



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

Resolutions in Brief Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 17 March 2026, commencing at 5:00 PM

To read in conjunction with the Council Meeting Agenda 17 March 2026.

Cr Cindy Madeley (Mayor)

Cr Liz Foat (Deputy Mayor)

Cr Catherine Bannerman

Cr Scott Rossetti

Cr Edward Lowe

Cr Garry Stephens (Online)

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

Billie-Jo Thorburn, Acting Manager Customer & Communications

Catie Thomson, Senior Governance and Reporting Officer

Courtney Smart, Corporate 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.

MISSION STATEMENT

Working together to make a difference. We listen and lead to provide quality services that improve life for all.

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 PREVIOUS MINUTES

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER GOVERNANCE

OBJECTIVE

To adopt the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 3 March 2026.

RECOMMENDATION
<i>That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 3 March 2026.</i>
COUNCILLOR WELLS / COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI
That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 3 March 2026.
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
Request for Review of Planning Limitations Affecting the Township of Alberton	3 March 2026	Receipt of Petition passed by Resolution at the Ordinary Council Meeting of 3 March 2026 and referred to the General Manager Development for consideration and response.	7 April 2026

8. INVITED ADDRESSES, PRESENTATIONS OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

COUNCILLOR FOAT acknowledged the Rotary International Women's Day dinner held on Tuesday 3 March 2026, attended with Councillor Bannerman, featuring guest speaker Renea Taylor who grew up in Sale and is now a Professor at Monash University with a joint appointment at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. Renea is also a cancer biologist and internationally recognised expert in prostate cancer research. Whilst part of the topic for the dinner was on prostate cancer, it was also about Renea Taylor's career journey into biomedicine and other areas where her interests lay.

It was wonderful to listen to the anecdotes and stories Renea shared, including her strong message about continuing to push for answers and the best healthcare that can be accessed, to which Renea understands how limiting this can be for regional areas where Renea emphasised the importance of advocating for more equitable healthcare for regional communities. Thanks were extended by Councillor Foat to the Rotary Club for hosting a fabulous evening in recognition of International Women's Day and inviting Renea to share her story.

Councillor Foat also acknowledged the Maffra Mardi Gras held on Saturday 14 March 2026. It was fabulous to see the parade, the tractors, the Mac Waste trucks, the Vintage cars, the 'memory making' floats, the strong community participation and contributions from local schools, community groups and the beautiful music and atmosphere created by the Maffra Municipal Band. Congratulations were given to contestants Tami Beechey from the 1st Stratford Scouts and joint winners Josh Neille and Demi Scriven who were announced as the overall 2026 Mardi Gras winners, raising \$47,000 to support the Boisdale Briagolong Football Netball Club (reported on record as one of the highest totals). Thanks were extended to everyone involved for all the time, energy and fundraising and to the Rotary Club of Maffra and volunteers for organising another fantastic event and Councillor Foat looks forward to next year's 70th anniversary celebrations in 2027.

COUNCILLOR MADELEY also acknowledged and thanked the community volunteers alongside the Rotarians that are involved in the Maffra Mardi Gras organising committee, reflecting the significant work undertaken behind the scenes.

COUNCILLOR TATTERSON acknowledged the advice that Port of Sale Heritage Cruises, operated by Alan Lewis, has ceased trading. This brings to a close 'one of the most successful careers in public service' by Alan Lewis. Councillor Tatterson detailed Alan's public service career as Shire Engineer for the former City of Sale from 1968 to 1985 who oversaw a time of major change and development that transformed Sale from a small town to a significant city in Gippsland 'on the back of' the oil-industry expansion; the East Sale residential property growth, the implementation of the modern planning scheme that established a truck road network; introduction of a number of new streets and some street closures which were controversial at the time. Alan oversaw the development of the first indoor swimming pool in Gippsland, and the O.A. Ruff Sports Stadium. Alan played a key role in relocating the railway station and developing the Gippsland Centre, a great asset to the town, bringing people to the CBD and 'groundbreaking' at the time as it required an Act of Parliament. Councillor Tatterson got to know Alan as a colleague and a friend and has known him ever since.

After leaving council in 1985, Alan undertook consultancy roles and later established the Port of Sale Heritage Cruises business in 2013, a significant tourism attraction to the area for trips down the river to the swing bridge. The closure of this business is the end of an era. Councillor Tatterson thanked Alan for his public contribution to Sale and the region as council engineer and tourism cruise host; for his friendship and offered best wishes for the future.

