



**WELLINGTON**  
SHIRE COUNCIL

# **Resolutions in Brief Unscheduled Council Meeting**

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

**To be read in conjunction with the Unscheduled Council Meeting Agenda  
27 May 2025.**

Cr Scott Rossetti (Mayor)

Cr Cindy Madeley (Deputy Mayor)

Cr Catherine Bannerman (Online)

Cr Edward Lowe

Cr Carmel Ripper

Cr Garry Stephens

Cr John Tatterson

Cr Geoff Wells

David Morcom, Chief Executive Officer (Online)

Arthur Skipitaris, General Manager Corporate Services

Chris Hastie, General Manager Built and Natural Environment

Andrew Pomeroy, General Manager Development

Kim Salleh, Manager Communications & Media

Catie Thomson, Governance Officer

## **APOLOGIES**

Cr Liz Foat

UNSCHEDULED MEETING OF COUNCIL  
TABLE OF CONTENTS

0.1. TABLE OF CONTENTS .....2

1. APOLOGIES .....4

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT/S OF INTEREST.....4

3. GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES.....4

3.1. 2025/26 DRAFT BUDGET SUBMISSIONS .....4

## **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**

COUNCILLOR FOAT

## **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**

#### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY**

##### **Submission 1 – Maffra Municipal Band**

ROBERT WOODHOUSE, President, Maffra Municipal Band - presented the Maffra Municipal Band request for funding of their new building project for a purpose-built facility. The current sharing of the Maffra Recreational Reserve building with the football and netball club does not work and rehearsals must be relocated for 6 months of the year. The facility is to be built on Shire managed land at the Maffra Recreational Reserve where it will be available to other user groups like the Ag Society, Maffra Dramatics, CWA and other community groups.

Since November 2024, the Maffra Municipal Band has raised \$50,000 themselves, but they now seek a major injection of funds from other sources, Federal and State government, the corporate sector and Wellington Shire Council.

Robert acknowledged the funded amount is at the discretion of the Shire, but that the more granted to the project, the quicker it can be built and costs kept lower. The Maffra Municipal Band's funding request for the new building and extras at the Maffra Recreation Reserve would represent a very worthy cause for performing arts in the Wellington Shire.

##### **Submission 2 – Gippsland Plains Rail Trail**

HELEN HOPPNER, Chairperson, Gippsland Plains Rail Trail Committee of Management - presented to Council on behalf of the Committee with their request that the Wellington Shire Council consider raising funded amount provided by an additional \$10,000 approximately.

The Rail Trail Committee of Management has a group of approximately 40 amazing volunteers who assist with the maintenance of the trail and who work right across the trail, including Maffra Lions who cover Stratford to Heyfield, the NDIS crew and other groups around Glengarry, such as Landcare. The 30 volunteers in Traralgon do the majority of the work.

Helen referred to some figures on visitor numbers to highlight that a lot of people are using the trail over a 12 month period for walking and cycling, including those coming through from Melbourne to Sydney. Whilst a lot has been done to the trail, including signage and removal of chicanes for cyclists and soon they will seal a kilometre of road in the heart of Heyfield due to some recent 'Tiny Towns' funding (Regional Development Victoria), more funds are needed to upgrade the trail and to keep the three mowers as part of regular trail maintenance.

## **Submission 8 – Aerodrome Landing Fees**

ANDREW SHAY, Yarram Aeroclub member and local aircraft user - presented to Council over concerns with the proposed removal of landing fee exemptions as he sees that the proposed removal of landing fee exemptions and landing fees in general are discriminatory and counter-productive to airfield use and development.

Andrew pointed to what landing fees have done to the Latrobe Valley's airfield. Whilst landing fees have mostly been credited at this stage, it is still the case the Latrobe Airport resembles a 'ghost airfield' today due to a dramatic reduction in aircraft activity.

There is less sport and general aviation activities at West Sale due to the increased RAAF activity which has further limited access to the airfield for these groups due to the airspace restrictions. This does not enhance the landing fee opportunity or potential of the West Sale airfield.

Andrew expressed concerns over the data accuracy upon which the budget proposal has been based and drew upon figures for 300 billable movements for the Yarram Airfield in 2024 to support the view that the proposal is not necessarily based on accurate information, but rather a mis-judged perception of the flying community's wealth.

Andrew thanked the Shire for assisting with the new terminal building. The aeroclub has also contributed \$12,500. It is clear money raised through visiting aircraft and other activities is money which goes back into the airport, whereas under this proposal, it is unlikely the community will benefit resulting in less people coming to the region.

### **Late Submission – Aerodrome Landing Fees [not included in Council Meeting Agenda]**

DARREN CHAFFER, Gippsland resident, 20-year user of West Sale airfield - presented to Council on his objections to landing fees and shared background information in relation to the previous arrangements in place with Council to have exemption fees.

Darren referred to a discussion regarding landing fees at a meeting between himself and representatives of Council four years ago, noting Council's change in position in the current draft budget.

Darren noted that the proposed fees could amount to \$100-\$120 per hour of fly time due to the number of touchdowns. This is an inequitable and disproportionately large financial burden on recreational pilots and would become unsustainable to recreational flyers, also impacting safety as recreational pilots need time in the air to maintain proficiency, skill level and safety in flying an aircraft, such as 'touch-n-go' flying circuits.

Unintended consequences will include the discouraging of flying practice to maintain skills. Pilots may choose not to make the recommended radio broadcasts for situational awareness. Pilots may leave the airfield to buy smaller lots of land (eg. 100 acres) instead. Such purchases will increase noise levels across more areas of Gippsland, resulting in possible complaints from neighbours.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

**COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR MADELEY**

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

**CARRIED**

Meeting declared closed at: 5.34pm.

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