

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL

Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday 12 March 2025

Held in Council Chambers
5 Market Place Hamilton at 5:30 pm



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1 Membership

Councillors

Cr Dennis Heslin, Mayor
Cr Adam Campbell
Cr Afton Barber
Cr Albert Calvano
Cr Helen Henry
Cr Jayne Manning
Cr Katrina Rainsford

Officers

Mr Tony Doyle, Chief Executive Officer
Mr Darren Barber, Director People and Performance
Mr Rory Neeson, Director Wellbeing, Planning and Regulation
Ms Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure and Sustainability
Mrs Tania Quinn, Council Support Officer

2 Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

The Mayor, Cr Heslin read the acknowledgement of country:

“Our meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Gunditjmara, Tjap Wurrung and Bunganditj people.

I would like to pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Elders from other communities who may be here today.”

Please note: All Council meetings will be audio recorded, and may be livestreamed to Council’s social media platform, with the exception of matters identified as confidential items in the Agenda.

By participating in open Council meetings, individuals consent to the use and disclosure of the information they share at the meeting (including any personal and/or sensitive information).

Other than an official Council recording, no video or audio recording of proceedings of Council Meetings will be allowed without the permission of Council.

3 Prayer

Cr Calvano led the meeting in a prayer.

“Almighty god, we humbly beseech thee to vouchsafe thy blessing upon this council. Direct and prosper its deliberations to the advancement of thy glory and the true welfare of the people of the Southern Grampians shire.”

4 Apologies

Nil

5 Confirmation of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12 February 2025 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Calvano
SECONDED: Cr Barber

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12 February 2025 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED

6 Declaration of Interest

None Declared

7 Leave of Absence

Nil

8 Questions on Notice

There were no Questions on Notice.

9 Public Deputations

9.1 Save the Trees Committee - Howard Templeton, Spokesperson

A request to speak has been received regarding the preservation of the plane trees in the Hamilton CBD.

Howard Templeton, Spokesperson
Sarah Hope
Helen Morrison
Jasmine Mansbridge

Attachment:

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the deputation.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Rainsford
SECONDED: Cr Henry

That Council receive the deputation.

CARRIED

10 Petitions

10.1 Petition - Skene Street - Request for Footpath

A petition has been received requesting that Council consider constructing a proper footpath on the north side of Skene Street, Hamilton.

Attachment:

1. Petition - Skene Street - Request for Footpath [**10.1.1** - 1 page]

RECOMMENDATION

That the petition be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Manning
SECONDED: Cr Rainsford

That the petition be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response.

CARRIED

10.2 Petition – Stop the Proposed Plane Tree Destruction in Hamilton's CBD

A petition has been received requesting that Council consider preserving the plane trees in the Hamilton CBD.

Attachment:

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the petition.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Henry
SECONDED: Cr Manning

That Council receive the petition.

CARRIED

11 Informal Meetings of Councillors

The Southern Grampians Shire Council Governance Rules require that records of Informal Meetings of Councillors that meet the following criteria:

If there is a meeting of Councillors that:

- a. took place for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors;
- b. is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
- c. is not a Council meeting, Delegated Committee meeting or Community Asset Committee meeting;

be tabled at the next convenient Council meeting and recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting.

An Informal Meeting of Councillors record was kept for:

- Briefing Session – 5 February 2025
- Briefing Session – 12 February 2025
- Council Plan Engagement Session – Cavendish – 17 February 2025
- Briefing Session – 19 February 2025
- Council Plan Engagement Session – Tarrington – 20 February 2025
- Council Plan Engagement Session – Coleraine – 24 February 2025
- Briefing Session – 26 February 2025
- Council Plan Engagement Session – Dunkeld – 26 February 2025
- Council Plan Engagement Session – Byaduk – 3 March 2025

This agenda was prepared on 5 March 2025. Any Informal Meeting of Councillors between that date and the date of tonight's Meeting will appear in the agenda for the next Council Meeting.

