result, Loch Sport is graced by an abundance of wildlife; Kangaroos, Wallabies, Wombats, Echidnas and the occasional Koala together with an extraordinary variety of birdlife. Residents and visitors to Loch Sport enjoy an array of outdoor activities. Many residents and visitors enjoy walking the streets and along the lakeside and a large percentage of those walk with their dogs.

To exercise their dogs, many walk with the canine companions off leash. Unfortunately, this brings those dogs into potential conflict with wildlife particularly, but not limited to, the resident kangaroos. It is not uncommon to see a kangaroo, or small mob, bouncing along being chased by a dog or dogs. In addition to the potential for injury to kangaroo or dog if the chase were to be successful, the preoccupation by the kangaroo(s) with flight and that of the dog(s) with pursuit has the potential to lead to injury or death by collision with a motor vehicle when they stray onto the road.

A fenced, off leash area would allow owners to exercise their dogs without endangering the wildlife or the dogs. Space for such a park would not need to be too extravagant, with an area immediately to the north of the primary school and adjacent to Charles Street reserve possibly affording the necessary space. Another area is found to the southwest of the Longford-Loch Sport Road/ Charles Road intersection at the entrance to the town.

I believe a fenced, off leash dog 'park' would be a welcome and valuable addition to Loch Sport's amenities and worthy of consideration.

Yours sincerely

Mick Webb

No.	5
Submission	Request to abandon aircraft landing fees at Latrobe Valley and Yarram Airfields
Correspondent	Latrobe Valley Aero Club, Latrobe Valley Sports Aero Club and Yarram Aero Club

### **A Joint Submission from the Latrobe Valley Aero Club, Latrobe Valley Sports Aero Club and Yarram Aero Club**

The Yarram Aero Club and the Latrobe Valley Aero Club/Latrobe Valley Sports Aero Club together make this submission to each of our Local Government Organisations on the matter of landing fees being introduced

at local airfields.

We have concerns with the safety aspect of this decision at the airfields and the commercial impact on aviation activities at the airfields.

Although it is mandatory to be equipped with a radio when within the vicinity of non-controlled airfields such as Yarram and Latrobe Valley,

Pilots can use their discretion as to whether to use it or not to announce their presence and intentions.

The monitoring of these radio calls is used by other pilots in the area to develop a mental picture of the location, altitude and intentions of other aircraft in the vicinity. This reduces the likelihood of any unsafe situation developing.

The use of the radio also triggers the charging of a landing fee. It has been noted that in other areas, landing fees are avoided by pilots or aircraft operators by not making radio calls (quite legally) because using the radio results in a landing fee being charged.

At our airfields, it has already been noted that the making of radio calls is becoming less frequent. This results in a detrimental outcome with regards to safety.

A separate concern is that people previously travelling to our airfields will now bypass them and our regions in favour of locations which do not charge for essentially "arriving by air".

At a recent fly away event into New South Wales, a Yarram Club member was questioned on the "rumour" of Landing Fees soon to be charged at the Latrobe Valley airfield, and possibly also Yarram airfield.

When it was confirmed during the conversation that the fees were coming, an owner of multiple aircraft advised he would instruct that his aircraft do not land or visit at either Yarram or Latrobe Valley airfields after the fees become payable.

Anecdotally, fewer aircraft are visiting the Latrobe Valley airfield since the notification of landing fees was made public, although currently delayed. This reduction in visitor numbers through the airport is surely at odds with the economic vision that Latrobe City Council has for the Latrobe Valley. In fact, conversations with other out of area

pilots have revealed that they now already intend to use Yarram as a fuel stop while landing fees are not being applied at Yarram.

This will further reduce the economic input to the Latrobe Valley.

Justification for landing fees needs to be tangible. It is perfectly understandable if fees are charged to a profit making enterprise such as an out of area flying school using LV or Yarram as a waypoint in their training syllabus.

Another significant measure for justifying a landing fee for casual visitors is the provision of public / community services and toilet facilities on the airfield.

Unfortunately, unlike West Sale for instance, the Latrobe City Council does not provide any of these facilities or services at the airfield. These are provided solely by the Latrobe Valley Aero Club without charge. The Club receives no financial assistance from any source for providing these services.

The Latrobe Valley Aero Club bears all costs for all visitors.

However, the Latrobe City Council now intends to charge visitors arriving by air as if those services and facilities were being provided by the Latrobe City Council at the airfield.

