SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 15 July 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

Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15 July 2026 in the Council Chambers, Leongatha, commenced at 2:00pm

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Lucas Gardiner
Acting 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:	*Coastal Promontory Ward* Councillor Steve Finlay Councillor Scott Rae Councillor Sarah Gilligan *Strzelecki Ward* Councillor Nathan Hersey, Mayor Councillor John Kennedy Councillor Bron Beach *Tarwin Valley Ward* Councillor Brad Snell, Deputy Mayor Councillor John Schelling Councillor Clare Williams
NOT PRESENT:	
OFFICERS:	Lucas Gardiner, Acting Chief Executive Officer Taryn Macfarlane, Acting Executive Director, Strategy and Integrity Sophie Dixon, Acting 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, Coordinator Governance Ally Low, Governance Officer Thomas Hender, Senior Technology Support Officer

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 Williams

1.5. APOLOGIES

Nil

1.6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the South Gippsland Shire Council Meeting held on 17 June 2026 in the Council Chambers, Leongatha be confirmed.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Schelling
SECONDED: Councillor Gilligan

That the Minutes of the South Gippsland Shire Council Meeting held on 17 June 2026 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.

Council's *Governance Rules* can be accessed from Council's Policies webpage.

Councillor Scott Rae declared a general Conflict of Interest for Confidential Agenda Item 9.2 PRIVATE COMMERCIAL INFORMATION - Award Contract CON/459 – Microsoft Licensing, as he shared previous employment with a listed tenderer.

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.

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.

Mayor Hersey presented a petition to Council on behalf of lead petitioner Melinda Sharples. There were 212 signatures. The prayer of the petition is set out below:

"We, the undersigned, respectfully request that Council urgently address the safety of vulnerable road users surrounding Loch Primary School by securing dedicated external infrastructure funding. Specifically, we request Council:

1. *Formally submit an application to the State Government's 2026 TAC Local Government Grant Program (LGGP) on our community's behalf; and*
2. *Utilise these grant funds to design and immediately implement safety measures, including but not limited to, installing flashing school zone speed signs and constructing formal, structured parking bays. These bays should be complete with safe walkway clearances and steps that connect directly to the existing walk path, ensuring safe access for all pedestrians."*

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the petition relating to traffic safety upgrades at Loch Primary School (Confidential Attachment [10.1.1]);
2. Notes an officer report is presented to Council no later than 19 August 2026 Council Meeting, detailing the matters raised and potential courses of action; and
3. Writes to the Lead Petitioner to thank them for bringing the petition to Council and to advise them of the resolution and timeframe.

Councillor Gilligan raised a Motion different to the officer recommendation, in accordance with Section 58.6(a) of the Governance Rules.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the petition relating to traffic safety upgrades at Loch Primary School (Confidential Attachment [10.1.1]);
2. Writes to the Lead Petitioner to thank them for bringing the petition to Council.

That Councillor Hersey be granted a 3-minute extension of speaking time.

MOVED: Councillor Beach
SECONDED: Councillor Williams

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Gilligan
SECONDED: Councillor Rae

That Council:

1. **Receives and notes the petition relating to traffic safety upgrades at Loch Primary School (Confidential Attachment [10.1.1]);**
2. **Writes to the Lead Petitioner to thank them for bringing the petition to Council.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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.

Council received one question submitted by Mr Amor at the 20 May 2026 Council Meeting related to Agenda Item 5.2 – Organisational Performance Report – July 2025 to March 2026.

Question:

Its budget capital works is behind by $5 Million dollars due by contractors. Is this $5 Million of capital works behind in last budget or budget prior to this meeting?

Response:

Agenda Item 5.2 - Organisational Performance Report – July 2025 to March 2026 at the 20 May 2026 Meeting, related to Council's performance in the 2025/26 financial year up to 31 March 2026. Therefore, the capital works expenditure and forecast figures detailed in the report, and attachments, are for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026.

As outlined in the report: Capital Works expenditure to 31 March 2026 of $13.5 million is behind the forecast of $18.3 million. This is attributable to timing differences across several projects primarily due to contractor availability, material supply constraints, permitting processes and community consultation timelines.

Council is committed to delivering the projects in the Capital Works Program. When project timelines are adjusted, budget allocations may be carried forward into the next financial year. This will be assessed and determined at the conclusion of this 2025/26 financial year.

