



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

Resolutions in Brief Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 15 September 2026, commencing at 5:00 PM

Cr Cindy Madeley (Mayor)

Cr Liz Foat (Deputy Mayor)

Cr Catherine Bannerman

Cr Scott Rossetti

Cr Edward Lowe

Cr Garry Stephens

Cr Carmel Ripper

Cr John Tatterson

Cr Geoff Wells

David Morcom, Chief Executive Officer

Chris Hastie, General Manager Built & Natural Environment

Arthur Skipitaris, Manager Corporate Services

Catie Thomson, Senior Governance and Reporting Officer

Nikola Faberova, Corporate Governance Officer

Billie-Jo Thorburn, Acting Manager Customer & Communications

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.

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

NIL

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT/S OF INTEREST

NIL

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING/S

3.1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER GOVERNANCE

RECOMMENDATION	
<i>That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 1 September 2026.</i>	
COUNCILLOR WELLS / COUNCILLOR LOWE	
That Council adopt the minutes and resolutions of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 1 September 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 reinstatement of weekly red bin collection.	1 September 2026	The petition was received at the Council meeting dated 1 September 2026 and referred to the General Manager Built and Natural Environment for a report to a future Council meeting.	6 October 2026

8. INVITED ADDRESSES, PRESENTATIONS OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

COUNCILLOR FOAT attended and acknowledged the Bundalaguah Country Women's Association (CWA) 80th birthday celebrations (known as the 'oak' anniversary) with a special high tea event held at the Bundalaguah - Myrtlebank Hall on Wednesday 2 September, also attended by Councillor Ripper. The celebration marks eight decades of service, friendship, and community spirit. Helen Farley led the celebration whilst the Bundalaguah CWA President, CeCe Kingwill, recounted stories of the friendships and activities that have shaped the CWA branch over the years. Councillor Foat provided a brief history on the CWA, outlining how members rallied the Bundalaguah community to raise funds to build the hall which remains the 'home' of the CWA branch today, a lasting symbol and reminder of what can be achieved when a determined community works together. The role of the members was acknowledged for their efforts in fundraising, catering, creative activities and support for local families and young people in making a lasting contribution to the community.

The Bundalaguah CWA currently has 52 members who continue to pass on skills, traditions and friendships to new generations. The CWA branch continues to provide a welcoming place where knowledge is shared and new members can become part of its story. Councillor Foat congratulated and wished the branch and its members, past and present, many more years of success.

Councillor Ripper also acknowledged what a special occasion and significance the event was.

COUNCILLOR RIPPER attended and acknowledged the official opening of the Australian Floral Art Association's 50th Convention Flower Exhibition, held at the Port of Sale on Wednesday 9 September 2026, which was officially opened by the Mayor Cindy Madeley and included the presentation of awards recognising excellence across a range of categories. The Sale Floral Art Group and the Victorian Floral Art Association, hosted the convention which brought together some of the country's finest floral artists in a stunning celebration of creativity and design. Floral artists travelled across Australia, including a special guest demonstrator from New Zealand. Visitors were treated to an impressive showcase featuring more than 130 floral displays which highlighted an extraordinary blend of colour, creativity, craftsmanship, and artistic talent. Councillor Ripper thanked the many participants as well as the staff at the Port of Sale for their support in hosting such a successful event. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the exceptional floral displays, the Port of Sale and the Gippsland Art Gallery as a cultural and community destination.

Mayor Madeley agreed that the flower event elevated the gallery space to a 'whole new level' in creating a remarkable and engaging experience for the 100+ visitors who attended. The Middle of Everywhere team were also acknowledged and thanked by the Mayor for their tireless efforts in helping to organise the event.

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
<i>That the Mayor and Councillors report be noted for August 2026.</i>
COUNCILLOR FOAT / COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI
That the Mayor and Councillors report be noted for August 2026.
CARRIED

11. DELEGATES REPORT

COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN provided an update on the Star of the South Community Advisory Group after attending the meeting late last week. The Advisory Group covered a range of technical matters relating to the operation of wind turbines and overall functioning of the wind farm. Southerly Ten (also referred to as Star of the South) is excited about the State Government's announcement that the Request for Proposals (RFP) is now open and look forward to submitting a proposal to the State Government.

