

Living in South Gippsland it is a common occurrence for our community members to utilise the road network. Some of us use these roads for our daily commute, to pop down the street or to visit others meaning they are an integral part of our lives.

Council recognises the importance of a strong road network not only for our daily drives but our economy. Having strong road connections is vital for our agricultural, manufacturing and tourism sectors to flourish as they support our visitors and exports.

This is one of the main reasons Council identified nine significant road projects earlier in its term. We understand that our roads can carry a large amount of vehicles, might be dangerous in some areas for motorists or are in need of an upgrade.

To deal with these concerns Council advocates to both the Federal and Victorian Government for financial assistance to upgrade these road projects. In the last five years there have been 473 casualty crashes in our region with 154 serious injuries and 19 fatalities. It is vital that we reduce these numbers and also address the safety risks on our roads.

As part of this commitment Council is currently working on a new Road Safety Strategy. In developing the strategy we have released a survey that is seeking feedback from our regular road users.

As community members and road users the best knowledge we have of the network is through all of you. We hope that everyone can have their say so that we are fully across the problem areas and troublesome issues that affect our users.

The survey will provide us with valuable information about why crashes occur and what opportunities we have to make improvements. The survey covers both VicRoads and local roads so we have the opportunity to create a strategy that works across the board for the community.

For more information or to complete the survey before 31 May 2018 please visit <u>www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/roadsafetysurvey</u>

Cr Lorraine Brunt Mayor