

Foster Recycled Water Project

At its meeting last week Council adopted a suite of Community Capital Works Allocation projects for the towns of Foster, Korumburra, Mirboo North and Venus Bay. The Foster project – as recommended through the community budgeting process – is to use recycled water to irrigate the showgrounds.

At this stage the project is limited to the showgrounds as the original Council resolution that the project was based on noted that the expenditure of capital funds could only be associated with Council owned or controlled infrastructure and assets.

South Gippsland Mayor, Cr Ray Argento, said that while Council made a decision in keeping with the constraints of the original Council resolution he was hopeful that the project could ultimately provide recycled water to other facilities in Foster.

“At the moment Council has approved \$400,000 to undertake the connection of recycled water to the showgrounds. We will now work with South Gippsland Water to further develop this project and confirm costs. Ideally we would like to provide as much community benefit as possible for the \$400,000 – so we are keen to consider the possibility of connecting other community facilities as part of the project.

“During the online phase of the community budgeting it was suggested that the water could service not only the showgrounds, but also the golf club and Prom Country Aged Care for its gardens. Once this infrastructure is in place it could end up providing an alternative to potable water for any number of organisations, as long as it doesn’t lead to an increase the water bills for South Gippsland Water’s other customers.

“The most important thing to remember at this stage is that we don’t know how far the \$400,000 will stretch. Our first concern is to get recycled water to irrigate the showgrounds, which is a Council asset,” concluded the Mayor.

Council will work with South Gippsland Water over the coming months to scope the project and to determine a timeline for the construction phase.

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