

COVID-19 Update

The following is from South Gippsland Shire Council CEO, Kerryn Ellis:

Council is continuing to closely monitor the unfolding COVID-19 crisis. In light of current advice a number of changes have been implemented:

- Council's Business Recovery Team has been deployed in response to the COVID-19 crisis. In line with the Business Recovery Plan, Bryan Sword has taken on the role of Incident Controller. Bryan will be responsible for making critical decisions about Council operations with regard to COVID-19. This role gives me the time to manage the broader organisation and to be the liaison point for other agencies.
- From Monday Council will transition to providing critical services only. People who are not engaged in providing critical services will be redeployed so that they can be better utilised dealing with the crisis.
- From Monday all staff who are able work from home will start doing so. This is to protect against the possibility of the whole staff cohort being infected and rendered unable to serve the South Gippsland community.
- Managers are finding ways to mitigate the risks for those staff who work in the field while they continue to provide vital services to the community.
- From 5.00pm this afternoon Council is closing all external buildings and facilities that it manages directly or through Section 86 Committees. A full list is attached at the conclusion of this message. It is important to note that 'closure' does not preclude casual use of facilities such as recreation reserves. While organised sport and planned gatherings are not permitted, someone walking their dog, having a kick of the footy or doing maintenance work is fine.
- From Monday the Customer Service Centre will be operating from 10.00am to 3.00pm. This is designed to provide time for the area to be thoroughly cleaned before and after each day's service. This measure will reduce the risk to both our staff and the community members who visit us.
- Council's Visitor Information Centres will operate on a telephone-only basis for the foreseeable future.

- Anyone who is able to access Council services by phone or over the internet is strongly encouraged to do so. The fewer people visiting Council's Customer Service Centre the greater the ability to provide a safe space for those who have no option but to visit Council in person, many of whom are in at-risk categories.
- All non-essential face-to-face meetings (ie: two or more people in a confined space) have been postponed or reconfigured for phone/Skype.
- If you want to up-to-date information about COVID-19 you should visit the Commonwealth and State Health Departments' websites:
 - <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>
 - <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>
- Next week's Council Meeting will go ahead as planned but will not have a gallery. Anyone who wants to view the meeting can do so via the live stream on our website.
- I encourage everyone in the community to take time to check in on family, friends and neighbours over the coming weeks and months. We are most likely to manage the impacts of this crisis if we work together to ensure that everyone is supported and cared for.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES CLOSED FROM 5.00PM 20/03/20

- Allambee South Community Centre
- Coal Creek Community Park and Museum
- Dumbalk Hall and Ladies Auxiliary
- Fish Creek Recreation Reserve
- Foster Showgrounds
- Foster Stockyard Gallery
- Foster War Memorial Arts Centre and Senior Citizens Centre
- John Terrill Memorial Park
- Korumburra Botanic Park
- Korumburra Recreation Reserve
- Leongatha Court House
- Leongatha Memorial Hall and Meeting Rooms
- Leongatha South & District Community Centre
- Mardan Hall
- Meeniyah & District Sports Stadium
- Mirboo North Shire Hall
- Poowong North Hall
- Port Welshpool & District Maritime Museum
- Sandy Point Community Centre
- Splash
- TP Taylor Reserve
- Walter J Tuck Recreation Reserve

PR2521 20/3/20