

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

# Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 19 March 2025



Council Chambers, Leongatha  
Commencing at 2:00 PM



*South Gippsland  
Shire Council*



## OUR COUNCIL VISION

We care deeply about our people, the land and the future of South Gippsland.

Our Vision is to support the whole Shire in creating economic, environmental and social prosperity for this and future generations.

The Council Agenda relates to the following Strategic Objectives of the Council Plan 2022-2026:

- ◆ Connecting our People and Places ◆
  - ◆ Economy and Industry ◆
- ◆ Healthy and Engaged Communities ◆
  - ◆ Leading with Integrity ◆
- ◆ Protecting and Enhancing our Environment ◆
  - ◆ Sustainable Growth ◆

## PRESENT

COUNCILLORS:	<p><i>Coastal Promontory Ward</i> Councillor Sarah Gilligan, Deputy Mayor Councillor Steve Finlay Councillor Scott Rae</p> <p><i>Strzelecki Ward</i> Councillor Bron Beach Councillor Nathan Hersey Councillor John Kennedy</p> <p><i>Tarwin Valley Ward</i> Councillor Brad Snell Councillor Clare Williams</p>
NOT PRESENT:	<p>Councillor John Schelling, Mayor</p>
OFFICERS:	<p>Allison Jones, Interim Chief Executive Officer Tony Peterson, Director Sustainable Infrastructure Lucas Gardiner, Director Future Communities Michelle Jorgensen, Acting Director Performance and Innovation Rhys Matulis, Manager Governance &amp; Integrity Thomas Hender, Desktop Support Officer Ally Low, Governance Officer Jodi Cumming, Corporate Reporting and Governance Officer</p>

## **SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL**

Wednesday 19 March 2025  
Council Chambers, Leongatha, commenced at 2:00pm

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
1.1. LIVE-STREAMING COUNCIL MEETING DISCLAIMER.....	6
1.2. WELCOME TO THE COUNCIL MEETING.....	6
1.3. OPENING PRAYER .....	6
1.4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS.....	7
1.5. APOLOGIES.....	7
1.6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES .....	7
1.7. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST FOR COUNCILLORS.....	8
1.8. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST FOR STAFF.....	9
<b>2. COUNCIL REPORTS.....</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1. ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT - JULY 2024 TO DECEMBER 2024.....	10
2.2. MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION VICTORIA (MAV) - STATE COUNCIL .....	12
2.3. EXTERNAL FUNDING APPLICATION POLICY AND GRANT GIVING POLICY.....	14
2.4. CORNER INLET MOTORCYCLE CLUB .....	16
2.5. SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC BRIEFINGS - 19 DECEMBER 2024 TO 12 FEBRUARY 2025.....	18
2.6. DOCUMENTS SEALED, CONTRACTS VARIED, AWARDED OR EXTENDED BY CEO - 13 JANUARY 2025 -12 FEBRUARY 2025.....	19
<b>3. NOTICES OF MOTION AND/OR RESCISSION .....</b>	<b>20</b>
3.1. NIL .....	20
<b>4. COUNCILLOR REPORTS .....</b>	<b>20</b>
4.1. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE .....	20
4.2. COUNCILLOR UPDATES.....	20
<b>5. URGENT BUSINESS .....</b>	<b>23</b>

**6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS .....24**  
6.1. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS .....24  
6.2. ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS ON NOTICE .....25  
6.3. SUBMITTED PUBLIC QUESTIONS .....26  
**7. CLOSED SESSION .....28**  
**8. MEETING CLOSED .....29**



**Allison Jones**  
**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.

## **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 *Governance Rules (C82)*, clause 56.4(d) the placement of public questions has now closed. Questions must be received prior to the commencement of the Council Meeting and placed in the receptacle at Governance Officers table. Questions received after 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 Williams**

#### **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 Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians was read by Councillor Hersey**

#### **1.5. APOLOGIES**

Councillor John Schelling, Mayor

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

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the South Gippsland Shire Council Meeting held on 19 February 2025 in the Council Chambers, Leongatha be confirmed.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Councillor Hersey

**SECONDED:** Councillor Snell

**That the Minutes of the South Gippsland Shire Council Meeting held on 19 February 2025 in the Council Chambers, Leongatha be confirmed.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



### 1.7. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST FOR COUNCILLORS

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Division 2 sets out the requirements relating to 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 (C82)* (the Rules), clause 3.0 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.

