

Draft 2020/21 Council Budget Ready to Review

South Gippsland Shire Council adopted the Draft 2020/21 Council Budget at its meeting yesterday which has now been released for community comment.

The Council Budget is a fundamental document for Council's function as it outlines future operations. At its core the Council Budget notes Council's aspirations for the year ahead – how it intends to serve our community with the services and facilities provided.

The Draft Annual Budget includes a proposed \$2M Community Support Package in response to COVID-19 which is focused in two different ways; to assist local businesses, and to assist impacted individuals.

Council is adhering to a two per cent rate increase this year which is in keeping with the rate cap outlined by the Victorian Government. We believe that investing in the local community is vitally important when responding to COVID-19 as it helps to stimulate the economic recovery process and generate local employment opportunities.

Council has implemented a range of options for individuals and businesses that are experiencing hardship when it comes to paying rates, and would encourage people to contact us on 5662 9200 to discuss.

The 2020/21 Budget will fund a number of key projects for our region including:

- \$4.2M for Bair Street
- \$1M to the Korumburra Streetscape
- \$5M for the Korumburra Community Hub
- \$2.9M to extend the Great Southern Rail Trail
- \$2.9M for the Mirboo North Pool refurbishment (funded from borrowings)
- \$0.2M to the Early Years Renewal Program
- \$0.6M Venus Bay Activity Centre
- \$6.6M Road reseals and other improvements
- \$3.3M Footpaths

South Gippsland Shire's Chair Administrator, Ms Julie Eisenbise was pleased to present the Council Budget for community review.

"The Council Budget has been prepared after many months work from our staff and Administrator deliberation, particularly given the COVID-19 crisis. We are now inviting community members to provide their review of the Draft Budget.

"I hope many community members will take part in this review as it ensures that we are supporting our community in the best way possible during this uncertain time," said Ms Eisenbise.

Those wishing to make a submission can send it via email to submission@southgippsland.vic.gov.au or in writing to the Chief Executive Officer, South Gippsland Shire Council, Private Bag 4, Leongatha VIC 3953. All submissions must be received by 5.00pm 28 May.

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For media enquiries, please contact the Communications team on 5662 9200
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