

## Key Strategic Documents Adopted

South Gippsland Shire Council has adopted the Rating Strategy 2019-2022, Annual Budget 2019/20 and Revised Council Plan 2017-2021 at its meeting yesterday. All three documents underpin the future direction of Council and are the foundation for all projects and services provided.

The Rating Strategy aims to provide an equitable distribution of rates and charges – balancing affordability for the community with the ability to provide essential assets and services.

The Annual Budget identifies costs associated with providing these essential assets and services and embodies aspirations for the year ahead.

Administrator Rick Brown spoke the challenge that regional municipalities face in terms of raising enough income to provide services and assets to their communities.

“The greatest challenge that regional councils is finding ways to grow revenue. I firmly believe that we need to be working towards attracting more people who want to live and work in South Gippsland. And the most effective way to do that is through providing excellent facilities and services,” said Mr Brown.

The Revised Council Plan provides future direction for four years and is reviewed annually to track progress and make amendments where necessary.

Administrator Julie Eisenbise was pleased to adopt the three documents and had a positive outlook for South Gippsland’s future.

“I’m proud to have the Rating Strategy, Budget and Revised Council Plan adopted for the year ahead. We have a lot of work to do in supporting our community and this is the first step. With a Capital Works Program worth \$32.45 million, over double that of last year’s budget, we certainly have an exciting year ahead for development. I’m confident that the community will see a positive change for South Gippsland,” said Ms Eisenbise.

The Budget includes the following key figures for the 2019/20 financial year: Income of \$67,531 million and expenses of \$62.354m; borrowings of \$3.6 million, with an overall debt of \$3.293 million at 30 June 2020. Those wishing to view the adopted Rating Strategy 2019-2022, Annual Budget 2019/20 and Revised Council Plan 2017-2021 can visit Council’s website [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meetings](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meetings)

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