

Annual Report 2014-15 finalised

Adopted at the Council meeting on Wednesday, the Annual Report 2014-15 is a key document in Council's commitment to transparent reporting and accountability to the community.

The report is the primary means of advising the South Gippsland community about Council's operations and performance during the financial year and is available for the public to view at Council's libraries, at the main office in Smith Street, Leongatha and via Council's website.

Chief Executive Officer, Tim Tamlin, acknowledged Council, the local community and staff who contributed to delivering a wide range of achievements in line with the Council Plan 2013-2017 and Annual Budget 2014-15.

"Council's financial position continues to remain sound," Mr Tamlin explained. "Council completed 36 of the 39 annual indicators and activities with the remaining three progressed by the end of the financial year."

Key highlights of the year:

- Securing \$1.6 million from the National Stronger Region's Fund for the Karmai Children's Centre. This project is now fully funded.
- Receiving the National Australian Local Government Association Award for Excellence in Road Safety for the development of Gippsland Safe Freight.
- Involving over 800 interested community members in a review of the budget for the development of the 2015-16 Budget.
- Remediation works on the trestle bridges at the Black Spur section of the rail trail.
- Design of the Leongatha Heavy Vehicle Alternate Route.
- An increased budget allocation of \$500,000 was invested into the road re-sheet program allowing additional projects to be completed beyond the original planned program.

Council is responsible for more than 100 services; from family and children's services, traffic regulation, open space, youth facilities, waste management and community buildings; to matters concerning business development, planning for appropriate development and ensuring accountability for Council's budget.

"This broad range of community services and infrastructure for residents supports the wellbeing and prosperity of our community," Mr Tamlin said.

Fast facts:

- \$289,980 was provided to fund 66 Community Grant applications.
- \$35,895 was provided in Discretionary Grants.
- 119 kilometres of footpaths maintained.
- 2,087 kilometres of roads maintained.
- 23,956 hours of ageing and disability care support provided.
- 4,159 tonnes of waste collected.
- 2,013 tonnes of recyclables collected.
- 159 bridges maintained.
- 578 planning applications received.
- 19,341 rateable properties.
- 158,378 visits to aquatic facilities.
- 1,004 children attended the Maternal and Child Health service at least once in the year.
- 225,260 library collection item loans.

“Council’s Annual Report 2014-15 keeps residents informed on the operations of their local government and we hope helps build confidence in South Gippsland Shire Council for the long-term,” Mr Tamlin concluded.

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