Informal Meeting of Councillors

ASSEMBLY DETAILS	
Title:	Briefing Session - 5 February 2025
Date:	5 February 2025
Location:	MJ Hynes Auditorium
Councillors in Attendance:	Cr Barber Cr Calvano Cr Campbell Cr Henry Cr Heslin Cr Manning Cr Rainsford
Council Staff in Attendance:	Tony Doyle, Chief Executive Officer Darren Barber, Director People and Performance Rory Neeson, Director Wellbeing, Planning and Regulation Bill Scott, Acting Director Infrastructure and Sustainability Susannah Milne, Manager Community Wellbeing Nick Templeton, Head of Finance Juan Donis, Sustainable Community Lead Roger Rook, Coordinator Recreation Services Lisa Grayland, Acting Governance Coordinator Aaron Smith, Manager Assets

The Informal Meeting commenced at 11:00am.

MATTERS CONSIDERED		CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED
1	Community Wellbeing Induction	Nil
2	Finance Induction	Nil
3	Electric Vehicle Charging Policy	Nil
4	Athletics Precinct Feasibility Study	Nil
5	Council Plan Quarterly Report – 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024	Nil
6	Road Management Plan and Register of Public Roads	Nil

The Informal Meeting concluded at 5:00pm.

Informal Meeting of Councillors

ASSEMBLY DETAILS	
Title:	Briefing Session - 12 February 2025
Date:	12 February 2025
Location:	MJ Hynes Auditorium
Councillors in Attendance:	Cr Barber Cr Calvano Cr Campbell Cr Henry Cr Heslin Cr Manning Cr Rainsford
Council Staff in Attendance:	Tony Doyle, Chief Executive Officer Darren Barber, Director People and Performance Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure and Sustainability Rory Neeson, Director Wellbeing, Planning and Regulation Lisa Grayland, Acting Governance Coordinator Mike Shanahan, Risk, Health and Safety Coordinator

The Informal Meeting commenced at 11:00am

MATTERS CONSIDERED		CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED
1	Councillor Only Meeting	Nil
2	Hamilton Art Gallery Tour	Nil
3	Matters Raised by Council	Nil
4	SGSC Advocacy Program	Nil
5	FOI Overview – Access to Council Information	Nil
6	Risk Appetite	Nil

The Informal Meeting concluded at 5:00pm.

Informal Meeting of Councillors

ASSEMBLY DETAILS	
Title:	Council Plan Engagement Session - Cavendish - 17 February 2025
Date:	17 February 2025
Location:	Cavendish Town Square
Councillors in Attendance:	Cr Calvano Cr Henry Cr Heslin Cr Manning Cr Rainsford
Council Staff in Attendance:	Tony Doyle, Chief Executive Officer Darren Barber, Director People and Performance Trevor Haley, Manager Works Eda Williamson, Community Partnerships Officer Pauline Porter, Environmental Health Coordinator Alison Quade, Manager Communications and Engagement Wallis Prophet, Coordinator Community Wellbeing

The Informal Meeting commenced at 5:30pm.

MATTERS CONSIDERED		CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED
1	Council Plan 2025 – 2029 Community Engagement	Nil

The Informal Meeting concluded at 7:30pm.

Informal Meeting of Councillors

ASSEMBLY DETAILS	
Title:	Briefing Session - 19 February 2025
Date:	19 February 2025
Location:	MJ Hynes Auditorium
Councillors in Attendance:	Cr Calvano Cr Campbell Cr Heslin Cr Manning Cr Rainsford
Council Staff in Attendance:	Tony Doyle, Chief Executive Officer Darren Barber, Director People and Performance Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure and Sustainability Rory Neeson, Director Wellbeing, Planning and Regulation Juan Donis, Sustainable Community Lead Nick Templeton, Head of Finance Robyn Ackland, Finance Coordinator Revenue

The Informal Meeting commenced at 11:00am.