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

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. STATUTORY PROCEDURES - PROPERTY SALES - 4-6 POWER STREET, FOSTER - FOLLOWING COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Directorate:	Infrastructure Sustainability
Department:	Infrastructure Planning

Council Plan
Theme - Developing a Sustainable Future

Council manages a portfolio of land for community benefit and strategic uses.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Council an update on the property at 4-6 Power Street, Foster. A public consultation period was conducted from 20 April 2026 to 20 May 2026 to seek feedback on the proposal to place the property on the open public market for sale, with no community submissions received.

As a result, this report recommends placing the property on the open public market for sale.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes that a public consultation period was conducted from 20 April 2026 to 20 May 2026 to seek feedback on the proposal to place the property on the open public market, and that no community submissions were received;

2. Authorises that, in accordance with s.114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the land known as 4–6 Power Street, Foster, and part of 5 Simpson Street, Foster - described in Certificates of Title Volume 12549 Folio 485, Volume 9943 Folio 692, Volume 9851 Folio 370, Volume 10852 Folio 160 and Volume 10852 Folio 159, with a combined area of approximately 4,152m², be placed on the open public market for sale; and

3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or authorised delegate, to execute the land sale and all associated documentation, with the net proceeds from the sale to be transferred to the Asset Development Reserve.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Williams
SECONDED: Councillor Beach

That Council:

1. **Notes that a public consultation period was conducted from 20 April 2026 to 20 May 2026 to seek feedback on the proposal to place the property on the open public market, and that no community submissions were received;**

2. **Authorises that, in accordance with s.114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the land known as 4–6 Power Street, Foster, and part of 5 Simpson Street, Foster - described in Certificates of Title Volume 12549 Folio 485, Volume 9943 Folio 692, Volume 9851 Folio 370, Volume 10852 Folio 160 and Volume 10852 Folio 159, with a combined area of approximately 4,152m², be placed on the open public market for sale; and**

3. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or authorised delegate, to execute the land sale and all associated documentation, with the net proceeds from the sale to be transferred to the Asset Development Reserve.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.2. POLICY REVIEW: DRAFT PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY POLICY (C75), FRAUD AND CORRUPT CONDUCT POLICY (C19) AND COUNCILLOR GIFTS BENEFITS AND HOSPITALITY POLICY (C01)

Directorate:	Strategy and Integrity
Department:	Governance and Integrity

Council Plan
Theme - Leading with Integrity

A review of a suite of governance policies to ensure Councils commitment to ensuring good governance, transparency and legislative compliance. To provide clear guidance to Councillors and employees on matters such as fraud and corruption, gift declarations and ensuring the community is supported through Council's Public Transparency Policy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to consider the endorsement of the *Draft Public Transparency Policy (C75*), *Fraud and Corrupt Conduct Policy (C19)* and the *Councillor Gifts Benefits and Hospitality Policy (C01)*.

A community consultation period is proposed from 16 July 2026 to 12 August 2026 to seek feedback on the *Draft Public Transparency Policy (C75)*.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the *Draft Public Transparency Policy (C75*) (Attachment [5.2.1]) for a period of community consultation from 16 July 2026 to 12 August 2026, in accordance with Council's *Community Engagement Strategy* and *Community Engagement Policy (C06)*;

2. Adopts the *Fraud and Corrupt Conduct Policy (C19)* (Attachment [5.2.2]) and *Councillor Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy (C01)* (Attachment [5.2.3]); and

3. Notes the Councillor's Gifts and Benefits Register will be published and updated on a six-monthly basis on Council's website by 31 July 2026 and will include information for the current term of Council, in line with Council's *Councillor Gifts Benefits and Hospitality Policy (C01)* (Attachment [5.2.3]).

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Schelling
SECONDED: Councillor Beach

That Council:

1. **Adopts the *Draft Public Transparency Policy (C75*) (Attachment [5.2.1]) for a period of community consultation from 16 July 2026 to 12 August 2026, in accordance with Council's *Community Engagement Strategy* and *Community Engagement Policy (C06)*;**

2. **Adopts the *Fraud and Corrupt Conduct Policy (C19)* (Attachment [5.2.2]) and *Councillor Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy (C01)* (Attachment [5.2.3]); and**

3. **Notes the Councillor's Gifts and Benefits Register will be published and updated on a six-monthly basis on Council's website by 31 July 2026 and will include information for the current term of Council, in line with Council's *Councillor Gifts Benefits and Hospitality Policy (C01)* (Attachment [5.2.3]).**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.3. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE - 17 MARCH 2026 MINUTES

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 17 March 2026 (refer to **Attachment [5.3.1]**) are provided to Council for noting.