An overwhelming reason for the number of visitors to the Latrobe region through the Latrobe Valley airfield is due to the welcoming experience given by the Aero Club and its members to all visitors arriving by air.

Reasonable questions have arisen within the LVAC as to who benefits from the fees collected and what does it cost to have AvData act as collector?

What is the net benefit to the users of the Latrobe Valley Airfield?

We now ask for the "business case" evidence to be provided that confirms the charging of landing fees will be "cash positive" and brings overall benefits to the precinct.

There has been no statement from the Latrobe City Council as to how the collection of Landing Fees will be used by the Latrobe City Council.

Does the Latrobe City Council intend to return the fees collected back to the airfield to generate a "flow on benefit for the users of the airfield?"

Do the other users of community assets like Football and Netball Clubs, Swimming Clubs, Tennis Clubs, get charged for each car moving through and to the townships and delivering players and spectators to each event?

We think not.

This Landing Fee Policy is discriminatory in its application.

Further, with reference to the two most recent JWS Research Surveys on the Latrobe City Council Community (LCC) Satisfaction Survey, the '22-'23 Survey revealed that the LCC performed significantly lower than the Group (Regional) average for Community Consultation & Engagement.

In the 23-24 JWS Survey of the same type, it revealed that the LCC performed significantly lower than the Group (Regional) average, 49 out of 100, for Community Decisions / Tourism Development.

It is evident that no improvement has been achieved in these two critical disciplines of Council performance across these two separate Survey years. The manner in which the Latrobe City Council has implemented this landing fee policy confirms the findings of these reports.

The question may well be asked:-

“Why would one apply a cost to air travel into the Latrobe Valley when it is well known that these costs are very likely to be a cost impediment to visitors / travellers to the Latrobe Valley and further, be clear evidence as how the LCC fails in its obligations towards Community Consultation and Engagement towards the Aviation cohort?

By comparison the Yarram airfield requires landing fees only on aircraft with a MTOW greater than 1550kg. This policy allows the vast majority of the GA fleet and all RAA not-for-profit aircraft to be exempt from landing fees. There is no apparent reduction to visitor numbers at Yarram airfield.

Further, the Yarram Aero Club, which has less overall activity at its airfield than at Latrobe Valley, has received a substantial financial grant from Wellington Shire Council.

This Grant is providing a new Terminal Building which will not only be used by the Yarram Aero Club (as Custodians for the building) and visitors arriving by air but all the Yarram and district community as it will be a Community wide asset.

By comparison the Latrobe Valley Airfield Terminal building is mostly locked and access prevented 24/7.

Regardless of the outcome of this submission, prior consultation with the various affected user groups to canvas these changes was obligatory upon the Local Government Organisations.

Many would say such consultation was mandatory for the Latrobe City Council given the levels to which the LVAC “stands in the shoes” of the Latrobe City Council in all aviation visitor responsibilities and obligations at the Latrobe Valley Airfield.

We do so without complaint or cost support.

This Landing Fee Policy should be abandoned in the interests of safety, better promoting the Latrobe Valley and Yarram districts together with building appreciable working relationships with all users of the airfields.

This decision should be rescinded without delay.

No.	6
Submission	Request to abandon aircraft landing fees at Yarram Aerodrome
Correspondent	Stephen Brown

Online 2025/26 Budget Submission

17<sup>th</sup> May, 2025

Submitted by S. Brown

Dear Sir/Madam

In regard to: Yarram Aerodrome – User Access Charges / Landing Fees Fee applied per aircraft movement.

*I believe this new charge is shortsighted, counter productive and possibly dangerous.*

Please see your "Recreational Vehicle Strategy" document:

*Quote "Whilst the RV market is only one element of Wellington's tourism mix, Council recognises this niche market and the need to make informed decisions about how to effectively manage RV travellers."*

Consider what would happen if rather than support RVs (Recreational Vehicle) tourism you charged people to enter a town with their RV.

The negative financial implications are all contained within the document by negating the inflows.

As a previous RV owner I can assure you I only shopped in "RV Friendly Towns".

Recreational Aircraft vs. Recreational Vehicles

Visiting Pilots are no different to visiting RV drivers in that they bring money and life into towns.

Many "RA" (Recreational Aircraft) private pilots are not rich people on salaries of say \$400,000 per year. Indeed their small and lightweight aircraft often cost a fraction of a new RV.

It is not a hobby only for the rich. Any fees are felt.

#### Safety

Some pilots will do less flying to reduce fees which is a "safety via currency" issue (refers to a pilot's continued proficiency in flying, ensuring they meet the necessary standards to operate aircraft legally and safely).

