



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 4 August 2026, commencing at 5:00 PM

Meeting to be held at

Wellington Centre – Wellington Room, Foster Street, Sale

or stream online at <https://www.youtube.com/@wellingtonshire>

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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.

RECOGNITION 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

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT/S OF INTEREST

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING/S

3.1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER GOVERNANCE

OBJECTIVE

To adopt the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 21 July 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 21 July 2026.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

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

6. NOTICE/S OF MOTION

ACTION OFFICER: COUNCILLOR FOAT

I, Councillor Liz Foat, hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 4 August 2026.

Motion

That Council write to the Minister for Environment, formally opposing the mandatory implementation of a separate kerbside glass recycling service (commonly referred to as the purple-lidded glass recycling bin) as stipulated under the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021, noting:

- ***The significant financial burden this initiative imposes on our community;***
- ***The effectiveness of the existing Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) in achieving high glass recovery rates without necessitating an additional kerbside bin;***
- ***The operational challenges of implementing a fourth bin in a regional setting;***
- ***The need for flexibility in waste management solutions to align with community needs and financial capacity;***
- ***Council's previous resolution of 1 July 2025 requesting reconsideration of the mandatory glass recycling service requirement has not received a response from the Victorian Government.***

COUNCILLOR FOAT

Dated: 26 July 2026

BACKGROUND

On 1 July 2025, Wellington Shire Council resolved to request that the Victorian Government reconsider the mandatory implementation of a separate glass recycling service under the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*. Council subsequently wrote to the Minister for Environment outlining concerns regarding the financial burden on ratepayers, the effectiveness of the Container Deposit Scheme, operational challenges for regional councils and the need for greater flexibility in waste management solutions. To date, Council has not received a response to that correspondence.

Council remains supportive of measures that improve resource recovery and reduce waste to landfill. However, concerns continue to be raised across the local government sector regarding the cost, practicality and effectiveness of introducing a mandatory separate kerbside glass collection service, particularly in regional communities.

Accordingly, I believe it is appropriate for Council to strengthen its advocacy position and call for the removal of the mandatory glass collection requirement, while continuing to support alternative approaches that improve glass recovery outcomes without imposing unnecessary costs on communities and ratepayers.

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

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. YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

10.1. YOUTH MAYOR REPORT - AUGUST 2026

ACTION OFFICER: YOUTH MAYOR, SIENNA D'ARCY

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the Youth Mayor's Quarterly Report.

Good evening, Councillors,

Thank you for the opportunity to present to you the activities of Youth Council from the past three months.

What a busy month May was with events, activities and three meetings for our council. In early May, ten of us attended the Candlelight Vigil at Sale Clocktower. The impact of the speeches was pretty intense for our group, especially as many of us had Eva Clarke as a teacher. The display of support from such a large crowd and the presence of counsellors helped get us through. I hope we continue to have these tough conversations and help end the violence against families.

On the 15th of May we helped with lawn games at the Live4Life Launch Day. The day was full of positive messages to help with young people's mental health and wellbeing, and the Live4Life crew launched their awesome theme for 2026; **UNITED IN CARE — If you're feeling divided, speak up and share.** There were over 500 Year 8 students at the GRSV that day so we took the chance to interview and get direct feedback on what matters to young people and what they would like to see more of in the area.

At one of our May action meetings, we had two guests. First Louisa Waters, curator at the Gippsland Gallery ran us through the steps of designing the space for this year's Wellington Youth Art Prize – we are already receiving entries and look forward to showcasing young people's artistic take on Escape From Reality at the spring launch in September. Then Amelie from The Gippsland East Local Learning Employment Network delivered an interactive workshop on their Ready, Set, Go program. They wanted our feedback on the work done in the past two years and what changes they could make to engage more young people in education and training after high school. We hope to hear soon if they were successful in securing more funding for this important program.

Also in May, an extra council workshop was held with Uniting's Statewide Children's program director who wanted our input into a journal project – the group enjoyed being creative, giving their ideas of what is important to us and what we believe would appeal to young people. The journal will be aimed at 11–17-year-olds and we hope to see the results of the work later this year in either electronic form or a printed copy.

Our guest speaker for the June formal meeting was from the Australian Bureau of Statistics who spoke all about the upcoming Census. We learnt about the many ways the data gathered on Census night is used, the difficulty in reaching all the population and she also encouraged some of us to apply to get jobs working with the ABS. We are using our social media platforms and talking to our friends, family and school communities to share some of what we learnt.

