

Agnes Falls Cantilevered Lookout Project

At this week's Council Meeting it was determined not to proceed to construction of the Agnes Falls Cantilevered Lookout due to the asset being located on Parks Victoria land.

Council needs to prioritise its capital investments and the list of projects desired by the community will always exceed the finite resources at its disposal. It was considered that funding the construction of the cantilevered lookout on Parks Victoria land may set an unmanageable expectation that Council would make improvements to other land and assets under Parks Victoria management.

Council had set aside \$520,000 to complete the project. A total of \$59,306 (excluding GST) has been spent on completing the detail design. The remaining funds of approximately \$450,000 will be reallocated to a project(s) during the development of the 2021/21 Annual Budget.

A copy of the final cantilevered lookout design will be provided to Parks Victoria and the Friends of Agnes Falls.

South Gippsland Shire Council Administrator Chair Julie Eisenbise had the following to say about the decision.

"It should be made clear that the review on the Agnes Falls Cantilevered Lookout project was not to discredit the project, but it was necessary for us to reflect on who should be responsible for funding the project. The Friends of Agnes Falls should be commended for the power of work they do to promote the Agnes Falls Scenic Reserve.

"Council's previous attempts to attract Federal and State Government grant support for this project have been unsuccessful. Council will continue to support the Friends of Agnes Falls to seek alternate funding opportunities for the construction of the cantilevered lookout."

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