



WELLINGTON  
SHIRE COUNCIL

# Resolutions in Brief Ordinary Council Meeting

**Tuesday 2 December 2025, commencing at 5:00 PM**

**To be read in conjunction with the Council Meeting Agenda 2 December 2025.**

Cr Cindy Madeley (Mayor)

Cr Liz Foat (Deputy Mayor)

Cr Catherine Bannerman

Cr Scott Rossetti

Cr Edward Lowe

Cr Garry Stephens

Cr Carmel Ripper

Cr John Tatterson

Cr Geoff Wells

David Morcom, Chief Executive Officer

Chris Hastie, General Manager Built and Natural Environment

Andrew Pomeroy, General Manager Development

Billie-Jo Thorburn, A/Manager Customer & Communications

Catie Thomson, Governance Officer

ORDINARY 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. 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 18 November 2025.</i>	
<b>COUNCILLOR WELLS / COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI</b>	
That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 18 November 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 – CLOSURE OF AKD TIMBER MILL IN YARRAM

#### ACTION OFFICER: COUNCILLOR GARRY STEPHENS

I, Councillor Garry Stephens, hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 2 December 2025 -

#### COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR FOAT

##### That Council:

Write to the State Government following the sudden and unexpected closure of the AKD Timber Mill in Yarram and seek urgent consideration of two matters –

1. The urgent extension of the Victorian Forestry Worker Support Program to the workers at AKD Yarram who have lost their jobs; and
2. Extension of funding to the Future of Yarram Project for a further 12 months ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2027 to enable the Project to assist the Yarram and District community and workers who have lost their jobs following the closure of the AKD Yarram timber mill.

**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 BANNERMAN acknowledged Angas Moncur, an outstanding young man who, at 16 years old, came up with the idea to host an event for the benefit of the Australian hay runners, a local charity who organise hay and other supplies for farmers in most need of feed for their animals. Angas put together Victoria's "4WD Show and Shine" event on 22 November 2025 which was held outside Rosedale. It was a hugely successful day, both as an event and for the intended purpose of raising money for the Australian hay runners. Over \$12,000 was raised on the day.

Councillor Bannerman thanked everyone who participated in the day and contributed toward the charity as well as all the volunteers who put in countless hours of volunteer work. A fabulous event.

COUNCILLOR TATTERSON acknowledged on Tuesday 25 November, six Wellington Shire Councillors went to Dargo to visit a number of facilities around Dargo, beginning with the Bush Nursing Centre which holds much importance to the local community and the tourists who visit Dargo followed by the Dargo Museum and Dargo Hall. Councillor Tatterson acknowledged and made special mention of the terrific job undertaken by the volunteers in Dargo and the importance of the volunteers to a town like Dargo which allows the community to thrive and stay busy.

COUNCILLOR TATTERSON as Deputy Chair of SEATS Victoria (South Eastern Australian Transport Strategy) acknowledged the Committee meeting which was held on 20 November 2025 hosted in Leongatha. A couple of key discussion points around transport issues across the network included, for Gippsland, some major projects such as the Traralgon Bypass which has received strong advocacy from SEATS and other key agencies. The Traralgon Bypass is one which SEATS is keen to keep on the agenda and to see the Government start working on the planning for how the bypass can progress, either via the current route or via an altered route. This is an important project as it currently takes a very long time to get product from East Gippsland and Wellington through to the markets in Melbourne. The SEATS session included the Sale alternate truck route; Warragul Drouin transport planning and presentations from the Port of Hastings where the solar and wind alternate energies were outlined, particularly offshore wind and the importance of both the Port of Hastings and Barry Beach.

There was also an opportunity to view some of the revitalisation projects in Leongatha who have done a terrific job linking the rail trail to the former railway in the middle of town and in revitalising this area of town. It was a very productive day and well attended by Councillors across Gippsland and Council staff.

COUNCILLOR RIPPER acknowledged the significant impact and uncertainty that the closure of the Dicky Bill farm business in Maffra has on families, employees and associated businesses. This represents not only the loss of local jobs, but also disruption to livelihoods and broader impacts to the region in the lead-up to Christmas.