MATTERS CONSIDERED		CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED
1	Councillor Only Meeting	Nil
2	Organics Processing Tender Award	Nil
3	Pricing Register Workshop	Nil

The Informal Meeting concluded at 5:00pm.

Informal Meeting of Councillors

ASSEMBLY DETAILS	
Title:	Council Plan Engagement Session - Tarrington - 20 February 2025
Date:	20 February 2025
Location:	Tarrington Recreation Reserve, Tarrington
Councillors in Attendance:	Cr Barber Cr Calvano Cr Heslin
Council Staff in Attendance:	Tony Doyle, Chief Executive Officer Darren Barber, Director People and Performance Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure and Sustainability Trevor Haley, Manager Works Tahlia Homes, Manager People and Culture Bill Scott, Manager Project Management Office Pauline Porter, Environmental Health Coordinator Eda Williamson, Community Partnerships Officer Roger Rook, Recreation Services Coordinator Wallis Prophet, Coordinator Community Wellbeing

The Informal Meeting commenced at 7:00pm.

MATTERS CONSIDERED		CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED
1	Council Plan 2025 – 2029 Community Engagement	Nil

The Informal Meeting concluded at 8:00pm.

Informal Meeting of Councillors

ASSEMBLY DETAILS	
Title:	Council Plan Engagement Session - Coleraine - 24 February 2025
Date:	24 February 2025
Location:	The Points Arboretum, Coleraine
Councillors in Attendance:	Cr Calvano Cr Henry Cr Heslin Cr Manning Cr Rainsford
Council Staff in Attendance:	Tony Doyle, Chief Executive Officer Darren Barber, Director People and Performance Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure and Sustainability Nick Templeton, Head of Finance Trevor Haley, Manger Works Andrew Povey, Business Partner Works Coordinator Diana Dixon, HILAC Centre Manager Eda Williamson, Community Partnerships Officer

The Informal Meeting commenced at 5:30pm.

MATTERS CONSIDERED		CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED
1	Council Plan 2025 – 2029 Community Engagement	Nil

The Informal Meeting concluded at 7:30pm.

Informal Meeting of Councillors

ASSEMBLY DETAILS	
Title:	Briefing Session - 26 February 2025
Date:	26 February 2025
Location:	MJ Hynes Auditorium
Councillors in Attendance:	Cr Barber Cr Calvano Cr Campbell Cr Henry Cr Heslin Cr Manning Cr Rainsford
Council Staff in Attendance:	Tony Doyle, Chief Executive Officer Darren Barber, Director People and Performance Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure and Sustainability Rory Neeson, Director Wellbeing, Planning and Regulation

The Informal Meeting commenced at 11:00am.

MATTERS CONSIDERED		CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED
1	Melville Oval Tour	Nil
2	Councillor Only Meeting	Nil
3	Lakes Edge Update Report	Nil
4	Hear Budget Submissions	Nil
5	Major Project Timeline	Nil

The Informal Meeting concluded at 5:00pm.

Informal Meeting of Councillors

ASSEMBLY DETAILS	
Title:	Council Plan Engagement Session - Dunkeld - 26 February 2025
Date:	26 February 2025
Location:	Sterling Place, Dunkeld Community Centre, Dunkeld
Councillors in Attendance:	Cr Calvano Cr Henry Cr Heslin
Council Staff in Attendance:	Tony Doyle, Chief Executive Officer Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure and Sustainability Robyn Ackland, Finance Coordinator Revenue Simone Logan, A/Coordinator Visitor Experiences Wallis Prophet, Coordinator Community Wellbeing Jane Coshutt, Senior Community Development Coordinator

The Informal Meeting commenced at 7:00pm.

MATTERS CONSIDERED		CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED
1	Council Plan 2025 – 2029 Community Engagement	Nil

The Informal Meeting concluded at 8:30pm.

