

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

# Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 18 February 2026



Council Chambers, Leongatha  
Commenced at 2:00 PM



*South Gippsland  
Shire Council*

# OUR COUNCIL PLAN VISION STATEMENT

*Our South Gippsland community is connected, resilient and empowered. We value our unique townships, our rural and coastal landscapes, while balancing growth.*

*A prosperous region, we draw strength from: visitor experience, emerging and creative industries, our agricultural sector and natural environment. We lead with purpose, are forward thinking, and deliver consolidated and sustainable services for our community.*

The Council Agenda relates to the following Strategic Objectives of the Council Plan 2025-2029.



Leading with Integrity



Developing a Sustainable Future



Empowering Communities

# **SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL**

Wednesday 18 February 2026  
Council Chambers, Leongatha, commenced at 2:00pm.

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**Allison Jones**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**Privacy Statement**

Council is required to keep minutes of each Council meeting. The minutes contain details of proceedings which may include personal information about community members disclosed as part of presentations, submissions and questions. The minutes of Council meetings are a public record and can be inspected by members of the public.

## PRESENT

COUNCILLORS:	<p><i>Coastal Promontory Ward</i> Councillor Sarah Gilligan Councillor Steve Finlay Councillor Scott Rae</p> <p><i>Strzelecki Ward</i> Councillor Nathan Hersey, Mayor Councillor John Kennedy Councillor Bron Beach</p> <p><i>Tarwin Valley Ward</i> Councillor Brad Snell, Deputy Mayor Councillor John Schelling Councillor Clare Williams</p>
NOT PRESENT:	
OFFICERS:	<p>Allison Jones, Chief Executive Officer Tony Peterson, Executive Director, Strategy and Integrity Lucas Gardiner, Executive Director, Empowering Communities David Fice, Executive Director, Infrastructure Sustainability Rhys Matulis, Manager Governance and Integrity Jodi Cumming, Governance Coordinator Ally Low, Governance Officer Thomas Hender, Desktop Support Officer</p>

## **1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

### **1.1. LIVE-STREAMING COUNCIL MEETING DISCLAIMER**

This Council Meeting is being streamed live, recorded and published in accordance with Council's *Live Streaming in Council Meetings Policy*.

Access to the live stream through Council's Internet is an option to view the 'open' component of a Council Meeting. Link to the Live Stream on Council's website: [Live Streaming | Live Streaming | South Gippsland Shire Council](#)

The Chair and/or the CEO have the discretion and authority at any time to direct the termination or interruption of live streaming. Such direction will only be given in exceptional circumstances where deemed relevant. Circumstances may include instances where the content of debate is considered misleading, defamatory or potentially inappropriate to be published.

Today's Meeting is being streamed live as well as recorded and published on Council's website.

Thank you

### **1.2. WELCOME TO THE COUNCIL MEETING**

#### ***Public Questions***

In accordance with Council's *Governance Rules, clause 57.6 the submission of agenda public questions has now closed. Questions must be received by Council, 24 hours prior to the commencement of the Council Meeting. Questions received within 24 hours of the commencement of the Meeting will be considered at the next Council Meeting.*

### **1.3. OPENING PRAYER**

As we gather here from diverse backgrounds and beliefs, may we hold privilege with good care and trust. As we deliberate and discuss, may we be wise in our discernment, fair in our decisions and visionary in our planning. May we be guided by our common goal of a strong and united South Gippsland.

**The Opening Prayer was read by Councillor Schelling**

#### **1.4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS**

We acknowledge the Bunurong and Gunaikurnai people as the Traditional Custodians of South Gippsland and pay respect to their Elders, past, present, and future, for they hold the memories, traditions, culture, and hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia.

**The Acknowledgment of Traditional Custodians was read by Councillor Rae**

#### **1.5. APOLOGIES**

Nil

#### **1.6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the South Gippsland Shire Council Meeting held on 10 December 2025 in the Council Chambers, Leongatha be confirmed.

##### **RESOLUTION**

**MOVED: Councillor Schelling**

**SECONDED: Councillor Snell**

**That the Minutes of the South Gippsland Shire Council Meeting held on 10 December 2025 in the Council Chambers, Leongatha be confirmed.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 1.7. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST FOR COUNCILLORS

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Division 2 sets out the requirements relating to declaring a Conflict of Interest. Disclosure of a conflict of interest in respect of a matter to be considered at a Council Meeting is required under section 130(1)(a) and specifically applies to a relevant person being a Councillor, member of a delegated committee who is not a Councillor and a member of Council staff.

*Council's Governance Rules, Chapter 5 – Clause 2 - Disclosure of a Conflict of Interest at a Council Meeting* sets out the prescribed manner required to disclose a conflict of interest at South Gippsland Shire Council.

