

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 21 October 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

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Council Chambers, Leongatha
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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 Steve Finlay Councillor Scott Rae Councillor Sarah Gilligan</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, Coordinator Governance Thomas Hender, Senior Technology Support Officer Will Beasley, Technology 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 Beach

1.5. APOLOGIES

Nil

1.6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the South Gippsland Shire Council Meeting held on 16 September 2026 in the Council Chambers, Leongatha be confirmed.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Beach

SECONDED: Councillor Snell

That the Minutes of the South Gippsland Shire Council Meeting held on 16 September 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.

Nil

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.

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. 2025/26 ANNUAL REPORT

Directorate:	Strategy and Integrity
Department:	Governance and Integrity

Council Plan

Theme - Leading with Integrity

The 2025/26 Annual Report finalises Council's reporting against the 2025/26 Report of Operations, Financial Statements and Performance Statement. The Annual Report provides an overview of Council's performance for the 2025/26 financial year and aligns with the Local Government Act 2020.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Council and the community with Council's audited financial and operational position as of 30 June 2026 in the 2025/26 Annual Report (**Attachment [5.1.1]**).

Following the 16 September 2026 Council Meeting, the Financial and Performance Statements (Statements) were signed and sent to the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) for certification. VAGO advised that there were no changes to the Financial and Performance Statements and VAGO certification has been updated.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and endorses the South Gippsland Shire Council 2025/26 Annual Report (Attachment [5.1.1]) prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Councillor Williams be granted up to 3 minute extension of speaking time

MOVED: Councillor Schelling

SECONDED: Councillor Beach

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Hersey

SECONDED: Councillor Beach

That Council receives and endorses the South Gippsland Shire Council 2025/26 Annual Report (Attachment [5.1.1]) prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.2. PLANNING SCHEME REVIEW

Directorate:	Empowering Communities
Department:	Planning and Building Services

Council Plan

Theme - Developing a Sustainable Future

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 present the South Gippsland Planning Scheme Review Report (the Report) to Council for adoption (**Attachment [5.2.1]**). If adopted, the Report will be submitted to the Minister for Planning in accordance with section 12B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act).

The Review found that the South Gippsland Planning Scheme is generally sound and provides a robust policy framework for planning decision-making. It also identified opportunities to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Planning Scheme, including correcting anomalies, improving the clarity and consistency of planning provisions, progressing priority strategic planning projects, and advocating to State Government on matters requiring broader planning system changes.

The Review also considered Clause 74.02 – *Further Strategic Work*, which identifies strategic planning projects proposed for investigation during the next four-year review cycle. These priorities will help inform Council's future strategic planning program and will be progressed subject to Council priorities, available resources and funding.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the South Gippsland Planning Scheme Review Report June 2026 (the Report) (Attachment [5.2.1]);
2. Submits the Report to the Minister for Planning in accordance with Section 12B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*;

3. Prepares a planning scheme amendment generally in accordance with the marked-up ordinance in Appendix 1 (Attachment [5.2.2]) of the Report (Attachment [5.2.1]) to incorporate the majority of the policy neutral changes identified in Chapter 5 of the Report to align the ordinance with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes, except those that delete objectives from overlays;
4. Notes the list of strategic planning issues included in the Schedule to Clause 74.02 - Further Strategic Work at Appendix 2 of the Report (Attachment [5.2.1]) and the need for their continued consideration and progression from Council subject to available resources and funding;
5. Adopts the Engagement Report - Planning Scheme Review 2026 (Attachment [5.2.3]; and
6. Thanks community members who participated in the community engagement process from 30 June 2026 to 26 July 2026 to inform the Planning Scheme Review.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Rae

SECONDED: Councillor Gilligan

That Council:

1. **Adopts the South Gippsland Planning Scheme Review Report June 2026 (the Report) (Attachment [5.2.1]);**
2. **Submits the Report to the Minister for Planning in accordance with Section 12B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*;**
3. **Prepares a planning scheme amendment generally in accordance with the marked-up ordinance in Appendix 1 (Attachment [5.2.2]) of the Report (Attachment [5.2.1]) to incorporate the majority of the policy neutral changes identified in Chapter 5 of the Report to align the ordinance with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes, except those that delete objectives from overlays;**
4. **Notes the list of strategic planning issues included in the Schedule to Clause 74.02 - Further Strategic Work at Appendix 2 of the Report (Attachment [5.2.1]) and the need for their continued consideration and progression from Council subject to available resources and funding;**
5. **Adopts the Engagement Report - Planning Scheme Review 2026 (Attachment [5.2.3]; and**

