

Ambitious Capital Works Program Budgeted for in 2019/20

Yesterday Council adopted its Budget for the 2019/20 financial year. It details South Gippsland Shire Council's Capital Works expenditure for the next twelve months.

Administrator Julie Eisenbise was pleased that Council had endorsed such an ambitious program of infrastructure investment and maintenance.

"We are living in an era where people are looking for more and more from their governments. This is not unique to local governments. The difficulty for us in South Gippsland is that we are trying to balance the capacity of the community to meet its own expectations in terms of the facilities that they want to use and enjoy.

"I think we have found a happy medium – keeping to the rate cap while also adopting a substantial capital program that will provide for infrastructure now and into the future," said Ms Eisenbise.

Some of the highlights of the Capital Works program include:

- \$5.6 million for resealing roads and other road improvements;
- Almost \$1 million extra for road maintenance, including \$400,000 for gravel re-sheeting;
- Almost \$1 million for footpath extensions;
- \$250,000 for a new toilet block and improved car parking at the Long Jetty (subject to grant funding);
- \$1.9 million to extend and enhance the Great Southern Rail Trail (subject to grant funding) plus an additional \$57,000 for ongoing maintenance;
- \$5.5 million to redevelop the Mirboo North pool (\$1 million from the community, \$3.6 million loan, \$320,000 upfront Council contribution and a \$600,000 Federal Government grant);
- \$1.1 million for pool works at Leongatha, Toora, and Foster;
- \$2.7 million for the Leongatha Business Precinct Project (to match the contributions from the Federal and State Governments);
- Council's contribution of \$2.6 million for the Korumburra Community Hub project with an anticipated income of \$1.1 million (subject to grant funding). The overall cost of the project is estimated at \$5.2 million, which will be spread across two financial years.
- \$1.7 million to renew and upgrade buildings across the shire.

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