

Priority Projects Confirmed

South Gippsland Shire Council has confirmed five priority projects for 2019/20.

Every year the Council adopts a list of priority projects each year for which funding and support from state or federal governments is then sought. This year's list includes three projects which are ready to go ahead and two other projects that are anticipated to be ready to proceed within 12 months.

The 2019/20 priority projects are:

- Great Southern Rail Trail Extension – Leongatha to Korumburra
- Great Southern Rail Trail Extension – Korumburra to Nyora
- Korumburra Community Hub
- Korumburra Streetscape (for development)
- Leongatha Community Hub (for development)

Administrator Rick Brown is pleased that this year's priority projects are now confirmed.

“Only two thirds of the Shire's underlying income comes from rates. Consequently very few major projects in South Gippsland Shire happen without the support of state or federal governments.

Every year Council lobbies governments to get that support and it is important that the lobbying be targeted. This is done by nominating specific projects as the Shire's top priorities.

“South Gippsland Shire Council has a strong track record lobbying for its priority projects and we believe that the projects that we are nominating this year can deliver strong strategic outcomes for the Shire.

“This year's projects are focused on our two major centres. We believe it is essential that these towns thrive for the shire as a whole to grow,” said Mr. Brown.

“Supporting the Korumburra Hub is a step towards giving our major towns a boost. We expect that extending the Great Southern Rail Trail from Leongatha to Nyora will be an economic benefit to the Shire. Since the opening of the Rail trail from Leongatha to Welshpool visitor spend has increased by \$2.6M (up 6%).

“The are those who pin their hopes for the future of the shire on the return of passenger rail services to Korumburra and Leongatha. Whether or not this hope is realistic is a matter of opinion.

Regardless of people’s views on this hope, what is clear is that it is not going to happen any time soon and the Shire cannot sit on its hands in the meantime. Turning the Trail into something which is both a social and economic benefit to the residents of the Shire will create an asset for the community,” Mr. Brown.

PR2454 26/9/19