Councillor Bannerman also provided an update on the Rural Councils Victoria Annual Forum held in Swan Hill, a two-day event attended by representatives from councils across Victoria. The forum provided an opportunity to discuss key issues affecting rural and regional councils and highlighted the strong representation and participation of member councils. Councillor Bannerman noted the value of the event in fostering collaboration and advocacy on matters of importance to rural Victoria. Rural Councils Victoria currently represents 36 member councils and there was an excellent representation of 34-35 councils present at the forum. It was an excellent turnout.

The official launch of the upcoming advocacy campaign, *Invest in Rural Victoria*, was a key focus at the forum. The campaign aims to deliver a clear message to Government ahead of the November elections regarding the need for increased investment in rural and regional

community infrastructure and that previously promised funding has not been delivered. Councillor Bannerman spoke of the increased signage around certain infrastructure which will be erected in the Wellington Shire as part of the campaign to raise awareness of the need for infrastructure improvements.

The cost of poor road conditions is currently being borne by individual road users with increased vehicle repair and maintenance expenses, rather than by the State Government which has responsibility for maintaining the road network. Rural councils continue to experience significant issues with potholes and road deterioration with concerns these issues are not being addressed in a timely manner through existing State Government funding arrangements. Along with roads, the key campaign is around advocating for:

- a \$1 billion productivity and growth fund to support rural councils to guarantee a fair share of funding for Rural Victoria with a minimum of 25% funding reserved for rural councils, rather than this funding going to Metropolitan Melbourne.
- a strong and separate commitment of around \$2 billion for rural roads
- dedicated funding for Rural Councils Victoria to build sector capability and improve delivery for rural councils

COUNCILLOR MADELEY provided an update on the Wellington Youth Services Network which met on 8 September 2026. Updates from presentations included Live4Life activities which provide youth mental health first aid training, school well-being activities and the L2P mental support program. Several youth programs and events were promoted, both past and future, including the Amplify Program live music event – Battle of the Bands (held 5 September); YouthFest Gaming (occurring Friday 18 September 2026); the ‘Gippy Girls Can’ events (occurring over the September month) and Stratford Library Teen Night (held last Friday). Wellington Shire Council represented by Mayor Madeley also shared updates in relation to the Live Well in Wellington newsletter, the Youth Art Prize, and upcoming Youth Council recruitment.

Councillor Madeley also attended and provided an update on the Gippsland Climate Change Network (GCCN) meeting which was held last week. Discussions were held around the recent Gippsland New Energy Conference (GNEC) and recent announcement of the offshore wind auction and the role that GCCN can play in advocating for community benefits and working with various stakeholder groups. There was also discussion around the GCCN seeking further grant opportunities, so it can continue its work mainly in the education space.

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 August 2026.

COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI / COUNCILLOR WELLS

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

CARRIED

13. GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

13.1. RECORD OF COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the attached Council Workshop records for Tuesday 1 September 2026.

COUNCILLOR TATTERSON / COUNCILLOR STEPHENS

That Council receive and note the attached Council Workshop records for Tuesday 1 September 2026.

CARRIED

13.2. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEMBER

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Appoint an independent member to Council's Audit and Risk Committee for a three year period (in accordance with its charter) commencing 29 October 2026 and expiring 28 October 2029; based on the recommendation in the confidential Attachment 13.2.2 - Evaluation Report Audit and Risk Committee Member Appointment 2026 of this Council meeting agenda; and*
2. *Note that the information contained in the confidential Attachment 13.2.2 - Evaluation Report Audit and Risk Committee Member Appointment 2026 is designated confidential under section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 by the General Manager Corporate Services on 31 August 2026 because it relates to the following grounds:
(f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs;
except that once this recommendation has been adopted the name of the successful applicant can be made public.*

COUNCILLOR WELLS / COUNCILLOR FOAT

That Council:

1. *Appoint an independent member to Council's Audit and Risk Committee for a three year period (in accordance with its charter) commencing 29 October 2026 and expiring 28 October 2029; based on the recommendation in the confidential Attachment 13.2.2 - Evaluation Report Audit and Risk Committee Member Appointment 2026 of this Council meeting agenda; and*
2. *Note that the information contained in the confidential Attachment 13.2.2 - Evaluation Report Audit and Risk Committee Member Appointment 2026 is designated confidential under section 3(1) Confidential Information of the*

Local Government Act 2020 by the General Manager Corporate Services on 31 August 2026 because it relates to the following grounds:

(f) personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs;

except that once this recommendation has been adopted the name of the successful applicant can be made public.

