



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

Resolutions in Brief Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 21 April 2026, commencing at 5:00 PM

To be read in conjunction with the Council Meeting Agenda 21 April 2026.

Cr Cindy Madeley (Mayor)	David Morcom, Chief Executive Officer
Cr Scott Rossetti	Arthur Skipitaris, General Manager Corporate Services
Cr Edward Lowe (Online)	Chris Hastie, General Manager Built and Natural Environment
Cr Garry Stephens (Online)	Ross McWhirter, Acting General Manager Development
Cr Carmel Ripper	Catherine Hicks, Communications Advisor
Cr Geoff Wells	Courtney Smart, Corporate Governance Officer
Cr John Tatterson	

APOLOGIES

Cr Liz Foat (Deputy Mayor) - Leave of Absence

Cr Catherine Bannerman - Leave of Absence

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

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Gunaikurnai people. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and acknowledge their ongoing cultural and spiritual connections to their land and waters.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COMMUNITY

We recognise the entire Wellington Shire community, including visitors to our shire, for their collective efforts in protecting and preserving the land, water, air, and history, and for making this a better place to live and work for current and future generations.

1. APOLOGIES

COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN - Leave of Absence
COUNCILLOR FOAT - Leave of Absence

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT/S OF INTEREST

NIL

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

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 7 April 2026.</i>
COUNCILLOR WELLS / COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI
That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 7 April 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
NIL			

8. INVITED ADDRESSES, PRESENTATIONS OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

COUNCILLOR TATTERSON acknowledged the outstanding sporting achievement following attendance over the weekend in Bendigo to watch the Sale Sonics Basketball Under 12s play. The skill and ability of all participants was evident, and in particular the Maffra Under 12 boys team who qualified for the highest division – Division One, a remarkable achievement for a town of around 4,000 people when compared to major towns across the shire. The Sale Sonics Under 12s team defeated Mildura, Warrnambool, Wangaratta, Hamilton, Pakenham, Traralgon and Macedon then Ballarat in the semi-finals followed by Geelong in the grand final. Councillor Tatterson congratulated all participants and the Maffra Basketball Club

COUNCILLOR MADELEY extended a thank you and congratulated the players and the Maffra Basketball Club, with acknowledgement of the many people behind the scenes who supported the teams.

COUNCILLOR RIPPER acknowledged the Maffra Country Women’s Association (CWA) 90th birthday anniversary held on Saturday 18 April attended with Deputy Mayor Foat. Founded on 3 April 1936 when around 15 to 20 women gathered together in Maffra to form the CWA, Councillor Ripper was able to view the original minute book from this time in 1936 and acknowledged there are still relatives within the Maffra area who would be very proud of their mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers. Maffra CWA is still fundraising for each and every need within the community where they can assist. It was a wonderful day.

Councillor Ripper attended and acknowledged the Food and Fibre Gippsland Field event. This group is working to get more of Gippsland’s dairy, wine and specialty foods into India which was very well received by a visiting group from India who were overjoyed by what Gippsland can offer.

Councillor Ripper also attended and acknowledged the ANZAC week Sale Air Show held 18-19 April 2026. What stood out most was the family atmosphere and attendance of the children. It was a huge event with lots of people and companies attending, a great turnout, given the cost of fuel for travel, at present. There were lots of free gifts and showbags and presence of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Band, the Maffra Band and the Sale Band. Councillor Ripper thanked all those who helped organise the event, including PACE Media, the RAAF pilots who flew the planes and performed the aerobatics, the Wellington Shire Council and Middle of Everywhere staff and volunteers who worked days in advance to make the event such a success. It was a magnificent event. Councillor Madeley agreed that the Sale Air Show was fantastic and it is amazing to have an event of that size and calibre here.

COUNCILLOR LOWE attended and acknowledged the Stratford Men’s Breakfast at Holy Trinity Church on Saturday 18 April. There were around 20 men in attendance. Councillor Lowe gave a short speech on the role of a Councillor and encouraged attendance, stating the Stratford Men’s Breakfast is held on the third Saturday of every month and provides a great opportunity for a ‘good chat’.

COUNCILLOR WELLS acknowledged the tour organised for Wellington Shire Councillors by Gippsland Water on 17 April of the Gippsland Water Dutson Downs facility, operating as Gippsland Regional Organics and Gippsland Regional Agribusiness. It is a lot more than a waste site. Dutson Downs covers 8,250 hectares with crops, cattle, forestry and recycled water irrigation. It is the largest Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) licensed composting facility in Victoria, turning waste into 60,000 tonnes of compost each year. The site is also home to rare species such as the Pookila and the Wellington Mint Bush, with 400 hectares of protected native vegetation. The site supports local jobs and contributes \$35 million to the local economy each year.

