

Message from the Administrator



As Administrators, we continue to receive a warm welcome from locals wherever we go and are grateful for the encouragement people give to us. We want to let people know that we hear the message loud and clear from the community that they want us to get on with making decisions and acting in the public interest and we intend to keep doing exactly that.

This week has been a perfect opportunity to demonstrate our commitment since it was necessary to make decisions on a couple of key projects such as the Korumburra Community Hub and Equestrian and Exhibition Centre.

As for the Korumburra Community Hub we've settled on the former Korumburra Kindergarten site at 4 Victoria Street as the best location for the facility. Council currently has \$5.2 million allocated for the community hub which is estimated at a total project cost of \$6.5 million. We will be seeking the balance from other levels of government and will be working tirelessly on our advocacy efforts. We recognise that this project has been around for a long time with little progress and we hope to get moving quickly on delivering this now that a decision has been made.

The Equestrian and Exhibition Centre has a significant past with Council where contributions of \$27,000 was made in 2018/19 which was in addition to \$30,000 in 2015 and \$30,000 in 2011. Unfortunately it hasn't stacked up in the feasibility study with a likely cost of up to \$100,000 per annum to Council were it to proceed. While we applaud the enthusiasm of those advancing the project, our view is that it isn't in anyone's interest to expend further Council funds on a project that would be a financial liability. Particularly given the many other pressing local priorities that are also seeking our support.

We also agreed to participate in the Gippswide Kerbside Collaborative tender for waste management services. There is potential for significant benefits to councils in the region who collaborate in this way, where waste management services are delivered the same way across all of Gippsland. The Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Group provided great background to the project and we plan to engage closely with other local councils as part of this process. Any progress will certainly be advised to the community in due course so that local people are kept informed. My thanks again to the local community for their encouragement and support which is much appreciated by myself, Rick and Julie.

Christian Zahra AM - Administrator