You will note decreased aircraft movements already in aerodromes where landing fees have been levied.

As it's not mandatory for a pilot to radio announce arrival in all situations, this is a safety consideration vs. financial one, which may one day contribute to an accident.

Put simply if they keep quiet on the radio they may not have to pay a fee. This could result in a mid-air collision. While the chance is minimal it is not zero.

Side Note on lack of focus: **The potholes on the DIRT road going to Yarram's Aerodrome could be devastating to a patient being transported along the road to connect with a medical helicopter flight.**



**Commercial In-Confidence Invoicing Deals**

If it turns out that companies invoicing and collecting landing fees makes as much or more money than the Shire, especially if this is not disclosed, one could ask what is going on?

Who are the charges mostly benefiting? *A private company or Rate Payers?*

**In Summary**

While people are becoming conditioned to Government trying to charge a fee for almost everything to make up for overspending, there are times when you could take a step back and think through the unintended consequences.

In the case of the new landing fees I respectfully submit that it may cost more than it makes in the long term and is unwise from a safety point of view.

**The smarter move may be to go against the trend and attract pilots from all over Australia by not introducing yet more charges, indeed have the lack of fees as a selling point for "The Middle of Everywhere."**

No.	7
Submission	Request to abandon aircraft landing fees at Yarram Aerodrome
Correspondent	Yarram Aero Club

\*Landing fee Submission 2025\*

To the Wellington Shire

This submission is on behalf of the Yarram Aero Club Inc. (YAC)

Re proposed landing fees as per Wellington Shire (WSC) Draft Budget at the shires two aerodromes, West Sale and Yarram,

YAC wish to express their objection for a landing tax on aviators utilizing these facilities for the following reasons.

**1/ Safety**

**2/ Lack of any consultation.**

**3/ The contradiction of the Wellington Shire driven 'Middle of Everywhere' marketing campaign.**

**4/Lease holders and Ratepayers.**

**5/ Hanger spaces.**

**6/ Existing fees.**

We also wish to highlight the fact that the private company AVDATA collect information of air activity for reward via radio transmission and transponder ADSB signal fitted to aircraft.

As has been explained to shire officers in the past, that pilots are not compelled to use their radio after a 10-mile inbound call.

Given that overwhelmingly pilots are against this tax, then the downside to this tax is that pilots may choose radio silence as is their right, to avoid this tax (please note this is not endorsed by the Yarram Aero Club)

This then drastically reduces situational awareness in the air and would significantly increase the odds of a midair collision; this is a totally unacceptable and the question must be asked whether the RISK vs REWARD of introducing such a tax for the profit of an opportunistic private company and the blowback that the Shire will receive as a consequence not to mention the potentially drastic ones for participants involved.

Furthermore it is a well-known fact that AVDATA are frequently inaccurate in their billing.

Aviators have received bills that they haven't incurred and then it's up to the aviator to chase up the mistakes, we can back this up with evidence if required.

Misusing call signs is another flaw in this method of tax .

2 : At no time has the YAC ever been consulted for their views on this tax, we feel this is a poor practice at the very least and no way to treat operators who pay leases and rates.

3: The Wellington shire actively promote our area as the MIDDLE OF EVERYWHERE, they promote our area as RV friendly, free camping spots and dump points etc.

To put an example, if you drive to Yarram and park and avail yourself to what's on offer for free - no tax but if you fly in you pay a tax?? Hardly an equitable position

This with a long-held belief by some that if you fly you have plenty of money. This is far from the case and in fact an average RV cost significantly more than an average Recreational aircraft so it's hard to see why one pursuit is favoured over another.

4 : Lease holders and rate payers have invested in hangars as well as paying the fees to do so .

For WSC to feel that dropping another cost on this group is fair or reasonable given that it has not cost the WSC anything but the land the buildings stand on.

The YAC actively promotes our area to visiting aviators and passengers by offering transport to the town and to avail themselves to what's on offer in our great location.

We know from on the ground that this Tax will have a negative impact on visiting aviators

And that they will avoid Aerodromes charging such an unjust tax.

5: If more income for the WSC is important, we should point out that YAC have been advocating for a number of years to develop more hangar spaces as per the masterplan

and council has invested in and completed the site survey for the proposed new hangar area to attract more lease holders to build. This would increase income far more effectively than landing tax's .

