

Community Engagement Review Underway

South Gippsland Shire Council is urging all residents to get involved in its Community Engagement Review to improve future engagement opportunities.

An OurSay forum has been created which allows residents to review the Draft Community Engagement Policy 2021 and provide their feedback and suggestions. A short survey is also available for users who would like to share how they want to be engaged with in the future.

The Draft Community Engagement Policy 2021 has been updated to:

- Outline Council's commitment to community engagement and the South Gippsland community.
- Include the *Local Government Act 2020* engagement principles.
- Strengthen Council's approach to how types and forms of engagement activities are proposed.
- Determine deliberative and participatory engagement practices.
- Outline how Council will meet its statutory engagement requirements (such as engagement opportunities for the Council Plan, Annual Budget and Local Laws).
- Strengthen how Council intends to inform the South Gippsland community of outcomes (not just participants).
- Outline how the policy will be developed in consultation with the community.

South Gippsland Shire Chair Administrator Julie Eisenbise looked forward to receiving feedback from the community and was thankful for the opportunity to reflect on current practices.

“As a Council we are committed to seeking the views and values of our community and ensuring that they are at the heart of each decision we make. By undertaking community engagement activities, we ensure that our community members have influence over Council decisions so that we can reach the best outcomes for our region.

“Our Community Engagement Policy is at the centre of these interactions and it is critical to ensure that it reflects what the community expects and needs in this space. We hope that community members will get involved with this process and tell us what their expectations are for community engagement in the future.

Community members can access the online survey and forum before 5.00pm on 2 December 2020 at www.oursay.org/southgippsland/engagement

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