Informal Meeting of Councillors

ASSEMBLY DETAILS	
Title:	Council Plan Engagement Session - Byaduk - 3 March 2025
Date:	3 March 2025
Location:	Byaduk Recreation Reserve, Byaduk
Councillors in Attendance:	Cr Barber Cr Calvano Cr Campbell Cr Manning
Council Staff in Attendance:	Tony Doyle, Chief Executive Officer Darren Barber, Director People and Performance Rory Neeson, Director Wellbeing, Planning and Regulation Susannah Milne, Manager Community Wellbeing Juan Donis, Sustainability Community Lead Aaron Smith, Manager Assets Pauline Porter, Environmental Health Coordinator Jane Coshutt, Senior Community Development Coordinator Leesa Logan, Communications Officer

The Informal Meeting commenced at 5:30pm.

MATTERS CONSIDERED		CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED
1	Council Plan 2025 – 2029 Community Engagement	Nil

The Informal Meeting concluded at 7:30pm.

12 Management Reports

12.1 Electric Vehicle Charging Policy

Directorate: Infrastructure and Sustainability
Report Approver: Marg Scanlon (Director Infrastructure and Sustainability)
Report Author: Juan Donis, Sustainable Community Lead
Presenter(s): Juan Donis, Sustainable Community Lead
Attachment(s): 1. Council Policy EV Policy - Final [12.1.1 - 3 pages]

Executive Summary

Council is committed to improving environmental sustainability and supporting alternative transport options across the Shire. Facilitating the transition to electric vehicles through providing access to electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure plays an important role in meeting these commitments.

The purpose of this policy is to facilitate a coordinated roll-out of EV charging infrastructure across the Shire which will be fundamental to meet the proposed emissions reduction targets. This policy's intent is to guide the consideration, engagement and resolve for the installation of EV charging infrastructure on Council-owned or managed land. This draft EV Charging Station Policy is presented to Council following the community exhibition period of the draft policy, which resulted in one submission being received.

Discussion

The purpose of this policy is to outline Council's role in relation to EV Charging Infrastructure requests and/or installations on land owned or managed by Council.

Council recognises the need for a greener future with the Federal Government introducing new minimum standards for combustion engine vehicles which has created a new market for electric vehicles. To support this transition, infrastructure will be required to be installed within our Shire. This draft policy will guide the Council decision process when assessing a request from within Council and/or external providers seeking to install EV charging infrastructure on Council owned or managed land.

Council acknowledges the projected increase in EV's in the future and subsequently the need for more charging infrastructure particularly within Hamilton central business district. Council also has the capacity to enable locations within the CBD and support commercial providers of EV charging station infrastructure within the Shire. The changing landscape of EV purchasing and use is a key consideration and therefore Council and/or commercial providers need to be prepared to respond to a potential increase in requests for EV charging stations within the Shire. Council supports commercial developments/initiatives to establish EV charging infrastructure within SGS.

A key aspect of this draft policy is that Council will support third party commercial operators to install, operate and maintain their EV charging infrastructure in locations consistent with the following factors:

- Proximity to shopping areas enables patronage to local businesses during short stay charging.
- Destinations where people visit for relatively longer charging durations.
- Areas close to community activities and facilities.
- Priority locations where future EV demand is expected to be high with minimal impact on parking needs.
- Impact on streetscape, amenity and public open space is minimised.
- Installation of a range of slow, medium and fast EV chargers to cater for different charging needs.
- EV charging locations will be listed on Council's website and through external channels where appropriate.
- Land Manager Consent and licence Agreement process applies where relevant.
- A public interest test assessing the proposal's community/commercial benefit, project costs and associated risks.
- In the absence of Australian Standards mandating a single connector standard, Council encourages EV chargers that prioritise compatibility with EVs in the public market. Where possible, Council favours Combined Charging System with capability for both Alternating Current and Direct Current charging.