Councillor Wells extended thanks to Gippsland Water for inviting Councillors to tour this impressive facility. Mayor Madeley, Deputy Mayor Foat, Councillor Ripper, Councillor Lowe and some Council Officers were also in attendance. It is an outstanding facility, and Councillor Wells encouraged those people to visit the site.

Councillor Madeley acknowledged it was a fantastic day and is always appreciative, as a Councillor, of the opportunity to go “behind the scenes” at these facilities, such as ESSO (ExxonMobil), Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base and Gippsland Waters Dutson Downs.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS attended the Centenary of the Yarram Bowls Club, held over the lunchtime period on Saturday 18 April and acknowledged the excellent event.

Congratulations were extended to Ken Hansen, President of Yarram Bowls Club and the team for organising it. Councillor Stephens reflected on some important historical references arising from the Centenary lunch such as the placemats used to display historical photos, the 5 pound benches for clubrooms and the first membership fee of 2 pound 2 shillings, today \$40. The club first formed in 1919 and received land in 1922 from the former shire on the side of the old Yarram Cemetery, now part of the Yarram Memorial Gardens on Commercial Road. The Hon. Darren Chester MP was in attendance and spoke briefly.

The club has undergone several changes over the past 100 years and now operates alongside the tennis club as part of the Yarram Country Club. Congratulations to all members on reaching this significant milestone.

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

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

DATE	EVENT	ATTENDEES
1 March	Maffra Golf Club Pro Am – Presentation Dinner. Maffra Golf Club Pro Am – Participant.	Cr Ripper Cr Lowe
2 March	Gippsland Art Gallery Advisory Group Meeting. Maffra Recreation Reserve Committee Meeting. Gippsland Community Foundation - Stakeholder Dinner. CEO also in attendance. Mayor and Deputy Mayor regular catch up. Mayor and CEO regular catch up. Video Filming for Baby's Day Out (Parks Week). Maffra Secondary College Student Leadership Presentation.	Cr Ripper Cr Wells Mayor Madeley and Deputy Mayor Foat. Mayor Madeley and Deputy Mayor Foat. Mayor Madeley and CEO. Mayor Madeley Mayor Madeley
3 March	Remuneration Committee meeting. CEO also in attendance. TAFE Gippsland Board of Directors engagement. CEO in attendance. Rotary International Women's Day Dinner 2026 with Professor Renea Taylor.	Mayor Madeley, Cr Ripper and Cr Bannerman. Mayor Madeley Deputy Mayor Foat and Cr Bannerman.
4 March	New Sale Bunnings Store "Pre-Opening Preview". CEO in attendance.	Mayor Madeley, Deputy Mayor Foat, Cr Ripper, Cr Stephens and Cr Wells.

DATE	EVENT	ATTENDEES
5 March	<p>International Women's Day Breakfast, The Criterion.</p> <p>International Women's Day 2026 - Mentor Walk. CEO also in attendance.</p> <p>Regular Catch Up: Mayor & Cr Bannerman.</p> <p>Art Gallery Tour.</p> <p>Economic Synergy Session - Bairnsdale RSL Club.</p>	<p>Mayor Madeley, Deputy Mayor Foat and Cr Ripper.</p> <p>Mayor Madeley, Deputy Mayor Foat and Cr Ripper.</p> <p>Mayor Madeley and Cr Bannerman.</p> <p>Mayor Madeley</p> <p>Cr Wells</p>
6 March	<p>Launch of Gippsland Art Gallery - Autumn Season.</p> <p>Nationals Cricket Competition Meeting. CEO also in attendance.</p> <p>One Gippsland meeting online with Minister Harriet Shing.</p>	<p>Mayor Madeley and Cr Ripper.</p> <p>Cr Wells</p> <p>Mayor Madeley</p>
7 March	<p>Sale Swimming Club - Gippsland Championships 2026.</p> <p>50th Anniversary Celebration of the Rosedale Kilmany Cricket Club.</p>	<p>Mayor Madeley</p> <p>Cr Bannerman and Cr Tatterson.</p>
10 March	<p>Gippsland Grammar Visit with Head of School.</p> <p>Maffra Secondary College Leadership Day.</p> <p>International Women's Day Webinar, Gippsland Women's Health.</p>	<p>Mayor Madeley</p> <p>Mayor Madeley</p> <p>Mayor Madeley and Deputy Mayor Foat.</p>
11 March	<p>Southerly Ten Community Advisory Group Meeting.</p> <p>Wellington Youth Services Network Meeting.</p>	<p>Cr Bannerman</p> <p>Mayor Madeley</p>
12 March	<p>TRFM Interview: Anzac Airshow.</p> <p>One Gippsland Federal Delegation, Canberra.</p>	<p>Deputy Mayor Foat</p> <p>Mayor Madeley</p>
13 March	<p>Bunnings Warehouse Sale - Official Opening.</p>	<p>Deputy Mayor Foat and Cr Wells.</p>
14 March	<p>Sustainability Festival, Opening and Welcome to Country.</p>	<p>Mayor Madeley</p>
16 March	<p>Mayor and Deputy Mayor regular catch up.</p>	<p>Mayor Madeley and Deputy Mayor Foat.</p>

