



**Bass Coast Shire Council  
Minutes for Special Meeting  
Wednesday, 29 July 2020  
Virtual  
11.00am**

- 1. These minutes are due to be confirmed on 19 August 2020**
- 2. Any decision included in these minutes is subject to change resulting from a rescission motion passed by Council.**

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## Meeting commenced

The meeting commenced at 11.04pm

Cr Brett Tessari read the Livestreaming Statement.

## Livestreaming Statement

As the Meeting Chair, I give my consent for this Open Council Meeting to be streamed live, recorded and published online, in accordance with Council's Livestreaming Policy and Meeting Procedure Local Law 2018. To members of the public joining us in the gallery today, by attending this public Meeting of the Council you are consenting to your image, voice and comments being recorded and published. Anyone who is invited to read out a question or a presentation will be recorded and their voice, image and comments will form part of the livestream and recording.

The Chair and/or the CEO have the discretion and authority at any time to direct the termination or interruption of livestreaming.

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.

Attendees are advised that they may be subject to legal action if their actions result in inappropriate and/or unacceptable behaviour and/or comments. Thank you.

Cr Brett Tessari read the Virtual Meeting Statement.

## Virtual Meeting Statement

The COVID-19 Omnibus Bill 2020 provision allows Council meeting attendance by electronic means.

The requirement of the meeting being open to the public is satisfied by the meeting being streamed live to Councils internet.

In the event of technical issues with the livestream the meeting will be adjourned.

Councillors are deemed as being in attendance if:

- They can hear proceedings
- They can see other members in attendance and can be seen by other members
- They can be heard (to speak)

Cr Brett Tessari read the Mobile Telephone Reminder.

## Mobile Telephone Reminder

Please turn off all mobile telephones or in the case of an emergency, please advise the Chair and switch to silent mode.

Cr Geoff Ellis read the Statement of Acknowledgement.

## Statement of Acknowledgement

Bass Coast Shire Council acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first Australians and recognises that they have a unique relationship with the land and water.

Council further recognises that we are situated on the lands of the traditional owners, the Bunurong, Boon wurrung members of the Kulin Nation who have lived here for thousands of years.

We offer our respect to their elders past and present and through them, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Cr Le Serve read the Councillor Statement.

## Councillor Statement

All members of this Council pledge to the Bass Coast Shire community to consider every item listed on this evening's agenda:

- Based on the individual merits of each item;
- Without bias or prejudice by maintaining an open mind; and
- Disregarding Councillors' personal interests so as to avoid any conflict with our public duty.

Any Councillor having a conflict of interest in an item will make a proper, prior disclosure to the meeting and will not participate in the debate or vote on the issue.

Cr Brett Tessari read the Mayoral Statement.

## Mayoral Statement

The Special Council Meeting is being held to hear submissions on Council's Draft Budget 2020/21.

Council has received 31 written submissions and 7 submitters have requested to be heard in person today.

Councillors have received copies of all 31 submissions.

Our role today is to hear the submissions without debating or discussing the content.

Speakers you have been allocated with 5 minutes.

To ensure all speakers are afforded the same allocation of time we will be timekeeping with a bell ringing at the 4 and 5 minute marks.

A reminder to only speak to your written submission without introducing new or additional information.

Submitters present today if you could ensure your microphones remain on mute and your cameras off until you are introduced to speak please.

## **A Present and Apologies**

Councillors:

- Cr Brett Tessari, Bunurong Ward (Mayor)
- Cr Geoff Ellis, Western Port Ward (Deputy Mayor)
- Cr Julian Brown, Bunurong Ward
- Cr Les Larke, Bunurong Ward
- Cr Stephen Fullarton, Island Ward
- Cr Pamela Rothfield, Island Ward
- Cr Michael Whelan, Island Ward
- Cr Bruce Kent, Western Port Ward
- Cr Clare Le Serve, Western Port Ward

### Officers in Attendance:

- Ms Ali Wastie, Chief Executive Officer
- Ms Allison Jones, General Manager Business Transformation
- Ms Jodi Kennedy, General Manager Resilient Communities
- Mr David Filmalter, Chief Financial Officer
- Mr Christian Stefani, Executive Manager Partnerships, Advocacy & Economy
- Ms Robyn Borley, Manager Governance and Property
- Mr Angus Cameron, Manager Asset Management

Apologies: Nil

**B Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

# **Reports Requiring Council Decision**

**C Reports Requiring Council Decision****C.1 Hearing of submissions relating to the Draft Budget 2020/21**

**File No:** CM20/350  
**Division:** Finance  
**Council Plan Strategic Objective:** Governance

We are responsive, open, transparent  
and financially sustainable

**Declaration**

The author has no direct or indirect interests in relation to this report.