CARRIED

The Mayor announced the successful appointment of the Audit and Risk Committee member, Tony Smith, for a three year term from 29 October 2026 to 28 October 2029.

13.3. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES

ACTION OFFICER: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the minutes in brief of the Audit and Risk Committee 26 August 2026, as attached, and the Confidential Attachment 13.3.3 - Audit and Risk Committee Minutes - 26 August 2026; and***
- 2. Note that the information contained in the Confidential Attachment 13.3.3 - Audit and Risk Committee Minutes - 26 August 2026, of this Council meeting agenda, is designated confidential under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 by the General Manager Corporate Services on 4 September 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 ROSSETTI

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the minutes in brief of the Audit and Risk Committee 26 August 2026, as attached, and the Confidential Attachment 13.3.3 - Audit and Risk Committee Minutes - 26 August 2026; and**
- 2. Note that the information contained in the Confidential Attachment 13.3.3 - Audit and Risk Committee Minutes - 26 August 2026, of this Council meeting agenda, is designated confidential under Section 3(1) Confidential Information of the Local Government Act 2020 by the General Manager Corporate Services on 4 September 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

13.4. COUNCIL PLAN 2025-29 PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER 4

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER GOVERNANCE

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the progress update report on the Council Plan 2025-29 for Quarter 4, April to June 2026, including the status of Major Initiatives and Actions, as attached.

COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI / COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN

That Council receive the progress update report on the Council Plan 2025-29 for Quarter 4, April to June 2026, including the status of Major Initiatives and Actions, as attached.

CARRIED

14. GENERAL MANAGER DEVELOPMENT

14.1. MONTHLY PLANNING DECISIONS - JULY 2026

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER PLANNING AND BUILDING

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCILLOR WELLS / COUNCILLOR RIPPER

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

CARRIED

15. GENERAL MANAGER BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

15.1. PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE - AUGUST 2026

ACTION OFFICER: MANAGER ASSETS AND PROJECTS

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the minutes of the Place Names Committee meeting held on 11 August 2026;***
- 2. Resolve that the following road names be assigned to subdivision PS904015 Mill Lane, Rosedale;***
 - a. Minnie Street replacing the proposed Edith Street***
 - b. Reed Crescent to replace the proposed Rhys Crescent***
 - c. Adams Place to replace Angus Place; and***
 - d. That Council officers inform the developer of the assigned names.***

3. **Resolve that Cove Street in Loch Sport be renamed Cove Court and that this be registered with Geographic Names Victoria and that the affected property owners be notified.**

COUNCILLOR FOAT / COUNCILLOR RIPPER

That Council:

1. **Receive and note the minutes of the Place Names Committee meeting held on 11 August 2026;**
2. **Resolve that the following road names be assigned to subdivision PS904015 Mill Lane, Rosedale;**
 - a. **Minnie Street replacing the proposed Edith Street**
 - b. **Reed Crescent to replace the proposed Rhys Crescent**
 - c. **Adams Place to replace Angus Place; and**
 - d. **That Council officers inform the developer of the assigned names.**
3. **Resolve that Cove Street in Loch Sport be renamed Cove Court and that this be registered with Geographic Names Victoria and that the affected property owners be notified.**

CARRIED

16. FURTHER GALLERY AND ONLINE COMMENTS

Gallery comments are an opportunity for members of the public to raise any particular matter they wish. This allows those in the gallery to speak directly to Councillors but is not a forum designed for open discussion or debate. We will listen respectfully to what you have to say and make the commitment that if your query requires a written response, we will advise you that a response will be forthcoming, and a copy of that response will be circulated to all Councillors.

