

Changes Needed to Protect Mossvale Park

South Gippsland Shire Council will be implementing new event management controls to protect and safeguard the beauty of Mossvale Park following its meeting yesterday.

Mossvale Park is a picturesque picnic spot that is unique to the area, making it a popular location for visitors.

Due to increased commercial use of the park and the impact increased patronage has on the park grounds and heritage listed trees Council has needed to consider event management controls to mitigate extensive damage.

The controls will include the introduction of fees for some uses at the park. This includes fees for parking area behind the sound shell, fitting the sides of the sound shell and access to power. However the vast majority of users of the park for social and informal gatherings will continue to be able to enjoy this facility at no cost.

A maximum of six major commercial event bookings between 1 December and 30 April can be made annually as part of the changes.

A noticeboard will be placed in the kiosk to notify casual park users of major event bookings and planned maintenance.

Groups that had a booking prior to Council's meeting will be exempt from the new fees.

South Gippsland Shire Mayor Councillor Ray Argento was mindful of park user needs while ensuring the protection of Mossvale Park.

"In recent years there has been an increase in use of Mossvale Park for major commercial events. While we welcome the tourism boost this provides it is vital the park continues to remain a cherished asset for generations to come and remains available for informal social and outdoor gatherings and visits.

"Ensuring fees and the number of large events held at the park are reasonable creates a sustainable future for the park. Any funds generated will be used for improvements that are required due to the increased use of the park," said the Mayor.

A long term Mossvale Park Management and Infrastructure Development Plan will be developed in partnership with the Mossvale Park Advisory Committee incorporating these changes.

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