



UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

**Council Chambers
24-26 Richmond Street Nyabing**

Wednesday 11 February 2026

Commencement: 6:00pm

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES**11 February 2026**

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding Member, **Cr Kate Johnston**, declared the Ordinary Council Meeting of 11 February 2026 open at 6:06pm.

2. ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE**Elected Members Present**

Cr Kate Johnston	President
Cr Scott Crosby	Deputy President
Cr Suma Reid	Councillor
Cr Greg Hobley	Councillor
Cr Darren Gray	Councillor
Cr Tim Borgward	Councillor

Staff Members Present

Christie Smith	Chief Executive Officer
David Bentley	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Gary Mathewson	Manager Infrastructure

Apologies

Nil.

Leave of Absence

Nil.

Observers

Nil.

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil.

5. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

6. CONFIRMATION AND RECEIVING OF MINUTES / BUSINESS ARISING**6.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 17 December 2025****OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION (OCM2526/052)**

Moved Cr Gray / Seconded Cr Borgward

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Shire of Kent held in the Nyabing Council Chambers on Wednesday 17 December 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

CARRIED 6/0

For: Cr Johnston, Cr Crosby, Cr Reid, Cr Hobley, Cr Gray, Cr Borgward

Against: Nil

6.2 Outstanding Council Resolutions February 2026

The Outstanding Council Resolutions Register for February 2026 is provided as **Attachment 6.2** for information.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil.

8. PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / SUBMISSIONS

Nil.

9. OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 Monthly Financial Report to 31 December 2025

Author:	Jenni Dolan, Finance Coordinator
Location:	N/A
File No:	FIN.283
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority - More than half of Elected Members present required to vote in favour
Attachments:	9.1 Attachment 1 – Monthly Financial Report to 31 December 2025

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION (OCM2526/053)

Moved Cr Hobley / Seconded Cr Crosby

That Council receive the Monthly Financial Reports to 31 December 2025 as presented at Attachment 1.

CARRIED 6/0

For: Cr Johnston, Cr Crosby, Cr Reid, Cr Hobley, Cr Gray, Cr Borgward

Against: Nil

Purpose

In accordance with the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, to follow is the presentation of the Monthly Financial Reports to Council.

Background

Monthly Financial Reports are to be presented to Council and are to be received by Council resolution.

Comment

The Monthly Financial Reports as presented indicate that Council continues to be in a sound financial position

Note 3 of the Financial Report provides a full listing and explanation of all items considered of significant variance.

Statutory Implications

Local Government Act 1995 – Section 6.4

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 – Clause 34 and 35

Policy Implications

Policy 3.1 Accounting Policies

Objective: To provide the basis for Council's accounting concepts and reporting guidelines.

To maintain accounting reporting procedures which comply with Statutory Requirements and to demonstrate Council's financial position.

Financial Implications

Ongoing management of Council funds.

Strategic Implications

Community Strategic Plan 2023 - 2033

Civic Leadership Strategic Priorities – Proactive and well governed Shire

Risk Implications

Nil.

9.2 Monthly Financial Report to 31 January 2026

Author:	Jenni Dolan, Finance Coordinator
Location:	N/A
File No:	FIN.283
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority - More than half of Elected Members present required to vote in favour
Attachments:	9.2 Attachment 1 – Monthly Financial Report to 31 January 2026 9.2 Attachment 2 – Capital Expenditure Snapshot

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION (OCM2526/054)

Moved Cr Gray / Seconded Cr Hobley

That Council receive the Monthly Financial Reports to 31 January 2026 as presented at Attachment 1.

CARRIED 6/0

For: Cr Johnston, Cr Crosby, Cr Reid, Cr Hobley, Cr Gray, Cr Borgward
Against: Nil

Purpose

In accordance with the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, to follow is the presentation of the Monthly Financial Reports to Council.

Background

Monthly Financial Reports are to be presented to Council and are to be received by Council resolution.

Comment

The Monthly Financial Report as presented indicate that Council continues to be in a sound financial position.

Overview

Presented to Council is the January monthly report stating the financial position of the Shire with 58% of the year completed. Noted in the Statement of Financial Activity is a current surplus of \$4,178,202. This report reflects an operating revenue which sits below the year-to-date (YTD) budget estimate by 5.29%, and accounts for 75.8% of the adopted full-year budget estimate. Operating expenditure sits above the YTD budget estimate by 12.64%, and accounts for 42.2% of the adopted full-year budget estimate.

Capital expenditure

The capital expenditure programs will get back into full swing with the conclusion of the Christmas and New Year holiday period which saw many staff take leave. The Capital Expenditure Snapshot provides an overview of the capital works to date.

Next month

Budget review will be the focus in February and March with the proposed amendments being presented at the March meeting of Council.

Note 3 of the Financial Report provides a full listing and explanation of all items considered of significant variance.