DATE	EVENT	ATTENDEES
16 March	Mayor and CEO regular catch up. John Leslie Foundation Civic Reception Update meeting. CEO also in attendance.	Mayor Madeley and CEO. Mayor Madeley
18 March	Catch up – Cr Stephens and GM Development, Renae Littlejohn. Radio ad recording for FOGO.	Cr Stephens Mayor Madeley
19 March	Training: MAV Mayors Institute Forum - Leading Healthy Communities: Mayoral Leadership & Legacy.	Mayor Madeley
20 March	VIC Men's Shed Road Show Invitation. Sale Specialist School – Presentation of badges to Student Representative Council.	Cr Wells Mayor Madeley
21 March	CWA Art Exhibition, Maffra. Men's Breakfast, Stratford.	Cr Ripper Cr Lowe
22 March	Railway Dogs Sculpture Launch, Glengarry.	Cr Ripper
23 March	Yarram Primary School - presentation to Grades 3 and 4 on Local Government. 1:1 Councillor GEAP Consultation.	Mayor Madeley Mayor Madeley
24 March	Mayor and Deputy Mayor regular catch up. Mayor and CEO regular catch up. Mayor and Manager Communications and Customer Experience. Service Awards for Library Staff. CEO also in attendance. Monthly Media Training.	Mayor Madeley and Deputy Mayor Foat. Mayor Madeley and CEO. Mayor Madeley Mayor Madeley Mayor Madeley and Deputy Mayor Foat.
25 March	Defence 101 Event. Araluen Primary: Civics and Citizenship presentation. Flood Mapping Tool Discussion.	Mayor Madeley Mayor Madeley Mayor Madeley

DATE	EVENT	ATTENDEES
25 March	Youth Council March Action Meeting. Gippsland Plains Rail Trail. CEO also in attendance.	Mayor Madeley Cr Ripper
26 March	Rural Councils Victoria Committee meeting. Strzelecki Koala March meeting. St Marys Primary School, structure and functions of local government presentation to Grade 4. International Women's Day Mentor Group Catch Up.	Cr Bannerman Cr Stephens Mayor Madeley and Deputy Mayor Foat. Mayor Madeley
27 March	Maffra Primary School, presentation on local government. Radio Interview, ABC Gippsland. Meeting with Tom McIntosh MP, online. CEO also in attendance. Gippsland Grammar Prefect Team Meeting.	Mayor Madeley Mayor Madeley Mayor Madeley Mayor Madeley
29 March	Sale Music Festival, Opening. Heyfield Hospital, celebrating a century of care and 30 years service, Laurina Lodge.	Mayor Madeley Cr Ripper
30 March	CEO Employment Remuneration Committee Meeting, information and introduction brief, by Arthur Skipitaris. Mayor and CEO regular catch up.	Mayor Madeley Mayor Madeley and CEO.
31 March	RAAF event - Air Force Birthday BBQ. Strategic Land Use Planning Projects (SLUPP) Review Group Meeting. FOGO update with Sarah Allman, Communications Advisor.	Mayor Madeley, Cr Rossetti and Cr Ripper. Deputy Mayor Foat, Cr Wells and Cr Tatterson. Mayor Madeley

11. DELEGATES REPORT

NIL

12. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

12.1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

ACTION OFFICER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

RECOMMENDATION <i>That the Chief Executive Officer's report be received for March 2026.</i> COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI / COUNCILLOR WELLS <i>That the Chief Executive Officer's report be received for March 2026.</i> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
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MARCH 2026

