



# Record of Public Forum

Held on Wednesday, 27 May 2026 - 12:00pm

Council Chambers, Bega

Anthony McMahon  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Public Forum  
Held on Wednesday 27 May 2026 at 12:00pm  
Council Chambers, Bega

Present:

Cr Russell Fitzpatrick , Mayor  
Cr Mitchell Nadin, Deputy Mayor  
Cr Tony Allen  
Cr Simon Daly  
Cr Peter Haggar  
Cr Clair Mudaliar  
Cr Peggy Noble  
Cr Helen O'Neil  
Cr David Porter

Copy:

Chief Executive Officer, Mr Anthony  
McMahon  
Director, Infrastructure, Mr Andrew Latta  
Director, Community, Environment and  
Planning, Mrs Emily Harrison  
Acting Director, Organisational Services, Mrs  
Rickey Marshall  
Executive Officer (Minute Secretary), Mrs  
Jackie Grant

### Public Forum Submissions Received

Deputations for the Public Forum of 27 May 2026 were received and circulated to Councillors.

### Statement of Commencement of Live Streaming

The Mayor made an announcement about live streaming requirements:  
Public Forums are recorded and live streamed to the Internet for public viewing.  
The recording will be archived and made available on Council's website [www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au](http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au).

### Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians of Bega Valley Shire

The Mayor commenced by acknowledging, on behalf of Bega Valley Shire Council, the traditional custodians of the lands, waterways and airspace on which we are gathering.

### Apologies

That the apologies of Director, Organisational Services, Mrs Iliada Bolton be noted.

## Public Forum Addresses

### Public Forum submissions received

FOR				
	Name	Rep	Method	Comment
3	Ms Tracy Fleming   Item 14.1 - Alternate Merimbula CBD project proposal	On behalf of Merimbula Tourism Inc  Authority letter received	Zoom link	Merimbula Tourism Inc will speak in support of the motion.  This motion presents a practical, financially responsible, and community-aligned alternative for the future of the Merimbula CBD. Rather than spending the majority of the available grant funding on temporary traffic trials and further planning documents, it prioritises visible, lasting improvements that enhance the town's appearance, accessibility, safety, and visitor experience now.  We note that tourism is a critical driver of the local economy. A visually attractive, accessible, and functional CBD supports local businesses, jobs, and visitor satisfaction, while prolonged traffic disruption and temporary infrastructure may damage the town's reputation and visitor experience.
4	Mr Mark Bates   Item 14.1 - Alternate Merimbula CBD project proposal	On behalf of Merimbula Chamber of Commerce  Authority letter received	Face to face	Provide extra detail to the alternate Merimbula CBD plans proposed to council. Speak about business feedback regarding the proposals.
AGAINST				
	Name	Rep	Method	Comment
1	Mr Jason Heffernan   Item 8.3 - Outcome of the exhibition of the comprehensive DCP review stage 1	On behalf of TA Projects Services	Face to Face	Speaking for option 3 on page 110. Re-exhibit the stage 1 drafts with recommended amendments
2	Mr John Rheinberger   Item 10.2 Lease to Merimbula Tennis Club	On behalf of Merimbula Tennis Club  Authority letter received	Face to Face	That the recommended Option 1 is unsuitable & impractical for this circumstance. The recommendation suggests a new valuation, and all costs to be paid by the Club. This will incur potential costs of approximately \$4000 to establish a lease with annual payment of \$1200/\$1300! The Club feels previous valuing reports really lack validity because of the lack of comparable examples to the land in question.  We also feel it is a strange process where Council engage a private valuer on their terms, but the cost passes to the Club.  The Club also feel that revisiting the rebate application is an onerous task on the club volunteers, when the Clubs operation has

				not changed, and we haven't been advised of any changes in Councils criteria. Option 2 seems a much fairer, more efficient and practical way to renew the lease, which would stand up to any examination.
5	Ms Rachel Whittaker   Item 14.1 - Alternate Merimbula CBD project proposal	On behalf of Merimbula Chamber of Commerce  Authority letter received	Face to Face	I oppose the changes to parking based on this project. the chamber believes point 1b should make clear that staff should ONLY proceed with the roundabouts as per the community consultation and the chamber meeting and that fact that staff have advised they will be recommending the traffic trail proceed in its entirety. Why wait councillors? Make the decision today

The Public Forum session closed at 12:42pm.

The recording of the Public Forum is available on Council's website:

<http://webcast.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/archive.php>

**Excerpt from the Procedure 6.02.2 Code of Meeting Practice regarding the number of speakers:**

4. Public Forums

- 4.8 No more than three (3) speakers are to speak "for" and "against" each item of business on the agenda for the Council meeting.
- 4.9 If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to speak "for" or "against" any item of business the CEO or their delegate may request the speakers to nominate from amongst themselves the persons who are to address the Council on the item of business. If the speakers are not able to agree on whom to nominate to address the Council, the CEO or their delegate is to determine who will address the Council at the public forum.
- 4.10 If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to speak "for" or "against" any item of business, the CEO or their delegate may, in consultation with the Mayor or the Mayor's nominated Chairperson, increase the number of speakers permitted to speak on an item of business, where they are satisfied that it is necessary to do so to allow the Council to hear a full range of view on the relevant item of business.

## Attachments

Nil