The library Teen Nights have been a focus for us this year – we enjoyed being models for the comms team to shoot promotional photos and video here at the Sale library teen section. Then in June seven of us attended the Rosedale night and thanks to the neighbourhood house we added an extra activity of Just Dance at the hub. The group also decided to travel

to Heyfield for the Teen night on July 31st. Hopefully we can raise the profile of these events and let the teens in our smaller towns know that things do happen outside of Sale. Especially in these colder months it is important to create these warm welcoming spaces for us to connect and just hang out.

Looking forward we are working with the AMPLIFY group from Yarram to deliver a gaming event at the Sale Memorial Hall for YouthFest in September. There is also a new music focused AMPLIFY group called *Megafone*. They meet at The Wedge, and one of our members is working with them so we can know what support they want for their Battle of the Bands event on the 5th of September.

Overall, this has been a busy and successful few months. As a team, we aim to be positive leaders and make sure everyone feels welcome and included. We're excited to keep representing all the young people in our area.

Thank you for your time.

SIENNA D'ARCY
YOUTH MAYOR

11. DELEGATES REPORT

12. GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

12.1. RECORD OF COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER GOVERNANCE

PURPOSE

To provide a summary of Council workshops held for the period of 13 July 2026 to 26 July 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note and receive the attached Council Workshop records for the period of 13 July 2026 to 26 July 2026.

BACKGROUND

Council workshops are informal sessions held regularly to provide Councillors with information and updates, including general briefings and matters that may be the subject of future Council decisions.

A summary of each workshop is provided, capturing the workshop title, attendance, and any declared conflicts of interest.

The matters listed in this report cover the period from 13 July 2026 to 26 July 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Record of Council Workshops - 21 July 2026 [12.1.1 - 2 pages]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options:

1. Note and receive the attached Council Workshop records; or
2. Not receive the attached Council Workshop records.

PROPOSAL

That Council note and receive the attached Council Workshop records for the period 13 July 2026 to 26 July 2026.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-29

While this report does not meet a specific Council Plan strategic objective, it aligns with good governance.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT (GIA)

Officers understand the requirements in relation to conducting GIA's to ensure Council remains compliant with obligations outlined in the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

The following determination was made.

A Gender Impact Assessment was not conducted as the policy, program or service does not meet the assessment requirement criteria.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires Council, in performing its role, to give effect to the overarching governance principles.

While there is no statutory requirement to provide a summary of Council workshops, this report supports these principles, particularly section 9(i) relating to transparency and accountability.

Councillors and staff attending workshops are required to declare any conflicts of interest, including the nature of the interest, in relation to matters discussed. These disclosures are maintained in the Conflicts of Interest Register, with the name of the Councillor(s) making the declaration included in the Record of Council Workshop.

Recording Councillor attendance at workshops is a requirement under GOV-G6 of the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework. Councillors are recorded as present, on approved leave of absence, or an apology. This data is aggregated over a 12-month period and reported in accordance with Local Government Performance Reporting Framework requirements.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

RECORD OF COUNCIL WORKSHOPS - COUNCIL DAY

COUNCIL WORKSHOPS – 21 JULY 2026			
COUNCILLOR	ATTENDANCE	OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE	
Cr Cindy Madeley (Mayor)	YES	David Morcom	Chief Executive Officer
Cr Liz Foat (Deputy Mayor)	YES	Renae Littlejohn	General Manager Development
Cr Catherine Bannerman (Leave of Absence)	NO	Chris Hastie	General Manager Built & Natural Environment
Cr Scott Rossetti	YES	Arthur Skipitaris	General Manager Corporate Services
Cr Edward Lowe	YES		
Cr Garry Stephens	YES		
Cr Carmel Ripper (Apology)	NO		
Cr John Tatterson	YES		
Cr Geoff Wells	YES		
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST NOTED*			
NIL			

* In accordance with Rule 18.5 of the Wellington Shire Council Governance Rules a Councillor who has a conflict of interest must not participate in discussion of matters that will come before Council for a decision, or if a decision will be made by a member of staff acting under delegation.