Audit and Risk Committee members at the meeting included:

- Ms Marilyn Kearney (Audit and Risk Committee Chair)
- Ms Jen Johanson
- Mr Mick Jaensch
- Cr Sarah Gilligan (Council member)
- Cr Bron Beach (Council member)
- Cr Nathan Hersey (Mayor) (Ex-officio Council Member)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Audit and Risk Committee Minutes – 17 March 2026 (Attachment [5.3.1]).

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Gilligan
SECONDED: Councillor Beach

That Council receives and notes the Audit and Risk Committee Minutes – 17 March 2026 (Attachment [5.3.1]).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.4. INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT - S11A PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987 - PLANNING SERVICES

Directorate:	Strategy and Integrity
Department:	Governance and Integrity

Council Plan

Objective - Leading with Integrity

Council's governance is strengthened by maintaining currency in the authorisations to Officers with the functions they are required to perform on behalf of Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report recommends that Council adopts S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*) for staff member, Brandon Lamb, Statutory Planner (**Attachment [5.4.1]**) under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves, in the exercise of the powers conferred by s.147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, s.224 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and s.313 of the *Local Government Act 2020*:

1. The members of Council staff referred to in the Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation (Attachment [5.4.1]) be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument and detailed in this report; and
2. The Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation come into force immediately when signed by Council's Chief Executive Officer. It will remain in force until such time as Council determines to vary it, or it is revoked by Council's Chief Executive Officer in the event:
    a. the officer resigns from Council; or
    b. is appointed to a position where this appointment and authorisation is not required or suitable.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Williams
SECONDED: Councillor Gilligan

That Council resolves, in the exercise of the powers conferred by s.147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, s.224 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and s.313 of the *Local Government Act 2020*:

1. **The members of Council staff referred to in the Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation (Attachment [5.4.1]) be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument and detailed in this report; and**
2. **The Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation come into force immediately when signed by Council's Chief Executive Officer. It will remain in force until such time as Council determines to vary it, or it is revoked by Council's Chief Executive Officer in the event:**
    a. **the officer resigns from Council; or**
    b. **is appointed to a position where this appointment and authorisation is not required or suitable.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.5. SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC BRIEFINGS - 1 MAY 2026 - 31 MAY 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 1 May 2026 and 31 May 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 – 1 May 2026 – 31 May 2026.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Williams
SECONDED: Councillor Schelling

That Council receives and notes this report, the Summary of Strategic Briefings – 1 May 2026 – 31 May 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.6. DOCUMENTS SEALED, CONTRACTS VARIED, AWARDED OR EXTENDED BY CEO - 1 MAY - 31 MAY 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 1 May 2026 to 31 May 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 – 1 May 2026 to 31 May 2026 those being:

1. Documents Sealed:
    a. Nil
2. Contracts awarded by Council after a public tender process:
    a. Nil

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

   a. CON/458 for the Design and Construct of AFL Sports Floodlighting at Nyora & Leongatha Recreation Reserves awarded to REES Electrical Pty Ltd, trading as REES Sports Lighting for a Lump Sum of $514,540 ex GST. Signed by CEO 18 May 2026.

4. Contract variations approved by the CEO above contingency:

   a. Nil

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Williams
SECONDED: Councillor Schelling

That Council receives and notes this report Documents Sealed, Contracts Varied, Awarded or Extended by CEO – 1 May 2026 to 31 May 2026 those being:

1. **Documents Sealed:**

   a. **Nil**

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

   a. **Nil**

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

   a. **CON/458 for the Design and Construct of AFL Sports Floodlighting at Nyora & Leongatha Recreation Reserves awarded to REES Electrical Pty Ltd, trading as REES Sports Lighting for a Lump Sum of $514,540 ex GST. Signed by CEO 18 May 2026.**

4. **Contract variations approved by the CEO above contingency:**

   a. **Nil**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

6.1. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

6.1.1. INTERNATIONAL URBAN AND REGIONAL COOPERATION (IURC) WORLD CITIES SUMMIT REPORT - JUNE 2026

6.1.1 ONE GIPPSLAND - SMART CITY EXPO WORLD CONGRESS (SCEWC) 2026 REPORT	
Directorate:	Strategy and Integrity
Department:	Regional Partnerships

Council Plan
Developing a Sustainable Future

This report relates to Council's role in supporting regional advocacy through One Gippsland and the delivery of initiatives and actions from the Economic Development Strategy, which encourages new industry and investment in Gippsland.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to receive a report from Mayor Nathan Hersey on his participation at the World Cities Summit (WCS) as Chair of One Gippsland. The Summit was held in Singapore from 14 to 16 June 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes this One Gippsland – World Cities Summit (WCS) 2026 and International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) (Attachment [6.1.1.1]) Report.