*Council's Governance Rules* require a Councillor and/or staff member who has a conflict of interest in a matter being considered at a Council Meeting to announce before the matter is considered and disclose this in a written notice to the Chief Executive Officer. The details included in the disclosure, explain the nature of the conflict of interest, whether it is classified as general or material (s.127 and s.128), the name of the relevant person(s) and their relationship to them.

Failure to comply with disclosures of conflict of interest (s.130) may be subject to penalty points and/or other disciplinary measures depending on the nature of the conflict.

The *Local Government Act 2020* can be accessed from the Victorian Legislation and Parliamentary documents website at [www.legislation.vic.gov.au](http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au).

*Council's Governance Rules* can be accessed from [Council's Policies](#) webpage.

**Mayor Nathan Hersey has declared a general conflict of interest for Agenda Item 5.3 Planning Scheme Amendment Authorisation Request - 8A to 62 Bena Road Korumburra - Development Plan Overlay, as he part-owns land in the area, which may be impacted by significant development.**

## 1.8. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST FOR STAFF

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Division 2 sets out the requirements relating to declaring a Conflict of Interest. Disclosure of a conflict of interest in respect of a matter to be considered at a Council Meeting is required under section 130(1)(a) and specifically applies to a relevant person being a Councillor, member of a delegated committee who is not a Councillor and a member of Council staff.

*Council's Governance Rules, Chapter 5, clause 6, 7 and 8* sets the prescribed manner required for staff to disclose a conflict of interest when:

- Preparing Reports for Meetings
- Exercise of Delegated Power
- Exercise of a Statutory Function

Council staff must immediately upon becoming aware of a conflict of interest provide a written notice to the Chief Executive Officer disclosing the conflict of interest, explain the nature of the conflict and how it will be managed. Upon becoming aware and declaring a conflict of interest, a staff member may not exercise a power or perform a function in the matter. All prepared reports will record that staff member(s) have considered a conflict of interest and include if any, the details of a disclosure.

Failure to comply with disclosures of conflict of interest (s.130) may be subject to penalty points and/or other disciplinary measures depending on the nature of the conflict.

The *Local Government Act 2020* can be accessed from the Victorian Legislation and Parliamentary documents website at [www.legislation.vic.gov.au](http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au).

*Council's Governance Rules* can be accessed from [Council's Policies](#) webpage.

**Nil**

## 2. AGENDA PUBLIC QUESTIONS

### 2.1. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

Petitions and Joint Letters are written requests that have been signed by a number of community members. According to the *Governance Rules; Division 9 - clause 58 – Petitions and Joint Letters*, members of the community may submit a valid petition or joint letter to a Councillor or to Council addressed to the Chief Executive Officer.

The Councillor presenting the petition or joint letter is responsible for ensuring that they are familiar with the contents and purpose of the petition or joint letter and that it does not contain language disrespectful to Council.

The requirements of the lead petitioner are detailed in the *Governance Rules*, available on Council's website.

**Council received a petition on 10 February 2026 relating to Agenda Item 5.3 Planning Scheme Amendment Authorisation Request - 8A to 62 Bena Road Korumburra - Development Plan Overlay. In accordance with Section 58.6(d) of Council's updated Governance Rules, motions relating to petitions (or joint letters) can be dealt with in conjunction with another item on the agenda.**

**Furthermore, pursuant to Section 58.7 of Council's Governance Rules, petitions relating to a formal submission process can be referred directly to the relevant Department and dealt with as submissions to that matter. As such, they are not tabled at a Council Meeting as a petition (or joint letter).**

**This petition has been included in the report of Council Meeting Agenda Item 5.3.**

## **2.2. ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS AGENDA PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Answers to previous questions taken on notice at a former Council Meeting, may be included in the Minutes of this Meeting or alternatively responded to as a customer request inline with Council's *Customer Service Charter* and *Governance Rules*, available on Council's website.

Background material submitted with a question will not be recorded in the Council Meeting minutes.

**Nil**

### 2.3. SUBMITTED AGENDA PUBLIC QUESTIONS

All community member questions for Council Meetings are to be written and submitted 24 hours prior to the commencement of a Council Meeting to allow time for a response to be prepared. Reasonable efforts will be made to answer pre-submitted questions at the Meeting. Any question received after the closing time of 24 hours prior to the commencement of a Council Meeting, will be held over to the next scheduled Council Meeting.

When further time is required to prepare an answer, questions may be taken-on-notice and responses will be included in the minutes of the next Council Meeting or alternatively responded to as a customer request in line with Council's *Customer Service Charter* and *Governance Rules*, available on Council's website.

