



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

Resolutions in Brief Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 1 July 2025, commencing at 5:00 PM

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

Cr Scott Rossetti (Mayor)

Cr Cindy Madeley (Deputy Mayor)

Cr Catherine Bannerman

Cr Liz Foat

Cr Edward Lowe (Online)

Cr Carmel Ripper

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	
<i>That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 17 June 2025.</i>	
COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN / COUNCILLOR WELLS	
That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 17 June 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

5.1. LATE ITEM - NOTICE OF MOTION

Cr Lowe joined the Council Meeting online at 5.05pm.

RECOMMENDATION	
<i>That Council accept Councillor Stephen's Notice of Motion regarding the notice of Bendigo Bank branch closure at Yarram as a late item.</i>	
COUNCILLOR MADELEY / COUNCILLOR WELLS	
That Council accept Councillor Stephen's Notice of Motion regarding the notice of Bendigo Bank branch closure at Yarram as a late item.	
CARRIED	

6. NOTICE/S OF MOTION

6.1. NOTICE OF MOTION – NOTICE OF BENDIGO BANK BRANCH CLOSURE AT YARRAM

ACTION OFFICER: COUNCILLOR STEPHENS

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR WELLS

- 1. The Mayor write to the Head of Corporate Affairs at Bendigo Bank to express Council's deep disappointment and concern regarding the decision to close the Yarram branch, including the unacceptable lack of community consultation and the significant negative impact on residents, small businesses, community groups, and staff.**
- 2. Call on Bendigo Bank to immediately pause its closure plans and engage meaningfully with Council and the Yarram community to explore alternative service delivery models, such as agency partnerships, part-time staffing, or mobile banking options that maintain access to banking services in the town.**
- 3. Request that the CEO writes to relevant State and Federal Government Ministers, including the Minister for Regional Development and the Minister for Small Business, to raise awareness of the issue and advocate for policies that safeguard essential services in rural and regional communities.**

CARRIED

6.2. NOTICE OF MOTION – STATE GOVERNMENT'S MANDATED ROLLOUT OF A FOURTH KERBSIDE BIN FOR GLASS COLLECTION

ACTION OFFICER: COUNCILLOR FOAT

COUNCILLOR FOAT / COUNCILLOR MADELEY

That Council write to The Hon. Steve Dimopoulos, Minister for Environment, requesting reconsideration of the mandatory implementation of the purple lidded glass recycling bin as stipulated under the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021, noting:

- The significant financial burden this initiative imposes on our community.**
- The effectiveness of the existing Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) in achieving high glass recovery rates without necessitating an additional kerbside bin.**
- The operational challenges of implementing a fourth bin in a regional setting.**
- The need for flexibility in waste management solutions to align with community needs and financial capacities.**

CARRIED

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 FOAT acknowledged last Monday's tour of Yarram and surrounds on behalf of Councillor Wells and herself, thanking Councillor Stephens for his involvement. The tour started with a look at the well maintained Yarram Indoor Sports Centre, a fabulous facility and vital resource for the community, promoting active lifestyles. The centre will undergo some upgrades in the future.

The tour also involved a visit to the Industrial area, the Yarram Recreation Reserve, the Yarram Wetlands, the Great Southern Rail Trail, Mcloughlin's Beach with the boat ramp and jetty nearing completion and the Port Albert dual occupied facility owned by the Coast Guard and Yacht Club. The last part of the day was spent meeting with Stella from Southerly Ten. This tour provided valuable insights which will inform Councillors, going forward.

COUNCILLOR MADELEY attended a meeting with members of the Seaspray Ratepayers Association on Sunday 29 June 2025. On 7 June 2025, both Councillor Madeley and Councillor Bannerman attended a further Seaspray Ratepayers Association meeting. The Seaspray Ratepayers have circulated a letter this week addressed to the Minister Chris Bowen MP, the Minister for Climate Change and Energy, to express opposition to the Blue Mackerel Offshore Wind farm, located 10km off the Gippsland Coast. The letter states support for a clean energy future, but advocates for transparent decision making, proper consultation and project designs which respect the communities most affected, including assessments of the social impacts. This letter has been circulated to all Councillors.

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 BANNERMAN attended a Timber Towns Victoria meeting on 19 June 2025. The main aspect of the meeting which Councillor Bannerman shared was a presentation into the possibilities of using a commercial product called 'Terra', a nano technology used in road construction which has been used for over 30 years in Europe and cold climates, resulting in 50% reductions in the cost of laying out roads and road bases and has potential advantages when dealing with increased trucks on roads. There are some very interesting and exciting technologies available for review of transport logistics.

COUNCILLOR MADELEY attended the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly event in Canberra along with Councillor Bannerman, Councillor Tatterson and the Chief Executive Officer David Morcom. The event brought together local government representatives from across the country with approximately 1300 attendees. Councillor Madeley highlighted the Regional Forum which focussed on the unique challenges and opportunities facing regional communities and highlighted the importance of tailored approaches for regional areas.

