

Participating in Council Meetings

South Gippsland Shire Council is improving interactions with the community at Council meetings after adopting a new policy yesterday.

The Public Participation in Meetings with Council Policy aims to provide a welcoming, respectful and safe environment for members of the public to interact with Council.

The policy provides clearer guidance to Council and community members on the requirements for participants attending meetings with Council.

As part of the policy community members will be required to submit an 'Expression of Interest to Present to Council' by close of business on the Friday preceding a Public Presentation Session.

Questions for Council are to be submitted by close of business on the Friday preceding the Ordinary Council Meeting Day. A limit of three questions, including part questions, per person will encourage community members to clearly articulate their questions for Council.

South Gippsland Shire Mayor Councillor Ray Argento said the new policy provided the requirements needed to ensure everyone attending meetings can feel safe and respected.

"Councillors, Council staff and the community have requested that we better manage expectations, behaviours and overall control of meetings.

"The Public Participation in Meetings with Council Policy ensures diverse views can be shared and considered as it provides a framework for public participation to be conducted in an orderly and structured manner.

"We encourage our community to have an open dialogue with us so we can make informed decisions, these new requirements ensure everyone has the opportunity to interact in a fair and safe way," said the Mayor.

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