

Good Governance Policies Adopted

Two new policies that form part of a suite of improved governance policies were adopted at yesterday's Council meeting. The *Public Transparency Policy* and *Councillor Support and Expenses Policy* were developed under Council's Good Governance Framework and align with the requirements of the new *Local Government Act 2020*.

The policies are being prepared during the term of Administrators to help improve governance in South Gippsland prior to the election of a new Council. This is an objective of the '*Report of the Commission of Inquiry into South Gippsland*' which was released following the dismissal of the last Council.

South Gippsland Shire Chair Administrator, Julie Eisenbise was pleased that the policies were supported.

"Good governance is an essential part of Council operation. Developing, implementing and adhering to policies help make a Council strong and accountable. By adopting these two policies we are strengthening and improving the governance foundations for future leaders," said Ms. Eisenbise.

The *Public Transparency Policy* is a new policy which defines the importance of openness and transparency and provides guidance in the management and release of Council and community information. It further protects the rights of individuals and enables the effective working of government.

The *Councillor Support and Expenses Policy* was already in place but needed changes due to the introduction of the *Local Government Act 2020*. Most of the content in the Expenses Policy remains unchanged although the structure has been modified.

The policies were developed following consultation with Local Government Victoria, Maddock's Lawyers and Governance Officers in the Gippsland Local Government Network.