Statutory Implications

Local Government Act 1995 – Section 6.4

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 – Clause 34 and 35

Policy Implications

Policy 3.1 Accounting Policies

Objective: To provide the basis for Council’s accounting concepts and reporting guidelines.

To maintain accounting reporting procedures which comply with Statutory Requirements and to demonstrate Council’s financial position.

Financial Implications

Ongoing management of Council funds.

Strategic Implications

Community Strategic Plan 2023 - 2033

Civic Leadership Strategic Priorities – Proactive and well governed Shire

Risk Implications

Nil.

9.3 Schedule of Accounts Paid to 31 December 2025

Author:	Jenni Dolan, Finance Coordinator
Location:	N/A
File No:	FIN.279
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority - More than half of Elected Members present required to vote in favour
Attachments:	9.3 Attachment 1 – Schedule of Accounts Paid, Including Corporate and Fuel Cards for December 2025

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION (OCM2526/055)

Moved Cr Crosby / Seconded Cr Borgward

That Council endorse the payments from the Municipal Fund and Trust Fund for the period ending 31 December 2025.

Municipal Fund (Fee)	\$	21,885.05
Municipal Fund (EFT)	\$	347,500.60
Municipal Fund (Cheque)	\$	0.00
Municipal Fund (Direct Debits)	\$	36,530.03
Trust Fund	\$	0.00
TOTAL	\$	405,915.68

CARRIED 6/0

For: Cr Johnston, Cr Crosby, Cr Reid, Cr Hobley, Cr Gray, Cr Borgward

Against: Nil

Purpose

Council endorsement of payment to Creditors under CEO Delegated Authority 2.1.2.

Background

Details payments made to creditors since last Council Meeting.

Comment

The Schedule of Accounts Reports as presented, indicate that Council continues to be in a sound financial position.

Regulation 13 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* states that only the following information is to be reported to Council and form part of the public minutes:

- a) the payee's name;
- b) the amount of the payment;
- c) the date of the payment; and
- d) sufficient information that identifies the payment.

Statutory Implications

Local Government Act 1995 – Section 6.4

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 – Part 2 – Regulation 11, 12 and 13.

Policy Implications

Policy 3.1 Accounting Policies

Objective: To provide the basis for Council's accounting concepts and reporting guidelines.

To maintain accounting reporting procedures which comply with Statutory Requirements and to demonstrate Council's financial position.

Financial Implications

Ongoing management of Council funds.

Strategic Implications

Community Strategic Plan 2023 - 2033

Civic Leadership Strategic Priorities – Proactive and well governed Shire

Risk Implications

Nil.

9.4 Schedule of Accounts Paid to 31 January 2026

Author:	Jenni Dolan, Finance Coordinator
Location:	N/A
File No:	FIN.279
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority - More than half of Elected Members present required to vote in favour
Attachments:	9.4 Attachment 1 – Schedule of Accounts Paid, Including Corporate and Fuel Cards for January 2026

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION (OCM2526/056)

Moved Cr Hobley / Seconded Cr Borgward

That Council endorse the payments from the Municipal Fund and Trust Fund for the period ending 31 January 2026.

Municipal Fund (Fee)	\$	10,860.91
Municipal Fund (EFT)	\$	182,557.74
Municipal Fund (Cheque)	\$	0.00
Municipal Fund (Direct Debits)	\$	23,070.15
Trust Fund	\$	0.00
TOTAL	\$	216,488.80

CARRIED 6/0

For: Cr Johnston, Cr Crosby, Cr Reid, Cr Hobley, Cr Gray, Cr Borgward

Against: Nil

Purpose

Council endorsement of payment to Creditors under CEO Delegated Authority 2.1.2.

Background

Details payments made to creditors since last Council Meeting.

Comment

The Schedule of Accounts Reports as presented, indicate that Council continues to be in a sound financial position.

Regulation 13 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* states that only the following information is to be reported to Council and form part of the public minutes:

- a) the payee's name;
- b) the amount of the payment;
- c) the date of the payment; and
- d) sufficient information that identifies the payment.

Statutory Implications

Local Government Act 1995 – Section 6.4

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 – Part 2 – Regulation 11, 12 and 13.

Policy Implications

Policy 3.1 Accounting Policies

Objective: To provide the basis for Council's accounting concepts and reporting guidelines.

To maintain accounting reporting procedures which comply with Statutory Requirements and to demonstrate Council's financial position.

Financial Implications

Ongoing management of Council funds.

Strategic Implications

Community Strategic Plan 2023 - 2033

Civic Leadership Strategic Priorities – Proactive and well governed Shire

Risk Implications

Nil.

10. ELECTED MEMBERS' MOTION OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil.

11. NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE AGREED TO BY A RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL**PROCEDURAL MOTION**

Moved Cr Crosby / Seconded Cr Gray

That Council accept the new business of an urgent nature “11.1 Great Southern VROC Executive Officer Position”.