The 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 conflict of interest, whether it is classified as general or material (s.127 and s.128), the name of the relevant person(s) and their relationship to them.

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

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

Council's *Governance Rules (C82)* 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 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 (C82) (the Rules)*, Chapter 5, clause 7, 8 and 9 sets the prescribed manner required for staff to disclose a conflict of interest when:

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

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

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

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

Council's *Governance Rules (C82)* can be accessed from [Council's Policies](#) webpage.

**Nil**

## 2. COUNCIL REPORTS

### 2.1. ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT - JULY 2024 TO DECEMBER 2024

Directorate:	Strategy & Partnerships
Department:	Governance and Integrity

#### Council Plan

*Objective - Leading with Integrity*

*Council's governance is strengthened by regular organisational and financial performance reporting against the 2024/25 Budget and the Council Plan 2022-2026 Annual Initiatives.*

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the organisation's progress in the delivery of the Council Plan, as well as the responsible management of the budget.

The Organisational Performance Report for the period of 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024 (Agenda Attachment [2.1.1]) includes the financial and organisational performance updates against the Adopted Budget and highlights progress of the 2024/25 Annual Initiatives for the 2022-2026 Council Plan (Council Plan).

Council adopted 21 Annual Initiatives for 2024/25, with two initiatives completed, and the remaining are on-track to be completed by 30 June 2025.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Organisational Performance Report for the period July 2024 to December 2024 (Agenda Attachment [2.1.1]);
2. Approves the changes to the Full Year Approved Forecast;
3. Endorses the capital forecast changes to enable delivery of the committed Capital Works Program; and
4. Provides the Organisational Performance Report to the Audit and Risk Committee for information.

**RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Councillor Beach

**SECONDED:** Councillor Williams

**That Council:**

- 1. Receives and notes the organisational performance report for the period July 2024 to December 2024 (Attachment [2.1.1]);**
- 2. Approves the changes to the Full Year Approved Forecast;**
- 3. Endorses the capital forecast changes to enable delivery of the committed Capital Works Program; and**
- 4. Provides the Organisational Performance Report to the Audit and Risk Committee for information.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 2.2. MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION VICTORIA (MAV) - STATE COUNCIL

Directorate:	Strategy & Partnerships
Department:	Communications, Engagement and Advocacy

### Council Plan

*Objective - Leading with Integrity*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement to submit Motions for consideration at the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council Meeting, to be held on 16 May in Melbourne.

Member councils from across Victoria can lodge Motions to MAV that have state-wide significance.

### RECOMMENDATION

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

1. That the Municipal Association Victoria call on the Victorian Government to:
  - a. Collect emergency services taxes via the State Revenue Office and not local councils.
  - b. Revise the levy amounts, with consideration of the impact the proposed tax reforms will have on ratepayers, and particularly on Victorian farmers who will experience the highest levies.
  - c. Commit to further engagement with local government prior to the introduction of tax reforms that will impact rates notices and increase the administrative burden on councils.
2. That the Municipal Association Victoria call on the Victorian Government to urgently prepare statewide coastal vulnerability mapping and a Coastal Hazard Overlay, or an amended and strengthened Erosion Management Overlay, to be applied to all vulnerable coastal areas in Victoria.

**RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Councillor Hersey

**SECONDED:** Councillor Snell

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

- 1. That the Municipal Association Victoria (MAV) call on the Victorian Government to:**
  - a. Collect emergency services taxes via the State Revenue Office and not Local Councils;**
  - b. Revise the levy amounts, with consideration of the impact the proposed tax reforms will have on ratepayers, and particularly on Victorian farmers who will experience the highest levies;**
  - c. Commit to further engagement with local government prior to the introduction of tax reforms that will impact rates notices and increase the administrative burden on councils.**
- 2. That the Municipal Association Victoria (MAV) call on the Victorian Government to urgently prepare statewide coastal vulnerability mapping and a coastal hazard overlay, or an amended and strengthened Erosion Management Overlay, to be applied to all vulnerable coastal areas in Victoria.**

**CARRIED**

## 2.3. EXTERNAL FUNDING APPLICATION POLICY AND GRANT GIVING POLICY

Directorate:	Sustainable Infrastructure & Future Communities
Department:	Infrastructure Delivery & Community, Customer and Visitor

### Council Plan

*Objective - Leading with Integrity*

*These policies will establish robust processes that help ensure decisions which consider local, community and broader municipal interests are consistent.*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present two policies for endorsement and recommend the revocation of two associated policies made redundant through this endorsement.

