

Statement from the CEO re: the Suspension of Council

The following is from South Gippsland Shire Council Chief Executive Officer, Tim Tamlin:

“I would like to reassure the people of South Gippsland that while the Local Government Minister has asked the Councillors to respond to the recommendation that they be suspended, the organisation will continue to provide services to the community. In short, Council staff will simply keep getting on with business.

“It has been a difficult time for many of my staff, with people assuming that the widely reported ructions within Council were a reflection on them and their professionalism.

“I condemn – in the strongest possible terms – people abusing my colleagues. In just one of a number of cases that have come to my attention, one of our trainees – a teenager just a few months into her placement – was verbally abused by a coward on the other end of the phone.

“Council staff have done nothing to incur the ire of the community they serve. In fact, I would like to congratulate them for their diligence and commitment in spite of the persistent negative stories about the Council.

“I am thankful for the oversight of the Municipal Monitor, Peter Stephenson, and the Local Government Minister, Adem Somyurek.

“I am hopeful that this process will conclude in such a way that the community of South Gippsland can look forward to a more cooperative and productive future,” said Mr Tamlin.

PR2377 03/04/19