- 6. Thanks community members who participated in the community engagement process from 30 June 2026 to 26 July 2026 to inform the Planning Scheme Review.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.3. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE - 16 JUNE 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 16 June 2026 (refer to **Attachment [5.3.1]**) are provided to Council for noting.) 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 – 16 June 2026 (Attachment [5.3.1]).

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Beach

SECONDED: Councillor Gilligan

That Council receives and notes the Audit and Risk Committee Minutes – 16 June 2026 (Attachment [5.3.1]).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.4. POLICY REVIEW: CUSTOMER COMPLAINT HANDLING POLICY (C106)

Directorate:	Empowering Communities
Department:	Community, Customer and Visitor

Council Plan

Theme - Leading with Integrity

Providing clear and consistent guidelines and a framework for customers to make complaints strengthens trust and communication with the community.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider endorsement of a revised *Customer Complaint Handling Policy (C106)* and approve its designation from an internal to a Council Policy.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Customer Complaint Handling Policy 2026 (C106) (Attachment [5.4.1]) and designates it as a South Gippsland Shire Council Policy.

Councillor Schelling moved a motion different to the Officer recommendation.

MOVED: Councillor Schelling

SECONDED: Councillor Finlay

That Council:

1. **Adopts the *Customer Complaint Handling Policy 2026 (C106)* (Attachment [5.4.1]) and designates it as a South Gippsland Shire Council Policy; and**
2. **Approves the following minor amendments to the *Customer Complaint Handling Policy 2026 (C106)* (Attachment [5.4.1]) to accommodate current processes and customer expectations:**
 - a. **Clause 3.9 (Page 3) change ten business days to five business days;**
 - b. **Clause 3.22 (Page 5) change ten business days to five business days; and**

- c. **Clause 5.3 (Page 8) Councillors - change second bullet point to read - Referring complaints to Council through correct channels, to be dealt with in accordance with our processes.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.5. INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION - S6 COUNCIL TO MEMBERS OF STAFF - JUNE 2026 - COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY

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 – October 2026 (**Attachment [5.5.1]**).

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 [5.5.1]**):

1. Members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the officers or positions referred to in (**Attachment [5.5.1]**) 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 [5.5.1]**), to come into force immediately upon signing;
3. Upon this Instrument of Delegation (**Attachment [5.5.1]**) 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 ([5.5.1])** 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 [5.5.1]):

- 1. Members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the duties of the officers or positions referred to in (Attachment [5.5.1]) 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 [5.5.1]), to come into force immediately upon signing;**
- 3. Upon this Instrument of Delegation (Attachment [5.5.1]) 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 ([5.5.1]) 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

5.6. SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC BRIEFINGS FROM 1 AUGUST 2026 TO 31 AUGUST 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 August 2026 and 31 August 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 from 1 August 2026 to 31 August 2026.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Schelling

SECONDED: Councillor Snell

That Council receives and notes this report, the Summary of Strategic Briefings from 1 August 2026 to 31 August 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.7. DOCUMENTS SEALED, CONTRACTS VARIED, AWARDED OR EXTENDED BY THE CEO - 1 AUGUST 2026 - 31 AUGUST 2026