COUNCILLOR Madeley acknowledged the second annual Wellington Sustainability Festival, held on Saturday 14 March 2026 at Nakunbalook and the Seed Community Garden, delivered as a collaboration between Wellington Shire and the Gippsland Climate Change Network. It was very well attended and was a great opportunity to showcase local sustainability initiatives and to connect residents, community groups and businesses and to reinforce the shared commitment to practical actions that improve the environment and liveability. Special thanks was given to Council's Sustainability Education Officer, Sharon Ray, for coordinating the event as well as everyone involved in making the day a success. It was a really great day.

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. MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS REPORT

ACTION OFFICER: MAYOR CINDY MADELEY

RECOMMENDATION
<p><i>That the Mayor and Councillors report be noted for February 2026.</i></p> <p>COUNCILLOR TATTERSON / COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN</p> <p>That the Mayor and Councillors report be noted for February 2026.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>

11. DELEGATES REPORT

COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN provided a brief update on the Southerly Ten Community Advisory Group's current discussions on determining where the proposed transmission lines will connect to the onshore grid in Gippsland, with plans being firmed up ahead of the anticipated August auction subject to State Government timing.

COUNCILLOR MADELEY provided an update on her visit to Canberra on 12 March 2026 as part of the One Gippsland Federal Delegation. The visit included a series of meetings at Parliament House with key federal representatives: The Hon Darren Chester MP; Senator The Hon Anthony Chisholm; The Hon Josh Wilson MP; the offices of The Hon Kristy McBain MP and The Hon Anika Wells MP; and Ms Mary Aldred MP. The meetings provided a direct opportunity to advocate for One Gippsland's shared regional priorities, helping ensure the region and Wellington Shire's needs are understood in federal decision making. Councillor Madeley thanked Mayor Nathan Hersey and CEO Allison Jones from the South Gippsland Shire for their support and guidance during the visit.

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 for February 2026.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR RIPPER

That the Chief Executive Officer's report be received for February 2026.

CARRIED

13. GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

13.1. ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER GOVERNANCE

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 23 February 2026 to 8 March 2026.

COUNCILLOR RIPPER / COUNCILLOR LOWE

That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 23 February 2026 to 8 March 2026.

CARRIED

13.2. AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the minutes in brief of the Audit & Risk Committee 16 February 2026 (as attached) and the confidential attachment Audit & Risk Committee Minutes of 16 February 2026; and***
- 2. Note that the information contained in the confidential documents Audit & Risk Committee Minutes of 16 February 2026 and Question and Answer Table of this Council meeting agenda is designated confidential under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 by the Chief Executive Officer on 2 March 2026 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 minutes in brief of the Audit & Risk Committee 16 February 2026 (as attached) and the confidential attachment Audit & Risk Committee Minutes of 16 February 2026; and***
- 2. Note that the information contained in the confidential documents Audit & Risk Committee Minutes of 16 February 2026 and Question and Answer Table of this Council meeting agenda is designated confidential under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 by the Chief Executive Officer on 2 March 2026 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

13.3. REMUNERATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Note and receive the minutes from the Remuneration Committee meeting held on 3 March 2026 as attached; and***
- 2. Endorse the actions from the Remuneration Committee meeting held on 3 March 2026 as detailed in the attached minutes.***

COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN / COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI

That Council:

- 1. Note and receive the minutes from the Remuneration Committee meeting held on 3 March 2026 as attached; and**
- 2. Endorse the actions from the Remuneration Committee meeting held on 3 March 2026 as detailed in the attached minutes.**

CARRIED

14. GENERAL MANAGER DEVELOPMENT

14.1. MONTHLY PLANNING DECISIONS - JANUARY 2026

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER PLANNING AND BUILDING

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the report on recent Planning Permit trends and Planning Application determinations between 1 January and 31 January 2026.

COUNCILLOR FOAT / COUNCILLOR LOWE

That Council note the report on recent Planning Permit trends and Planning Application determinations between 1 January and 31 January 2026.