DATE	EVENT AND ATTENDEES
2 March	CEO and Mayor Madeley regular catch up. Introductory Meeting with Michele Gardner, CEO Central Gippsland Health. Attended Gippsland Community Foundation - Stakeholder Dinner. Mayor Madeley also in attendance.
3 March	Attended Remuneration Committee meeting. Mayor Madeley, Cr Bannerman and Cr Ripper also in attendance. Attended TAFE Gippsland Board of Directors engagement dinner. Mayor Madeley also in attendance.
4 March	Attended New Sale Bunnings Store "Pre-Opening Preview". Met with Gippsland Water Managing Director, Sarah Cumming and Danny McDonald, Manager Corporate Affairs.
5 March	Attended Committee for Wellington Monthly Meeting. Participated in International Women's Day 2026 - Mentor Walk.
6 March	Met with Cr Wells regarding Nationals Cricket Competition.
11 March	Quarterly Dept of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) meeting with Regional Director Gippsland, Darrin McKenzie.
13 March	Met with Tony Lotton, The Connect Group, regarding accommodation options for visa holders in Wellington.

DATE	EVENT AND ATTENDEES
	Regular bi-monthly meeting with Sara Rhodes-Ward, Regional Development Victoria.
16 March 16 March	<p>Online monthly CEO Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Meeting.</p> <p>One Gippsland Meeting with all Gippsland CEO's.</p> <p>John Leslie Foundation Civic Reception Update meeting. Mayor Madeley also in attendance.</p> <p>Attended VicGrid online monthly catch up.</p>
17 March	Met with Nick Ashburner, CEO GLaWAC.
18 – 20 March	Attended Local Government Chief Officers Group Meeting
24 March	<p>Attended 40 and 50 year Staff Service Awards for Library Staff. Mayor Madeley also in attendance.</p> <p>Met with Rob Christie, Chairperson of Community Bank Maffra & District.</p>
25 March	<p>Met with Neil Barraclough regarding forestry discussions.</p> <p>Met with Helene Booth, John Leslie Foundation and Michelle Gardner, CEO Central Gippsland Health.</p> <p>Met with Cr Ripper regarding Gippsland Plains Rail Trail.</p>
26 March	Met with Beth Liley, Department of Transport, Strategic Liaison Meeting.
27 March	<p>Attended One Gippsland CEO Forum online.</p> <p>Met with Tom McIntosh MP online via Teams, Mayor Madeley also in attendance.</p> <p>Met with Peter Green, CEO George Gray Centre</p>
30 March	<p>Attended MAV Special CEO Briefing online regarding Australian Fuel Shortage.</p> <p>Met with Brett Singh, Marathon Electrical.</p>

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 30 March 2026 to 12 April 2026.

COUNCILLOR TATTERSON / COUNCILLOR LOWE

That Council note and receive the attached Assembly of Councillor records for the period 30 March 2026 to 12 April 2026.

CARRIED

13.2. COUNCIL QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT - MARCH 2026

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Council Quarterly Performance Report – March 2026 as attached.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI

That Council receive and note the Council Quarterly Performance Report – March 2026 as attached.

CARRIED

13.3. BIENNIAL AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE UPDATE

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the biennial report on the Audit & Risk Committee's activities, findings and recommendations for the period October 2025 to March 2026, as attached.

COUNCILLOR WELLS / COUNCILLOR LOWE

That Council receive the biennial report on the Audit & Risk Committee's activities, findings and recommendations for the period October 2025 to March 2026, as attached.

CARRIED

13.4. PERFORMANCE REPORT - COUNCIL PLAN 2025-29, QUARTER 2 - 2025/26

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER GOVERNANCE

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the progress update detailing progress against the Council Plan 2025–29 for Quarter 2 (October – December 2025) of the 2025/26 financial year, as attached.

COUNCILLOR TATTERSON / COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI

That Council receive the progress update detailing progress against the Council Plan 2025–29 for Quarter 2 (October – December 2025) of the 2025/26 financial year, as attached.