In addition, Council requires all proposals for EV charging infrastructure in public places to address:

- Consultation with utilities and the community, particularly neighbouring residents and businesses;
- Public use of the EV charging infrastructure at standard industry rates;
- Data sharing conditions to understand charging statistics;
- Full life-cycle responsibility for infrastructure, from installation, operation, maintenance and removal;
- All costs to be covered by the proponent;
- Electrical infrastructure is powered by 100% renewable energy;
- Appropriate EV parking, signage and line marking;
- Inclusion of lighting (where not existing or sufficient)
- Infrastructure to be compliant with all the required Australian Standards; and
- Compliance with Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design assessment.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are a range of options within the industry and subsequently there may be opportunities for Council to generate revenue from the provision of EV Charging Infrastructure. Options will be further considered as technologies, and various models are made available throughout the market.

Council Plan, Community Vision, Strategies and Policies

Protect Our Natural Environment

4.4 Mitigate against and adapt to climate change

4.4.1 Investigate opportunities to reduce emissions and waste.

4.4.3 Plan for climate resilience in Council and community infrastructure.

Legislation

This policy complies with Council's requirements under the Local Government Act 2020.

Gender Equality Act 2020

Gender impact assessment is not required for this policy. Consideration of the location and siting of the EV Charging Stations would include Gender Equality to ensure access and safety are considered.

Risk Management

This draft policy reduces reputational risk to Council through the establishment of a consistent approach for Council decision making in relation to the installation and operation of EV Charging infrastructure, location, funding model and size requirements.

Climate Change, Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

The electrification of transport in Victoria will play a key role in reducing carbon emissions. To promote EV usage, the charging infrastructure needs to be readily available for use.

Community Engagement, Communication and Consultation

Community consultation and engagement has been completed as the draft policy was advertised for public comments for a period of 30 days.

Council does receive comments from tourists and regular travelers who report that the limited charging options within Southern Grampians is a constraint. These reports typically reference other regional towns that have EV charging infrastructure readily available. This policy is a contributing factor to Council's commitment to regional tourism.

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no general or material interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

Juan Donis, Sustainable Community Lead

Marg Scanlon, Director Infrastructure and Sustainability

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopt the Electric Vehicle Charging Policy

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Henry
SECONDED: Cr Manning

That Council adopt the Electric Vehicle Charging Policy

CARRIED

12.2 Planning Committee Meeting - 18 December 2024

Directorate: Wellbeing, Planning and Regulation
Report Approver: Rory Neeson (Director Wellbeing, Planning and Regulation)
Report Author: Sharon Clutterbuck (Executive Assistant to Director Wellbeing, Planning and Regulation)
Attachment(s): 1. Planning Committee Meeting - Minutes - 18 December 2024 - confirmed [12.2.1 - 30 pages]

Executive Summary

The Minutes from the Planning Committee meeting held on 18 December, 2024 and endorsed by members of the Committee are presented to Council for information.

Discussion

This committee was established as a Delegated Committee of Council on 12 August 20220 in accordance with Section 64 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Matters for consideration at a Planning Committee:

- All planning permits valued between \$5 million and \$10 million (or less if the officer is recommending refusal except if refusal relates to a matter which is prohibited under the Planning Scheme).
- All planning permits that receive between 10 and 20 objections.
- All applications where the officer is recommending refusal (except if refusal relates to a matter which is prohibited under the Planning Scheme).
- Power to decide to grant an amendment to a planning permit if the value of the original development exceeds \$5 million or if 10 or more objections were received, or if the officer is recommending refusal (except if refusal relates to a matter which is prohibited under the Planning Scheme)
- All planning permits made pursuant to Section 97C of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to request the Minister to decide the application.
- All planning scheme amendment under section s.8A(7) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to prepare the amendment specified in the application without the Minister's Authorisation if no response received after 10 days.
- All planning scheme amendments that clarify or correct mistakes in the Planning Scheme (applied for under Section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*).
- Whether applications should be referred to the full Council for a decision.