Councillor Madeley noted that a 'stand-out' was hearing from Her Excellency the Governor-General Samantha Mostyn AC who spoke about the importance of civics education, leading with kindness and helping young people understand how the three levels of government work, a timely reminder of the importance of engaging the next generation in local democracy.

Jason Clark presented on the topic of 'Big Picture to Local Action' which explored how different types of people provide a valuable purpose in contributing to local problem solving, whether they be 'ideas people', planners, those that ensure things get done, or those that see the barriers. Understanding these different approaches makes the community stronger.

Other valuable 'takeaways' included the opportunity to connect with fellow Councillors across Australia and Victoria and hearing about the innovative projects, successful advocacy efforts and how other councils are approaching challenges.

There was also the opportunity to meet the Minister for Climate Change and Energy, The Hon Chris Bowen MP, and local member The Hon Darren Chester MP which was also a valuable opportunity to advocate strongly for the Wellington Shire and discussing the importance of continuing to grow the region.

It was a fantastic event to connect and re-affirm the value of local government.

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 9 June to 22 June 2025.

COUNCILLOR RIPPER / COUNCILLOR WELLS

That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 9 June to 22 June 2025.

CARRIED

11.2. FUTURE WELLINGTON: INTENTION TO DISPLAY DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2025-29, FINANCIAL PLAN, ASSET PLAN AND MUNICIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN - LIVE WELL IN WELLINGTON

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER GOVERNANCE

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve a two-week community engagement process commencing Wednesday 2 July for the following draft documents:

- *Council Plan 2025-29;*
- *Financial Plan;*
- *Asset Plan; and*
- *Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan – Live Well in Wellington.*

COUNCILLOR MADELEY / COUNCILLOR WELLS

That Council approve a two-week community engagement process commencing Wednesday 2 July for the following draft documents:

- *Council Plan 2025-29;*
- *Financial Plan;*
- *Asset Plan; and*
- *Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan - Live Well in Wellington.*

CARRIED

11.3. AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES 26 MAY 2025

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Receive and note the attachment 11.3.1 Audit & Risk Committee minutes in brief 26 May 2025 and the confidential attachment 11.3.3 Audit & Risk Committee minutes 26 May 2025;*
2. *Note that the information contained in the confidential attachment 11.3.3 Audit & Risk Committee minutes 26 May 2025 of this Council meeting agenda was designated confidential under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 by the General Manager Corporate Services on 10 June 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:*
 - e) legal privileged information; and*
 - l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.*

COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN / COUNCILLOR LOWE

That Council:

1. *Receive and note the attachment 11.3.1 Audit & Risk Committee minutes in brief 26 May 2025 and the confidential attachment 11.3.3 Audit & Risk Committee minutes 26 May 2025;*
2. *Note that the information contained in the confidential attachment 11.3.3 Audit & Risk Committee minutes 26 May 2025 of this Council meeting agenda*

was designated confidential under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 by the General Manager Corporate Services on 10 June 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:
e) legal privileged information; and
l) information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.

CARRIED

11.4. RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER GOVERNANCE

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the attached Risk Management Policy.

COUNCILLOR MADELEY / COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN

That Council adopt the attached Risk Management Policy.

CARRIED

12. GENERAL MANAGER BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

12.1. LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES 2025-2028 SCHEDULE OF RATES PANEL TENDER 2025-217

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receive and consider this report and all attachments pertaining to this report;**
- 2. Accept the Schedule of Rates for Landscape Construction Services 2025-2028 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 12.1.2 Confidential Tender Evaluation Report – Landscape Construction Services 2025-2028 Schedule of Rates Panel Tender 2025-217 and as submitted by:**
 - **All-Round Landscapes**
 - **BILD Greenfields**
 - **Clint Kelly Excavations Pty Ltd**
 - **Diverse Exteriors**
 - **GBM Contractors**
 - **Habitat Creations**
 - **K.L & J Murray**
 - **Longford Bobcat Hire**
 - **Mt Beenak Earth Pty Ltd**
 - **R & C Coleman Excavations**
 - **RB Drilling and Earthworks PTY LTD**
 - **RW&C Hicks**

- 3. Note that the information contained in the confidential attachment 12.1.2 Confidential Tender Evaluation Report – Landscape Construction Services 2025-2028 Schedule of Rates Panel Tender 2025-217 is designated confidential under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 by the General Manager Built and Natural Environment on 6 June 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:
(g) 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.**

COUNCILLOR FOAT / COUNCILLOR WELLS

That Council:

- 1. Receive and consider this report and all attachments pertaining to this report;**
- 2. Accept the Schedule of Rates for Landscape Construction Services 2025-2028 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 12.1.2 Confidential Tender Evaluation Report – Landscape Construction Services 2025-2028 Schedule of Rates Panel Tender 2025-217 and as submitted by:**
 - All-Round Landscapes**
 - BILD Greenfields**
 - Clint Kelly Excavations Ply Ltd**
 - Diverse Exteriors**
 - GBM Contractors**
 - Habitat Creations**
 - K.L & J Murray**
 - Longford Bobcat Hire**
 - Mt Beenak Earth Pty Ltd**
 - R & C Coleman Excavations**
 - RB Drilling and Earthworks PTY LTD**
 - RW&C Hicks**
- 3. Note that the information contained in the confidential attachment 12.1.2 Confidential Tender Evaluation Report – Landscape Construction Services 2025-2028 Schedule of Rates Panel Tender 2025-217 is designated confidential under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 by the General Manager Built and Natural Environment on 6 June 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:
(g) 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.**

CARRIED

The Chair announced that all compliant tenderers listed will be accepted on the Landscape Construction Services Panel.

