



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

Resolutions in Brief Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 3 June 2025, commencing at 5:00 PM

To be read in conjunction with the Council Meeting Agenda 3 June 2025.

Cr Scott Rossetti (Mayor)

Cr Cindy Madeley (Deputy Mayor)

Cr Catherine Bannerman

Cr Liz Foat

Cr Edward Lowe

Cr Carmel Ripper (Online)

Cr Garry Stephens

Cr John Tatterson

Cr Geoff Wells

David Morcom, Chief Executive Officer

Arthur Skipitaris, General Manager Corporate Services

Andrew Pomeroy, General Manager Development

Chris Hastie, General Manager Built and Natural Environment

Kim Salleh, Manager Customer and Communications

Catie Thomson, Governance Officer

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
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1. APOLOGIES

NIL

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: MANAGER GOVERNANCE

RECOMMENDATION

The Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of:

- 1. The Ordinary Council Meeting of Tuesday 20 May 2025; and*
- 2. The Unscheduled Council Meeting of Tuesday 27 May 2025.*

COUNCILLOR WELLS / COUNCILLOR MADELEY

The Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of:

- 1. The Ordinary Council Meeting of Tuesday 20 May 2025; and**
- 2. The Unscheduled Council Meeting of Tuesday 27 May 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

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 MADELEY attended the launch of the 'Live for Life' program in the Wellington Shire on Friday morning, a youth mental health and suicide prevention initiative which is now active in the local high schools aiming to equip all year 8 students with the knowledge and skills to support their mental health and that of their peers. This program would not be possible without the support of the John Leslie Foundation and stakeholders within the community. Councillor Madeley thanked the Wellington Shire Council staff who worked to make this program a reality.

COUNCILLOR MADELEY also acknowledged her attendance with Mayor Rossetti at the National Reconciliation Week service held at the Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation in Sale. It provided an opportunity for reflection on shared history, emphasising the importance of unity, understanding and truth telling. It was an emotional service that reinforced the need for a commitment to reconciliation and the ongoing journey toward a more inclusive community. The theme for reconciliation week 2025 was *Bridging now to next*, reflecting the connection between past, present and future. Councillor Madeley thanked Wellington Shire Council staff in attendance to support this important week.

COUNCILLOR RIPPER acknowledged and congratulated some individuals and businesses on their recent achievements for the Gippsland region which highlights the strength, talent and dedication in the community, with Madelaine Breakspear from Sale winning the award for Community Coach of the Year at the Victorian Sport Awards. Madelaine's leadership with the Sale United women's football club has delivered multiple wins and her contribution on and off the field makes a real difference to the lives of young athletes across Gippsland.

COUNCILLOR RIPPER also noted the success of the Tinamba Hotel in being awarded the 2025 Australian Hotel Association Victoria awards for excellence as "Best Pub/Restaurant, Regional" and Quinn Jacobs was named Apprentice of the Year. The Star Hotel in Sale won the regional category for the best chicken parmigiana. Such awards prove, once again, that local venues are delivering 'top notch' dining experiences which emphasise the importance of local jobs and businesses.

COUNCILLOR WELLS acknowledged the Wellington Volunteer Expo held as part of the National Volunteers Week on Thursday 22 May, which he attended with Mayor Rossetti, Deputy Mayor Madeley, Councillor Tatterson and Councillor Ripper. The night was very well run, a huge success with lots of people present. Councillor Wells acknowledged and made special mention of several groups of people from across Wellington Shire Council who were involved in the organisation of the night. Councillor Wells also acknowledged the excellent food and catering provided by the Hunting Ground and Big Bears Donuts.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS attended the second community information session run by ESSO Australia (ExxonMobil) on the de-commissioning of the thirteen rigs across Bass Strait. The “Pioneering Spirit” ship will be brought out in 2027 to dismantle the rigs and CMA Contracting will undertake the job of de-commissioning from 2028 over a 3 - 4 year timeframe. There are plans to employ 60-80 staff onsite with preference to employ local people where possible. The planning permit application process is likely to have begun. It will be good to get local people trained up to work for CMA contracting and then transfer to offshore roles. ExxonMobil will continue to produce gas until approximately 2035.