The meeting on 18 December considered the following matter:

TP-33-2024 proposed a permit under Clause 35.07 Farming Zone for the subdivision of land at 198 Partridges Road Hamilton, and the creation of an easement.

The Committee resolved to refuse to grant a permit and the reasons for refusal are outlined in the minutes.

Financial and Resource Implications

Preparation of reports, agenda and minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting utilises Council resources. Council Officers present reports and provide information to the committee.

Council Plan, Community Vision, Strategies and Policies

Grow Our Regional Economy

2.4 Support local business and industry

2.4.2 Support and facilitate business development and growth initiatives.

2.4.3 Streamline services to reduce red tape in approval process.

Legislation

The *Planning and Environment Act 1987* provides that certain local government authority responsibility and functions can be delegated to Committees of Council or Council Officers.

Gender Equality Act 2020

There are no gender equality implications

Risk Management

There are no risk management implications through Council receiving these Planning Committee minutes, however a variety of factors relating to risk were considered as part of decisions made by the Planning Committee at each meeting.

Climate Change, Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

Whilst there are no direct implications in this category associated with the report, it should be noted that Council and the committee are committed to producing documentation and data through systems that have the least impact on the environmental. Agendas, reports and minutes are produced electronically and distributed via email. Presenters have the option to attend meetings virtually to reduce the need for travel.

Community Engagement, Communication and Consultation

A copy of the Minutes is available on Council's website.

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no general or material interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

Sharon Clutterbuck, Executive Assistant, Director Wellbeing Planning and Regulation
Rory Neeson, Director Wellbeing, Planning and Regulation.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 18 December, 2024.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Manning
SECONDED: Cr Calvano

That Council receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 18 December, 2024.

CARRIED

12.3

Mayor on Leave - Acting Requirements

Directorate: Chief Executive Office
Report Approver: Tony Doyle (Chief Executive Officer)
Report Author: Nadine Rhook (Executive Assistant to Director People and Performance)
Attachment(s): Nil

Executive Summary

The Mayor, Cr Dennis Heslin, has indicated that he will be taking leave from 13 March 2025 and 7 April (inclusive) and will be absent from Council Briefing's scheduled for 26 March 2025 and 2 April 2025.

It will be necessary for Council to appoint a Councillor to be Acting Mayor during this period.

Discussion

The Local Government Act 2020 (Division 3 - Section 20B) provides that 'A Council may appoint a Councillor to be the Acting Mayor when – the Mayor is unable for any reason to attend a Council meeting or part of a Council meeting or the office of Mayor if vacant.'

Convention would hold that in periods of absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor would be appointed to that role, however, Council has determined not to appoint a Deputy Mayor.

As per Council's Governance Rules; The election of the Mayor must – a) be chaired by the Chief Executive Officer; and b) subject to this section, be conducted in accordance with the Governance Rules.

Background

The Local Government Act (Division 3 - Section 20B) (2) states that 'An appointment under subsection (1) must be for a period specified by the Council'

This would be a decision which needs to be made a formal public Council Meeting.

Councillors have the option of taking leave during their term serving as an elected Shire Councillor with a restriction to the number of consecutive Ordinary Meetings they can miss being limited to three.

Councillors are to be informed, consulted and make the decision as to the appointment or otherwise of an Acting Mayor. In doing this consideration is given to the broad duties of a Mayor and the expectation of the community to have an elected councillor available to represent the Shire Council on matters relevant to their community.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial implications pertaining to this matter.

Council Plan, Community Vision, Strategies and Policies

Objective 1, Leadership and Good Governance includes strategies for ensuring that our actions contribute positively to sound relationships and engagement with our local communities (1.2.3) and for engaging with our communities on the issues important to their quality of life, health and wellbeing (1.2.4).

Legislation

The Local Government Act provides for the appointment of an acting Mayor for the purpose of chairing meetings.

