



WELLINGTON  
SHIRE COUNCIL

# Resolutions in Brief Ordinary Council Meeting

**Tuesday 3 March 2026, commencing at 5:00 PM**

**To be read in conjunction with the Council Meeting Agenda 3 March 2026.**

Cr Cindy Madeley (Mayor)

Cr Liz Foat (Deputy Mayor)

Cr Catherine Bannerman

Cr Scott Rossetti

Cr Edward Lowe (Online)

Cr Garry Stephens

Cr Carmel Ripper

Cr John Tatterson

Cr Geoff Wells

David Morcom, Chief Executive Officer

Arthur Skipitaris, General Manager Corporate Services

Chris Hastie, General Manager Built and Natural Environment

Renae Littlejohn, Acting General Manager Development

Catherine Hicks, Communications Advisor

Catie Thomson, Senior Governance and Reporting Officer

Courtney Smart, Corporate Governance Officer

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
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## **COUNCIL MEETING INFORMATION**

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*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**

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
<i>That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 17 February 2026.</i>
<b>COUNCILLOR WELLS / COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI</b>
<i>That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 17 February 2026.</i>
<b>CARRIED</b>

**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			

### 7.2. RECEIPT OF PETITION: REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF PLANNING LIMITATIONS AFFECTING THE TOWNSHIP OF ALBERTON.

**ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER DEVELOPMENT**

#### COMMENTS FROM THE GALLERY

GEOFF NEILSON, Head Petitioner, Resident of Alberton - Mr Neilson thanked the Councillors for the opportunity to speak on the Petition which relates to a request for a review of planning limitations affecting the Township of Alberton, as he believes there is an opportunity for Alberton to grow, particularly given the issues detailed in the petition. Mr Neilson spoke to the main aspects of the petition including that town sewerage works were undertaken 10 years ago, the town boundary was defined and an overlay enacted quite a lot of the town of Alberton, preventing subdivision.

Mr Neilson re-iterated the petition request for a review of the restrictions on subdivision and asked that the Council also look at the drainage issues.

Mr Neilson is a member of the Alberton Committee and the Recreation Reserve Committee which he believes represent the only voice of the town. Mr Neilson indicated that Councillor Stephens has had a look at the area and that the petition contains all details for which he and the residents would be grateful of a review.

The Chief Executive Officer explained the process which is that Council receive the petition at this Council Meeting and then the petition will be addressed within two Council Meetings.

#### RECOMMENDATION

*That Council receive the attached petition in relation to a request for a review of Planning Limitations affecting the Township of Alberton and refer it to the General Manager Development for consideration and response.*

**COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR FOAT**

**That Council receive the attached petition in relation to a request for a review of Planning Limitations affecting the Township of Alberton and refer it to the General Manager Development for consideration and response.**

**CARRIED**

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

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS acknowledged that on 24 February, Council visited Briagolong to meet with representatives of the Briagolong Improvement Group who have prepared the Strategic Investment Plan for Briagolong. Councillor Stephens thanked the Group for submitting the plan and indicated that Council had a very useful discussion with the group. Some attendees walked around the town while others were chauffeured by the CEO. The visit provided for a good inspection of Briagolong where Councillor Stephens observed that the people of Briagolong are very proud and passionate about their town. Councillors took some follow-up notes during the visit.

COUNCILLOR FOAT acknowledged attendance at the Wellington Youth Council Induction with Mayor Madeley and Councillor Ripper and noted it was a great opportunity to meet the newly elected and returning Youth Councillors and Youth Mayor Sienna Darcy as she begins her leadership role. Councillor Foat highlighted that the year will offer significant opportunities for the Youth Council to make a real impact in the community. The induction was a fantastic start, with everyone looking forward to the energy, creativity and commitment these young leaders will bring.

Councillor Foat also attended the Fulham Correctional Graduation Ceremony with Councillor Ripper and extended a congratulations to the 25 graduates who completed the eight-week course, noting it was a fabulous celebration, made more meaningful by the presence of family and friends. Councillor Foat said she had the opportunity to speak with many graduates and found it inspiring to hear how eager they were to put into practice what they had learned, describing it as wonderful to witness such an important milestone and to celebrate alongside the students, their families and invited guests.