CARRIED

13.5. RESOLVE TO ADVERTISE DRAFT 2026/27 BUDGET

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER CORPORATE FINANCE

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council advertise its draft 2026/27 Budget, as attached, including:

- fees and charges; and**
- multi-year capital projects**

in accordance with Section 96 of the Local Government Act 2020; and

2. Council consider submissions for the draft 2026/27 Budget at Council Meeting on Tuesday 26 May 2026 at 5pm; and

3. Council meet on Tuesday 16 June 2026 at 5pm to consider the formal adoption of the 2026/27 Budget; and

4. Council make the following declarations regarding rates and charges for the period commencing on 1 July 2026 and concluding on 30 June 2027:

- A) Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 158, 161 and 162 of the Local Government Act 1989 (currently, these remain saved provisions under the 1989 Act), the Wellington Shire Council hereby resolves to declare that the amount it intends to raise by rates and annual service charges is \$78.5M:**

Type of Rates or charge	\$'000
General Rate:	67,712
Garbage Charge:	7,360
Waste Infrastructure Charge:	2,855
State Government EPA Levy Charge:	580

- B) (1) It be further declared that, subject to paragraph 4 of this Part, the general rate be raised through the application of differential rates.**
- (2) A rate in the dollar of 0.003640 be specified as the general rate (subject to final valuation outcomes).**
- (3) It be confirmed that the general rate for all rateable land within the municipal district be determined so that the amount payable be the Capital Improved Value multiplied by the rate in the dollar of 0.003640 (subject to final valuation outcomes).**
- (4) a) It be recorded that Council considers that a differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of Council functions.**
- b) A differential rate be declared for that rateable land having the characteristics specified below, which characteristics will form the criteria for the differential rate so declared:**
- (i) Farm Land:**
- Means any land that:**
- Is "Farm Land" within the meaning of Section 2(1) of the Valuation of Land Act 1960 (paras a) and b)) and other criteria as defined by Council in c) hereunder**
- a) that is not less than 2 hectares in area; and**
- b) that is used primarily for grazing (including agistment), dairying, pig-farming, poultry-farming, fish-farming, tree-farming, bee-keeping, viticulture, horticulture, fruit-growing or the growing of crops of any kind or for any combination of those activities; and**
- c) where the ratepayer is a Primary Producer with any evidence/ruling confirmed by the Australian Taxation Office, registered ABN and business plan.**
- C) Garbage Charge:**
- (1) An annual service charge of \$338.00 be declared for the collection and disposal of garbage in respect of Residential premises to which the service is available – whether, or not, the owner or occupier of any such premises avails themselves of the service. Council is also introducing the optional additional bin charge ranging from \$61.00 to \$336.00.**
- D) Waste Infrastructure Charge:**
- (1) An annual service charge be declared for the development of Landfills, Recycling facilities, Transfer Stations and the rehabilitation of Landfill sites, and provision of facilities for ongoing monitoring of landfills, to ensure that Council can continue to provide a waste disposal service.**
- (2) The charge be \$90.00 for each property in respect of which a municipal charge may be levied. This charge will not apply to properties identified as being within the Ninety Mile Beach Restructure Plan Stages 7 – 22, except for those properties with an existing dwelling, where the charge will still apply.**

E) EPA Levy Charge:

- (1) An annual service charge of \$23.00 be declared to cover the costs levied by the State Government Environment Protection Authority on the operation of landfills, not otherwise recouped.**
- (2) The charge be levied on each property to which a Garbage Charge is applied, at the rate of one EPA Levy Charge for each Garbage Charge.**

F) Cultural and Recreational Land:

- (1) The amount of \$83,500 (excluding service charges) be declared as payable in accordance with Section 4 of the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963, having regard to the services provided by the Council in relation to such lands and the benefit to the community derived from this recreational land.**

G) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 169 of the Local Government Act 1989 (currently, this remains as a saved provision under the 1989 Act), Council resolves to declare a Rates Rebate on land with a Deed of Covenant for conservation purposes.

- (1) Council considers that this rebate will ensure that the biodiversity values of the land will be protected for the benefit of the broader community.**
- (2) The rebate will apply only to the land that is affected by a covenant as described in the covenant document.**
- (3) The rebate will be applied at \$15 per hectare, with a minimum rebate of \$100 and a maximum equal to the annual general rate on the property for that portion of land.**
- (4) Conditions apply as per Council's Policy No. 4.1.12 – Rates Rebate on land with a Deed of Covenant for Conservation Purposes.**

COUNCILLOR WELLS/ COUNCILLOR TATTERSON

That:

