



## Venus Bay Tourism Precinct Plan Adopted

At its meeting on Wednesday, South Gippsland Shire Council adopted the Venus Bay Tourism Precinct Plan.

The Precinct Plan was developed following a Council decision in February 2018 to prepare a plan to consider current and emerging issues related to the Venus Bay town centre in response to population and visitor growth.

The plan includes a number of recommendations including upgrades to garden beds and paving, improved pedestrian access, rezoning of land within the town centre to accommodate future commercial needs, an overlay over commercially zoned land to protect the coastal village character and location of a new skate park.

The plan also recommends the preparation of Wastewater System Feasibility Report for the central business district area and the investigation of an overflow carpark.

South Gippsland Shire Council Planning Manager, Paul Stampton is pleased that the Venus Bay Tourism Precinct Plan has been completed.

“Plans like this are important as they help communities plan for future growth and help to ensure the character of a township is preserved. Coastal communities are increasing in popularity so it is important that we talk to local residents now about what they love about their townships to help ensure that future plans for the township align with people’s values.

“There are a number of steps that we now need to take including the development of detailed designs for the town centre and the preparation of a Planning Scheme Amendment to rezone land to commercial and to secure more land for commercial purposes. A feasibility study will also be needed to determine the suitable design and cost of a Wastewater Treatment Scheme for the commercial district.

“Once we have estimated costs, the project can then be directed to the Annual Budget process for consideration. We know it’s a long process but it important that we try to get it right,” said Mr. Stampton.

Community consultation for the plan was held during January and February 2019. This time was chosen to maximise the ability to engage with absentee landowners. An advertised weekend drop-in session was attended by over 200 people.

Consultation also included a display at the community centre, a direct mailout to affected properties and an online consultation through the OurSay platform. At the end of the consultation period, Council had received over 200 submissions.

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