CARRIED

14.2. UPDATE FLOODING PROVISIONS - DRAFT PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C125WELL

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER PLANNING AND BUILDING

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. *Seek formal written consent from the Minister for Planning to prepare and give notice of draft Planning Scheme Amendment C125well to the Wellington Planning Scheme, to implement the findings of the following flood studies:***
 - a. Corner Inlet Dynamic Storm Tide Modelling Assessment (June 2014)***
 - b. The Effect of Climate Change on Extreme Sea Levels along Victoria's Coast (November 2009)***
 - c. Seaspray Flood Study – Summary Report (May 2016)***
 - d. Gippsland Lakes Flood Level Modelling Project (2004)***
 - e. Avon River Regional Flood Mapping – Project Report (2016)***
 - f. Macalister Flood Study Stage 2 – Study Report (2011)***
 - g. Final Hydrology and Hydraulic Report – Upper Thomson River Flood Study (2021)***
 - h. Heyfield Wetland Flood Study (2024)***
 - i. Lower Thomson River Flood Study (2019)***
 - j. Glengarry Eaglehawk Flood Study (2020)***
 - k. Rosedale Flood Study – Summary Report (2016)***
 - l. Floodplain mapping for Toongabbie Flood Township (2016)***
 - m. Nambrok Creek Flood Assessment (2015)***
 - n. Nambrok Creek Princes Highway East Duplication – Kilmany Section – Hydrology and Hydraulic Investigations Report (2018)***
 - o. Final Study Report – Latrobe Flood Study (2015)***
 - p. Merrimans Creek Flood Study (2015)***
 - q. Bruthen Creek Flood Study 2025***
 - r. Floodplain mapping for Albert and Jack River Flood Study (2024)***
 - s. Flood Risk Report – Dargo Valley – Rapid Estimation of Flood Risk in Upland Floodplain Areas (2017)***
 - t. Briagolong Flood and Drainage Study (2018)***
 - u. Maffra Drainage and Integrated Water Management Strategy (2020)***
 - v. Floodplain mapping for Hedley (2024)***
 - w. Gippsland Lakes Flood Level Declaration (2006)***
- 2. *Once written consent is granted, exhibit draft Planning Scheme Amendment C125well for a period of 60 days.***

3. **Seek the advice of the relevant Catchment Management Authority for any planning permit applications (received from 17 March 2026 onwards) on newly mapped flood areas affected by draft Amendment C125well.**
4. **Introduce flood controls in accordance with the draft planning scheme maps and schedules in Attachment 14.2.1 – Draft Planning Scheme Amendment Documents and to utilise the Flood-related Standing Advisory Committee to review unresolved submissions, if required.**
5. **Where all submissions are resolved or no submissions to the draft Planning Scheme Amendment C125well are received, request the Minister for Planning to:**
 - a. **Prepare Amendment C125well to the Wellington Planning Scheme under section 89 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987;**
 - b. **Use their powers of intervention under section 20(4) to exempt themselves from the notice requirements of sections 17, 18 and 19 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987; and**
 - c. **Adopt and approve the Amendment under sections 29 and 35 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to introduce flood controls in accordance with Attachment 14.2.1 – Draft Planning Scheme Amendment Documents.**
6. **Where submissions remain unresolved:**
 - a. **Request that the Minister for Planning refer the draft Planning Scheme Amendment C125well and all submissions to the Flood-related Amendments Standing Advisory Committee, and following receipt of the Advisory Committee’s Report;**
 - b. **Request the Minister for Planning:**
 - i. **Prepare Amendment C125 to the Wellington Planning Scheme under section 8 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987;**
 - ii. **Use the powers of intervention under section 20(4) to exempt themselves from the notice requirements of sections 17, 18 and 19 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987; and**
 - iii. **Adopt and approve the Amendment under sections 29 and 35 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to introduce flood controls in accordance with Attachment 14.2.1 – Draft Planning Scheme Amendment Documents.**
7. **Formally rescind Item C3.2 Planning Scheme Amendment C99 – Flood Mapping and Flood Policy Update of the Council Meeting held on 18 June 2019, which lay the report on Amendment C99 on the table and not proceed further with the Planning Scheme Amendment C99.**

COUNCILLOR FOAT / COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN

That Council:

1. **Seek formal written consent from the Minister for Planning to prepare and give notice of draft Planning Scheme Amendment C125well to the Wellington Planning Scheme, to implement the findings of the following flood studies:**
 - a. **Corner Inlet Dynamic Storm Tide Modelling Assessment (June 2014)**
 - b. **The Effect of Climate Change on Extreme Sea Levels along Victoria’s Coast (November 2009)**

