

## Council Fundamentals Deferred for Community Crisis Support

South Gippsland Shire Council deferred the Draft 2020/21 Council Budget and Proposed 2020-2024 Council Plan at its meeting yesterday in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Council called for the deferral in order to consider the impacts COVID-19 would have on the community and determine the best course of action in order to provide local support. The Proposed Council Plan and Draft Annual Budget will then be updated to reflect such actions.

As there is a legal requirement for councils to provide a budget to the Minister for Local Government by 30 June, Council intends to work quickly to identify community support measures and will revisit the items at the April Council Meeting if possible.

South Gippsland Shire's Chair Administrator, Ms Julie Eisenbise said it was vital to consider how current circumstances would impact the South Gippsland community and find ways in which to assist.

"It is our intention at this stage to work with our staff over the next few weeks to consider what COVID-19 might mean long-term for South Gippsland. Our community is at the heart of what we do so we need to work out the best way for us to support them to recover and rebuild in response to this virus.

"We all need to work together and support each other while we deal with COVID-19. This deferral will ensure we can do our due diligence when it comes to preparing for our future while COVID-19 is a risk to our community," said Ms Eisenbise.

Those interested will be able to view the Council Meeting on 22 April via livestream at [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live)

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