At the Meeting, the person submitting the question(s) may have the option to read out their question(s) and will be recorded in the minutes. Questions may not be allowed where the question(s) is deemed to be:

- is not relevant to any Council agenda topic
- relates to a matter outside the duties, functions and powers of Council;
- is defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable in language or substance;
- deals with a subject matter already publicly answered; or is repetitious or vexatious questions from the same *Questioner*;
- is aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or a member of Council staff;
- relates to personnel matters; personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer;
- industrial matters; contractual matters; proposed developments; legal advice; law enforcement matters; or
- relates to confidential information as defined under the Act; or
- relates to matters affecting the security of Council property;
- is illegible, vague, not make sense or not be a question;
- relates to council business information and operational matters not specific to Council meeting agenda topics; and/or
- relates to any other matter which Council considers would prejudice Council or any person

A person may submit up to three (3) questions, this includes a combined total of three (3) questions for related parties or groups. The total word count of all questions submitted is to be 200 words or fewer. Background material submitted with a question will not be read out or recorded in the Council Meeting minutes.

The CEO, in consultation with the Mayor, may decide not to refer a question to a Council Meeting if there is a more appropriate way to respond. Questions and responses may be read out by the Chair or a nominated Councillor or Council staff.

Public question time in the agenda will not exceed 15 minutes in duration, unless extended by a further 15 minutes by a resolution of Council.

**Council has received one public question from Richard Collyer and Sue Hinton, in relation to Agenda Item 5.3 Planning Scheme Amendment Authorisation Request - 8A to 62 Bena Road Korumburra - Development Plan Overlay.**

**Question:**

Despite the fact that the Council Agenda for February 18 was posted only three days before the meeting, thus giving very limited time for residents (the key stakeholders) to seek planning and/or independent legal advice and to respond, the Bena Road Long Lots Neighbourhood have identified and forwarded to all Councillors, at least 14 deficiencies in the Agenda item 5.3 PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT AUTHORISATION REQUEST - 8A TO 62 BENA ROAD KORUMBURRA - DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVERLAY. How will Councillors be able to have the time to fairly make a well-considered decision?

**Response:**

**Council notes the concerns raised regarding the timing of the Agenda and the matters identified in Item 5.3. The Agenda was published in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 and Council's Governance Rules.**

**Councillors do not rely solely on the published Agenda. Councillors have received detailed written reports, letters of objection, supporting documentation, and have been briefed by officers prior to this item being presented at this Council Meeting. Councillors have also had the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification to ensure they are properly informed.**

**The report being considered relates only to seeking authorisation to prepare and exhibit an amendment under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. If authorised, there will be a formal exhibition process, including the opportunity for submissions and independent panel review.**

### **3. NOTICES OF MOTION AND/OR RESCISSION**

**3.0. NIL**

#### 4. URGENT BUSINESS

Normally no motion should be debated by Councillors unless the matter is already included as an item on the Agenda. However, in some circumstances it is possible to raise urgent motions.

Council's *Governance Rules 2020, clause 23 - Urgent Business*, allows for where a situation has not been provided for under the *Governance Rules*, the Council may determine the matter by resolution. Established practice has provided for urgent motions to be raised at Council provided the matter cannot be dealt with at the next Council Meeting or by Officers under delegation.

It is necessary for the Councillor wishing to raise a matter of urgent business to raise a motion similar to the following:

'That consideration of (the issue) be dealt with as a matter of urgent business and Councillor....be allowed a 'short period' to indicate the reason(s) why the matter should be considered as a matter of urgent business.' If the Chairperson accepts the motion as meeting the urgent business criteria, normal meeting procedures in Council's *Governance Rules 2020, clause 23* will apply.

If the motion to accept the item as a matter of urgent business is passed by Council, the motion relating to the specific issue can then be put and debated in the normal way.

**Nil**

## 5. COUNCIL REPORTS

### 5.1. ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT – 1 JULY 2025 TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

Directorate:	Strategy and Integrity
Department:	Governance and Integrity

#### Council Plan

*Objective - Leading with Integrity*

*Council's governance is strengthened by regular organisational performance reporting against the annual actions of the 2025-2029 Council Plan and annual budget.*

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the Organisational Performance Report for the period of 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025 (**Attachment [5.1.1]**) which includes the financial and organisational performance against the adopted Annual Budget and highlights progress of the 2025/26 Annual Actions of the *2025-2029 Council Plan* (Council Plan).

Council adopted 30 Annual Actions for 2025/26, in which all actions are on-track to be completed by 30 June 2026.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Organisational Performance Report for the period July 2025 to December 2025 (Attachment [5.1.1]);
2. Accepts the opinion of the Chief Executive Officer, as required under s.97(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, that a revised budget is not required; and
3. Presents the Organisational Performance Report (Attachment [5.1.1]) for the period July 2025 to December 2025 to the 17 March 2026 Audit and Risk Committee for information.