12.2. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT WORKS 2025-2028 SCHEDULE OF RATES PANEL TENDER 2025-218

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receives and considers this report and all attachments pertaining to this report.***
- 2. Accepts the Schedule of Rates for Vegetation Management Works 2025-2028 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 12.2.2 Confidential Tender Evaluation Report - Vegetation Management Works 2025-2028 Schedule of Rates Panel Tender 2025-218 and as submitted by:***
 - A.B. Kirkham***
 - Batt Brothers Vegetation Management***
 - Benson Group Contractors Pty Ltd***
 - Cater Mowing***
 - Clear-Path AU***
 - Devil of a Spot Machine Hire***
 - Eastern Vegetation Contracting***
 - Envirogain Pty Ltd***
 - George Gray***
 - Gippsland Contracting and Plant Hire***
 - Great Southern Land Management***
 - Habitat Creations***
 - Indigenous Design Environmental Management***
 - K.L. & J. Murray***
 - Longford Bobcat Hire***
 - LSC Services & Excavation***
 - LTM Contracting***
 - McInnes Earthmoving***
 - Mount Beenak Earth Pty Ltd***
 - Native Habitat***
 - Rentokil Initial Track Spray***
 - Silveroaks Investments (Ferguson Group Contractors)***
 - Wayne Hamilton***
- 3. The information contained in the confidential attachment 12.2.2 Confidential Tender Evaluation Report - Vegetation Management Works 2025-2028 Schedule of Rates Panel Tender 2025-218 and designated confidential under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 by the General Manager Built and Natural Environment on 28 May 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:***

(g) 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.

COUNCILLOR TATTERSON / COUNCILLOR LOWE

That Council:

- 1. Receives and considers this report and all attachments pertaining to this report.**
- 2. Accepts the Schedule of Rates for Vegetation Management Works 2025-2028 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 12.2.2 Confidential Tender Evaluation Report - Vegetation Management Works 2025-2028 Schedule of Rates Panel Tender 2025-218 and as submitted by:**
 - **A.B. Kirkham**
 - **Batt Brothers Vegetation Management**
 - **Benson Group Contractors Pty Ltd**
 - **Cater Mowing**
 - **Clear-Path AU**
 - **Devil of a Spot Machine Hire**
 - **Eastern Vegetation Contracting**
 - **Envirogain Pty Ltd**
 - **George Gray**
 - **Gippsland Contracting and Plant Hire**
 - **Great Southern Land Management**
 - **Habitat Creations**
 - **Indigenous Design Environmental Management**
 - **K.L. & J. Murray**
 - **Longford Bobcat Hire**
 - **LSC Services & Excavation**
 - **LTM Contracting**
 - **McInnes Earthmoving**
 - **Mount Beenak Earth Pty Ltd**
 - **Native Habitat**
 - **Rentokil Initial Track Spray**
 - **Silveroaks Investments (Ferguson Group Contractors)**
 - **Wayne Hamilton**
- 3. The information contained in the confidential attachment 12.2.2 Confidential Tender Evaluation Report - Vegetation Management Works 2025-2028 Schedule of Rates Panel Tender 2025-218 and designated confidential under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 by the General Manager Built and Natural Environment on 28 May 2025 because it relates to the following grounds:**

(g) 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.

CARRIED

The Chair announced that all compliant tenderers listed will be accepted on the Vegetation Management Works Panel.

12.3. ADOPTION OF THE ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER BUILT ENVIRONMENT

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

DAVID WOODHOUSE, MAFFRA – submitted a comment regarding this agenda item. The Chief Executive Officer acknowledged the submission regarding the increased Defect Intervention Levels in the Road Management Plan, noting that the submission has been circulated to all Councillors for inclusion in their deliberations for this item.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Road Management Plan 2025, following a review pursuant to provisions of the Road Management (General) Regulations 2016.

COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN / COUNCILLOR MADELEY

That Council adopt the Road Management Plan 2025, following a review pursuant to provisions of the Road Management (General) Regulations 2016.

CARRIED

13. 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

SUSAN REAKES, YARRAM – Susan has expressed objection to the draft Community Local Law 2025 item from the 17 June 2025 meeting in an email forwarded to Councillors.

The Chief Executive Officer acknowledged the comments will be included as part of the current consultation process and provided to Councillors.

FURTHER GALLERY COMMENTS

NIL

Meeting declared closed at: 5.57pm.

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

14. 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