

# Mayor's Message



It was great to have the opportunity to hear a diverse range of submissions at our public presentation sessions last week.

For those that don't know, there are a number of opportunities every month for anyone to address Council. Given the limited time available and the number of issues that Councillors have to deal with at any given moment, priority is given to those people and organisations who want to speak to us about issues of strategic importance or wider community interest.

This week we were lucky enough to hear from VicRoads on two separate issues. The first was an update of the status of the Black Spur realignment project, which was one of Council's priority projects a couple of years ago. Through our advocacy to the State and Federal Governments this vital improvement to public safety and transport infrastructure is going to kick off before the end of this year. The second VicRoads briefing related to the study being undertaken into potential road improvements between Anderson and Leongatha on the Bass Highway. With the increased passenger and industrial traffic on this road it is a timely investigation.

We also heard from Drew Liepa, Dylan Muir from the South Gippsland Bass Swimming Club and Tim Frampton from Swimming Victoria. These gentlemen spoke to us about the lane hire fees at Splash and their request for the fees to be revised as part of the coming budget. It is great to hear firsthand from these active community groups about what they're doing and what Council can do to support them.

In the evening session we heard from Rachel Brown from the Toora Tourist Park about camping at the Franklin River Reserve and Tom Holman and Robert Pritchard from the Foster Community Association about a couple of events that are coming up for the Foster community.

This gives a bit of a snapshot into the breadth of people we hear from and the topics they speak to us about. It's also worth noting that if you can't make it to a public presentation session or aren't inclined to public speaking then you can always put questions to Council via mail, email or the website.

**Cr Lorraine Brunt**  
**Mayor**