



**WELLINGTON**  
SHIRE COUNCIL

*The Heart of Gippsland*

## **RESOLUTIONS IN BRIEF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday 18 February 2025, commencing at 5:00 PM**

**To be read in conjunction with the Council Meeting Agenda 18 February 2025.**

Cr Scott Rossetti (Mayor)

Cr Cindy Madeley (Deputy Mayor)

Cr Catherine Bannerman

Cr Liz Foat

Cr Edward Lowe

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 Communications & Media

Catie Thomson, Governance Officer

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL  
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>0.1. TABLE OF CONTENTS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1. APOLOGIES .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT/S OF INTEREST.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING/S .....</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING .....	4
<b>4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5. ACCEPTANCE OF LATE AND URGENT ITEMS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
5.1 NOTICE OF MOTION .....	5
5.2 SURRENDER OF LEASE AND ASSET PURCHASE OF WEST SALE AIRPORT PROPERTY.....	5
<b>6. NOTICE/S OF MOTION .....</b>	<b>5</b>
6.1. REDUCED SPEED LIMIT ON STRATFORD-MAFFRA ROAD.....	5
<b>7. RECEIVING OF PETITION OR JOINT LETTERS .....</b>	<b>7</b>
7.1. OUTSTANDING PETITIONS.....	7
<b>8. INVITED ADDRESSES, PRESENTATIONS OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>9. QUESTION/S ON NOTICE.....</b>	<b>7</b>
9.1. OUTSTANDING QUESTION/S ON NOTICE .....	7
<b>10. MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS REPORT .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>11. DELEGATES REPORT.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>12. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.....</b>	<b>9</b>
12.1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT .....	9
<b>13. GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES.....</b>	<b>9</b>
13.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS REPORT .....	9
13.2. S11B INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION (ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT 2017).....	10

<b>14. GENERAL MANAGER DEVELOPMENT .....</b>	<b>10</b>
14.1. MONTHLY PLANNING DECISIONS - NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2024.....	10
<b>15. GENERAL MANAGER BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.....</b>	<b>11</b>
15.1. CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM 2024/25 FEBRUARY ADJUSTMENT REPORT.....	11
<b>16. FURTHER GALLERY AND ONLINE COMMENTS .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>17. IN CLOSED SESSION .....</b>	<b>12</b>
17.1. MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION .....	12
17.2. SURRENDER OF LEASE AND ASSET PURCHASE OF WEST SALE AIRPORT PROPERTY.....	12
17.3. MOVE OUT OF CLOSED SESSION .....	12

## 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 ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE**

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

#### RECOMMENDATION

*That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 4 February 2025.*

**COUNCILLOR MADELEY / COUNCILLOR TATTERSON**

**That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 4 February 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

#### RECOMMENDATION

*That Council accept Councillor Lowe's Notice of Motion regarding the reduced speed limit on Stratford-Maffra Road as a late item.*

**COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR FOAT**

**That Council accept Councillor Lowe's Notice of Motion regarding the reduced speed limit on Stratford-Maffra Road as a late item.**

**CARRIED**

### 5.2. LATE ITEM – SURRENDER OF LEASE AND ASSET PURCHASE OF WEST SALE AIRPORT PROPERTY

#### RECOMMENDATION

*That Council accept the Surrender of Lease and Asset Purchase of West Sale Airport Property as a late item at Item 17: In Closed Session due to its commercial nature.*

**COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR MADELEY**

**That Council accept the Surrender of Lease and Asset Purchase of West Sale Airport Property as a late item at Item 17: In Closed Session due to its commercial nature.**

**CARRIED**

## 6. NOTICE/S OF MOTION

### 6.1. REDUCED SPEED LIMIT ON STRATFORD-MAFFRA ROAD

#### **ACTION OFFICER: COUNCILLOR LOWE**

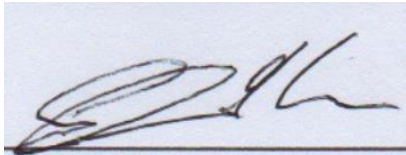
I hereby give notice that at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 18 February 2025, I will propose the following notice of motion.