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

COUNCILLOR MADELEY provided an update following her attendance yesterday at the Gippsland Climate Change Network Incorporated (GCCN) meeting. Several exciting developments were discussed across the region. The Gippsland Offshore Wind Community Assembly has officially commenced with 50 randomly selected community members from coastal and nearby areas, now participating in a deliberative process of exploring how offshore wind can best benefit the Gippsland communities, families and coastline. The network has also secured funding from Regional Development Victoria to support further community and energy projects, including updates to the Gippsland new energy portal, youth education programs on renewable careers and coordination of offshore wind information and electrification for local groups.

Plans are also well underway for Gippsland’s new energy conference being held 9 – 10 September 2025 in Traralgon. This event, originally initiated by Wellington Shire, will feature prominent speakers with a research focus and ‘on farm’ sustainability showcase.

COUNCILLOR MADELEY provided an update on the Gippsland Art Gallery Advisory Group, following attendance at last night’s quarterly meeting. The Gallery continues to thrive. Recent updates were received for upcoming and recent exhibitions and public programs, with strong gallery attendance figures, positive media coverage and continued success in philanthropy with some notable donations and acquisitions for the collection. A number of proposed acquisitions were discussed as well as generous donations from private collectors. These editions significantly enrich the Gallery’s collection and reflect the commitment to artistic excellence and cultural growth in the region.

There was a great deal of excitement for the blockbuster exhibition - Turner and Australia, which is the Gippsland Gallery’s major exhibition for the year. This is a journey through two centuries of epic landscape painting, a unique and compelling exhibition that explores the timing of Turner’s major artistic breakthroughs. The exhibition draws together key works by Turner, some of which have been borrowed from Australian public collections and will be represented alongside a diverse chronology of Australian Art. Works include those by Eugene von Guerard, Frederick McCubbin, Tom Roberts and Arthur Streeton. This ticketed exhibition will run from 7 June to 24 August 2025.

COUNCILLOR LOWE attended a meeting held at the Stratford Football Club on Wednesday 28 June on the Stratford Structure Plan. There were around 15 attendees which was a reasonable turnout. Some good issues were raised, some of which included the preference for a school crossing supervisor at the Stratford Primary School; a 40km zone from the Daycare past the Primary School; a path to Stratford Daycare; access across the highway to the Stratford gymnasium; new signs located at each end of Stratford naming the town services; zoning; parking and the future expansion of Stratford including the preference that letters be dispatched in relation to future expansion sites, possible rezoning and options for sub-division. Attendees seemed to 'get a lot out of it'. It was a productive session.

COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN attended the bi monthly meeting for the Star of the South (Southerly Ten) Community Advisory Group and provided an update. The Group encompasses a wide range of community representatives who come together to discuss and challenge issues around the wind turbine development and connection through to the electricity grid. Discussion focused on the Giffard Hub area (the area where the underground cables from the offshore wind turbines are due to hit land and the path through the Loy Yang-Rosedale area). Whilst the initial stage was proposed to be underground, the second stage is proposed to be above ground. All developers, including Southerly Ten, will be required to arrive at the connection point at Giffard. Stage 1 of the Project is moving ahead. The State Government will hold an auction for 2 gigawatts of power with the aim of having this in service by 2033. The longer term aim of the Victorian Government is that through this Giffard onshore area, 7 of the 9 gigawatts will come through this hub by 2040.

11. GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

11.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS REPORT

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER GOVERNANCE

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 12 May to 25 May 2025.

COUNCILLOR FOAT / COUNCILLOR WELLS

That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 12 May to 25 May 2025.

