

Mayor's Message



It has been brought to my attention that there may be some confusion in the community surrounding Council's current priorities. In order to clarify our position I thought this Mayor's Message might be a good place to start.

Council has three priority projects for 2018/19 including the Leongatha Revitalisation Project - Leongatha Business Precinct Development (Bair Street and Railway Site Stage One), the Great Southern Rail Trail – Welshpool to Alberton Link and the Mirboo North Pool Refurbishment. Each one of these projects has been identified as a priority due to the positive impact they will have on the community.

We have also identified three other priority projects for development: the Korumburra Revitalisation Project, the Great Southern Rail Trail extension from Leongatha to Korumburra and west of Korumburra, and the Leongatha Community Hub Development. While these projects will need some further investigation we have no doubt that they too will be of great benefit to our region.

The majority of these projects rely on access to the railway corridor in order to progress. While Council made the commitment in 2008 that it will continue to lobby for the eventual return of rail services linking Leongatha to Melbourne, the Victorian Government has indicated that this is unlikely to occur in the next twenty years.

Therefore these projects are being pursued but will be developed in such a fashion that they could co-exist with any return of rail services. This way we can make adequate use of these spaces in the short term while ensuring that anything developed would still remain if trains were to return in the long term. It is evident that these spaces could be turned into something meaningful for our community and we would hate to miss out on those opportunities.

Therefore Council, like our community, will continue to be supportive of the return of rail but will still take action where needed to create a prosperous region. After all, we want to ensure our effort is put towards making South Gippsland the best place it can be.

Anyone who is curious about our priority projects is encouraged to visit Council's website for further information www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/advocacy

Cr Lorraine Brunt
Mayor