



## Bass Valley Camping Ground Closed

The Bass Valley Camping Ground near Loch has been permanently closed due to public health concerns. Due to the failure of the septic system the camp ground already had restrictions in place which intended to limit the use of the area to fully self-contained RV vehicles only. Unfortunately, the area has continued to be used by campers and vehicles without contained bathroom facilities. This has resulted in human waste being incorrectly disposed of and the need to close the camp ground in the interest of health and public safety.

Council's Building and Recreation Assets Coordinator, Kate Reiske said the closure was unfortunate but necessary.

"Even before the failure of the septic system, we have experienced problems with the Bass Valley Camping Ground facilities. Sadly, the toilet block has been vandalised on a regular basis resulting in smashed toilet bowls, damaged walls and graffiti. We have also had rubbish left behind, trees chopped for firewood and have needed to deliver unusually high amounts of water to the site at significant expense.

"We had hoped to be able to keep the site open with restrictions in place but after we received complaints about human waste and toilet paper on neighbouring properties and in the road reserve, an Environmental Health Officer inspected the site and issued a prohibition notice to close the camp ground," said Ms. Reiske.

The Bass Valley Camping Ground is situated on Crown land reserve with Council as the Committee of Management. As the camp ground is located near the river it has been determined that the toilets will not be able to be replaced. This effectively means that camping at Bass Valley Camping Ground will not be reinstated.

"Although it is disappointing that camping will no longer occur at the Bass Valley site, there are nearby camp grounds and we would like to encourage people who were intending to stay at the site not to cancel but to seek an alternate venue within South Gippsland. South Gippsland is very much open for business and we have many great camping options available," said Ms. Reiske.

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For media enquiries, please contact the Communications team on 5662 9200  
South Gippsland Shire Council, 9 Smith St. (Private Bag 4), Leongatha 3953  
[communications@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:communications@southgippsland.vic.gov.au)  
[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au)