2. Council advertise its draft 2026/27 Budget, as attached, including:

- fees and charges; and**
- multi-year capital projects**

in accordance with Section 96 of the Local Government Act 2020; and

3. Council consider submissions for the draft 2026/27 Budget at Council Meeting on Tuesday 26 May 2026 at 5pm; and

4. Council meet on Tuesday 16 June 2026 at 5pm to consider the formal adoption of the 2026/27 Budget; and

5. Council make the following declarations regarding rates and charges for the period commencing on 1 July 2026 and concluding on 30 June 2027:

- A) Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 158, 161 and 162 of the Local Government Act 1989 (currently, these remain saved provisions under the 1989 Act), the Wellington Shire Council hereby resolves to declare that the amount it intends to raise by rates and annual service charges is \$78.5M:**

Type of Rates or charge	\$'000
General Rate:	67,712
Garbage Charge:	7,360
Waste Infrastructure Charge:	2,855
State Government EPA Levy Charge:	580

- B) (1) It be further declared that, subject to paragraph 4 of this Part, the general rate be raised through the application of differential rates.**
- (2) A rate in the dollar of 0.003640 be specified as the general rate (subject to final valuation outcomes).**
- (3) It be confirmed that the general rate for all rateable land within the municipal district be determined so that the amount payable be the Capital Improved Value multiplied by the rate in the dollar of 0.003640 (subject to final valuation outcomes).**
- (4) a) It be recorded that Council considers that a differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of Council functions.**
- b) A differential rate be declared for that rateable land having the characteristics specified below, which characteristics will form the criteria for the differential rate so declared:**
- (i) Farm Land:**
- Means any land that:**
- Is “Farm Land” within the meaning of Section 2(1) of the Valuation of Land Act 1960 (paras a) and b)) and other criteria as defined by Council in c) hereunder**
- a) that is not less than 2 hectares in area; and**
- b) that is used primarily for grazing (including agistment), dairying, pig-farming, poultry-farming, fish-farming, tree-farming, bee-keeping, viticulture, horticulture, fruit-growing or the growing of crops of any kind or for any combination of those activities; and**
- c) where the ratepayer is a Primary Producer with any evidence/ruling confirmed by the Australian Taxation Office, registered ABN and business plan.**
- C) Garbage Charge:**
- (1) An annual service charge of \$338.00 be declared for the collection and disposal of garbage in respect of Residential premises to which the service is available – whether, or not, the owner or occupier of any such premises avails themselves of the service. Council is also introducing the optional additional bin charge ranging from \$61.00 to \$336.00.**

D) Waste Infrastructure Charge:

- (1) An annual service charge be declared for the development of Landfills, Recycling facilities, Transfer Stations and the rehabilitation of Landfill sites, and provision of facilities for ongoing monitoring of landfills, to ensure that Council can continue to provide a waste disposal service.**
- (2) The charge be \$90.00 for each property in respect of which a municipal charge may be levied. This charge will not apply to properties identified as being within the Ninety Mile Beach Restructure Plan Stages 7 – 22, except for those properties with an existing dwelling, where the charge will still apply.**

E) EPA Levy Charge:

- (1) An annual service charge of \$23.00 be declared to cover the costs levied by the State Government Environment Protection Authority on the operation of landfills, not otherwise recouped.**
- (2) The charge be levied on each property to which a Garbage Charge is applied, at the rate of one EPA Levy Charge for each Garbage Charge.**

F) Cultural and Recreational Land:

- (1) The amount of \$83,500 (excluding service charges) be declared as payable in accordance with Section 4 of the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963, having regard to the services provided by the Council in relation to such lands and the benefit to the community derived from this recreational land.**

G) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 169 of the Local Government Act 1989 (currently, this remains as a saved provision under the 1989 Act), Council resolves to declare a Rates Rebate on land with a Deed of Covenant for conservation purposes.

- (1) Council considers that this rebate will ensure that the biodiversity values of the land will be protected for the benefit of the broader community.**
- (2) The rebate will apply only to the land that is affected by a covenant as described in the covenant document.**
- (3) The rebate will be applied at \$15 per hectare, with a minimum rebate of \$100 and a maximum equal to the annual general rate on the property for that portion of land.**
- (4) Conditions apply as per Council's Policy No. 4.1.12 – Rates Rebate on land with a Deed of Covenant for Conservation Purposes.**

CARRIED

14. GENERAL MANAGER DEVELOPMENT

14.1. QUARTERLY STRATEGIC LAND USE PLANNING UPDATE REPORT, QUARTER 1 2026

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER PLANNING AND BUILDING

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the Strategic Land Use Planning Update Report for Quarter 1, January to March 2026, as attached.