**RESOLUTION**

**MOVED: Councillor Hersey**

**SECONDED: Councillor Rae**

**That Council:**

- 1. Receives and notes the Organisational Performance Report for the period July 2025 to December 2025 (Attachment [5.1.1]);**
- 2. Accepts the opinion of the Chief Executive Officer, as required under s.97(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, that a revised budget is not required; and**
- 3. Presents the Organisational Performance Report (Attachment [5.1.1]) for the period July 2025 to December 2025 to the 17 March 2026 Audit and Risk Committee for information.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 5.2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE - MEENIYAN HUB

Directorate:	Empowering Communities
Department:	Community, Customer and Visitor

### Council Plan

*Theme - Empowering Communities*

*Community Asset Committees help provide community spaces for individuals and groups to thrive, fostering inclusion, enhancing access to services, and encouraging active community participation.*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Council to resolve to establish a new Community Asset Committee 'Meeniyan Hub Community Asset Committee' to manage the Meeniyan Hub on behalf of Council.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. In exercise of the power conferred by s.65 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, resolve to establish the Meeniyan Community Hub Community Asset Committee;
2. Provide \$6,000 of seed funding to the Meeniyan Community Hub Community Asset Committee to support facility expenses whilst generating income for the following year expenses; and
3. Notes that delegations for the Meeniyan Community Hub Community Asset Committee will be established by the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with s.65 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

**RESOLUTION**

**MOVED: Councillor Schelling**

**SECONDED: Councillor Gilligan**

**That Council:**

- 1. In exercise of the power conferred by s.65 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, resolve to establish the Meeniyan Community Hub Community Asset Committee;**
- 2. Provide \$6,000 of seed funding to the Meeniyan Community Hub Community Asset Committee to support facility expenses whilst generating income for the following year expenses; and**
- 3. Notes that delegations for the Meeniyan Community Hub Community Asset Committee will be established by the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with s.65 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Mayor Hersey left the meeting at 2:18pm due to a declared conflict of interest. Deputy Mayor Snell assumed the Chair.**

### 5.3. PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT AUTHORISATION REQUEST - 8A TO 62 BENA ROAD KORUMBURRA - DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVERLAY

Directorate:	Empowering Communities
Department:	Planning and Building Services

#### **Council Plan**

*Theme - Developing a Sustainable Future*

*Objective: Environment, Growth and Economy*

*2.1 Provide clarity through our Planning Scheme in areas such as township boundaries, preservation of township identity and heritage, protection of agricultural land and identify areas for future growth including industrial land.*

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare a planning scheme amendment to the South Gippsland Planning Scheme to apply a Development Plan Overlay (DPO12) to the land at 8A–62 Bena Road Korumburra.

The DPO12 (**Attachment [5.3.1]**) is required to guide the long-term subdivision of the area into an urban density more typical of the General Residential Zone Schedule 1 (GRZ1). The DPO will set out the requirements for a future Development Plan that must be approved by Council before subdivisions can be approved in accordance with the approved Development Plan.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Request authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare a planning scheme amendment to:
  - a. Apply Development Plan Overlay (Schedule 12) to 8A–62 Bena Road and part 52 Willow Court Korumburra;
  - b. Delete Development Plan Overlay (Schedule 6) from No's 54 to 62 Bena Road Korumburra and include those lots in the new Development Plan Overlay (Schedule 12); and

- c. Apply the Environmental Audit Overlay to No's 26 and 30 Bena Road Korumburra.
2. Following approval of Ministerial Authorisation, exhibit the Planning Scheme Amendment in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

**Councillor Schelling moved a motion different to the officer's recommendation.**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**MOVED: Councillor Schelling**

**SECONDED: Councillor Williams**

**That Council defer consideration of the Bena Road Long Lots Planning Scheme Amendment Authorisation Request to a future Council meeting to enable further Councillor review and consideration of the broader strategic, planning and community implications associated with progressing the amendment process.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Mayor Hersey returned to the Council Meeting at 2:26pm and resumed the Chair.**

#### **5.4. PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C133SGIP - PLANNING PANEL REPORT**

Directorate:	Empowering Communities
Department:	Planning and Building Services

### **Council Plan**

*Theme - Developing a Sustainable Future*

The rezoning of surplus Council land contributes to the sustainable growth of the township and municipality by facilitating the attraction of services and employment opportunities for a growing population.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider adoption of Amendment C133, which proposes to rezone land at 14 Radovick Street, Korumburra, from Public Use Zone (PUZ) to Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z), and a portion of Victoria Street adjoining the subject site from PUZ to General Residential Zone 1.

Council undertook public notice for Amendment C133 from 15 May 2025 to 17 June 2025. A total of 43 submissions were received. The amendment was referred to an Planning Panel (the Panel) for consideration; the Panel hearing was held at the Korumburra Community Hub on 4 December 2025. The panel report was received at Council on 12 January 2026 (**Attachment [5.4.1]**), recommending that Amendment C133 be adopted by Council as exhibited.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopt the exhibited South Gippsland Planning Scheme Amendment C133sgip as detailed in Attachment [5.4.2] and submit to the Minister for Planning for approval.