- c. Seaspray Flood Study – Summary Report (May 2016)
 - d. Gippsland Lakes Flood Level Modelling Project (2004)
 - e. Avon River Regional Flood Mapping – Project Report (2016)
 - f. Macalister Flood Study Stage 2 – Study Report (2011)
 - g. Final Hydrology and Hydraulic Report – Upper Thomson River Flood Study (2021)
 - h. Heyfield Wetland Flood Study (2024)
 - i. Lower Thomson River Flood Study (2019)
 - j. Glengarry Eaglehawk Flood Study (2020)
 - k. Rosedale Flood Study – Summary Report (2016)
 - l. Floodplain mapping for Toongabbie Flood Township (2016)
 - m. Nambrok Creek Flood Assessment (2015)
 - n. Nambrok Creek Princes Highway East Duplication – Kilmany Section – Hydrology and Hydraulic Investigations Report (2018)
 - o. Final Study Report – Latrobe Flood Study (2015)
 - p. Merrimans Creek Flood Study (2015)
 - q. Bruthen Creek Flood Study 2025
 - r. Floodplain mapping for Albert and Jack River Flood Study (2024)
 - s. Flood Risk Report – Dargo Valley – Rapid Estimation of Flood Risk in Upland Floodplain Areas (2017)
 - t. Briagolong Flood and Drainage Study (2018)
 - u. Maffra Drainage and Integrated Water Management Strategy (2020)
 - v. Floodplain mapping for Hedley (2024)
 - w. Gippsland Lakes Flood Level Declaration (2006)
2. **Once written consent is granted, exhibit draft Planning Scheme Amendment C125well for a period of 60 days.**
 3. **Seek the advice of the relevant Catchment Management Authority for any planning permit applications (received from 17 March 2026 onwards) on newly mapped flood areas affected by draft Amendment C125well.**
 4. **Introduce flood controls in accordance with the draft planning scheme maps and schedules in Attachment 14.2.1 – Draft Planning Scheme Amendment Documents and to utilise the Flood-related Standing Advisory Committee to review unresolved submissions, if required.**
 5. **Where all submissions are resolved or no submissions to the draft Planning Scheme Amendment C125well are received, request the Minister for Planning to:**
 - a. **Prepare Amendment C125well to the Wellington Planning Scheme under section 89 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987;**
 - b. **Use their powers of intervention under section 20(4) to exempt themselves from the notice requirements of sections 17, 18 and 19 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987; and**

- c. **Adopt and approve the Amendment under sections 29 and 35 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to introduce flood controls in accordance with Attachment 14.2.1 – Draft Planning Scheme Amendment Documents.**
- 6. Where submissions remain unresolved:**
- a. **Request that the Minister for Planning refer the draft Planning Scheme Amendment C125well and all submissions to the Flood-related Amendments Standing Advisory Committee, and following receipt of the Advisory Committee’s Report;**
 - b. **Request the Minister for Planning:**
 - i. **Prepare Amendment C125 to the Wellington Planning Scheme under section 8 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987;**
 - ii. **Use the powers of intervention under section 20(4) to exempt themselves from the notice requirements of sections 17, 18 and 19 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987; and**
 - iii. **Adopt and approve the Amendment under sections 29 and 35 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to introduce flood controls in accordance with Attachment 14.2.1 – Draft Planning Scheme Amendment Documents.**
- 7. Formally rescind Item C3.2 Planning Scheme Amendment C99 – Flood Mapping and Flood Policy Update of the Council Meeting held on 18 June 2019, which lay the report on Amendment C99 on the table and not proceed further with the Planning Scheme Amendment C99.**
- CARRIED**

15. 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

BRUCE RENOWDEN, The Honeysuckles, Part-time resident and property owner since 1999 - Presented to Council on the Wellington Shire Residential Road and Street Construction Plan 2026 and urged Council to retain the area's un-made road network and not implement street lighting.

Bruce believes there is a strong resident preference for non-bitumised roads which avoid unnecessary infrastructure costs and support shared pedestrian/vehicle use, as well as allowing for a continuation of the current lower vehicle speeds currently experienced by Honeysuckles residents. Bitumen roads mean construction and maintenance costs, runoff in heavy rain, road heat and noise, and higher driving speeds. Bruce also called for a reduction in the Honeysuckles town entry speed limit from 50 kilometres per hour to 30-40 kilometres an hour and highlighted the benefits of not having street lights due to the value that dark skies bring to residents and visitors alike, amongst which includes those interested in night gazing and astronomy.

Bruce founded a private astronomy tours business in 2020 which attracts visitors from Gippsland, Melbourne and overseas, many of whom have been amazed by the night skies in Honeysuckles. Concerns have been raised about street lighting, leading to increased light pollution (cited at 10% per annum) and it's impacts.

16. IN CLOSED SESSION

16.1. MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR WELLS

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: 5:33pm.

IN CLOSED SESSION

16.2. LEAVE

COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI / COUNCILLOR FOAT

Details redacted.

CARRIED

16.3. MOVE OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR WELLS

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

CARRIED

Meeting declared closed at: 5:35pm.