- Endorse External Funding Application Policy and revoke Community Infrastructure Project Management Policy and associated guidelines.
- Endorse Grant Giving Policy and revoke Community Grants Program Policy.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Revoke the *Community Infrastructure Project Management Policy* and associated guidelines (Attachment [2.3.1]);
2. Endorse the *External Funding Application Policy* (Attachment [2.3.2]);
3. Revoke the *South Gippsland Community Grants Program Policy* (Attachment [2.3.3]); and
4. Endorse the *South Gippsland Grant Giving Policy* (Attachment [2.3.4]).

**Councillor Gilligan moved motion different to the recommendation.**

**RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Councillor Gilligan

**SECONDED:** Councillor Williams

**That Council:**

- 1. Revoke the South Gippsland Community Grants Program Policy (Attachment [2.3.3]);**
- 2. Endorse the South Gippsland Grant Giving Policy (Attachment [2.3.4]); and**
- 3. Defer consideration on the Community Infrastructure Project Management Policy and associated guidelines (Attachment [2.3.1]) and External Funding Application Policy (Attachment [2.3.2]) until the August 2025 Council Meeting.**

**CARRIED**



## 2.4. CORNER INLET MOTORCYCLE CLUB

Directorate:	Sustainable Infrastructure
Department:	Infrastructure Planning

### Council Plan

*Objective 3 - Support community sport and recreation groups to grow, to build our healthy communities and enhance community connections.*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to commence the community engagement process for the land lease for the Corner Inlet Motorcycle Club (CIMCC), for an initial term of five (5) years with an option of a further five (5) year term.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Commence the community engagement process in accordance with section 115 of the Local Government Act 2020 for the land lease to the Corner Inlet Motorcycle Club Incorporated (Incorporation No. A0005638Y) particulars of the lease being:
  - a. Tenant particulars: Corner Inlet Motorcycle Club Incorporated (Incorporation No. A0005638Y) located at 2746 Meeniyan Promontory Road, Yanakie;
  - b. Description of land premises: Lot 1 on TP 887244 H comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 8171 Folio293. The land is 14.9 hectares, zoned PPRZ (Public Park and Recreation Zone) as shown hatched on Figure 1;
  - c. Initial term of the lease: Five (5) years;
  - d. Option for further term of lease: Five (5) years;
  - e. Commencement date of lease: 1 July 2025;
  - f. Annual rental: Community rental \$104 plus GST per annum; and
  - g. Specified purpose/use of the land: Motorcycle track and Motorcycle Club.

2. Community engagement will be conducted through Council's Draft 2025/26 Annual Budget process as it may contain leases.

**RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Councillor Snell

**SECONDED:** Councillor Kennedy

**That Council:**

1. **Commence the community engagement process in accordance with the section 115 of the Local Government Act 2020 for the land lease to the Corner Inlet Motorcycle Club incorporated (incorporation no. A0005638y). Particulars of the lease being:**
  - a. **Tenant particulars: Corner Inlet Motorcycle Club incorporated (Incorporation No. A0005638y) located at 2746 Meeniyah Promontory Road, Yanakie;**
  - b. **Description of land premises: lot 1 on TP 887244 h comprised in certificate of Title Volume 8171 folio 293. The land is 14.9 hectares, zoned PPRZ (Public Park and Recreation Zone) as shown hatched on Figure 1 of agenda;**
  - c. **Initial term of the lease: Five (5) years;**
  - d. **Option for further term of lease: Five (5) years;**
  - e. **Commencement date of lease: 1 July 2025;**
  - f. **Annual rental: Community rental \$104 plus GST per annum; and**
  - g. **Specified purpose/use of the land: Motorcycle track and Motorcycle Club.**
2. **Community engagement will be conducted through Council's Draft 2025/26 Annual Budget process as it may contain leases.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 2.5. SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC BRIEFINGS - 19 DECEMBER 2024 TO 12 FEBRUARY 2025

Directorate:	Strategy & Partnerships
Department:	Governance and Integrity

### **Council Plan**

*Objective - 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 is to provide a summary of the information presented to Councillors between 19 December 2024 and 12 February 2025.