### **RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Councillor Beach  
**SECONDED:** Councillor Schelling

**That Council adopt the exhibited South Gippsland Planning Scheme Amendment C133sgip as detailed in Attachment [5.4.2] and submit to the Minister for Planning for approval.**

**CARRIED**

## 5.5. CONTRACT AWARD – RFT/456 – CONSTRUCTION OF LONGSTAFF ROAD LANDSLIP REPAIR

Directorate:	Infrastructure Sustainability
Department:	Infrastructure Delivery

### Council Plan

*Theme - Developing a Sustainable Future*

*Developing a Sustainable Future by remediating storm damage and improving the long-term resilience of Council's road network.*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to award Contract CON/456 – Construction of Longstaffs Road Landslip Repair (Toora North) to Tenderer A following completion of a public tender process. The works relate to embankment damage on Longstaffs Road, Toora North arising from the August 2022 storm event declared under AGRN 1029 and are required to permanently remediate the site and restore the road asset to its intended service standard.

The project is intended to be delivered during the 2025/26 financial year and must be completed by 30 June 2026 to remain eligible for funding under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) administered by Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV).

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approves the award of Contract CON/456 - Constructions of Longstaffs Road Landslip Repair (Toora North) to Tenderer A for the lump sum as per Confidential Attachment [10.1.1];
2. Includes the name of the approved tenderer and the awarded contract amount in the Minutes of the 18 February 2026 Council Meeting;
3. Authorises the signing of the contract documents by the Chief Executive Officer; and
4. Delegates the Chief Executive Officer the power to approve variations up to the contingency amount identified in Confidential Attachment [10.1.1].

**RESOLUTION**

**MOVED: Councillor Schelling**

**SECONDED: Councillor Rae**

**That Council:**

- 1. Approves the award of Contract CON/456 - Constructions of Longstaffs Road Landslip Repair (Toora North) to Tenderer A for the lump sum as per Confidential Attachment [10.1.1];**
- 2. Includes the name of the approved tenderer and the awarded contract amount in the Minutes of the 18 February 2026 Council Meeting;**
- 3. Authorises the signing of the contract documents by the Chief Executive Officer; and**
- 4. Delegates the Chief Executive Officer the power to approve variations up to the contingency amount identified in Confidential Attachment [10.1.1].**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Council approved the award of Contract CON/456 to Huitema Plumbing & Excavation T/A Huitema Civil Projects, for the amount of \$98,686.70.**

## 5.6. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY (C24)

Directorate:	Strategy and Integrity
Department:	Financial Strategy

### Council Plan

*Theme - Leading with Integrity*

*The Treasury Management Policy (C24) ensures Council is meeting legislative requirements as well as responsible and strategic management of Council's treasury activities.*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the *Treasury Management Policy (C24)* (**Attachment [5.6.1]**). The *Treasury Management Policy (C24)* is required under s.103 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The goal of the *Treasury Management Policy (C24)* is to provide a framework to ensure responsible and strategic management of Council's treasury activities, specifically investing and borrowing.

The *Treasury Management Policy (C24)* was last reviewed in 2021 and has been revised in line with its scheduled four-year cycle.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the revised *Treasury Management Policy (C24)* (Attachment [5.6.1]).

### RESOLUTION

**MOVED:** Councillor Gilligan

**SECONDED:** Councillor Beach

**That Council adopts the revised *Treasury Management Policy (C24)* (Attachment [5.6.1]).**

### CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## 5.7. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICY (C86)

Directorate:	Strategy and Integrity
Department:	Financial Strategy

### Council Plan

*Theme - Leading with Integrity*

*The revised Financial Management Policy supports the Council Plan theme of Leading with Integrity by strengthening transparent, accountable, and ethical financial practices that underpin sound decision making and public trust.*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the *Financial Management Policy (C86)* (**Attachment [5.7.1]**). The *Financial Management Policy (C86)* is required under s.101 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The goal of the *Financial Management Policy (C86)* is to provide a framework to responsibly manage Council's significant finances on behalf of the community, as well as support compliance with financial reporting requirements and the financial management principles outlined in the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The *Financial Management Policy (C86)* was last reviewed in 2021 and has been revised in line with its scheduled four-year review cycle.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the revised *Financial Management Policy (C86)* (Attachment [5.7.1]).

### RESOLUTION

**MOVED:** Councillor Gilligan

**SECONDED:** Councillor Williams

**That Council adopts the revised *Financial Management Policy (C86)* (Attachment [5.7.1]).**

### CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## 5.8. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES - 19 AUGUST 2025

Directorate:	Strategy and Integrity
Department:	Financial Strategy

### Council Plan

*Objective - Leading with Integrity*

*Council's risk management and governance is strengthened by effectively monitoring and reporting on the activities and advice provided by the Audit and Risk Committee.*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 19 August 2025 (refer to **Attachment [5.8.1]**) are provided to Council for noting.

