Mayor's Message

My fellow Councillors and I have just finalised a busy week with the August Council Meeting last Wednesday. While a number of topics were considered we certainly had a key theme for the day with a number of projects relating to our advocacy efforts.

In particular we debated grant applications for the Great Southern Rail Trail Extension from Welshpool to Alberton, South Gippsland Speciality Food Logistics Project, Foster Indoor Stadium Redevelopment while noting the South Gippsland Advocacy Framework and Baromi Park Masterplan. All of these projects tie closely to the needs of our community and those needing grant funding would have a positive impact if funded.

An exciting application to see in particular is for the Great Southern Rail Trail Extension from Welshpool to Alberton. Council voted to support the application by Wellington Shire Council for $1 million to the Latrobe Valley Community Facility Fund in order to complete the extension. This project was identified as a priority project for advocacy in 2018/19 and it is fantastic that progress is being made.

Both Councils are working collaboratively to ensure such a great asset could be extended for our regions. The project will enhance tourism opportunities which further support the economic and community benefits of the Great Southern Rail Trail. It is this very reason we will also be seeking funding for the remaining $500,000 required from Regional Development Victoria and will continue to advocate for this need.

Advocating for our region is a key role of Council and is certainly not one we take on lightly. We understand the importance of seeking grant funding and support where required to ensure vital projects can be completed for the benefit of South Gippsland.

We all want to see our area thrive and this is why we put in a significant amount of advocacy work. Those wishing to know more about our advocacy efforts – particularly in regards to our priority projects can visit www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/advocacy

Cr Lorraine Brunt
Mayor