WORKSHOP DETAILS – 21 JULY 2026		
ITEM NO.	WORKSHOP TITLE	PRESENTERS
1.1	2026 COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS	- Carly Bloomfield, Manager Governance - Keisha Roy, Coordinator Governance & strategy - Mark Zuker, Managing Director - JWS Research Conflict of Interest: NIL

RECORD OF COUNCIL WORKSHOPS - COUNCIL DAY

1.2	DEVELOPMENT DIVISION UPDATE	• <i>Renae Littlejohn, General Manager Development</i> • <i>Ross McWhirter, Manager Culture and Leisure</i> • <i>Shae Hansen, Manager Economic Development</i> • <i>Rosie Davidson-Tuck, Manager Community Development</i> • <i>Nicole Reynolds, Coordinator Strategic Planning</i> <i>Conflict of Interest: NIL</i>
1.3	PROJECT GROUP UPDATE	• <i>Rosina Davidson-Tuck, Manager Community Development</i> <i>Conflict of interest: NIL</i>
1.4	COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIC REVIEW	• <i>Sam Mcpherson, Manager Facilities & Emergencies</i> • <i>Sally Jeavons, @Leisure Planners</i> <i>Conflict of Interest: NIL</i>

12.2. CORRECTION OF THE 2026/27 KERBSIDE GARBAGE COLLECTION CHARGE

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER CORPORATE FINANCE

PURPOSE

For Council to:

- note the error identified in the 2026/27 Waste Management Budget relating to waste management charges and associated calculations and the identified financial impact on Council's 2026/27 forecast operating result; and
- approve the correction of the 2026/27 Kerbside Garbage Collection charge.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Note the errors identified in the 2026/27 Waste Management Budget relating to waste management charges and associated calculations and the identified financial impact on Council's 2026/27 forecast operating result; and***
- 2. Approve the correction of the 2026/27 Kerbside Garbage Collection charge from \$366 to \$343, with the EPA Levy of \$23 to be presented separately; and***
- 3. Note that officers will undertake a review at the conclusion of Quarter 1 to determine whether a budget revenue and expense adjustment is required.***

BACKGROUND

A budget correction is required in relation to the 2026/27 Waste Management charges. This error (the 'double counting' of the State Government's EPA levy) was identified by Council staff as part of their internal audit process prior to the rates being struck.

The issue arose from the way the new Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) Kerbside Garbage Collection charge and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Levy were communicated to the community compared with the subsequent inclusion in the adopted budget. Community communications presented the \$361 Kerbside Garbage Collection charge as inclusive of the \$23 EPA Levy, whereas Council's standard practice is to present the EPA Levy as a separate charge, which was reflected in the adopted budget.

Following approval of an additional \$5 subsidy component to support eligible households, the correct Kerbside Garbage Collection charge should have been \$343, with the EPA Levy of \$23 shown separately. However, the adopted budget incorrectly listed the charge as \$366 (*refer to Table 1*). This resulted in the Kerbside Garbage Collection charge being overstated by \$23 per applicable service, creating a gross Waste Management revenue overstatement of \$474,260.

Ratepayers will receive a rate notice with \$343 (*refer to Table 2*) as the Kerbside Charge (i.e. \$338 plus \$5 subsidy recovery, excluding the EPA Levy of \$23).

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property	Per Rateable Property	Change	
	2025/26	2026/27		
	\$	\$	\$	%
Residential Garbage collection	295.0	366.0	71.0	24.1
Waste Infrastructure Charge (Landfill operations)	70.0	90.0	20.0	28.6
EPA Levy Charge	26.4	23.0	(3.4)	(12.9)
Optional Additional Bins (New in 2026/27)				
120L Landfil Bin		169.0		
Additional EPA Levy Charge		23.0		
240L Landfil Bin		336.0		
Additional EPA Levy Charge		46.0		
240L Recycling Bin		61.0		
240L FOGO Bin		83.0		

Table 1 – Section 4.1.1 Rates and Charges of adopted 2026/27 Budget with incorrect Kerbside Garbage Collection Charge

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property	Per Rateable Property	Change	
	2025/26	2026/27		
	\$	\$	\$	%
Residential Garbage collection	295.0	343.0	48.0	16.3
Waste Infrastructure Charge (Landfill operations)	70.0	90.0	20.0	28.6
EPA Levy Charge	26.4	23.0	(3.4)	(12.9)
Optional Additional Bins (New in 2026/27)				
120L Landfil Bin		169.0		
Additional EPA Levy Charge		23.0		
240L Landfil Bin		336.0		
Additional EPA Levy Charge		46.0		
240L Recycling Bin		61.0		
240L FOGO Bin		83.0		

Table 2 – Corrected Kerbside Garbage Collection Charge of \$343

After considering additional bin revenue of \$153,780 identified at the time of the rates strike, the net budget impact is a forecast revenue shortfall of \$320,480. This shortfall is expected to be mitigated via additional bin uptake, further review of waste-related revenue and expenditure opportunities and / or savings made in other Council operations.