The YAC strongly believe that the Wellington Shire have a unique opportunity to take advantage of this sentiment and include in it MIDDLE OF EVERYWHERE promotion by not only being RV friendly but also Aviation friendly.

With the much-needed improvements being made at both airfields in the shire and no tax on landing, aviators will only strengthen our great part of the world, people love the aviation sector in the area, as demonstrated by the West Sale Airshow as well as the crowd turnouts for YAC Easter Land competition.

Many community assets do not attract a tax to use eg. walking tracks, playgrounds, rec reserves, so it is hard to comprehend the logic behind the discriminatory tax to one community sector.

As a side note : We have numerous visitors to the airfield who just stop in randomly to watch for aircraft.

It is also a place of for people to interact with club members, share a cuppa and talk about a great manner of things including aviation.

Without being gender specific this aspect of our aerodrome could be compared to the successful mens shed programmes.

6: Existing fee's now charge for 1550kg and above which capture commercial aircraft movements which are able to either claim the charges or pass on charges where as where as recreational cannot.

In closing, based on what we have outlined above we urge Council to please show support to local and visiting aviators and remove this discrimintry private company driven tax from the draft budget .

Yarram Aero Club

19/05/2025

No.	8
Submission	Request to abandon aircraft landing fees at Yarram Aerodrome
Correspondent	Andrew Shay

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to express my deep disappointment and growing concern over the proposed removal of landing fee exemptions at Yarram and West Sale Aerodromes. As a Yarram hangar leaseholder, active pilot, aeroclub member, and dedicated aerodrome volunteer, I find this proposal profoundly troubling — both in principle and in its likely consequences for aviation in our region.

This proposal threatens to unravel years of community-led investment, effort, and goodwill. These aerodromes are not just infrastructure — they are living, breathing community assets, kept viable by volunteers, the aeroclub, and visiting pilots. Removing the fee exemptions will actively discourage those very users who keep these facilities active, safe, and improving. Stripping them away under the guise of “policy updates” or “cost recovery” sends a very clear and troubling message: that grassroots aviation and community service are no longer welcome here.

Of particular concern is the impact on safety. Pilots may feel pressured to limit radio broadcasts or reduce transparency in order to avoid fees — a completely unacceptable risk that should never be traded for minor revenue gain. Moreover, the financial burden on local users is unjustified and will significantly affect the viability of the Yarram aeroclub, its ability to host events, raise funds, and re-invest in the aerodromes' ongoing development. Equally disturbing is the lack of proper consultation. Decisions of this magnitude should never be proposed in isolation. Stakeholders — particularly those of us who maintain, use, and promote the aerodromes — deserve to be involved from the outset.

I strongly urge Wellington Shire Council to abandon this proposal. If financial concerns must be addressed, then work with the community to find a fair and collaborative path forward. Imposing fees without engagement will only alienate those who have kept these aerodromes operating with pride and care.

Please provide a formal response to this objection and advise whether the Council intends to open a public consultation before proceeding with any changes.

Sincerely,

Andrew Shay

Hangar Leaseholder, Active Pilot, Aeroclub Member, and Aerodrome Volunteer

No.	9
Submission	Request for green waste collection
Correspondent	Katherine Spizzica

All I want is GREEN WASTE to be part of our RATES in Rosedale, pretty rough we have to pay extra for this service, when all other councils its included.

No.	10
Submission	Request for green waste collection to be provided
Correspondent	Angela Wiebenga

I think it is ridiculous that we still don't have green waste bins in wellington.

No.	11
Submission	Request for Buckley's Island Road and Parrots Road to be included in waste pickup boundary
Correspondent	Duncan McConnachie on behalf of residents of Buckley's Island Road, Yarram

G'day Garry,

On behalf of the residents of Buckley's Island Road and Parrots Road, (only 1 to 2 kms out of Yarram).

We as rate payers would like to ask the shire to provide a rubbish and recycle pickup along Buckley's Island Road.

There are 18 houses on Buckley's Island Road and 6 houses on Parrots Road.

At the moment we have to take our rubbish and recycles to Yarram and put them into friends bins for pick up.

Hope you can put our proposal for pickup on Buckley's Island Road to council.

Yours sincerely,

Duncan McConnachie.



No.	12
Submission	Comments re continual rate increase and green waste collection
Correspondent	Lewis Bolton

We purchased our property 5 years ago. The value sky rocketed, rates don't take this into account and year on year they go up 3%. I have no idea why they are tied to the value of the property. We pay nearly \$1000 more than 5 years ago.