CARRIED

11.2. ADOPTION OF 2025 PROPERTY REVALUATION

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER CORPORATE FINANCE

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the following valuation figures as advised by the Valuer General at the return date of 1 January 2025:

	SITE VALUE	CAPITAL IMPROVED VALUE	NET ANNUAL VALUE
RATEABLE	\$11,053,575,500	\$19,262,875,500	\$1,026,827,575
NON-RATEABLE	\$902,683,000	\$1,319,239,000	\$68,279,500
TOTAL VALUATION	\$11,956,258,500	\$20,582,114,500	\$1,095,107,075

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR LOWE

That Council adopt the following valuation figures as advised by the Valuer General at the return date of 1 January 2025:

	SITE VALUE	CAPITAL IMPROVED VALUE	NET ANNUAL VALUE
RATEABLE	\$11,053,575,500	\$19,262,875,500	\$1,026,827,575
NON-RATEABLE	\$902,683,000	\$1,319,239,000	\$68,279,500
TOTAL VALUATION	\$11,956,258,500	\$20,582,114,500	\$1,095,107,075

CARRIED

11.3. FUNDING AND PROCUREMENT OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS POLICY REVIEW

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER GOVERNANCE

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the attached updated Funding and Procurement of Public Infrastructure Works Policy.

COUNCILLOR LOWE / COUNCILLOR WELLS

That Council adopt the attached updated Funding and Procurement of Public Infrastructure Works Policy.

CARRIED

12. GENERAL MANAGER DEVELOPMENT

12.1. ENDORSEMENT OF WELLINGTON DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER DEVELOPMENT

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. ***Appoint the nominated community representatives to the Wellington Disability Advisory Committee, as detailed in the confidential Attachment 12.1.2 - Wellington Disability Advocacy Selected Applicant Summary June 2025, and***
2. ***Note that the information contained in the confidential Attachment 12.1.2 - Wellington Disability Advocacy Selected Applicant Summary June 2025 was designated confidential under section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020, by the General Manager Development on 23 May 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:***
 - f) ***personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.***

COUNCILLOR MADELEY / COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN

That Council:

1. **Appoint the nominated community representatives to the Wellington Disability Advisory Committee, as detailed in the confidential Attachment 12.1.2 - Wellington Disability Advocacy Selected Applicant Summary June 2025, and**
2. **Note that the information contained in the confidential Attachment 12.1.2 - Wellington Disability Advocacy Selected Applicant Summary June 2025 was designated confidential under section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020, by the General Manager Development on 23 May 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:**
 - f) **personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.**

CARRIED

The Mayor announced the members of the Wellington Disability Advisory Committee: Ron D'Arcy, Rachel Smith, Rosalie O'Neil, Jean Kemp, Sally Glass, Michael Kenny, Christina Sheers, Chantelle Gotts, Shaun Craddock and Kade Britton.

13. GENERAL MANAGER BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

13.1. QUARTERLY CAPITAL REPORT

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER ASSETS AND PROJECTS

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note changes to the 2024/2025 Adopted Capital Works Budget with \$4,694,154 removed from the program since the 18 February 2025 Council Report, resulting in an Adjusted Capital Works Budget of \$62,919,385 as shown in Attachment 13.1.1, which also includes projects that have been deferred or cancelled for reasons as shown.

COUNCILLOR FOAT / COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN

That Council note changes to the 2024/2025 Adopted Capital Works Budget with \$4,694,154 removed from the program since the 18 February 2025 Council Report, resulting in an Adjusted Capital Works Budget of \$62,919,385 as shown in Attachment 13.1.1, which also includes projects that have been deferred or cancelled for reasons as shown.

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

CAMERON DUNLOP emailed Wellington Shire Council on 21 May 2025 with a request that Council consider who is liable in the event of a bushfire at Earl Street in Woodside when standard low vehicles are unable to escape due to bottoming out on the road.

The Mayor indicated a Council response will follow.

FURTHER GALLERY COMMENTS

NIL

Meeting declared closed at: 5.25pm.

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

15. IN CLOSED SESSION

That the meeting be closed to the public pursuant to section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 to consider confidential 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