Directorate:	Strategy and Integrity
Department:	Governance and Integrity

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 August 2026 to 31 August 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 from 1 August 2026 to 31 August 2026 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/470 for the Design and Construction of Pedestrian Bridge RTB0001 on Great Southern Rail Trail awarded to Jarvis Norwood Constructions Pty Ltd for a Lump Sum of \$405,000 ex GST, signed by CEO 7 August 2026.
 - b. CON/469 for the Panel of Suppliers for Wet Hire Plant and Equipment awarded on a Schedule of Rates basis to:
 - i. CON/469-A – EcoProjects Australia Pty Ltd, signed by CEO 11 August 2026;
 - ii. CON/469-B - ACE Earthmoving (Victoria) Pty Ltd, signed by CEO 10 August 2026;
 - iii. CON/469-C - Zurma Building Group Pty Ltd, trading as Zurma EarthworX, signed by CEO 11 August 2026;
 - iv. CON/469-D - Gator's Contracting Pty Ltd, signed by CEO 13 August 2026;
 - v. CON/469-E - Hugh Patrick Pty Ltd, trading as BJs Earthmoving, signed by CEO 6 August 2026;
 - vi. CON/469-F – David Harris Earthmoving Pty Ltd, signed by CEO 10 August 2026;
 - vii. CON/469-G – KR & SL Whyte, trading as Whyte's Earthmoving, signed by CEO 10 August 2026;
 - viii. CON/469-H – Dowel Earthworks Pty Ltd, signed by CEO 11 August 2026;
 - ix. CON/469-I – G&K Newton, signed by CEO 10 August 2026;
 - x. CON/469-J - C & D Earthworks Pty Ltd, signed by CEO 7 August 2026; and
 - xi. CON/469-K – Pipe Doctor Australia Pty Ltd, signed by CEO 24 August 2026.
 - c. CON/459 for the Provision of Microsoft Licensing, awarded to Crayon Australia Pty Ltd for an annual lump of \$322,250 ex GST, plus Schedule of Rates items, signed by CEO 21 August 2026.

4. Contract variations approved by the CEO above contingency:
 - a. Nil
5. Contract Extensions approved by the CEO:
 - a. Nil

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Beach

SECONDED: Councillor Schelling

That Council receives and notes this report Documents Sealed, Contracts Varied, Awarded or Extended by CEO from 1 August 2026 to 31 August 2026 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/470 for the Design and Construction of Pedestrian Bridge RTB0001 on Great Southern Rail Trail awarded to Jarvis Norwood Constructions Pty Ltd for a Lump Sum of \$405,000 ex GST, signed by CEO 7 August 2026.**
 - b. **CON/469 for the Panel of Suppliers for Wet Hire Plant and Equipment awarded on a Schedule of Rates basis to:**
 - i. **CON/469-A – EcoProjects Australia Pty Ltd, signed by CEO 11 August 2026;**
 - ii. **CON/469-B - ACE Earthmoving (Victoria) Pty Ltd, signed by CEO 10 August 2026;**
 - iii. **CON/469-C - Zurma Building Group Pty Ltd, trading as Zurma EarthworX, signed by CEO 11 August 2026;**

- iv. CON/469-D - Gator's Contracting Pty Ltd, signed by CEO 13 August 2026;
 - v. CON/469-E - Hugh Patrick Pty Ltd, trading as BJs Earthmoving, signed by CEO 6 August 2026;
 - vi. CON/469-F – David Harris Earthmoving Pty Ltd, signed by CEO 10 August 2026;
 - vii. CON/469-G – KR & SL Whyte, trading as Whyte's Earthmoving, signed by CEO 10 August 2026;
 - viii. CON/469-H – Dowel Earthworks Pty Ltd, signed by CEO 11 August 2026;
 - ix. CON/469-I – G&K Newton, signed by CEO 10 August 2026;
 - x. CON/469-J - C & D Earthworks Pty Ltd, signed by CEO 7 August 2026; and
 - xi. CON/469-K – Pipe Doctor Australia Pty Ltd, signed by CEO 24 August 2026.
- c. CON/459 for the Provision of Microsoft Licensing, awarded to Crayon Australia Pty Ltd for an annual lump of \$322,250 ex GST, plus Schedule of Rates items, signed by CEO 21 August 2026.
4. Contract variations approved by the CEO above contingency:
- a. Nil
5. Contract Extensions approved by the CEO:
- a. Nil

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

6.1. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Nil

6.2. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

6.3. COUNCILLOR UPDATES

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

- Attended the Poowong Parma for Farmer event.
- Attended a tour of Toora Hulls Engineering.
- Visited Tarwin Lower with Cr Gilligan and Cr Hersey to discuss the condition of local roads.
- Acknowledged Rural Councils Victoria and State Government funding requests.
- Attended the opening of the Arts Studios Art Trail.
- Attended a Citizenship Ceremony.
- Attended the Meet the Makers event in Meeniyan, organised by South Gippsland Shire Council and Bass Coast Shire Council in partnership with Food and Fibre Gippsland.
- Attended multiple Myli Board meetings.
- Visited Buckley Park Community Garden and acknowledged its repurposing.