#### **Motion**

***That Council write to The Hon. Melissa Horne, Minister for Roads and Road Safety, to;***

- a. Communicate our disappointment with the poor condition of many rural roads managed by the Department of Transport;***
- b. Outline our concerns regarding the reduction of the speed limit on Stratford-Maffra Road from 100kph to 80kph without appropriate community consultation***

- c. *Query the process, data, and criteria that informed the decision to reduce the speed limit on Stratford-Maffra Road, as well as other similar speed limit reduction decisions in rural areas*
- d. *Request a timeline for planned road maintenance / improvements on the Stratford-Maffra Road to ensure road safety in the long term; and*
- e. *Seek a commitment from the state government for greater community consultation before implementing significant changes to regional road speed limits.*



**COUNCILLOR LOWE**

Dated: 14 February 2025

**COUNCILLOR LOWE / COUNCILLOR RIPPER**

**That Council write to The Hon. Melissa Horne, Minister for Roads and Road Safety, to;**

- a. **Communicate our disappointment with the poor condition of many rural roads managed by the Department of Transport;**
- b. **Outline our concerns regarding the reduction of the speed limit on Stratford-Maffra Road from 100kph to 80kph without appropriate community consultation**
- c. **Query the process, data, and criteria that informed the decision to reduce the speed limit on Stratford-Maffra Road, as well as other similar speed limit reduction decisions in rural areas**
- d. **Request a timeline for planned road maintenance / improvements on the Stratford-Maffra Road to ensure road safety in the long term; and**
- e. **Seek a commitment from the state government for greater community consultation before implementing significant changes to regional road speed limits.**

**CARRIED**

## **BACKGROUND**

I wish to express my concern regarding the recent decision by the Department of Transport to reduce the speed limit on Stratford-Maffra Road from 100 kph to 80 kph. This decision, made without prior community consultation, is deeply concerning and underscores the ongoing neglect of state-controlled road infrastructure.

The deteriorating condition of state-controlled rural roads is a direct consequence of years of underfunding, leading to a growing disparity between metropolitan and regional transport priorities.

Rather than implementing speed reductions as a short-term measure, the Department of Transport should focus on adequately maintaining and upgrading its road network to ensure the safety and well-being of all road users.

Meaningful engagement with local communities on such significant decisions is essential to maintaining public trust and ensuring fair and effective transport outcomes.

It is imperative that the Department of Transport demonstrates a stronger commitment to regional communities by addressing these long-standing infrastructure issues. Rural residents deserve better, and their voices must be heard in decisions that have a direct impact on their daily lives.

This motion seeks to ensure that The Hon. Melissa Horne, Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and the Department of Transport engage more transparently with local communities, provide clarity on their decision-making processes, and commit to meaningful infrastructure improvements that prioritise road user safety.

## **7. RECEIVING OF PETITION OR JOINT LETTERS**

### **7.1. OUTSTANDING PETITIONS**

**ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>FROM MEETING</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>	<b>ACTION BY</b>
NIL			

## **8. INVITED ADDRESSES, PRESENTATIONS OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS attended the formal opening of the Warrigunya On Country House on Friday 7 February and acknowledged and congratulated the community committee who made the building of this new facility possible. In particular, he noted the contribution of Merryn Stevenson, Chris McEvoy of Radial Timber in Yarram and Mark Coleman. The facility will help indigenous men who have just been released from correctional services to have a home and move on in society.

COUNCILLOR MADELEY and Mayor Rossetti attended the induction of the new group of Wellington Shire Council Youth Councillors last Wednesday 12 February. Councillor Madeley acknowledged the Youth Mayor, Darcie Wright, a year 12 student at Sale College and the Deputy Mayor, Harry Stephenson, a year 10 student at Gippsland Grammar School and the other Youth Councillors from a range of towns and schools around the shire. The first event for the Youth Council is a BBQ at the Sale Skate Park on Saturday 1 March as part of Parks Week.

## **9. QUESTION/S ON NOTICE**

### **9.1. OUTSTANDING QUESTION/S ON NOTICE**

**ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>FROM MEETING</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>	<b>ACTION BY</b>
NIL			

## 10. MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS REPORT

**ACTION OFFICER: MAYOR SCOTT ROSSETTI**

### RECOMMENDATION

*That the Mayor and Councillors reports be noted for December 2024 and January 2025.*

**COUNCILLOR LOWE / COUNCILLOR MADELEY**

**That the Mayor and Councillors reports be noted for December 2024 and January 2025.**

**CARRIED**

## 11. DELEGATES REPORT

### STAR OF THE SOUTH COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

COUNCILLOR WELLS provided an update from the Star of the South (Southerly Ten) Community Advisory Group meeting on 5 February 2025.

The advisory group is currently submitting to the State and Federal Government their environmental reports. The committee hope to receive a response around Christmas. Twenty-five reports have been sent so far.

Soil surveys, more environmental studies and noise monitoring at Reeves Beach will be occurring.

There will be Gippsland Offshore Wind days held at:

- Port Albert on 12 March 2025
- Golden Beach on 13 March 2025
- Sale on 22 March 2025, and
- Leongatha 27 March 2025.

The committee is speaking with VicGrid about project delivery from 2028 to 2030. There are continued conversations with land owners and there is continued debate about above ground or below ground infrastructure. The first windfarms must be done by 2032. Councillor Wells hopes to facilitate a meeting with the new Wellington Shire councillors to get everyone 'up to speed' on the current status and the process.

