

## Providing Clarity for the Budget

South Gippsland Shire Council wants to provide clarity to its residents in relation to the end of year financials for 2017/18.

In particular Council has an operating surplus of \$7.5 million for 2017/18 with approximately \$4 million of this amount coming from prepaid grants relating to 2018/19. The remaining \$3.5 million surplus is required for capital expenditure over the long term.

Similarly \$29.7 million is held in cash and other investments which includes the \$4 million in prepaid grants and will largely be used to fund a planned \$23.79 million in capital works projects. It is these funds that ensure projects such as the Mirboo North Pool Refurbishment, Bena Kongwak Bridge Replacement and Korumburra Community Hub Design can go ahead.

Each year the Annual Budget is reviewed by independent auditors to ensure financial stability. Community members were also invited to provide feedback during the development of the 2017/18 and 2018/19 Annual Budgets and are encouraged to take part in future budget deliberations.

South Gippsland Shire Mayor Councillor Lorraine Brunt wanted to ensure the community had a general understanding of the financials in which Council was operating with.

“Council understands there have been some misconceptions and concerns surrounding the 2017/18 Annual Budget particularly regarding amounts of surplus.

“I wish to assure our community that Council is operating in its best interests whilst ensuring the organisation can function effectively to provide essential assets and services.

“By no means would Council hold on to an unnecessary surplus – all of these finances are dealt with professionally and are accounted for in future projects and loan payments,” said the Mayor.

Those wishing to view the 2018/19 Annual Budget including the summary can visit Council's website [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/budgets](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/budgets)

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