COUNCILLOR RIPPER acknowledged the VEGuary Open Gardens event held on Sunday 22 February. The gardens which were visited were mostly situated around Stratford, Llowalong, Maffra and Sale. The first garden in Stratford featured riverside acreage and continues to be developed as a sustainable landscape by Katrina and Steve. It features a large orchard with mixed berries, a vegetable patch, geese and chickens.

The next three gardens were an 'absolute privilege' and began with the Llowalong Road property of Michael and Anne van Burkel's, where they enjoyed a cappuccino and a viewing of the productive garden of vegetables, perennials, chickens and a fruit orchard, including a pumpkin whose size outdid the one the Mayor had recently held. The next visit was to another van Berkel family garden, followed by Debbie and Steven's garden in Maffra which showcased striking ornamental metalwork sculptures made by Steven.

The final garden which was visited in Sale was once the Grow Master Nursery site on Raymond Street, now a private garden belonging to the parents of Michael and sister Debbie, another wonderful visit. Councillor Ripper reflected on having first met the van Berkel family in 1981.

Councillor Ripper also acknowledged on behalf of Councillor Bannerman the Rosedale school children and adults who attended a VEGuary scarecrow-making course.

COUNCILLOR MADELEY acknowledged the work from staff that went into the month-long VEGuary event and thanked those who opened their gardens for members of the public to visit. Councillor Madeley attended two gardens on the Saturday and observed that gardeners generally always enjoy talking about their gardens and are happy to offer advice, which certainly occurred at this event at the gardens visited.

It had been a great way to end the month of February; VEGuary had been a lot of fun, and Councillor Madeley hopes to see its return next year.

COUNCILLOR WELLS acknowledged that on 18 February he attended the Rural Councils Victoria training and networking event in Melbourne and provided a brief update.

The Country Fire Authority (CFA) delivered a report on the January and February state fires, with more than 436,300 hectares burnt, over 1,500 structures damaged or destroyed, the longest heatwave since 2009, and more than 1,100 brigades and 2,500 vehicles involved. There was also an update on the election covering the 2026 election platform, with a strong focus on cost-of-living issues and a presentation on public speaking which he found informative, followed by some valuable networking with colleagues from other rural councils.

COUNCILLOR WELLS provided an update on his attendance on 27 February 2026 at the Live-For-Life crew induction at Nakunbalook, which was well represented. The young people were keen and active. The Live-For-Life plays an important role in helping others and promoting mental health messages.

COUNCILLOR LOWE acknowledged his attendance at the Maffra Golf Club's Pro-Am held on 1 March, where he played with the professional Andy, a colourful fellow in bright orange attire who showed Councillor Lowe how to play golf. Councillor Lowe attended the event with Wayne and Mark from Aqua Energy. They all had a lovely day on the golf course.

COUNCILLOR MADELEY highlighted that it was Parks Week across the Shire, describing it as a great opportunity for the community to enjoy local parks and open spaces and noted that the "Baby's Day Out" in Sale was moved to the Gippsland Regional Sports Complex (GRSC) due to rain, but this did not stop people from enjoying the morning. The upcoming "Kids Day Out" in Yarram was mentioned as well as a range of other activities which will be happening throughout the week, including park runs, outdoor movie nights, guided walks, fitness sessions, ninja warrior activities and community events. Councillor Madeley emphasised the important role that parks play in supporting health, wellbeing and community connection and encouraged everyone to take part and visit the Wellington Shire website for more information.

