



## Statement from the Mayor re: Dismissal of Council

Councillors of the South Gippsland Shire are extremely disappointed in the decision of the Minister for Local Government to dismiss this Council. We are deeply concerned with the loss of local democracy and that our ability to represent our community has been terminated. The decision to appoint Administrators until 2021 weakens democracy and democratic representation.

We strongly contest the assertions of the Commission of Inquiry that there has been a failure of governance and leadership. Council has, and continues to, deliver the 4-year Council Plan and remains in a strong financial position; these critical documents developed by Councillors inform the current and future strategic direction for South Gippsland.

We encourage all community members to read the Councillors' response to the Municipal Monitor's Report which was presented to the Minister for Local Government; this will enable members of the community to form their own informed view.

Individually, we look forward to working within the community as citizens and encourage the community to continue to engage with Council to achieve community aims. We hope that part of our legacy has been to set in place a more responsive and collaborative Council that aims to work in partnership with the community it serves.

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