



*South Gippsland*  
Shire Council

## South Gippsland COVID-19 Business Grants Awarded

South Gippsland Shire Council has awarded COVID-19 Businesses Grants to 82 successful applicants. The business grants aimed to assist shopfront businesses in South Gippsland that had experienced a downturn due to COVID-19. Successful applicants received a one-off payment of \$1,000 (ex GST) to spend on essential business fees, services and/or materials. Applicants were encouraged to spend the grant within the region to assist other local businesses.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Manager Economic Development and Tourism, Renae Littlejohn said that the funding would provide much-needed support for a number of local retailers. "We were pleased with the response to the COVID-19 Business Grants. The successful applicants were from a diverse range of businesses and were from all corners of South Gippsland.

"Many of the successful applicants indicated that they would use the funding to improve shop fittings and the amenity of their store or to purchase cleaning products to assist with making their premises COVID safe. Others said they will use the funds for services – such as to obtain accounting advice – or to develop an online presence. We are pleased that the successful applicants expressed their intent to use local suppliers wherever possible.

"Feedback from the grant recipients has been very positive to date with many expressing their appreciation that small business had been considered during these difficult times. As with any new process there are always ways to make applying even easier, this may even include re-visiting some of the criteria. Overall, we are pleased with the level of interest shown.

"We are currently developing the next phase of support activities to be considered under the \$2M COVID-19 Community Support Fund and it is likely that it will include further initiatives to assist local businesses. We are aware that it will be a long road to recovery for businesses and community groups in South Gippsland and we intend to help where we can," said Ms. Littlejohn.

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For media enquiries, please contact the Communications team on 5662 9200  
South Gippsland Shire Council, 9 Smith St. (Private Bag 4), Leongatha 3953  
[communications@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:communications@southgippsland.vic.gov.au)  
[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au)