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

- Spoke about recent earthquakes in the region.
- Attended a Probus Social Network event with Cr Hersey.

- Attended a Korumburra Business Association meeting with Cr Hersey and Cr Beach regarding Burra Brewery.
- Attended Hugh Henry's 100th birthday celebrations.
- Acknowledged the upcoming State Election.

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

- Acknowledged visits to Council by candidates for the upcoming State Election.

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

- Acknowledged well wishes to Helen Haines MP Independent Federal Member and her family
- Attended AGLWA meeting with Cr Williams
- Highlighted supporting women in political leadership positions

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

- Extended well wishes to Helen Haines MP, Independent Federal Member, and her family.
- Attended the opening of the Emergency Resilience Hub in Mirboo North.
- Acknowledged the recent visit from Tony Mar, Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner.
- Acknowledged discussions regarding local community pools across the Shire.
- Attended Wellington Shire Council to discuss the RPPP Program.
- Attended the Leongatha Recreation Reserve AGM.
- Attended a tour of Toora Hulls Engineering.
- Attended a Veteran Information Day at Leongatha RSL with Mary Aldred MP and Michael McCormack, Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs.
- Recognised long-serving members and volunteers of local sporting community groups.
- Highlighted communications between a Mirboo North Secondary College student and the State Government regarding local crime.

- Attended multiple local business catch-ups.
- Attended a South East Transport Strategy (SEATS) meeting.

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

- Extended well wishes to Helen Haines MP, Independent Federal Member, and her family.
- Acknowledged World Mental Health Day on 10 October 2026 and spoke further about mental health.
- Acknowledged discussions regarding local community pools across the Shire and encouraged community members to make submissions during the community engagement period.
- Acknowledged the Leongatha Connect Initiative, hosted by the Leongatha Business Association.

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

- Extended well wishes to Helen Haines MP, Independent Federal Member, and her family.
- Acknowledged and congratulated the Artistic Director and co-leader of *It's No Drama*, an all-abilities performing arts group, on their nomination for a community leadership award.
- Acknowledged discussions regarding local community pools across the Shire and encouraged community members to make submissions during the community engagement period.
- Extended best wishes to VCE students preparing for their exams.
- Acknowledged upcoming events at Coal Creek Community Park and Museum.

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

- Acknowledged Cr Gilligan's updates.
- Commented on attendance at various events mentioned by other Councillors during Councillor Updates.
- Recognised Council's professionalism and achievements highlighted in the 2025/26 Annual Report.

- Spoke about the upcoming State Election.
- Highlighted Gippsland participants invited to compete in the International Six Days Enduro (ISDE) motorcycle event in Portugal.

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

- Attended the Poowong Parma for Farmer event, focusing on mental health in the farming community.
- Attended the opening of the Emergency Resilience Hub in Mirboo North.
- Participated in the Local Government Disaster Reform Advisory Committee event, alongside Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Emergency Management.
- Acknowledged the recent visit from Tony Mar, Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner.
- Visited Tarwin Lower with Cr Gilligan and Cr Rae to discuss local road conditions with community members.
- Attended and spoke at the opening of the Arts Studios Art Trail.
- Acknowledged the Korumburra Business Association Plans Launch.
- Attended the turning of the sod ceremony for the Koonwarra Shelter, managed by the Leongatha Rotary Club.
- Attended community member Hugh Henry's 100th birthday celebrations.
- Attended the Probus Social Network's 35th anniversary event.
- Attended Government House with Cr Snell to celebrate the Seniors Awards.
- Acknowledged invitations extended to all candidates for the upcoming State Election to meet with Council.
- Attended the Australian Citizenship Ceremony.
- Attended the Arawata Farmers Breakfast and Auction.
- Spoke about democracy, the security of elected officials and the importance of supporting those in public office, particularly in light of the incident involving Helen Haines MP, and extended well wishes to Helen and her family.

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 November 2026 commencing at 2:00pm in the Council Chambers, Leongatha.

The meeting concluded at 3:36PM.