

# Mayor's Message



Many of you will want to know more about the court proceedings in relation to the nuisance complaints for the Bald Hills Wind Farm. Our Chief Executive Officer, Tim Tamlin appeared in the Supreme Court last Tuesday.

He was called upon to present evidence that Council has been actively working towards an independent investigation into the proposed nuisance complaints. Council endorsed an independent investigation plan as part of the February Council Meeting and since then the investigation has been underway.

James C. Smith and Associates, highly experienced public health consultants, were appointed to conduct the investigation to ensure that there was no doubt about the independence of the process. The direction from Council also ensured that if James C. Smith and Associates decide that noise monitoring is required that a suitably qualified acoustician will be utilised.

Mr Tamlin was in the stand for approximately three hours, during which time he was examined and cross examined. We are still waiting for an outcome of the proceedings as I write this, but it is important for our ratepayers to be aware of all the information we have available to us.

Council does not choose to take legal action against others in these sorts of circumstances. However, when other parties take action against Council that we believe to be unjustified, we have a duty to good governance in order to protect our ratepayers and the organisation.

These actions are never taken lightly. Making the decision to defend ourselves in court always comes at a point where the risk to South Gippsland residents and ratepayers is greater than the risk of not. It is for this exact reason that we act in good faith and are doing our best to ensure that the process runs as smoothly as possible.

My hope is that you can have trust in us as your elected representatives, trust that we are doing everything in our power to ensure this issue is resolved. This isn't the ideal for anyone involved and we certainly recognise the importance of having the comprehensive investigation finalised.

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