This is not a forum for members of the public to lodge complaints against individuals, including Councillors and staff, particularly as that individual gets no public right of reply to any matter raised. We take complaints seriously, and in line with the guidance from the Victorian Ombudsman and the local Government Inspectorate, we request that any specific complaint against an individual be put in writing. This way, your concern can be properly dealt with while ensuring fairness to all parties concerned.

If you wish to speak, we remind you that this part of the meeting is being recorded and broadcast on our website. Council's official Minutes will record that you have spoken to Council and the subject you spoke to Council about but will not record specific comments. We ask you to state your name in full, where you are from, and you have three minutes.

ONLINE COMMENTS

KIM HOLT - Kim and her husband Darren Holt would "like to know if the council would know if Sale would ever get an over 55's Retirement village? If it would be maybe a possibility of getting a retirement village would be amazing for our town. We were both born here and would love to stay here. Not wanting to sell up and go to another town like Warragul. Warragul and so many towns have them. Thank you for your time".

The Chief Executive Officer, David Morcom, read out Kim Holt's question in the Council meeting and indicated that Council does not directly provide retirement or senior living services options, but there are a number of options in Sale and all nearby towns, both private and some non-profit retirement villages as well.

David advised that a written response will be sent to Kim and Darren Holt.

FURTHER GALLERY COMMENTS

NIL

17. IN CLOSED SESSION

17.1. MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

COUNCILLOR STEPHENS / COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI

- 1. That the meeting be closed to the public to consider confidential information pursuant to section 66(2)(a) 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 and private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that – relates to trade secrets; or – if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.**
- 2. The further explanation for the closure of the meeting is due to;**
 - Item 17.2 and 17.4 relates to information that is deemed confidential to protect the privacy and personal information about any person or their personal affairs**
 - Item 17.3 relates to information that is deemed confidential due to the private commercial information relating to a contract variation.**

CARRIED

IN CLOSED SESSION

This Ordinary Meeting of Council declared closed to the public at: 5.32 PM.

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

The Chief Executive Officer (the CEO) declared a conflict of interest at 17.2 Item Chief Executive's 2025-26 Performance Review.

The Chief Executive Officer left the meeting at 5.33 PM.

17.2. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S 2025-26 PERFORMANCE REVIEW

COUNCILLOR FOAT / COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN

Details Redacted.

CARRIED



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 15 SEPTEMBER 2026

Under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* a meeting considering confidential information may be closed to the public.

I declare that the information contained in this report **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S 2025/26 PERFORMANCE REVIEW** is confidential because it contains confidential information as defined in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*;

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

I further declare that the circumstances of this report necessitate consideration in a meeting closed to the public pursuant to sections 66(2)(a) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Further explanation:

The grounds for designation under section 3(1)(f) have been made as the information is deemed confidential to protect the privacy and personal information about any person or their personal affairs.

.....
ARTHUR SKIPITARIS
GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES
7/09/2026

17.3. LONGFORD LANDFILL / NORTH SALE WETLANDS CONTRACT 2025-066 VARIATION

COUNCILLOR BANNERMAN / COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI

Details redacted.

CARRIED



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING 15 SEPTEMBER 2026

Under section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* a meeting considering confidential information may be closed to the public.

I declare that the information contained in this report **LONGFORD LANDFILL / NORTH SALE WETLANDS CONTRACT 2025-066 VARIATION** is confidential because it contains confidential information as defined in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*;

(g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that - relates to trade secrets; or - if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage

I further declare that the circumstances of this report necessitate consideration in a meeting closed to the public pursuant to sections 66(2)(a) and 66(5) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Further explanation:

The grounds for designation under section 3(1)(f) have been made as the information is deemed confidential due to the private commercial information relating to a contract variation.

.....
CHRIS HASTIE
GENERAL MANAGER BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
31/08/2026

17.4. COUNCILLOR LEAVE

COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI / COUNCILLOR FOAT

Details Redacted.

CARRIED

17.5. MOVE OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

COUNCILLOR ROSSETTI / COUNCILLOR STEPHENS

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

CARRIED

Closed Session declared closed at: 5.38 PM.