The Councillor Code of Conduct (Section 16 Communication) provides that

The Mayor will provide official comment to the media on behalf of Council where the matter is of a political, controversial or sensitive nature. This includes:

- 1. State-wide political issues affecting Local Government*
- 2. Contentious local issues that impact the community that do not relate directly to the*
- 3. business of Council but to the representation of the community*
- 4. Issues pertaining to policy and Council decisions*
- 5. Issues relating to the strategic direction of the Council.*

The Mayor may nominate a Councillor Delegate or another Councillor to make official comment on behalf of the Council, where appropriate.

Gender Equality Act 2020

There are no impacts pertaining to the Gender Equality Act 2020.

Risk Management

An organisational risk factor may emerge through uncertainty in who is delegated to comment on behalf of Council in the absence of the Mayor.

Climate Change, Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

There are no Climate Change, Environmental and Sustainability impacts pertaining to this matter.

A social implication might be seen in ensuring there is an appropriate representation to provide comment to the community on behalf of Council.

Community Engagement, Communication and Consultation

No community engagement in considering this matter is required.

Disclosure of Interests

All Council Officers involved in the development and advice provided in this Report affirm that no general or material interests need to be declared in relation to any matters in this Report.

Please list all officers who were involved in providing advice or approving this Report.

Tony Doyle, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council appoint an Acting Mayor during the period of 13 March 2025 until 7 April 2025.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Calvano
SECONDED: Cr Barber

That:

- 1. Council appoint an Acting Mayor for the period 13 March 2025 to 7 April 2025.**
- 2. The CEO conduct the election immediately following this decision.**

CARRIED

The Chief Executive Officer conducted the election of the Acting Mayor.

Cr Campbell nominated Cr Barber who accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations; Cr Barber was declared Acting Mayor for the period 13 March 2025 to 7 April 2025.

13 Notices of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion listed on tonight's agenda.

14 Urgent Business

PROCEDURAL MOTION

That Council admit the Notice of Motion: Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund as an item of Urgent Business.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Henry
SECONDED: Cr Rainsford

That Council admit the Notice of Motion: Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund as an item of Urgent Business.

The MOTION was PUT and CARRIED

14.1 Notice of Motion #4/25 - Cr Henry - Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund

Councillor: Cr Henry

Attachment(s): Nil

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Council Meeting to be held on 12 March 2025

MOTION

1. That South Grampians Shire Council write to
 - the Premier of Victoria,
 - the Treasurer of Victoria,
 - the Victorian Minister for Local Government and,
 - to our local Victorian Parliamentary representativesto formally object to Council collecting the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy (formerly the Fire Levy) , on behalf of the State Government, on the basis that the;
 - a. Victorian Government should be utilising the State Revenue Office, to collect the new tax.
 - b. Victorian Government has not adequately engaged or consulted with Local Government regarding the introduction of a tax
 - c. Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy unfairly impact regional ratepayers, particularly Victorian farmers.
 - d. Local agricultural businesses are in the midst of a prolonged and severe drought period.
 - e. Recent significant, unprecedented and prologued fire event (The Grampians Fires) in our region that has placed an enormous burden on our region's residents
 - f. Administrative burden will be too great for rural Councils, necessitating system upgrades and, will significantly impact Council staff who will need to manage ratepayers requesting assistance and experiencing bill shock.
 - g. Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy falls outside of our existing rating policy principles of equity, efficiency, simplicity, benefit and capacity to pay.
2. That the MAV representative Cr Rainsford, contact the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and urge them to urgently convene an emergency meeting to establish their position and future strategy upon the matter above.
3. That the Mayor of the Southern Grampians Council contact the relevant regional groups and Mayors to in other rural Shires to urge them to urgently establish their position and future strategy upon the matter above.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Henry
SECONDED: Cr Rainsford

- 1. That South Grampians Shire Council write to**
 - the Premier of Victoria,
 - the Treasurer of Victoria,
 - the Victorian Minister for Local Government and,
 - our local Victorian Parliamentary representatives

to formally object to Council collecting the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy (formerly the Fire Levy) , on behalf of the State Government, on the basis that the;

