

Message from the Administrator



It's been an important week for Council with two large infrastructure projects awarded at our Council Meeting on Wednesday. The first project the Leongatha and District Netball Association Courts Redevelopment will provide compliant outdoor netball courts, new sports floodlighting and accessible facilities which will enhance and encourage greater female participation. We approved the awarding of a contract for \$655,410 to complete the project which will support the 600 local netballers who use these facilities every week. I want to particularly highlight the contribution of \$150,000 from the Leongatha and District Netball Association which complements the State Government contribution of \$500,000 made under the 2018/19 Female Friendly Facilities Fund. This is great local project that will serve a large number of local families.

The second major community infrastructure project that we awarded was for the Mirboo North Pool Redevelopment. This is a \$5.73 million contract that includes design and construction of a new 25 metre long eight lane wide swimming pool, learn to swim pool inclusive of access ramps and surrounding concourses and a new children's splash park. It's not just about the pools though as a dry program space will be built for activities outside the pool season such as yoga and community meeting space. It is a project that in many ways represents the best of the South Gippsland community tradition of not expecting everything you need to come from other people as the Mirboo North community raised \$1 million themselves towards the project. Since Council was able to negotiate with a single tenderer for delivery of both elements of the project we were able to get a cost saving that added a heat pump which will extend the pool season. This is a real win for the Mirboo North community; the Friends of the Mirboo North Pool members and young swimmers from Mirboo North who attended the Council Meeting were delighted to get this news.

We also made the tough decision not to proceed to fund the Agnes Falls Reserve Scenic Lookout that had been budgeted by the previous Council. Whilst we recognise the advocacy efforts of the Friends of Agnes Falls who have pursued funding opportunities, the reality is that this is a project that would be more appropriate for Parks Victoria to fund. After careful reflection, our view was to have gone along with the previous decision of the former Council would have created an expectation across South Gippsland that Council should fund similar lookout projects. Particularly as other Parks Victoria locations and other state reserves are equally beautiful places and similarly valued by local residents.

As Administrators we continue to meet with many great local people from across the Shire in business, community groups and individually and we sincerely appreciate their support and encouragement. There are so many incredibly talented and hardworking people locally who contribute enormously to the community. Whether it be those involved in the Mirboo North Pool project or the netball project at Leongatha, it is a real honour to work with such a great group of people and together achieve some fantastic outcomes for the local community.

Christian Zahra AM - Administrator