COUNCILLOR Madeley acknowledged the 'Deadly in Gippsland' Expo held on Friday at the Sale Memorial Hall, describing it as a fantastic showcase of the strength, creativity and innovation of First Nations businesses across the region. The event brought together business owners, community members and industry partners in a positive and welcoming environment, with a business expo in the morning, workshops throughout the day and the Tharpra Wurrin (sunset) market in the afternoon. She noted that the event highlighted economic opportunity and cultural celebration and thanked Gunaikurnai Land and Water Aboriginal Corporation (GLAWAC) for delivering it, encouraging the community to get out and enjoy an event during 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. DELEGATES REPORT

COUNCILLOR TATTERSON provided an update on his attendance in February at the South East Australian Transport Strategy (SEATS) Group meeting which was held in Narooma. It was a really good meeting with opportunities to discuss strategic projects, particularly national level projects that may be available.

Cardinia Shire has recently joined SEATS, which is a welcome addition. Anyone travelling through the start of Cardinia Shire is faced with 70 and 80 km/h speed restrictions, so Councillor Tatterson believes having Cardinia on board as an advocate will help improve the advocacy for highway transport efficiency.

The minutes are available on the SEATS website which the General Manager Built and Natural Environment, Chris Hastie, has access.

Councillor Tatterson highlighted some of the key discussions which included seeking forward commitments for Roads to Recovery funding, progress on the Sale Alternate Truck Route presented by the Victorian Department of Transport representative, and talk of the importance of getting the Traralgon Bypass back on the agenda, noting the local member, the Honourable Darren Chester MP has raised it again and believes there is some progress with the mine changes, a long term project which is as equally important to Wellington Shire and East Gippsland Shire as a transport barrier as it is to the residents of Traralgon.

There was a presentation from the Cross-Border Commissioner on working with the Victorian Government, particularly around the issues across the border. It was a valuable meeting well attended by local councillors and all Gippsland councils.

COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN provided a brief update on the Timber Towns Victoria meeting held on 19 February 2026. The key focus this year is on developing an advocacy platform for the upcoming state election, particularly around seeking clarification from the State Government on forestry transition and raising issues such as road and bridge repairs due to heavy vehicle haulage associated with forestry.

The group is also looking at fire warning trials, including the possible use of drones for early alerting, and is pushing for forestry policy reforms to restore “sanity” to how state and private forests are managed within Victoria.

## 11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

### 11.1. FORMER SALE POLICE STATION SITE AND FORMER SALE SPECIALIST SCHOOL SITE - REQUEST FOR STATE GOVERNMENT ACTION

**ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

***That Council write to the Victorian Premier, the Hon Jacinta Allan MP, to request urgent State Government resolution of land sale issues at the former Sale Police Station and former Sale Specialist School sites.***

**COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI / COUNCILLOR TATTERSON**

**That Council write to the Victorian Premier, the Hon Jacinta Allan MP, to request urgent State Government resolution of land sale issues at the former Sale Police Station and former Sale Specialist School sites.**

**CARRIED**

## 12. GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

### 12.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS REPORT

**ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER GOVERNANCE**

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 9 February 2026 to 22 February 2026.*

**COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN / COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI**

*That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 9 February 2026 to 22 February 2026.*

**CARRIED**

### 12.2. S6 INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION - MEMBERS OF STAFF

**ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER GOVERNANCE**

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council:*

**1. In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached instrument of delegation, resolve that –**

- I. There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached S6 Instrument of Delegation – Members of Staff, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that instrument, as attached.**
- II. The S6 Instrument of Delegation – Members of Staff comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is to be signed by the Council’s Chief Executive Officer.**
- III. On the coming into force of the S6 Instrument of Delegation – Members of Staff, the current S6 Instrument of Delegation – Members of Staff dated 7 October 2025 is revoked.**
- IV. The duties and functions set out in the S6 Instrument of Delegation – Members of Staff must be performed, and the powers set out in the instrument must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt; and**

**2. Revoke the S6A Instrument of Delegation – Planning and Environment Act 1987 made on Tuesday 3 February 2026.**

**COUNCILLOR WELLS / COUNCILLOR TATTERSON**

**That Council:**

**1. In the exercise of the powers conferred by the legislation referred to in the attached instrument of delegation, resolve that –**

