

## Managing Council Meetings During COVID-19

South Gippsland Shire Council will continue to meet in person to deliver its monthly Council Meeting while adhering to social distancing provisions during the COVID-19 crisis.

Council is thankful that State legislation has been changed to allow for Council Meetings to be held virtually if required but will continue to conduct its meetings in person at this current time.

Council is confident that safe social distancing measures can continue as numbers in the Council Chamber can be kept to a minimum with only the Administrators, Chief Executive Officer and minimal support staff present.

The public gallery will continue to be closed for the health and safety of everyone present. The fewest people possible are being allowed into the Council Chamber and self-distancing rules would not be achievable with larger numbers present.

Both the media and community can access Council's livestream to listen and watch the meeting safely. The Victorian Government also considers livestreaming to meet 'open' Council Meeting requirements so that business of Council can continue.

Council also continues to work within the *Local Government Act 1989* while the new act is progressively implemented. Further details on the roll-out of the new *Local Government Act 2020* is available at [www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au](http://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au).

South Gippsland Shire's Chair Administrator Julie Eisenbise was confident the Council Meeting would be conducted safely.

"Administrators believe there are benefits in being physically present for work one day a month and felt that the Council Meeting day was a good day for this.

"We take both our health and the community's health seriously and believe that our current process for the Council Meeting is safe due to our low number of attendees" said Administrator Eisenbise.

The next Council Meeting is schedule for 27 May from 2.00pm. Individuals can watch the meeting live or on demand at [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live)

**PR2534 4/5/20**