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.

### **RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Councillor Williams

**SECONDED:** Councillor Beach

**That Council receives and notes this report.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 2.6. DOCUMENTS SEALED, CONTRACTS VARIED, AWARDED OR EXTENDED BY CEO - 13 JANUARY 2025 -12 FEBRUARY 2025

Directorate:	Performance and Innovation
Department:	Financial Strategy

### Council Plan

*Council Plan Not Applicable*

*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

This report documents the following actions undertaken by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) which occurred during the period 13 January 2025 to 12 February 2025. Council's *Procurement Policy (C32)* requires the CEO to report to Council any of the following actions undertaken to the next appropriate Meeting:

- Documents sealed;
- Contracts awarded after a public tender process within the CEO's delegation; and
- Contracts varied or extended by the CEO which exceeded the CEO's delegation.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes this Documents Sealed, Contracts Varied, Awarded or Extended by CEO - 13 January 2025 -12 February 2025 report.

### RESOLUTION

**MOVED:** Councillor Beach

**SECONDED:** Councillor Williams

**That Council receives and notes this Document Sealed, Contracts Varied, Awarded or Extended by CEO – 13 January -12 February 2025 report.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

#### **3.1.**

**Nil**

### **4. COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

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

**Nil**

#### **4.2. COUNCILLOR UPDATES**

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

- Spoke to the Korumburra Streetscape.

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Councillor Nathan Hersey addressed Council by reporting on attendance or made comments on:

- Acknowledged the contribution of Council towards the MAV campaign launched this month.
- Acknowledged the community engagement process for the development of the Council Plan and Integrated Planning Development. Thanked staff and community members for their involvement and support.
- Acknowledged success of Stakeholder Community Breakfast.
- Attended Coal Creek Community Park and Museum event.
- Acknowledged One Gippsland events and meetings.

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

- Acknowledged 50 years of State Emergency Services, with 48 years running in Leongatha. Thanked all volunteers in the service.
- Attended the International Women's Day event held in Meeniyon
- Attended the South Gippsland Youth Council on behalf of Councillor Snell. Noted their positive contribution to the Council Plan.

- Encouraged the community to get outdoors and experience South Gippsland's parks and beaches.
- 

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

- Special thank-you to Councillor Hersey for his advocacy efforts with MAV and One Gippsland, on behalf of South Gippsland.
  - Acknowledged the Arts Advisory Committee for noting the attraction of the ArtCubes Project in Venus Bay, highlighting relocation to Leongatha Railway Precinct in June.
  - Acknowledged Regional Arts Victoria for utilising grant money to help activate small halls around the Shire with live music and events.
  - Acknowledged that Leongatha Lyric Theatre rehearsals have commenced for upcoming show, Footloose.
  - Highlighted upcoming event at Coal Creek. The Southern Lights Festival will be held on 7 June 2025.
  - Attended International Women's Day event in Meeniyan.
- 

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

- Thanked Councillor Williams for attending the Youth Council Meeting on his behalf.
  - Highlighted the Job Expo in Leongatha. Event to be held on 20 March 2025.
  - Reflected on the level of involvement required for the Community Engagement Process.
  - Encouraged community to stay up-to-date with events and information by utilising Council's communication methods, including 'In the Know' and the 'Mayors Message'.
  - Special Thankyou to Councillor Hersey for his advocacy efforts with One Gippsland on behalf of South Gippsland.
- 

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

- Special Thankyou to Councillor Hersey for his advocacy efforts with One Gippsland on behalf of South Gippsland.
-

- Acknowledged conclusion of the Community Engagement events, including attendance at the Community Stakeholder Breakfast and Foster Show.
- Attended the Toora Heritage Pear Orchids Pear Party.
- Attended the Foster Arts Music and Drama Association (FAMDA) AGM meeting.
- Attended soil biology event conducted by LandCare.
- Noted the importance of safety and ensuring licences are current for the opening of duck season in Victoria.