Audit and Risk Committee members at the meeting included:

- Ms Jen Johanson (Audit and Risk Committee Chair)
- Mr Mick Jaensch
- Ms Marilyn Kearney
- Cr Sarah Gilligan (Council member)
- Cr Steve Finlay (Council member)
- Cr John Schelling (Mayor) (Ex-officio Council Member)

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Audit and Risk Committee Minutes – 19 August 2025 (Attachment [5.8.1]).

### RESOLUTION

**MOVED:** Councillor Gilligan  
**SECONDED:** Councillor Schelling

**That Council receives and notes the Audit and Risk Committee Minutes – 19 August 2025 (Attachment [5.8.1]).**

### CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## 5.9. INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION - S6 COUNCIL TO MEMBERS OF STAFF - FEBRUARY 2026

Directorate:	Strategy and Integrity
Department:	Governance and Integrity

### Council Plan

*Objective - Leading with Integrity*

*Council's governance is strengthened by maintaining currency in the delegations and authorisations to Officers, so they can undertake the functions they are required to perform on behalf of Council.*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to recommend that Council adopts an updated S6 Instrument of Delegation - Council to Members of Staff (**Attachment [5.9.1]**) to include adding new provisions from legislative changes made to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* by the *Consumer and Planning Legislation Amendment (Housing Statement Reform) Act 2025*, which commenced on 25 November 2025.

This update also includes realignment of key positions in the Building and Planning Department.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves that, in the exercise of the powers conferred by s.11(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the other legislation referred to in the attached S6 Instrument of Delegation - Council to Members of Staff (Attachment [5.9.1]):

1. Members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the officers or positions referred to in (Attachment [5.9.1]) be delegated with the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument of Delegation;
2. The Chief Executive Officer is authorised to sign the S6 Instrument of Delegation (Attachment [5.9.1]), to come into force immediately upon signing;
3. Upon this Instrument of Delegation (Attachment [5.9.1]) coming into force, all previous delegations from Council to members of Council staff (other than the Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer) are revoked; and

4. The duties and functions set out in the Instrument of Delegation Attachment [5.9.1]) must be performed by Council officers delegated to do so, and the powers set out in the Instrument of Delegation must be executed by them, in accordance with any guidelines or policies that Council may adopt.

## **RESOLUTION**

**MOVED: Councillor Rae**

**SECONDED: Councillor Beach**

**That Council resolves that, in the exercise of the powers conferred by s.11(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the other legislation referred to in the attached S6 Instrument of Delegation - Council to Members of Staff (Attachment [5.9.1]):**

1. **Members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the officers or positions referred to in (Attachment [5.9.1]) be delegated with the powers, duties and functions set out in that instrument, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument of Delegation;**
2. **The Chief Executive Officer is authorised to sign the S6 Instrument of Delegation (Attachment [5.9.1]), to come into force immediately upon signing;**
3. **Upon this Instrument of Delegation (Attachment [5.9.1]) coming into force, all previous delegations from Council to members of Council staff (other than the Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer) are revoked; and**
4. **The duties and functions set out in the Instrument of Delegation Attachment [5.9.1]) must be performed by Council officers delegated to do so, and the powers set out in the Instrument of Delegation must be executed by them, in accordance with any guidelines or policies that Council may adopt.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 5.10. SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC BRIEFINGS - 13 NOVEMBER 2025 - 12 JANUARY 2026

Directorate:	Strategy and Integrity
Department:	Governance and Integrity

### Council Plan

*Theme - Leading with Integrity*

*Council's transparency and governance is strengthened by regularly reporting on summaries of briefings held, that assist Council to make informed decisions in Council Meetings on behalf of the community.*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report to Council is to provide a summary of the information presented to Councillors between 13 November 2025 - 12 January 2026.

This aligns with the principles of the *Local Government Act 2020* and supports transparency around Council decisions and actions.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes this report, the Summary of Strategic Briefings - 13 November 2025 - 12 January 2026.

### RESOLUTION

**MOVED: Councillor Beach**

**SECONDED: Councillor Rae**

**That Council receives and notes this report, the Summary of Strategic Briefings - 13 November 2025 - 12 January 2026.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 5.11. DOCUMENTS SEALED, CONTRACTS VARIED, AWARDED OR EXTENDED BY CEO - 13 NOVEMBER 2025 - 12 JANUARY 2026

Directorate:	Strategy and Integrity
Department:	Financial Strategy

### Council Plan

*Theme - Leading with Integrity*

*Council's transparency of financial decisions made and overall financial sustainability is strengthened by regularly reporting on documents sealed, contracts awarded, varied or extended under the CEO's delegation.*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report to Council is to document the following actions undertaken by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) which occurred during the period 13 November 2025 - 12 January 2026. Council's *Procurement Policy (C32)*, *General Local Law 2024* and *Planning and Environment Act 1987* requires the CEO to report to Council any of the following actions undertaken to the next appropriate Meeting:

- Documents sealed;
- Contracts awarded by Council after a public tender process;
- Contracts awarded after a public tender process within the CEO's delegation; and
- Contract variations approved by the CEO above contingency.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes this report, Documents Sealed, Contracts Varied, Awarded or Extended by CEO - 13 November 2025 - 12 January 2026 those being:

1. Documents Sealed:
  - a. Section 173 Agreement between South Gippsland Shire Council and the owner of 25 Park Avenue, Sandy Point for the development of the subject land and a reduction in car parking. Seal applied 26 November 2025.

- b. Section 173 Agreement between South Gippsland Shire Council and the owner of 379 Lang Lang-Poowong Road, Nyora for the subdivision of the subject land in stages, creation of easements, removal of native vegetation and creation of access to a Road in a Road Zone. Seal applied 28 November 2025.
  - c. Section 173 Agreement between South Gippsland Shire Council and the owner of 170 Kerrs Road, Fish Creek for a two-lot subdivision. Seal applied 5 December 2025.
2. Contracts awarded by Council after a public tender process:
- a. CON/445 for the Glass and Mixed Recycling Processing Service awarded to Cleanaway Pty Ltd on a Schedule of Rates basis; and
  - b. CON/424 for the Construction of Korumburra Tennis Clubrooms awarded to TS Constructions Pty Ltd for a Lump Sum of \$1,421,100, excluding GST.
3. Contracts awarded after a public tender process within the CEO's delegation:
- a. CON/453 for the Provision of Annual Road Resealing Program 2025/26 awarded to Primal Surfacing Pty Ltd on a Schedule of Rates basis;
  - b. CON/451 for the Bridge Repairs at Markley's Road, Mirboo North, awarded to Jarvis Norwood Constructions Pty Ltd for a Lump Sum of \$261,820.00 excluding GST;
  - c. CON/444-A for the Panel of Suppliers for Quarry Products awarded to Holcim (Australia) Pty Ltd on a Schedule of Rates basis;
  - d. CON/430 for the Port Welshpool Seawall Repairs awarded to Inta Plumbing Services Pty Ltd for a Lump Sum of \$192,791.99, excluding GST; and
  - e. CON/457 for the Sealed Road Rehabilitation Program 25/26 awarded to Sure Constructions (Vic) Pty Ltd for Lump Sum of \$1,553,019.05, excluding GST.
4. Contract variations approved by the CEO above contingency:
- a. CON/372 for the provision of Environmental Auditing, GITA and Third Party CQA Services – Cell 5 Koonwarra (Stage 1). A contract Variation of \$107,320, excluding GST, has been approved; and

- b. CON/403 for the Leongatha Memorial Hall Precinct Feasibility Study. A Contract Variation of \$11,620.24 has been approved.

## **RESOLUTION**

**MOVED: Councillor Schelling**

**SECONDED: Councillor Rae**

**That Council receives and notes this report, Documents Sealed, Contracts Varied, Awarded or Extended by CEO - 13 November 2025 - 12 January 2026 those being:**

**1. Documents Sealed:**

- a. **Section 173 Agreement between South Gippsland Shire Council and the owner of 25 Park Avenue, Sandy Point for the development of the subject land and a reduction in car parking. Seal applied 26 November 2025.**
- b. **Section 173 Agreement between South Gippsland Shire Council and the owner of 379 Lang Lang-Poowong Road, Nyora for the subdivision of the subject land in stages, creation of easements, removal of native vegetation and creation of access to a Road in a Road Zone. Seal applied 28 November 2025.**
- c. **Section 173 Agreement between South Gippsland Shire Council and the owner of 170 Kerrs Road, Fish Creek for a two-lot subdivision. Seal applied 5 December 2025.**

**2. Contracts awarded by Council after a public tender process:**

- a. **CON/445 for the Glass and Mixed Recycling Processing Service awarded to Cleanaway Pty Ltd on a Schedule of Rates basis; and**
- b. **CON/424 for the Construction of Korumburra Tennis Clubrooms awarded to TS Constructions Pty Ltd for a Lump Sum of \$1,421,100, excluding GST.**

**3. Contracts awarded after a public tender process within the CEO's delegation:**

- a. **CON/453 for the Provision of Annual Road Resealing Program 2025/26 awarded to Primal Surfacing Pty Ltd on a Schedule of Rates basis;**

- b. **CON/451 for the Bridge Repairs at Markley's Road, Mirboo North, awarded to Jarvis Norwood Constructions Pty Ltd for a Lump Sum of \$261,820.00 excluding GST;**
  - c. **CON/444-A for the Panel of Suppliers for Quarry Products awarded to Holcim (Australia) Pty Ltd on a Schedule of Rates basis;**
  - d. **CON/430 for the Port Welshpool Seawall Repairs awarded to Inta Plumbing Services Pty Ltd for a Lump Sum of \$192,791.99, excluding GST; and**
  - e. **CON/457 for the Sealed Road Rehabilitation Program 25/26 awarded to Sure Constructions (Vic) Pty Ltd for Lump Sum of \$1,553,019.05, excluding GST.**
- 4. Contract variations approved by the CEO above contingency:**
- a. **CON/372 for the provision of Environmental Auditing, GITA and Third Party CQA Services – Cell 5 Koonwarra (Stage 1). A contract Variation of \$107,320, excluding GST, has been approved; and**
  - b. **CON/403 for the Leongatha Memorial Hall Precinct Feasibility Study. A Contract Variation of \$11,620.24 has been approved.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **6. COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

### **6.1. COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

**Nil**

### **6.2. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Councillor Schelling requested a leave of absence for 15 April 2026 Council Meeting.

**MOVED: Councillor Williams**

**SECONDED: Councillor Rae**

**That Councillor Schelling be granted leave of absence for 15 April 2026 Council Meeting.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **6.3. COUNCILLOR UPDATES**

Councillor Snell, addressed Council by reporting on attendance at or made comments on:

- Congratulated Korumburra Committee's on recent local events
- Spoke on Regional Victoria and South Gippsland, covering topics such as energy production, infrastructure and distribution

Councillor Schelling, addressed Council by reporting on attendance at or made comments on:

- Attendance at various events such as Citizenship Ceremony, Community Grants Presentation Night and Australia Day
- Spoke on issues around agriculture

**Councillor Schelling left the meeting at 2:55pm to attend a scheduled conference.**

Councillor Finlay, addressed Council by reporting on attendance at or made comments on:

- Spoke on the food industry, agriculture and climate change

Councillor Beach, addressed Council by reporting on attendance at or made comments on:

- Congratulated the Citizen of the Year
- Congratulated Young Citizens of the Year
- Commented on the Loch Food & Wine Festival
- Attended Community Grants Presentation - noting the nominations are now open
- Thanked Council's Immunisation team
- Community shout-out to the Art's Space at Coal Creek

Councillor Gilligan, addressed Council by reporting on attendance at or made comments on:

- Attended MEMPC meeting
- Venus Bay Energy Project – Sunny & Sandy
- Commented on their focus on Waste Water and Tourism Infrastructure
- Community shout-out to Vanessa Fisher from Tarwin Lower, for organising the 100yr Tarwin Lower Primary School Celebrations and commitment to community
- Congratulated Tarwin Lower resident, Jean Jones, for being nominated for citizen of the year. Thanking Jean for their commitment to community

Councillor Williams, addressed Council by reporting on attendance at or made comments on:

- Spoke on emergency services and volunteers
- Paid tribute to a young boy who had recently passed away and expressed condolences to the family

Councillor Kennedy, addressed Council by reporting on attendance at or made comments on:

- Spoke on the food industry, agriculture and climate change

Councillor Rae, addressed Council by reporting on attendance at or made comments on:

- Spoke on the food industry

Mayor Hersey, addressed Council by reporting on attendance at or made comments on:

- Sandy Point Sandcastle Display
- Multiple events in Coal Creek
- Parliamentary meetings
- Aboriginal Development meetings
- Australia Day awards, events, celebrations and new citizens
- Life Saving awards at Sandy Point
- Rotary Art Shows
- Korumburra Rodeo
- Korumburra Arts Show
- Community Grants Presentation Night
- Thanked Community for their involvement and commitment to local events
- Spoke on new ways of engaging with Council via *Connect with Councillors* webpage on Council's website

## 7. CLOSED SESSION

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), section 66 provides that if a council or delegated committee determines that a meeting is to be closed to the public to consider confidential information, the Council or delegated committee must record in the minutes of the meeting that are available for public inspection –

- a) the ground or grounds for determining to close the meeting to the public by reference to the grounds specified in the definition of ***confidential information*** in section 3(1); and
- b) an explanation of why the specified ground or grounds applied.

The Act defines ***confidential information*** in s.3(1)(a)-(l), and includes information that may prejudice or impact; commercial negotiations, the security of Council, land use planning, law enforcement, legal privilege, personal information, private commercial information, confidential meeting information, internal arbitration, Councillor conduct panel information and information specified under s.77 of the previous *Local Government Act 1989*.

Once confidential information has been considered and decided in a closed session of a Council Meeting, a further resolution to resume open Council is required.

**Nil**

**8. MEETING CLOSED**

**NEXT MEETING**

The next Council Meeting open to the public will be held on Wednesday, 18 March 2026 commencing at 2:00pm in the Council Chambers, Leongatha.

**The Council Meeting closed at 3:15pm.**

**Confirmed on this 18th Day of March 2026**

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**Councillor Nathan Hersey, Mayor**