That Councillor Hersey be granted a 3-minute extension of speaking time.

MOVED: Councillor Rae
SECONDED: Councillor Gilligan

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Hersey
SECONDED: Councillor Rae

That Council receives and notes this One Gippsland – World Cities Summit (WCS) 2026 and International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) (Attachment [6.1.1.1]) Report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.2. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

6.3. COUNCILLOR UPDATES

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

- Attended meetings in Canberra with the Mayor, Councillor Snell and Council staff, providing updates from the Coastal Round Table.
- Celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Australian Local Government Women's Association at Government House, Canberra.
- Spoke about the recent Councillor break and shared highlights from a family ski trip.
- Attended a coffee catch-up with female Councillors from regional councils, including East Gippsland Shire, Wellington Shire, Bass Coast Shire, and Latrobe City Council.

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

- Shared reflections on democracy in local government
- Spoke on International Urban and Regional Cooperation

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

- Spoke on Gippsland's offshore windfarms

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

- Highlighted the construction progress at Woorayl Lodge.

- Attended the opening of the Koonwarra Rail Trail Art Project.
- Attended the celebration at Coal Creek Community Park and Museum, Korumburra, marking the completion of Stage One of the heritage train carriage restoration and acknowledged the volunteers who contributed to the project.
- Attended Food & Fibre Gippsland's networking evening in Leongatha.
- Attended the Leongatha Football Club Past Players' Coffee Event in support of mental health and thanked the volunteers for organising the event.

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

- Acknowledged colleagues' attendance at similar events and commended Councillor Kennedy on their update.
- Highlighted the strong message regarding the protection of agricultural land.

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

- Attended the Korumburra Men's Shed event with Tom McIntosh and Danny O'Brien in support of men's mental health.
- Attended the Planned Activity Group at Korumburra Hospital.
- Spoke about involvement with the Lyric Theatre's current production, *Billy Elliot*, and acknowledged the sale of more than 4,000 tickets.
- Spoke on the Korumburra Round Table.
- Attended Korumburra Swimming Pool AGM

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

- Spoke on the sale of property in the region in relation to Agenda Item 5.1.
- Attended the Australian Local Government Association conference in Canberra with the Mayor, Councillor Gilligan and Council staff.
- Attended the recent Grants Night.
- Highlighted the upcoming Ward Focus Day with Councillor Schelling and Councillor Williams.
- Attended several ribbon-cutting events, including the Men's Shed, Rail Trail Art Project, Coal Creek Community Park and Museum, and Woorayl Lodge.

- Gave special recognition to the Mayor and Councillor Gilligan for their leadership, advocacy and commitment in their roles.
- Met with Mirboo North Primary School regarding the upcoming kindergarten build.
- Spoke on water security in the region, including desalination and reservoir capacity.

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

- Attended the Australian Local Government Association conference in Canberra with Councillor Snell, Councillor Gilligan and Council staff.
- Attended Municipal Association of Victoria’s annual Rural and Regional Planning Conference in Ballarat.
- Attended several ribbon-cutting events, including the Rail Trail Art Project and Coal Creek Community Park and Museum.
- Spoke on Re-Alliance and the transition to renewable energy in the region.

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:

1. Per s.3(1)(f) Agenda item 9.1 – PERSONAL INFORMATION - Appointment of Committee Member of the Audit and Risk Committee - July 2026, designated as personal information,
    a. being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs;
    b. The grounds for designation have been made to protect the privacy of an individual’s personal information.
2. Per s.3(1)(g) Agenda items 9.2 – PRIVATE COMMERCIAL INFORMATION - Award Contract CON/459 – Microsoft Licencing, designated as private commercial information,
    a. being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that –
        i. Relates to trade secrets; or
        ii. If released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Schelling
SECONDED: Councillor Gilligan

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:

1. **Per s.3(1)(f) Agenda item 9.1 – PERSONAL INFORMATION - Appointment of Committee Member of the Audit and Risk Committee - July 2026, designated as personal information,**
    a. **being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs;**
    b. **The grounds for designation have been made to protect the privacy of an individual's personal information.**
2. **Per s.3(1)(g) Agenda items 9.2 – PRIVATE COMMERCIAL INFORMATION - Award Contract CON/459 – Microsoft Licencing, designated as private commercial information,**
    a. **being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that –**
        i. **Relates to trade secrets; or**
        ii. **If released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. MEETING CLOSED

NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting open to the public will be held on Wednesday, 19 August 2026 commencing at 2:00pm in the Council Chambers, Leongatha.

The Council Meeting moved into closed session at 3:28PM

The Council Meeting concluded at 3:36PM