COUNCILLOR RIPPER / COUNCILLOR WELLS

That Council receive the Strategic Land Use Planning Update Report for Quarter 1, January to March 2026, as attached.

CARRIED

14.2. WEST SALE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN - APPROVAL

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER PLANNING AND BUILDING

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the 'West Sale Industrial Precinct Development Plan (Urban Enterprise, March 2026)'.

COUNCILLOR TATTERSON / COUNCILLOR WELLS

That Council approve the 'West Sale Industrial Precinct Development Plan (Urban Enterprise, March 2026)'.

CARRIED

14.3. MONTHLY PLANNING DECISIONS - FEBRUARY 2026

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER PLANNING AND BUILDING

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the report on recent Planning Permit trends and Planning Application determinations between 1 and 28 February 2026.

COUNCILLOR TATTERSON / COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI

That Council note the report on recent Planning Permit trends and Planning Application determinations between 1 and 28 February 2026.

CARRIED

15. GENERAL MANAGER BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

15.1. QUICK RESPONSE GRANTS - NOVEMBER 2025 TO MARCH 2026

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the information regarding applications received under the Quick Response Grant Scheme (QRGS) for the period November 2025 to March 2026 as detailed in Attachment 15.1.1 – Quick Response Grants Scheme Applications – November 2025 to March 2026.

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI

That Council note the information regarding applications received under the Quick Response Grant Scheme (QRGS) for the period November 2025 to March 2026 as detailed in Attachment 15.1.1 – Quick Response Grants Scheme Applications – November 2025 to March 2026.

CARRIED

15.2. QUARTERLY CAPITAL BUDGET UPDATE

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER ASSETS AND PROJECTS

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note changes to the 2025/2026 Adopted Capital Works Budget with \$56,318 removed from the program since the budget adjustment dated 16 December 2025, resulting in an Adjusted Capital Works Budget of \$65,308,644 which also includes projects that have been deferred or cancelled for reasons as shown in Attachment 15.2.1 – Capital Budget Adjustments Report 8 April 2026.

COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI / COUNCILLOR WELLS

That Council note changes to the 2025/2026 Adopted Capital Works Budget with \$56,318 removed from the program since the budget adjustment dated 16 December 2025, resulting in an Adjusted Capital Works Budget of \$65,308,644 which also includes projects that have been deferred or cancelled for reasons as shown in Attachment 15.2.1 – Capital Budget Adjustments Report 8 April 2026.

CARRIED

15.3. EMPTYING AND CLEANING OF TOWN LITTER BINS

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. That Council adopt the recommendations contained in the attached confidential 2026-124 Contract Tender Evaluation Report of the Council Meeting Agenda for the Emptying and Cleaning of Town Litter Bins; and***
- 2. That the information contained in the attached confidential 2026-124 Contract Tender Evaluation Report for the Emptying and Cleaning of Town Litter Bins and designated confidential under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 by the General Manager Built and Natural Environment on 10 April 2026 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, except that once this recommendation has been adopted the name of the successful tenderer can be made public.***

COUNCILLOR RIPPER / COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI

That Council:

- 1. That Council adopt the recommendations contained in the attached confidential 2026-124 Contract Tender Evaluation Report of the Council Meeting Agenda for the Emptying and Cleaning of Town Litter Bins; and***
- 2. That the information contained in the attached confidential 2026-124 Contract Tender Evaluation Report for the Emptying and Cleaning of Town Litter Bins and designated confidential under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 by the General Manager Built and Natural Environment on 10 April 2026 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, except that once this recommendation has been adopted the name of the successful tenderer can be made public.***

CARRIED

The Mayor announced the successful tenderer as Tambo Waste.

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

GREG GAULD - Disagrees with the Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) Rollout Survey and questions the integrity of the consultation survey and what the point of consultation is when a decision has already been made prior.

RON D'ARCY - Expresses concerns for the FOGO bin rollout including the transition of Red Lid Bins from weekly to fortnightly and for those with a disability, the impact to medical and other aids that require regular disposal. Ron expresses concern about the integrity of the consultation process and urges Council to retain weekly Red Lid Bin collection.

ERROL LYNCH – Requests change of Street Signage for Cove Street in Loch Sport to Cove Court to deter through traffic. This sign is currently marked as a no through road, but Errol asks for consideration of name change to road sign or installation of speed humps.