Council remains committed to supporting affected workers and engaging with relevant State and Federal government agencies. There will be a support event for affected workers and community hosted by Workforce Australia, Regional Development Victoria and Wellington Shire Council at the Maffra Memorial Hall on 10 December 2025 from 10am to 2pm.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS acknowledged the 16 Days of Activism campaign against domestic violence (held between 25 November to 10 December 2025) and Yarram Neighbourhood House who held an event last Tuesday with a walk at 4am in the morning. There were over 100 participants and over 500 kilometres was covered during this walk. The event concluded with a barbeque (BBQ) at 6.30am at the memorial gardens supported by the Health Service in which around 40 people attended and a final walking lap. It was a great event for recognising and supporting action against Domestic Violence. Councillor Stephens re-iterated a thank you to Yarram Neighbourhood House and also to Cathy Cook and team for their efforts.

Councillor Stephens also acknowledged the special expo held at Yarram in relation to the closure of the AKD Timbermill, an event supported by the Wellington Shire. This was another great event with around 50 local workers who took part. Present on the day were well over a dozen stall holders, a number of job providers, 'Services Australia' and various Council representatives such as Ashley Smirl and Rachel Weatherly from the Economic Development unit of Wellington Shire Council. Councillor Stephens also acknowledged Sara Rhodes-Ward from Regional Development Victoria (RDV) and Darren Beggs from Workforce Australia who put the whole event together.

Councillor Stephens also acknowledged that today is the 31<sup>st</sup> birthday of the Wellington Shire Council, to which Councillor Stephens can recall 31 years ago his attendance at the very first meeting when the Commissioners were sworn in on 2 December 1994.

COUNCILLOR MADELEY, following on from Councillor Stephens' acknowledgement about the 16 Days of Activism, reminded everyone that there is a Walk Against Violence happening next Wednesday 10 November 2025 in Sale commencing from 4pm at the Clocktower. The walk will conclude at the Port of Sale for a community BBQ.

## 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 provided an update on the Rural Councils Victoria (RCV) Committee which meets throughout the year.

The recent meeting focussed on the 2026 upcoming election and compiling a comprehensive, but coherent and succinct, list of what Rural Councils are seeking from the State Government candidates coming into the 2026 election; the positioning that is required as a significant factor within State economics and demographics, and the need for a specific voice outside of other Councils. Councillor Bannerman highlighted that there are special and unique considerations with rural Councils who 'bring a lot to the table' but also require specific levels of support through policy and legislation.

## 11. GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

### 11.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS REPORT

**ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER GOVERNANCE**

RECOMMENDATION
<i>That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 10 November to 23 November 2025.</i>
<b>COUNCILLOR WELLS / COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN</b>
<b>That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 10 November to 23 November 2025.</b>
<b>CARRIED</b>

## 11.2. ADOPTION OF 2026 COUNCIL MEETING DATES

**ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER GOVERNANCE**

### RECOMMENDATION

*That Council:*

- 1. Adopt the 2026 Council meeting dates and times as attached; and*
- 2. Publish the 2026 Council meeting dates, times and place on Council's website.*

**COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN / COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI**

*That Council:*

- 1. Adopt the 2026 Council meeting dates and times as attached; and*
- 2. Publish the 2026 Council meeting dates, times and place on Council's website.*

**CARRIED**

## 12. GENERAL MANAGER BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

### 12.1. PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE MEETING - NOVEMBER MINUTES

**ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER ASSETS AND PROJECTS**

### RECOMMENDATION

*That Council:*

- 1. Receive and note the minutes of the Place Names Committee meeting held on 11 November 2025;*
- 2. Establish a confidential (internal) register of indigenous names for possible future place naming and:*
  - i. That the names included as attached in the minutes at agenda item 2.1 be added to this register; and*
  - ii. That the list of Gunaikurnai place names included as attached in the minutes at agenda item 2.1 be added to this register; and*
  - iii. That all names on this register be subject to further consultation and approval from the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation in accordance with the requirements for Naming Rules for places in Victoria; and*
- 3. Approve the proposal to assign the name "Chough" from the approved name register to common property associated with PS300850 in Coongulla to allow for the finalisation of a subdivision subject to the following conditions:*
  - i. Proponent demonstrating that they have obtained approval from the owner of allotment 4/PS300850, and*
  - ii. Subject to the applicant agreeing to the following conditions:*
    - a. That the road sign bears the inscription "Private Road" and be installed at the applicant's expense;*
    - b. All future maintenance works and associated costs for the private road sign be borne by the owners corporation of the development.*



