



South Gippsland and Baw Baw Shire Councils cement risk relationship

This afternoon South Gippsland Shire Council and Baw Baw Shire Council jointly signed a Risk Management Business Plan. This document sets the future direction for the shared-service arrangement that the two organisations entered into last November.

The Business Plan stipulates the development of a common Risk Management Framework, Policy and Risk Registers for both Councils. It also provides for the opportunity to benchmark with industry sources and other local councils to determine those risks which are common to local government. A comprehensive training program will be rolled out across both organisations.

Baw Baw Shire Council Chief Executive Officer, Helen Anstis, said the shared service made good business sense. “A key justification for shared services in risk management is the need for both Councils to identify operational efficiencies, without compromising local autonomy and control. Since commencing this shared arrangement, it has assisted both Councils to identify other opportunities for collaborative ventures.”

South Gippsland Shire Council Chief Executive Officer, Tim Tamlin, is excited about the arrangement. “While many local government organisations are talking about shared-services arrangements, South Gippsland and Baw Baw are simply getting on with business,” said Mr Tamlin. “It is anticipated that sharing this service will save the two organisations somewhere between \$70,000 and \$100,000 per financial year.”

Other joint projects include:

- a) South Gippsland to support the development, testing and training associated with Baw Baw’s Business Continuity Plan. The Shared Services Project Steering Group will also work across both organisations to explore the ways in which the two Councils may be able to provide assistance to one and other to ensure that each organisation is able to continue operating in the case of serious incidents or disasters;
- b) An opportunity to jointly tender for internal audit services with a view of further realising the benefits of a shared risk resource.
- c) Working collaboratively to implement the new Child Safe Standards that have come about as result of the 2013 Betrayal of Trust Inquiry.

PR1874 28/6/16