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

- Referenced “Project Interrupt” which is a project on using less waste.
  - Attended the Stakeholder Community Breakfast for the Integrated Planning Development.
  - Noted the successful review of eBus program around Sandy Point and Venus Bay to assist with transport in the area.
  - Noted the successful review of the Lifesaving Victoria public rescue stands.
  - Highlighted proposal of a coastal round table event, following discussions with other coastal Councils, MAV & JLT. Event to take place around May 2025.
-



## 5. 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 22 - Urgent Business) adopted on 19 October 2022, 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 22 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**

## 6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

### 6.1. 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 (C82)*, *clause 57*, members of the community may submit a valid petition or joint letter to a Councillor or to Council addressed to the Chief Executive Officer.

At the Meeting a petition or joint letter is presented, Council will consider a motion to receive it, the matter itself will not be considered unless determined as urgent business.

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 (C82)*, *clause 57*.

Source: [Governance Rules \(C82\)](#) – adopted 19 October 2022.

Nil

## 6.2. ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Answers to previous questions taken on notice at a former Council Meeting, are included in the Minutes of this Meeting.

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

Source: [Governance Rules \(C82\)](#) – adopted 19 October 2022.

**Council received three public questions at the last Council Meeting which were taken on notice. All three questions were unable to be answered as they did not comply with the Governance Rules relating to public questions.**

### 6.3. SUBMITTED PUBLIC QUESTIONS

All community member questions for Council Meetings are to be written and submitted to the Governance Team by 9.00am on the Monday morning preceding the Council Meeting to allow time for a response to be prepared, where possible, for the Council Meeting. All reasonable attempts will be made to answer pre-submitted questions at the Meeting. When further time is required to prepare an answer, questions may be taken on notice and responses will be provided at the next Council Meeting.

On the day of the Meeting, questions on the prescribed form must be received prior to the commencement of the Council Meeting by 2.00pm and placed in the receptacle at the Governance Officers table. These questions will be taken on notice, included in the Minutes and responses provided at the next Council Meeting.

Public Question Time in Council Meetings is to be used for matters that are relevant to the business or functions of Council and are clear and legible.

Questions may not be allowed where the question(s) is deemed to be:

- Related to a matter beyond or outside the powers of Council;
- Trivial or frivolous;
- Defamatory, indecent, abusive or objectionable;
- Derogatory or designed to embarrass a Councillor, a member of Council staff or a member of the community;
- Related to subject matter previously received and responded to;
- Related to a matter already considered and resolved upon by Council;
- Breach Council's confidentiality obligations; and/or
- Illegible, vague or not make sense.

A person may submit a maximum of three (3) questions for any one Council Meeting, 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 100 words or fewer.

Background material submitted with a question will not be read out or recorded in the Council Meeting Minutes.

The CEO retains the discretion, in consultation with the Mayor, to not refer questions to Council meetings if there is a more effective or appropriate way to respond to the matters raised. Answers to questions from a member of the community who is present in the gallery will be read out at the Council Meeting by the CEO or Mayor.

Source: [Governance Rules \(C82\)](#) – adopted 19 October 2022.

**Council has received five public questions. Two questions have been taken on notice.**

**Mr David Amor submitted three written questions. The first question was unable to be answered as it did not comply with the Governance Rules. The second and third responses are provided in these minutes.**

**Question 1**

**Can we the Public finally get told of the real Korumburra HUB Costs, including, extra land, up to date of the seats outside?**

**Response:**

The total cost of the Korumburra Community Hub project, inclusive of early planning and design, and post-construction installations is approximately \$7.3M.

**Question 2**

**Street Scape of Korumburra, what is the end date, and will it finish on time, due to problems, footpaths, traffic issues, parking?**

**Response:**

The Korumburra Streetscape Project continues to be delivered on a staged basis and is forecast to be complete by the end of 2025.

## 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, 16 April 2025 commencing at 2:00pm in the Council Chambers, Leongatha.

**The Council Meeting closed at 2:50pm.**

**Confirmed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025**

**Councillor John Schelling, Mayor**