

## Votes Are In For Leongatha Railway Site

Ideas are in and there is a lot of consensus about what people would like to see happen at the Leongatha Railway Site.

South Gippsland Shire Council has received hundreds of ideas from community members, with most fitting into the following key themes:

- Reinstatement of Bair St access
- Continue the rail trail
- Provide outdoor entertainment spaces
- Provide better facilities
- Make use of the station building
- Establish parkland
- Provide more parking

Council is undertaking this project because it has the opportunity to take over the lease of the railway land and to improve the Leongatha railway site and its surrounds.

During consultation, many people wanted to know why the rail is not being returned to the area. While Council supports the return of rail, the State Government is responsible for public transport in Victoria and has made no commitment.

This project considers what can be achieved in the meantime to improve the railway site area, while preserving the site for any future rail services.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Senior Strategic Planning Officer Chantal Lenthall was not surprised that reinstating the Bair Street access was a popular idea.

"It has been really clear that the community miss the bridge that previously provided a link from the laneway off Bair Street next to the toy shop across the railway site to the station area," said Ms Lenthall.

Council will consider all the ideas that have been received and formulate them into draft options for the site. This may involve further investigation and design work to determine their feasibility.

It is expected that the draft options will be presented to Council in August 2017 and will be available from this time for public comment.

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