CARRIED 6/0

For: Cr Johnston, Cr Crosby, Cr Reid, Cr Hobley, Cr Gray, Cr Borgward

Against: Nil

11.1 Great Southern VROC Executive Officer Position

Author: Christie Smith, Chief Executive Officer
Location: N/A
File No: GOV.454
Voting Requirements: Simple Majority - More than half of Elected Members present required to vote in favour
Attachments: Nil

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COUNCIL DECISION (OCM2526/057)

Moved Cr Crosby / Seconded Cr Hobley

That Council:

- 1. Endorse in principle the continuation of the Great Southern VROC Executive Officer position beyond May 2026;**
- 2. Approve a funding allowance range for the 2026/2027 financial year of a minimum of \$3,308.87, and maximum of \$6,676.82, to enable the CEO to negotiate a final funding model with the GSVROC member Councils; and**
- 3. Note that funding for any additional GSVROC project work will continue to be considered by Council on a project-by-project basis.**

CARRIED 6/0

For: Cr Johnston, Cr Crosby, Cr Reid, Cr Hobley, Cr Gray, Cr Borgward

Against: Nil

Purpose

To seek Council's position on the future for the Great Southern Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (GSVROC) Executive Officer role beyond the current drought resilience funding period, and to consider endorsement of a funding range for the 2026/27 financial year to enable the CEO to participate in discussions for an agreed funding model for the position with the GSVROC member councils.

Background

The Executive Officer position is currently funded through drought resilience funding and supports delivery of the Inland Great Southern Drought Resilience Plan, in addition to broader GSVROC priorities and strategic objectives, including administration, meeting coordination, project delivery, stakeholder engagement and financial management.

Funding for the Executive Officer role was originally due to conclude in October 2025. As the position did not commence until September 2025, an extension was sought and approved. The Great Southern Development Commission has confirmed that the funding expenditure period has now been extended to 30 May 2026.

A decision is now required regarding continuation of the Executive Officer role and future funding arrangements beyond this date to avoid disruption to GSVROC operations.

The GSVROC CEOs have agreed in principle to support continuation of the Executive Officer position, subject to confirmation of the funding approach and related arrangements by the Great Southern VROC.

Several funding models have been considered with the two most favourable funding models being:

- An equal share model across the eight member councils; and
- A GST-style model based on relative Council size/contribution.

If the equal share model is adopted, the Shire of Kent's contribution for 2026/27 would be \$6,676.82. Under the GST-style model, the contribution would be \$3,308.87.

Comment

The Executive Officer role has provided tangible benefits to the GSVROC through improved coordination, clearer project delivery, consistent administration, and strengthened stakeholder engagement with state agencies and funding bodies.

Given the collective nature of the VROC and the expectation that all member councils derive comparable benefit from the Executive Officer's work, an equal share model is considered fair and reasonable in principle.

However, recognising that final arrangements are still to be determined by the GSVROC, it is proposed that Council endorse a funding range for 2026/27 rather than a fixed amount. This will allow the CEO flexibility to participate in negotiations and support a collective outcome for the region.

It is therefore recommended that Council set:

- A maximum allowance of \$6,676.82 (equal share model), and
- A minimum allowance of \$3,308.87 (GST model),

for the Shire's contribution toward the ongoing Executive Officer position in 2026/27.

It is also noted that, consistent with previous VROC decisions, funding for any additional project work will continue to be considered and approved by Councils on a project-by-project basis.

Statutory Implications

Nil specific statutory implications. Participation in the GSVROC and associated funding arrangements are consistent with Council’s general powers under the *Local Government Act 1995* to collaborate with other local governments for regional benefit.

Policy Implications

This decision aligns with Council’s existing commitment to regional collaboration through the GSVROC Memorandum of Understanding (2025–2029).

Financial Implications

Provision will need to be made in the Shire’s 2026/27 budget for a contribution toward the GSVROC Executive Officer position of between \$3,308.87 and \$6,676.82, depending on the final agreed funding model.

Any additional GSVROC project contributions would be subject to separate Council consideration.

Strategic Implications

Support for the Executive Officer role aligns with the Shire’s strategic objectives relating to:

- Regional collaboration and advocacy
- Strengthened partnerships with neighbouring local governments
- Improved access to grants and regional funding opportunities

Maintaining the position supports continuity of regional initiatives that benefit the Shire and its community.

Risk Implications

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Mitigation
Loss of Executive Officer position	Medium	High	Endorse funding range to allow continuation
Disruption to GSVROC operations	Medium	Medium	Early decision on funding approach
Budget uncertainty	Low	Medium	Cap set through maximum allowance
Inequitable funding model	Medium	Medium	CEO to negotiate fair regional outcome

12. MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil.

13. MEETING CLOSED

The Presiding Member, Cr Kate Johnston, closed the meeting at 6:12pm.