

## Council Changes Rules for Farm Sheds

Council yesterday voted to make it easier for farmers to get sheds built on their properties.

Many compliance issues have been discovered regarding existing farming sheds across the Shire that do not have the relevant permits. There are a number of factors which have influenced this low level of compliance, but most notable is the cost associated with getting the relevant permits. The current cost for building permits for farming sheds is approximately \$2,000 for private building surveyors to inspect and approve these relatively low-risk structures.

By offering appropriate exemptions, the cost and burden can be reduced on the farming community while also increasing levels of self-compliance. This will also have the longer term benefit of reducing the level of enforcement activities required on these buildings and providing a simpler pathway to resolving non-compliances.

South Gippsland Shire Mayor, Cr Don Hill is pleased with the change.

“This policy will be a welcome introduction for the rural areas of the Shire.

“Farmers have long held frustrations that the ‘red tape’ requirements for farm sheds has been onerous and often more costly to obtain permits for than the cost of the actual sheds.

“In future, farmers wishing to construct a farm shed will be able to have a cheaper solution with only a few requirements making the process much simpler and cheaper for the majority of shed builders,” said the Mayor.

For more information about building permits and planning requirements visit Council’s website: [http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/homepage/38/planning\\_and\\_amp\\_building](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/homepage/38/planning_and_amp_building)

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