 - a. Victorian Government should be utilising the State Revenue Office, to collect the new tax.
 - b. Victorian Government has not adequately engaged or consulted with Local Government regarding the introduction of a tax
 - c. Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy unfairly impacts regional ratepayers, particularly Victorian farmers.
 - d. Local agricultural businesses are in the midst of a prolonged and severe drought period already.
 - e. Administrative burden will be too great for rural Councils, necessitating system upgrades and, will significantly impact Council staff who will need to manage ratepayers requesting assistance and experiencing bill shock.
 - f. Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy falls outside of our existing rating policy.
- 2. That the MAV representative Cr Rainsford, contact the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and urge them to urgently convene an emergency meeting to establish their position and future strategy on the above matter.**
- 3. That the Mayor of the Southern Grampians Council contact the relevant regional groups and Mayors in other rural Shires to urge them to urgently establish their position and future strategy upon the matter above.**

CARRIED

15 Mayor, Councillors and Delegate Reports

Address from the Mayor and Councillors in relation to matters of civic leadership and community representation, including acknowledgement of community groups and individuals, information arising from internal Committees and delegates committees, advocacy on behalf of constituents and other topics of significance.

15.1 Cr Afton Barber

Cr Barber provided a verbal report which can be viewed in the livestream of the Meeting on Council's Facebook page.

15.2 Cr Albert Calvano

Cr Calvano provided a verbal report which can be viewed in the livestream of the Meeting on Council's Facebook page

15.3 Cr Adam Campbell

Cr Campbell provided a verbal report which can be viewed in the livestream of the Meeting on Council's Facebook page.

15.4 Cr Helen Henry

Cr Henry provided a verbal report which can be viewed in the livestream of the Meeting on Council's Facebook page.

15.5 Cr Dennis Heslin

Cr Heslin provided a verbal report which can be viewed in the livestream of the Meeting on Council's Facebook page.

15.6 Cr Jayne Manning

Cr Manning provided a verbal report which can be viewed in the livestream of the Meeting on Council's Facebook page.

15.7 Cr Katrina Rainsford

Cr Rainsford provided the following report:

Delegations

MAV Board and President Elections postal vote run by VEC; Election of Corangamite Councillor Ruth Gstrein

Rail Freight Alliance, 14 February 2025 AGM Community Hub Docklands Melbourne
Election - New Chair Cr Michael Carr, Glenelg Shire Council & I was elected the new Deputy Chair.

RFA reports and distribution of current Policy Statement which is being updated in preparation for the next Federal and State Election. RFA has lobbied consistently for the upgrade of our Maroona to Portland Rail Line from 19 TAL to 23 TAL and is pleased with the 2024 announcement of 150 Million in Federal funds to complete this upgrade.

Hamilton Showgrounds Advisory Committee - 17 February 2025

Hamilton Regional Livestock Exchange Advisory Committee Meeting - 20 February 2025

Glenthompson Community Planning Committee Meeting - 13 February 2025 Glenthompson

Community Events

17 February 2025: SGS Council Community Planning Forum

21 February 2025: Lake Hamilton Pump Track Opening

24 February 2025: SGSC Council Community Planning visit The Points Arboretum
Coleraine

26 February 2025: Council Budget Submissions from community members session MHA

2 March 2025: Glenthompson Harvest Festival Church Service with Fooprints the Choir

5 March 2025: AFL Football for Climate Change event and met local star Emma Kearney at a Wannon Candidates Forum at Kennedy Oval with a football clinic for young players

16 Confidential Reports

There were no Confidential Matters listed on tonight's agenda.

17 Close of Meeting

This concludes the business of the meeting.

The Council Meeting - 12 March 2025 closed at 6:33 pm.

Confirmed by Resolution at the 9 April 2025 Council Meeting.