

# Mayor's Message



Council determined its priority projects earlier this year so we had specific projects to target that would provide great benefits for the community. The priority projects were identified to enhance the facilities across the region and boost our tourism and business sectors.

For those not familiar, our priority projects include the Leongatha Revitalisation Project, Great Southern Rail Trail Projects, Korumburra Revitalisation Project, Mirboo North Pool Refurbishment and the East/West South Gippsland Public Transport Study.

Many of these projects have been rallied behind by the community for a number of years. Council understands their importance and their necessity for future prosperity in the region. We have no doubt they will create liveable spaces for both our residents and visitors.

The Leongatha Railway Site Transformation is included as part of the overall Leongatha Revitalisation Project, making it a key section of this work. I have heard there has been some community concern about its progress and the next steps after a significant amount of consultation.

Planning for the future is always a tricky process and the Leongatha Railway Site Transformation Masterplan is no exception. Now that we have an idea of what we would like to see for the future we must address other concerns so we can start paving the way for this project.

Key requirements for the project include our relationship with VicTrack – both securing a lease of the railway land from them and determining what shall be done with their assets on this land such as the rail sleepers. This is something we have been working on and are trying to have an agreement established.

We also have low levels of contamination on site that needs to be addressed. While we expect that it shouldn't impact what we had in mind for the site we must be fully across any impacts that could arise and how we can reduce any risks.

Finally all this needs to be supported with external funding from other levels of government. We are advocating to the Federal and State Governments on such projects and remain hopeful that the release of the Victorian Budget might give us some leads.

The community should be assured that we are not simply sitting on our hands; we are working in the background to ensure these projects are feasible. For those wanting to learn more about our advocacy efforts and the priority projects please visit [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/advocacy](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/advocacy)

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