



## Council Reshapes Community Budgeting Project

At its meeting yesterday, South Gippsland Shire Council voted to re-shape and re-name the Community Budgeting project to the Community Capital Works Allocation project.

The Community Capital Works Allocation project will provide an opportunity for these communities to be actively involved in Council's decision making in an appropriate and cost-effective way for necessary capital works to be completed.

Council will utilise existing community plans and the long term capital works program, online engagement tools and town meetings to determine the communities' priority projects.

These priority projects will then be considered for inclusion in the 2017/18 Capital Works program.

This recommendation was formed with feedback received from the Community Budgeting nominees when the project was deferred due to an inadequate number of nominees to form representative panels.

South Gippsland Shire Mayor, Councillor Bob Newton said the Community Capital Works Allocation project will provide a different way for Council to engage the community while still providing \$400,000 in capital works to Korumburra, Mirboo North, Foster and Venus Bay.

"While Council was congratulated on being innovative with the original Community Budgeting project, it was noted in hindsight that it is not the most appropriate engagement method for allocating \$400,000 to each of the four towns.

"Council remains committed to providing these communities with the opportunity to be involved in the decision making process for this allocation of capital works.

"We believe engaging the community through online platforms and town meetings will ensure a diverse range of views are received to create a successful project," said the Mayor.

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