No amendment to the adopted budget is recommended at this stage. Officers will review the position at the conclusion of Quarter 1 to determine whether a budget revenue and expense adjustment is required.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. To note the errors identified in the 2026/27 Waste Management budget relating to waste management charges and associated calculations, note the identified financial impact on Council's forecast operating result, approve the correction of the 2026/27 Kerbside Garbage Collection charge from \$366 to \$343, with the EPA Levy of \$23 to be presented separately and note that officers will undertake a review at the conclusion of Quarter 1 to determine whether a budget revenue and expense adjustment is required; or
2. To not approve the correction of the 2026/27 Kerbside Garbage Collection charge from \$366 to \$343 and seek further information.

PROPOSAL

For Council to approve the correction of the 2026/27 Kerbside Garbage Collection charge from \$366 to \$343, with the EPA Levy of \$23 to be presented separately; and note that officers will undertake a review at the conclusion of Quarter 1 to determine whether a budget revenue and expense adjustment is required.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-29

While this report does not meet a specific Council Plan strategic objective, it aligns with good governance.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT (GIA)

Officers understand the requirements in relation to conducting GIA's to ensure Council remains compliant with obligations outlined in the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

The following determination was made.

A Gender Impact Assessment was conducted as the policy, program or service meets the assessment requirement criteria. Officers undertook the GIA in accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020* to ensure potential gendered impacts were identified, considered and appropriately addressed.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

After considering additional bin revenue of \$153,780 identified at the time of the rates strike, the net budget impact is a forecast revenue shortfall of \$320,480. This shortfall is expected to be mitigated via additional bin uptake, further review of waste-related revenue and expenditure opportunities and / or savings made in other Council operations.

No amendment to the adopted budget is recommended at this stage. Officers will review the position at the conclusion of Quarter 1 to determine whether a budget revenue and expense adjustment is required.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

13. GENERAL MANAGER DEVELOPMENT

13.1. WELLINGTON PROPOSAL

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PURPOSE

For Council to receive and note the outcome of the *Operational Service Review - Library Services* which is outlined as a Major Initiative in the Wellington Shire Council (WSC) Plan 2025-2029.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the outcome of the Operational Service Review – Library Services; and***
- 2. Note that the information contained in the confidential attachments 13.1.2 - Library Staff Survey Results, 13.1.3 - Financial Comparison, 13.1.4 - Request for Quotation A, 13.1.5 - Request for Quotation B, 13.1.6 - Independent Review RFQ Library Services 2026 and 13.1.7 - Gender Impact Assessment Library Service Review Document relating to the Wellington Proposal is designated confidential under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 by the General Manager Development on 22 July 2026 because it relates to the following ground:
(a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.***

BACKGROUND

As outlined in the Council Plan 2025-29, Council committed to undertake an Operational Service Review of its public library service.

Along with other Council service reviews, the purpose is to determine whether there are opportunities to deliver the service more effectively and/or efficiently. Council periodically reviews many of its core services to ensure community needs are met in the most cost-efficient way.

Victorian local government faces compounding financial pressure largely driven by annual rate-capping (currently at 2.75% for 2026) which is set by the State Government, and typically below the prevailing *Consumer Price Index*. Public library funding, which historically operated on an even 50:50 split between state and local governments, has been reduced to 80:20; that being 80% funding contributions from Local Government and 20% from State Government. By undertaking this Service Review, Council has proactively investigated ways to deliver the same quality of service or better in a more financially sustainable way.

It is important to note that on 1 July 2021, legislative changes to the *Local Government Act (2020)* in Victoria regarding Public Libraries resulted in the dissolution of the "Regional Library Corporation" model in favour of more modern legal structures. As a result, many libraries operating as Regional Library Corporations are transitioning into "beneficial enterprises" typically structured as not-for-profit and limited by guarantee. This shift allows libraries to pursue philanthropic opportunities, such as donations and bequests and register as charities with the Australian Charities and not-for-profits Commission.

Project Scope

To achieve the Service Review, Council took an approach that included:

- Stakeholder engagement that involved staff, library sector experts and library corporations.
- Identifying key considerations and implications for Wellington Shire Council's libraries if they were to transfer to an outsourced service delivery model.