**COUNCILLOR FOAT / COUNCILLOR TATTERSON**

**That Council:**

- 1. Receive and note the minutes of the Place Names Committee meeting held on 11 November 2025;**
- 2. Establish a confidential (internal) register of indigenous names for possible future place naming and:**
  - i. That the names included as attached in the minutes at agenda item 2.1 be added to this register; and**
  - ii. That the list of Gunaikurnai place names included as attached in the minutes at agenda item 2.1 be added to this register; and**
  - iii. That all names on this register be subject to further consultation and approval from the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation in accordance with the requirements for Naming Rules for places in Victoria; and**
- 3. Approve the proposal to assign the name “Chough” from the approved name register to common property associated with PS300850 in Coongulla to allow for the finalisation of a subdivision subject to the following conditions:**
  - i. Proponent demonstrating that they have obtained approval from the owner of allotment 4/PS300850, and**
  - ii. Subject to the applicant agreeing to the following conditions:**
    - a. That the road sign bears the inscription “Private Road” and be installed at the applicant’s expense;**
    - b. All future maintenance works and associated costs for the private road sign be borne by the owners corporation of the development.**

**CARRIED**

**12.2. QUICK RESPONSE GRANTS - JULY TO OCTOBER 2025**

**ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER FACILITIES AND EMERGENCIES**

**PURPOSE**

For Council to note the information regarding applications received under the Quick Response Grant Scheme (QRGS) for the period July 2025 to October 2025, as detailed in Attachment 12.2.1 – Quick Response Grants Scheme Applications – July 2025 to October 2025.

**RECOMMENDATION**

***That Council note the information regarding applications received under the Quick Response Grant Scheme (QRGS) for the period July 2025 to October 2025 as detailed in Attachment 12.2.1 – Quick Response Grants Scheme Applications – July 2025 to October 2025.***

**COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN / COUNCILLOR LOWE**

**That Council note the information regarding applications received under the Quick Response Grant Scheme (QRGS) for the period July 2025 to October 2025 as detailed in Attachment 12.2.1 – Quick Response Grants Scheme Applications – July 2025 to October 2025.**

**CARRIED**

The Chair announced the successful grant recipient applications:

- Sale's Lakeside Community Garden Inc. (Seed)
- Dargo TV Management Group Inc.
- Q-Lit
- Wellington BBQ Inc.
- Maffra and Districts Landcare Network
- Sale City Band Inc.
- Yarram Agricultural Society
- Rosedale & District Adult Horse Riding Club
- Yarram Regent Theatre Committee of Management Inc.
- Maffra Neighbourhood House
- Sale Football Netball Club
- Stratford Netball Club Inc.
- Rosedale Community Care Inc.
- Airly Clydebank Public Hall Inc.
- GPBRRRA - Golden Paradise Beach Ratepayers & Residents Association
- Gippsland Forest Dialogue
- Golden Paradise Beach Community Centre Committee of Management Inc.
- Woodside Community Hall
- Marley St Community Hub
- Mirridong Services Inc.
- Munro Hall Committee of Management
- Gwenfa Hampton Kindergarten
- Gippy Rocks Inc.
- Stratford and District Historical Society
- Golden Paradise Beach Community Development Fund
- Meerlieu Public Hall
- Heyfield & District Historical Society Inc.

**Individual Sponsorship and Team/Community Group Sponsorships**

- The Loch Sport Senior Citizens Club
- Lucas Driscoll
- Macie Preston
- Xanthe Wade
- Kobe Hiskins

## 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

ALAN HEYWOOD, Pearsondale – Follow-up query raised late today in relation to the question asked at the 18 November 2025 Council meeting in relation to whether the Shire would apply for grant/s for realignment of Settlement Road at the intersection of Tyler's Road in Wurruk.

The Chief Executive Officer acknowledged Alan's follow-up query from today and indicated a response has since been provided.

### FURTHER GALLERY COMMENTS

NIL

Meeting declared closed at: 5.32pm.

The live streaming of the Council meeting came to a close at 5.33pm.

## **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*

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**IN CLOSED SESSION**

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NIL