- I. There be delegated to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the offices or positions referred to in the attached S6 Instrument of Delegation – Members of Staff, the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that instrument, as attached.**
- II. The S6 Instrument of Delegation – Members of Staff comes into force immediately upon this resolution being made and is to be signed by the Council’s Chief Executive Officer.**
- III. On the coming into force of the S6 Instrument of Delegation – Members of Staff, the current S6 Instrument of Delegation – Members of Staff dated 7 October 2025 is revoked.**
- IV. The duties and functions set out in the S6 Instrument of Delegation – Members of Staff must be performed, and the powers set out in the instrument must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt; and**

**2. Revoke the S6A Instrument of Delegation – Planning and Environment Act 1987 made on Tuesday 3 February 2026.**

**CARRIED**

## **13. GENERAL MANAGER BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

### **13.1. WASTE COLLECTION POLICY**

**ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

***That Council release the Draft Waste Collection Policy and associated Waste Collection Guideline, as attached, for public comment for a minimum period of 28 days commencing between March-April 2026.***

**COUNCILLOR FOAT / COUNCILLOR STEPHENS**

**That Council release the Draft Waste Collection Policy and associated Waste Collection Guideline, as attached, for public comment for a minimum period of 28 days commencing between March-April 2026.**

**CARRIED**

## 13.2. PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE MEETING - FEBRUARY 2026 MINUTES

### ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER ASSETS AND PROJECTS

#### RECOMMENDATION

***That Council:***

- 1. Receive and note the minutes of the Place Names Committee meeting held on 10 February 2026; and***
- 2. Resolve that the western side of the Port of Sale (land title known as 10-7\PP3468) be named The Anchorage Reserve; and***
  - i) That the proposed name be advertised locally; and***
  - ii) If no objections are received within 30 days, then the name be registered with Geographic Names Victoria; and***
- 3. Resolve the 'Remember a Local – Name a Place in Victoria Campaign' received the following name for inclusion on the approved names register:***
  - i) JAGO in recognition of Raymond Charles Jago who was a local teacher, volunteer and long term member of the Maffra Municipal Band and Sale City Bands. Raymond Jago is recognised for his contribution to the localities of Sale, Maffra, Meerlieu, Heyfield, Briagolong, Giffard, Seaspray and Loch Sport.***

#### COUNCILLOR FOAT / COUNCILLOR STEPHENS

***That Council:***

- 1. Receive and note the minutes of the Place Names Committee meeting held on 10 February 2026; and***
- 2. Resolve that the western side of the Port of Sale (land title known as 10-7\PP3468) be named The Anchorage Reserve; and***
  - i) That the proposed name be advertised locally; and***
  - ii) If no objections are received within 30 days, then the name be registered with Geographic Names Victoria; and***
- 3. Resolve the 'Remember a Local – Name a Place in Victoria Campaign' received the following name for inclusion on the approved names register:***
  - i) JAGO in recognition of Raymond Charles Jago who was a local teacher, volunteer and long term member of the Maffra Municipal Band and Sale City Bands. Raymond Jago is recognised for his contribution to the localities of Sale, Maffra, Meerlieu, Heyfield, Briagolong, Giffard, Seaspray and Loch Sport.***

**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

The Chief Executive Officer acknowledged receipt of a lengthy online comment and question received from the Australian Services Union (ASU) for which a copy has been forwarded to all Councillors and relates to the 2023 library review.

The comments/questions relate to the length of time that the service review is taking; library efficiencies; potential impacts on staff, and whether Council will be consulting with staff and community prior to implementation of any changes.

The Chief Executive Officer indicated that the Council have been keeping Council staff informed of changes and that a response to the specific ASU questions will be provided with a copy also provided to all Councillors.

### FURTHER GALLERY COMMENTS

NIL.

## 15. IN CLOSED SESSION

### 15.1. MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

#### COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN

**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 personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.**

**CARRIED**

The live streaming of this Council meeting came to a close at 5.39pm.

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**IN CLOSED SESSION**

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**15.2. LEAVE**

**COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI**

Details redacted.

**CARRIED**

**15.3. MOVE OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

**COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN**

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

**CARRIED**

Meeting declared closed at: 5.42pm