The Service Review included a desktop literature review, evaluation of Request for Quotation (RFQ) submissions from two Victorian-based library corporations, and a detailed review of WSC service delivery model which was informed by sector benchmarking and internal consultation.

Summary of Findings

RFQ's were distributed to two library corporations, focusing on key responses to a series of questions relating to financial costs to outsource service delivery and service model. The submissions were assessed against WSC's library service. The external submissions offered notable benefits and identified innovative ways to deliver library services (such as expanding existing service with 24-hour library access) that meet community needs while achieving efficiencies that included expansion of digital collections and alternative access approaches.

The Service Review revealed sector-specific approaches and innovations that broadened the understanding of opportunities for WSC's current service. This includes potential for an uplift in digitisation and increased programming to support community participation leading to longer term social and financial sustainability. Throughout the Service Review, the importance of the membership of WSC to Public Libraries Victoria (PLV) consortium and the role that they play as a peak body was also evident.

The assessment concluded that the findings do not provide a sufficient financial case, at this stage, to outsource WSC library services to an external not-for-profit library corporation.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Confidential Header Wellington Proposal [**13.1.1** - 1 page]
2. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Library Staff Survey Results [**13.1.2** - 22 pages]
3. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Financial Comparison [**13.1.3** - 1 page]
4. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Request for Quotation A [**13.1.4** - 27 pages]
5. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Request for Quotation B [**13.1.5** - 164 pages]
6. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Independent Review RFQ Library Services 2026 [**13.1.6** - 13 pages]
7. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Gender Impact Assessment Library Service Review document [**13.1.7** - 11 pages]

OPTIONS

Council has the following options available:

1. Receive and note the outcome of this report
2. Direct staff to further examine Wellington Shire Council's library service, including management, to an external library corporation.

PROPOSAL

The Wellington Shire Council Service Review - Library Service enabled Council to better understand and identify the issues and opportunities around outsourcing external library corporations or continuing with the current WSC library service. After a comprehensive review, it is proposed that Council support **Option 1** which, at this stage, retains the status quo regarding the current operating model for WSC's library service.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No staff and/or contractors involved in the compilation of this report have declared a conflict of interest.

COUNCIL PLAN 2025-29

This report supports the achievement of the following Council Plan 2025-29 Strategic Objective/s:

Strategic Objective 3: Infrastructure, Spaces and Places - Action: 3.7 Major Initiative:

- *Undertake review of libraries to ensure improved effectiveness of service delivery without compromising community satisfaction*

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT (GIA)

Officers understand the requirements in relation to conducting GIA's to ensure Council remains compliant with obligations outlined in the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

The following determination was made.

A Gender Impact Assessment was conducted as the policy, program or service meets the assessment requirement criteria. Officers undertook the GIA in accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020* to ensure potential gendered impacts were identified, considered and appropriately addressed.

The Gender Impact Assessment for the Library Service Review document is attached as Confidential Item 13.1.7.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Council undertook a comprehensive Request for Quotation (RFQ) process to assess options for delivering library services. After several discussions with the two providers that submitted proposals, Council completed a detailed financial assessment of each submission. This assessment compared the proposed service delivery models with Council's current cost structure for operating and maintaining all libraries. As the proposals did not include all information needed for a definitive assessment, and one included estimated figures, Council relied on assumptions based on its current operating costs.

After considering the final financial assessment, Council concluded that there is not a sufficient financial case to accept an offer from either service provider. Although one offer may deliver modest savings, these are likely to be outweighed by transition and project costs that would not be recovered within five years. On this basis, and at this stage, it is not recommended, from a commercial perspective, that Council proceed with either offer.

COMMUNICATION IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

RESOURCES AND STAFF IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT

This impact has been assessed and there is no effect to consider at this time.



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

The Heart of Gippsland

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 4 AUGUST 2026

I declare that the information contained in the attached documents **LIBRARY STAFF SURVEY RESULTS, FINANCIAL COMPARISON, REQUEST FOR QUOTATION A, REQUEST FOR QUOTATION B, INDEPENDENT REVIEW RFQ LIBRARY SERVICES 2026 and GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT LIBRARY SERVICE REVIEW DOCUMENT** relating to the **WELLINGTON PROPOSAL** is confidential because it contains confidential information as defined in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*;

(a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released

RENAE LITTLEJOHN
General Manager Development
22/07/2026

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 –

FURTHER GALLERY COMMENTS –

Meeting declared closed at:

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

15. IN CLOSED SESSION

COUNCILLOR

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

COUNCILLOR

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

Meeting declared closed at: