

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 18 March 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 March 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 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 Clare Williams Councillor John Schelling</p>
NOT PRESENT:	<p>Councillor Steve Finlay</p>
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 Michelle Jorgensen, Executive Manager Culture and Capability 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

Mayor Hersey advised Chambers of a change to the order of business for the meeting, in accordance with Sec. 22.2 of Council's Governance Rules. Agenda Item 6.2 Requests for Leave of Absence was brought forward to Agenda Item 1.5.

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 Gilligan

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 Snell

1.5 REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillor Steve Finlay requested a grant of leave of absence for Council Meeting 18 March 2026.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Hersey

SECONDED: Councillor Rae

Councillor Finlay be granted of leave of absence for Council Meeting 18 March 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1.6. APOLOGIES

Councillor Finlay

1.7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the South Gippsland Shire Council Meeting held on 18 February 2026 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 18 February 2026 in the Council Chambers, Leongatha be confirmed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1.8. 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.

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

Nil

1.9. 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.

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

CEO Allison Jones has declared a material conflict of interest for confidential agenda item 9.1 – CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee - CEO Interim Performance Review as it relates directly to the Chief Executive Officer role at Council.

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.

Nil

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.

Nil

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. SOUTH GIPPSLAND SPLASH STADIUM ROOF REPAIR OPTIONS

Directorate:	Infrastructure Sustainability
Department:	Infrastructure Delivery

Council Plan

Theme - Leading with Integrity

Careful consideration of options for managing the leaking roof at South Gippsland SPLASH Stadium aligns with the Council Plan Strategy 1.7: *Maintain our assets through responsible financial management.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The roof of South Gippsland SPLASH Stadium facility in Leongatha has leaked for much of its lifespan and has been faulty since its replacement was completed in March 2022 and is adversely impacting users of the facility.

The roof has had numerous persistent leaks, which have continued to present despite repeated efforts to investigate, manage and repair them.

This report responds to the following resolution at the 10 December 2025 Meeting, that Council:

"That Council:

1. *Receives a report at a future Council Meeting outlining the replacement or repair of the roof for South Gippsland SPLASH Stadium, including:*
 - a. *An assessment of the current roof condition and feasible replacement solutions, including cost estimates, expected lifespan and timeframe.*
2. *The report is to be made available for consideration for the upcoming 2026/27 Annual council budget process."*

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives this report outlining the options for replacement or repair of the roof for South Gippsland SPLASH Stadium; and
2. Refers consideration for the allocation of \$100,000 to conduct planning and design for the replacement of the South Gippsland SPLASH Stadium roof to the 2026/27 Annual Budget process.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Schelling

SECONDED: Councillor Williams

That Council:

1. **Receives this report outlining the options for replacement or repair of the roof for South Gippsland SPLASH Stadium; and**
2. **Refers consideration for the allocation of \$100,000 to conduct planning and design for the replacement of the South Gippsland SPLASH Stadium roof to the 2026/27 Annual Budget process.**

CARRIED

5.2. ROAD DISCONTINUANCE AND CONSOLIDATION - 93 LEES ROAD, VENUS BAY	
Directorate:	Infrastructure Sustainability
Department:	Infrastructure Planning

Council Plan

Objective – Sustainable Growth

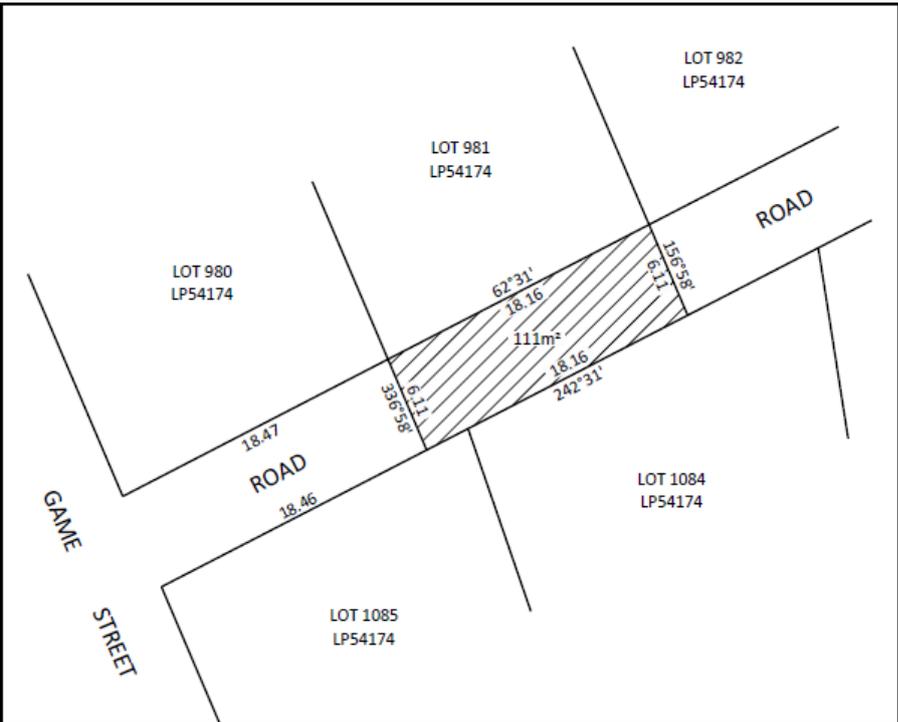
The road discontinuance and sale proposal to consolidate an unused road reserve into private ownership aims to enhance the well-being and liveability of the current/future landowners and improve the amenity of the area. Council will also benefit as this will reduce Council’s potential liabilities over the road.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to initiate the statutory process to consider a proposal to discontinue the unused section of part of Landscape Drive, Venus Bay, and to consider the sale of that land to the adjoining landowner of 93 Lees Road, Venus Bay.

Council has been contacted by the owner of 93 Lees Road, Venus Bay, requesting that Council discontinue the unused section of Landscape Drive that is not included on Council’s Public Road Register, as shown hatched in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1:



RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Commences the statutory procedures to consider the discontinuance of part Landscape Drive, Venus Bay being part Crown Allotment 8 (Part), Parish of Tarwin and part Road on LP5474 shown in Figure 1 with an area of 111m² and consider the sale of the land to the abutting land owner of 93 Lees Road, Venus Bay, for not less than a valuation received within six months prior to the sale, pursuant to s.206, s.207A, s.223 and Schedule 10 clause 3 of the Local Government Act 1989;
2. Gives public notice on Council's website and in local newspapers in the edition commencing 24 March 2026 in accordance with s.223 of the Local Government Act 1989 on the proposal (item 1) inviting written submissions to be received by 5pm 20 April 2026;
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to undertake the administrative procedures to enable the Council to carry out its functions under s.223 of the Local Government Act 1989 in respect of the proposal (item 1);
4. If submissions are made to the public notice:
 - a. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to fix the time, date and place of a meeting for the s.223 hearing for persons who wish to be heard in support of their submissions;
 - b. Receive a further report to consider submissions and determine the outcome at the next available Council meeting.
5. If no submissions are received to the public notice:
 - a. Implement the proposal in recommendation 1; and
 - b. Publish the road discontinuance notice in the Victorian Government Gazette.

Councillor Gilligan raised a motion different to the Officer recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council defer Agenda Item 5.2 Road Discontinuance and Consolidation – 93 Lees Road, Venus Bay to a future Council Meeting.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Gilligan

SECONDED: Councillor Williams

That Council defer Agenda Item 5.2 Road Discontinuance and Consolidation – 93 Lees Road, Venus Bay to a future Council Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.3. MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA (MAV) STATE COUNCIL MOTIONS

Directorate:	Strategy and Integrity
Department:	Regional Partnerships

Council Plan

Theme - Leading with Integrity

The report aligns with Strategy 1.6 in the 2025 – 2029 Council Plan: To partner with our community to advocate for our shared interests to the Victorian and Australian governments.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement to submit a Motion for consideration at the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council Meeting on 29 May 2026, and to seek support for a Motion being brought forward by Wellington Shire Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the following recommendations to the Municipal Association Victoria (MAV):

1. *That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) advocate to the Minister for Local Government for a review of the legislated process for the election of Mayors and Deputy Mayors, and that the matter be referred to the Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel for consideration of options to reduce psychological safety risks associated with conducting these elections in open Council meetings. Options for consideration include, but are not limited to:*
 - a. *Voting in closed Council and reporting the outcome in open Council;*
 - b. *Conducting the vote by secret ballot via electronic means.*
2. Provides written confirmation of its support of Wellington Shire Council's proposed Motion:
 - a. *That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) write to the Minister for Energy and Resources to request support for the establishment of a Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) Framework for offshore electricity generators to contribute to payments in lieu of Local Government rates in Victoria.*

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Schelling

SECONDED: Councillor Snell

That Council endorses the following recommendations to the Municipal Association Victoria (MAV):

1. ***That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) advocate to the Minister for Local Government for a review of the legislated process for the election of Mayors and Deputy Mayors, and that the matter be referred to the Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel for consideration of options to reduce psychological safety risks associated with conducting these elections in open Council meetings. Options for consideration include, but are not limited to:***
 - a. ***Voting in closed Council and reporting the outcome in open Council;***
 - b. ***Conducting the vote by secret ballot via electronic means.***
2. **Provides written confirmation of its support of Wellington Shire Council's proposed Motion:**
 - a. ***That the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) write to the Minister for Energy and Resources to request support for the establishment of a Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) Framework for offshore electricity generators to contribute to payments in lieu of Local Government rates in Victoria.***

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.4. INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION - S6 COUNCIL TO MEMBERS OF STAFF - MARCH 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 [5.4.1]**) to include 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 [5.4.1]):

1. Members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the officers or positions referred to in (Attachment [5.4.1]) 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 [5.4.1]), to come into force immediately upon signing;
3. Upon this Instrument of Delegation (Attachment [5.4.1]) 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 [5.4.1]) 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 Beach

SECONDED: Councillor Rae

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 [5.4.1]):

1. **Members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the officers or positions referred to in (Attachment [5.4.1]) 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 [5.4.1]), to come into force immediately upon signing;**
3. **Upon this Instrument of Delegation (Attachment [5.4.1]) 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 [5.4.1]) 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

5.5. SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC BRIEFINGS - 13 JANUARY 2026 - 12 FEBRUARY 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 January 2026 and 12 February 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 January 2026 – 12 February 2026.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Gilligan

SECONDED: Councillor Schelling

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.6. DOCUMENTS SEALED, CONTRACTS VARIED, AWARDED OR EXTENDED BY CEO - 13 JANUARY 2026 - 12 FEBRUARY 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 January 2026 - 12 February 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 January 2026 - 12 February 2026 those being:

1. Documents Sealed:
 - a. Section 173 Agreement between South Gippsland Shire Council and the owner of 379 Lang Lang – Poowong Road, Nyora to subdivide land, creation of easements, remove native vegetation and access to RDZ1. Seal applied 15 January 2026.

- b. Section 173 Agreement between South Gippsland Shire Council and the owner of 2 Ogilvie Street, Mirboo North for the development and subdivision of the subject land and removal of vegetation. Seal applied 28 January 2026.
2. Contracts awarded by Council after a public tender process:
 - a. CON/444-B for the Panel of Suppliers for Quarry Products awarded to The Trustee for Allens Family Trust T/A Allens Contracting, on a Schedule of Rates basis, signed 23 January 2026.
3. Contracts awarded after a public tender process within the CEO's delegation:
 - a. CON/452 - Design & Construct All Abilities Access Pontoon at Port Welshpool Boating Facility, awarded to Bellingham Marine Australia Pty Ltd for a Lump Sum of \$469,900, signed 5 February 2026.
4. Contract variations approved by the CEO above contingency:
 - a. Nil

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Schelling

SECONDED: Councillor Gilligan

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

1. **Documents Sealed:**
 - a. **Section 173 Agreement between South Gippsland Shire Council and the owner of 379 Lang Lang – Poowong Road, Nyora to subdivide land, creation of easements, remove native vegetation and access to RDZ1. Seal applied 15 January 2026.**
 - b. **Section 173 Agreement between South Gippsland Shire Council and the owner of 2 Ogilvie Street, Mirboo North for the development and subdivision of the subject land and removal of vegetation. Seal applied 28 January 2026.**
2. **Contracts awarded by Council after a public tender process:**

- a. **CON/444-B for the Panel of Suppliers for Quarry Products awarded to The Trustee for Allens Family Trust T/A Allens Contracting, on a Schedule of Rates basis, signed 23 January 2026.**
- 3. Contracts awarded after a public tender process within the CEO's delegation:**
 - a. **CON/452 - Design & Construct All Abilities Access Pontoon at Port Welshpool Boating Facility, awarded to Bellingham Marine Australia Pty Ltd for a Lump Sum of \$469,900, signed 5 February 2026.**
- 4. Contract variations approved by the CEO above contingency:**
 - a. **Nil**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

6.1. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Nil

6.2. COUNCILLOR UPDATES

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

- Spoke to Korumburra Skatepark and Streetscape Opening
- Spoke to Korumburra Women's Shed
- Community shout-out for trade services to support the Women's shed

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

- Spoke to Korumburra Skatepark and Streetscape Opening
- Spoke to Korumburra Women's Shed
- Shout-out to Tom McIntosh for their engagement with community
- Shout-out to Executive Director Fice and Council staff for the Korumburra project
- Attended first Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- Spoke to Council budget process, with a shout-out to Council staff for their preparation and support during the process
- Spoke to the current art exhibition at Coal Creek

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

- Thanked the Community for their engagement with Council and Councillors

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

- Spoke on the Venus Bay community engagement session
- Spoke on Korumburra Skatepark and Streetscape Opening
- Spoke on the importance of local sports

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

- Highlighted upcoming attendance at Mt Eccles Hall dinner event this weekend. Community is welcome to attend.
- Paid tribute to recent passing of local community member and friend
- Highlighted upcoming Job Expo event

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

- Spoke to the Venus Bay community engagement session – thanking fellow Councillors for their attendance and engagement
- Spoke to the State Government funding provided through the Venus Bay Community Centre to help facilitate Community Dinners in Venus Bay/Tarwin Lower areas
- Spoke to the Councils Budget process
- Spoke to the Tarwin Lower Market
- Shout-out to the Korumburra Skatepark opening, highlighting Grow Skate Society
- Attended Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- Spoke to the current work happening with the Coastal Round Table

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

- Attended Hoddle Mountain Trail opening
- Attended Southern Women's Business Network's International Women's Day Dinner, accompanied by Cr Beach and Council Officers
- Attended Loch's 150yr trivia night event, accompanied by Mayor Hersey
- Attended Toora Pear Party
- Attended Foster Show
- Attended Myli Board meeting and strategy day
- Attended Melbourne for the Rural Councils Victoria Advocacy Launch
- Spoke on the Venus Bay community engagement session
- Spoke to the opening of duck season

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

- Attended Rural Councils Victoria Advocacy Launch
- Attended and participated in the Foster and District Agricultural Show
- Attended South Gippsland Garlic Festival
- Spoke to the Venus Bay community engagement session
- Spoke to the Meet the Mayor sessions and reminded community members to register via Council's website
- Spoke to the Korumburra pool's lifesaving skills practice for Foster school students. The program was funded by the Martin Carlson Foundation.
- Attended Loch's 150yr trivia night event
- Attended Jeetho Hall AGM
- Spoke to recent advocacy trip to Canberra as Chair of One Gippsland, accompanied by CEO Jones

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.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council pursuant to section 66(5)(a) and (b) of the *Local Government Act 2020* close the Council Meeting to the public to consider the following confidential information:

- a. Per s.3(1)(f) Agenda item 9.1 – CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee - CEO Interim Performance Review, designated as personal information,
- b. being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs;
- c. The grounds for designation have been made to protect the privacy of an individual's personal information.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Rae

SECONDED: Councillor Gilligan

That the meeting be moved to closed session.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council Meeting moved into closed session at 3:01PM

8. MEETING CLOSED

NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting open to the public will be held on Wednesday, 15 April 2026 commencing at 2:00pm in the Council Chambers, Leongatha.

The Council Meeting concluded at 3:08 PM