The next Star of the South Community Advisory Group meeting is scheduled for 3 April 2025.



## 12. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

### 12.1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

**ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That the Chief Executive Officer's report be received.*

**COUNCILLOR RIPPER / COUNCILLOR LOWE**

**That the Chief Executive Officer's report be received.**

**CARRIED**

## 13. GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

### 13.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS REPORT

**ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE**

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 27 January 2025 to 9 February 2025.*

**COUNCILLOR MADELEY / COUNCILLOR WELLS**

**That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 27 January 2025 to 9 February 2025.**

**CARRIED**

## 13.2. S11B INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION (ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT 2017)

**ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE**

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

### RECOMMENDATION

1. *That Council appoint and authorise the Council Officers referred to in the attached instrument titled 'S11B Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Environment Protection Act 2017)' as set out in the instrument.*
2. *That the instrument comes into force immediately upon being signed by Council's Chief Executive Officer and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke the instrument.*
3. *That Council revoke the S11B Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Environment Protection Act 2017) dated 22 April 2024.*

**COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN / COUNCILLOR STEPHENS**

1. That Council appoint and authorise the Council Officers referred to in the attached instrument titled 'S11B Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Environment Protection Act 2017)' as set out in the instrument.
2. That the instrument comes into force immediately upon being signed by Council's Chief Executive Officer and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke the instrument.
3. That Council revoke the S11B Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Environment Protection Act 2017) dated 22 April 2024.

**CARRIED**

## 14. GENERAL MANAGER DEVELOPMENT

### 14.1. MONTHLY PLANNING DECISIONS - NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2024

**ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER LAND USE PLANNING**

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

### RECOMMENDATION

*That Council note the report on recent Planning Permit trends and Planning Application determinations between 1 November and 31 December 2024.*

**COUNCILLOR FOAT / COUNCILLOR TATTERSON**

That Council note the report on recent Planning Permit trends and Planning Application determinations between 1 November and 31 December 2024.

**CARRIED**

## 15. GENERAL MANAGER BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

### 15.1. CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM 2024/25 FEBRUARY ADJUSTMENT REPORT

**ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER ASSETS AND PROJECTS**

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY**

NIL

#### RECOMMENDATION

*That Council note changes to the 2024/2025 Adopted Capital Works Budget with \$913,888 removed from the program since the start of July 2024, resulting in an Adjusted Capital Works Budget of \$67,613,539 as shown in Attachment 15.1.1, which also includes projects that have been deferred or cancelled for reasons as shown.*

**COUNCILLOR TATTERSON / COUNCILLOR STEPHENS**

*That Council note changes to the 2024/2025 Adopted Capital Works Budget with \$913,888 removed from the program since the start of July 2024, resulting in an Adjusted Capital Works Budget of \$67,613,539 as shown in Attachment 15.1.1, which also includes projects that have been deferred or cancelled for reasons as shown.*

**CARRIED**

## 16. 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**

NIL

## **FURTHER GALLERY COMMENTS**

ALAN HEYWOOD, PEARSONDALE – followed up his previous question to the Council meeting on 4 February 2025 regarding damage to the Wurruk levee bank. Alan noted that the question raised at the last Council meeting may not be relevant to Wellington Shire Council as it is possible the Catchment Management Authority (CMA) may not have advised the Wellington Shire Council of the issue at the time.

IAN PREE, TRARALGON – addressed Council regarding local identity, particularly in relation to the proud heritage and historic significance of Sale as Gippsland's first city. Ian encouraged councillors to do some research into this matter. Ian also provided Councillors with printed information on the COVID vaccine.

Meeting declared closed at: 5.42pm.

## **17. IN CLOSED SESSION**

### **17.1 MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION**

#### **COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR MADELEY**

- 1. That the meeting be closed to the public to consider confidential information pursuant to section 66(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 and defined in section 3(1) as involving private commercial information which if released, would unreasonably expose current business, commercial or financial undertakings to disadvantage.**
- 2. The grounds for designation under section 3(1)(g)(ii) have been made as the information is deemed confidential to protect the commercial negotiations.**

**CARRIED**

The live streaming of this Council meeting will now come to a close at 5.43pm.

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### **IN CLOSED SESSION**

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### **17.2 SURRENDER OF LEASE AND ASSET PURCHASE OF WEST SALE AIRPORT PROPERTY**

#### **COUNCILLOR FOAT / COUNCILLOR STEPHENS**

*Details redacted.*

**CARRIED**

### **17.3 MOVE OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

#### **COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR MADELEY**

**That Council move into open session and ratify the decision made in closed session.**

**CARRIED**

Meeting declared closed at: 5.47pm.