**Summary**

The proposed 2020/2021 Budget was approved by Council on 17 June 2020 to be released for public exhibition. The proposed budget provides for an average increase in general rates of 2% consistent with the State Government imposed rate cap for 2020/2021. The budget retains alignment with the Long Term Financial Plan and continues the refocusing of finances from the delivery of day to day services to investing in the future of the Shire through capital upgrades and renewal of its existing infrastructure base.

Council gave public notice of the proposed 2020/2021 Budget in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989. Advertisements were placed in the South Gippsland Sentinel Times and the Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser.

The proposed Budget 2020/21 was made available for inspection and members of the public have had the opportunity to make written submissions under Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*. The proposed 2020/21 Budget was open for submissions from 22 June 2020 until 5.00 pm Tuesday, 21 July 2020.

Council has received 31 written submissions – full copies of which have been distributed to Councillors.

Of those submissions received, 10 have requested to be heard in person.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Business/Association</b>
11.00am	Danny Luna	
11.05am	Jessica Harrison	Housing Matters Committee
11.10am	Phil Wright	
11.15am	Phil Dressing	Smiths Beachcomber Association
11.20am	Mark Jamieson and Janette Diss	Phillip Island Golf Club



11.25am	Frank Schooneveldt	Goat Island Gallery & Garden
11.30am	Ron Day	
11.35am	Kevin Griffin	Bass Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association
11.40am	Meryl and Hartley Tobin	
11.45am	Tim Herring	Tenby Point Residents Association

## Strategic Basis

### Council Plan Objective:

Governance – *We are responsive, open, transparent and financially sustainable*

### Statutory Requirements/Codes/Standards/Policies

Under Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* the Council is required to place on public exhibition and provide the opportunity for members of the public to make comment. The Proposed 2020-2021 Annual Budget was placed on public exhibition from 22 June 2020 until 5.00 pm 21 July 2020.

The provisions of sections 127, 158 and 161 of the *Local Government Act 1989* apply to the budget process. Clauses 8 and 9 of the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* also apply.

## Finances

The costs associated with the exhibition period and review of submissions have been factored into the operating budget of the Finance and Communications Departments. The main costs are internal resources associated with hosting the consultation and the cost of advertising within the local newspapers.

## Stakeholders

All residents, ratepayers, visitors, businesses and other government agencies have an interest in the proposed Budget.

The proposed Budget was available on Council's website at [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/abetterbasscoast](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/abetterbasscoast) and at any of the Customer Service Centres.

A live Facebook Q&A session was held on Tuesday, 7 July at [www.facebook.com/basscoastshire](http://www.facebook.com/basscoastshire) from 6pm to 7.30pm

- Forty five (45) individuals posting 88 comments/questions
- Total Reach – 11,691
- Total Impressions - 89
- Number of clicks – 1,133

### Other Options

The *Local Government Act 1989* requires Council to prepare an Annual Budget. Council could choose not to receive submissions to the proposed Budget but it would be in breach of the Act.

### Conclusion

Council has worked with the community to ensure their aspirations and feedback have been considered in the Proposed 2020/2021 Budget. These documents have been on public exhibition between 22 June and 21 July 2020.

As a result of the submission process we have received 31 submissions and this meeting will hear 10 people who wish to speak to their submissions.

Following this meeting the Council will consider any changes to the Proposed 2020/2021 Budget for presentation to the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 19 August 2020.

### Recommendation

#### That Council:

- 1. Receive and review the submissions for the proposed 2020/2021 Budget and hear any people who have requested to speak to their submission**
- 2. Consider any changes to the proposed 2020/2021 Budget having reviewed and heard community submissions.**

### Attachments

**AT-I** Draft Budget Submissions 210 Pages

### Council Decision

**Moved: Cr. Stephen Fullarton / Seconded: Cr. Geoff Ellis**

#### That Council:

- 1. Receive and review the submissions for the proposed 2020/2021 Budget and hear any people who have requested to speak to their submission**
- 2. Consider any changes to the proposed 2020/2021 Budget having reviewed and heard community submissions.**

**Council heard 7 submissions:**

<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Business/Association</b>
Danny Luna	
Jessica Harrison	Housing Matters Committee
Phil Wright	
Phil Dressing	Smiths Beachcomber Association
Ron Day	
Meryl Tobin	
Tim Herring	Tenby Point Residents Association

**CARRIED**

***Mayoral Announcement Of Next Meeting Of Council***

Council is monitoring and implementing the COVID-19 pandemic response and restrictions set out by the State and Federal Governments.

Council will be pausing Community Connection Sessions for the coming months.

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held virtually 19 August 2020 commencing at 1.00pm.

It will be open to the public via livestream.

**Meeting closed**

The meeting closed at 11.48am