KRISTY THEXTON - Contends that Council imposed FOGO bins without prior consultation, forcing ratepayers including those already composting or using private green waste services to pay for an additional unwanted service not requested or needed.

JACQUIE WADE - Suggests fortnightly rubbish collection is unhygienic and unsafe for households with nappies, continence aids and sanitary waste due to odour, pests and disease from storing bodily waste for 14 days which Jacquie sees as unethical and "disgusting".

COREY SIEBEL - Suggests families cannot halve weekly waste and that the FOGO bin be alternated with the recycling bin for fortnightly collection.

DANIELLE AZEVEDO - Expresses concerns for the FOGO bin rollout including the moving of Red Lid Bins from weekly to fortnightly and that the consultation process has not been genuine as the decision has already been made. Danielle sees the policy as unfair and impractical as many households already compost and have waste that cannot go into FOGO and states that residents question why Council cannot keep general waste to a weekly collection.

PHILLIP BASS - Contends that Council imposed FOGO bins without consultation and that a decision had been made prior to the survey rollout. Phillip enquires as to the process for reconsidering the decision; what evidence informed Council's waste service changes, and what criteria will be used to assess feedback on the decision.

EMMA WILKINS - Expresses the FOGO rollout is impractical for families who generate little organic waste but rely on weekly Red bin collection. Emma warns that fortnightly rubbish pickup will increase costs, hygiene risks, and illegal dumping, and should be paused until genuine consultation occurs.

BELINDA CORNWALL - Opposes the waste changes, citing rising rates, reduced services, lack of consultation, and serious impacts on rural households, families, schools, and those with medical waste, and explicitly requests to opt out without the added costs to their rates.

The Chief Executive Officer, David Morcom, advised that each of these online comments will be reviewed by Council. Each respondent will receive a letter signed by the Mayor. Council will endeavour to respond in around approximately 10 business days depending on the complexity.

FURTHER GALLERY COMMENTS

RON D'ARCY – In further support for Ron's online comments, Ron presented to Council, stating he is a resident of Stratford, Chairman of Maffra Neighbourhood House Inc., Operations Manager of The George Gray Centre, Deputy Chairman of Gippsland Disability Advocacy Inc., a member of Wellington Shire Council's own Disability Advisory Committee, and a School Council Member at Sale & District Specialist School. Ron supports the intent behind the FOGO rollout as environmental responsibility does matter, but moving to fortnightly collection of the Red Lid Bin does not work for a significant portion of the population when considered in the context of those requiring regular disposal of medical waste, such as those undergoing cancer treatments, and continence/nappy products. This is about human dignity. Ron also expressed concerns about the difficulties in administering changes to rates for tenants in response to bin collection and believes a balanced approach, similar to Latrobe City Council, is needed. Ron requested Council do further engagement with those many vulnerable residents and those with disabilities who may have been heard or have been overlooked in this process of the FOGO rollout.

PHILLIP BASS – In support of Phillip's online comments, Phillip presented to Council. As a resident of Wellington Shire Council, Phillip believes that proposed Red Bin Lid fortnightly collection represents a decline in service and is misaligned with household waste patterns. Phillip expressed many concerns with the risks of the FOGO rollout, the survey process and the validity of the results.

ROSALIE O'NEIL – As a resident of Wellington Shire, Secretary of the Gippsland Disability Advocacy and Member of the Wellington Disability Advisory Committee, Rosalie voiced her support for all views expressed by both Ron and Phillip, in particular the lack of consultation and seeming "tick-the box" exercise that appears to have taken place for FOGO rollout. As a cat owner, and legally blind, Rosalie has unique requirements around waste output in areas such as kitty litter and pre-prepared meals, as she cannot do meal preparation or supervise cats outside, so the proposed change to collection of the Red Lid Bins will not align with the high levels of waste produced by her household to accommodate her condition. Rosalie maintains it should be that the Red Lid bin remains a weekly collection and just alternate the green FOGO bin with the recycling bin for fortnightly collection.

CATHERINE – As a resident of Sale for 31 years and a tenant in public housing, Catherine expresses concerns about the size of Red Lid Bins and the frequency of collection, particularly for those disposing of high levels of medical waste, made worse by the problem that Public Housing refuses to provide a second bin. Catherine also expressed concern for all those who do not use social media, including herself, as she has not seen or heard of any consultation occurring.

Meeting declared closed at: 6:08pm

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

17. 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