Also why does the new green bin apply to all homes? This should be opt in. We live on acreage so again paying for something that isn't required.

3% is nearly \$100 a year, where does it stop? Also each year it goes up by 3% it's a larger jump due to the larger value the year before.

No.	13
Submission	<p>Request for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Footpath to continue to the River Inn at Dargo</li> <li>2. Additional street lights for new footpath</li> <li>3. A barbecue in the picnic area opposite the Dargo Hotel</li> <li>4. Benches along the footpath from the Store to the public toilets</li> <li>5. Request that tip fees be removed at Dargo for Dargo residents</li> </ol>
Correspondent	William Holyoake

I live in Dargo 3862 and request the following to be considered

1/ the footpath to continue to the River Inn as people walk on the road with their children etc further for our elderly this would be fantastic too

2/ additional streets lights for item 1

3/ a barbecue opposite the Dargo pub over the river at the picnic area

4/ the new foot path already installed from store to public toilets some benches would be great as it's fair walk

5/ That the tip or transfer station be free for locals we have people in town including myself that's battling to pay their mortgage, the free only applies to the locals and yes we will still need obviously a person on site managing the tip

thank for your time

kind regards

Bill

No.	14
Submission	Request to share funding proposed for Sale Tennis Club to enable lighting upgrade at Maffra Lawn Tennis
Correspondent	Maffra Lawn Tennis Club

Maffra Lawn Tennis Club is grateful for the support it has received from Council. Council is assisting with a grant application for replacement lighting that has been recognised in the 2024/25 and proposed 2025/26.

The budget for us is contingent on a successful grant application that will be determined in July.

If the application is unsuccessful it is likely our lighting will progressively fail during the next 12 months, because it is very old and replacements are unavailable as it is out of production.

We host Gippsland's biggest tennis tournament in Easter each year bringing hundreds of people to the area. Our tennis coach and students depend on the lighting as well as out night competitions.

Is it possible to share the funding proposed for Sale Tennis Club, contingent on the success of the grant application so that we can start the project with an outcome we have some lighting during the next year?

No.	15
Submission	Request for 2 full sized outdoor basketball courts in Sale
Correspondent	Nicholas van Loon

Full size outdoor basketball courts in Sale. Whether at the GRSC or somewhere else in town there is a call out in the community to have these.

As someone who drives social programs for GRSC especially with basketball, the option to have outside accessible courts would be a huge addition. At the moment there is no accessible full size courts anywhere other than on private property or at the GRSC inside. These would get used by many in the community, from kids to teenagers to adults and even the elderly.

We have seen our social basketball grow from a small group of 5 or 6 participants on a half court inside, to over 50 regular participants across 4 full courts every week, but we are held back from growth now by the amount of courts, and the lack of any accessibility to more, and also stadium opening times.

2 full size courts, with some type of lighting, would be a great addition. The court near the port is close to being what the basketball community wants, but it just isn't it.

No.	16
Submission	Request that Council not collect the Emergency Services & Volunteer Levy for the State Government
Correspondent	Geoff Cove

Do not collect the emergency services levy for the government.

No.	17
Submission	Request for increased funding for digital library resources
Correspondent	Lyndal Bass

I would like to see more funding for library resources, in particular for digital resources like e audio books. With our aging population, this is a service which can't meet demand and is very important for those in our community who are vision impaired.

No.	18
Submission	Request for increased funding for digital library resources
Correspondent	Ashleigh Gilbertson

It is pleasing to see Wellington Shire Council's ongoing commitment to Library services in the 2025-26 budget. As a mother with a young family, Wellington libraries are an important part of our quality of life, leisure, and access to education. I would ask Council to fund additional ebook and eaudiobook options as part of the Library services. Having books available through an app like BorrowBox or Libby makes reading more accessible, including around the demands of raising a family. Ebooks and eaudiobooks are just as important as physical books.

No.	19
Submission	Request for - 1. An all abilities playground 2. Increased funding for digital library resources.
Correspondent	Renee Conoulty

More money for all abilities playground - public space safe for kids with disabilities.

More money for digital library resources - eBooks and eAudiobooks to increase accessibility to stories.



No.	20
Submission	Comments re rate increases and Council expenditure
Correspondent	Dr Carol Glover

My budget submission:

It is outrageous that you are planning to increase our rates, especially during a cost of living crisis. They are already too high. You are planning personnel structural changes, but there needs to be more. Salaries are too high and there is too much extravagance. You need to do better.

Dr Carol Glover, Sale.

Meeting declared closed at:

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