

Great Southern Bale Trail

The Great Southern Bale Trail (GSBT) is an exciting new initiative that will join art and agriculture together to create an art trail featuring six installations made from silage, old farm machinery, fencing or sheds. Local farmers and artists who would like to be involved are encouraged to submit an expression of interest with Council.

The project, which will launch in autumn, is being coordinated on behalf of the South Gippsland Shire Council by Louise Vale, a mum of two who runs a 110-acre beef property in Toora North. An artist in her spare time, Louisa is excited about the new project and the chance to combine her love of art and farming.

"I enjoy making art and especially like big projects. This is the first time a project of this scale has run in South Gippsland and I'm very excited to see what develops. We would love to see local farmers and artists put their hands up to be involved.

"Interested farmers can nominate to create an installation on their farm or work with a local artist to create something together or simply offer their property to host an artwork.

"Interested artists are welcome to pitch an idea - even if they don't have a particular farmer in mind to work with - as we may be able to match an artist with a farmer to create a really special installation. There are just so many possibilities," said Ms Vale.

All Great Southern Bale Trail installations will be temporary and must be able to be able viewed from a publicly-accessible road. When complete, a map will be developed that will direct people to the unique artworks.

"We expect this project will attract many visitors to our area which will help to support our local communities and also draw attention to our very important agricultural sector. We also want it to be something that local South Gippslanders will view and enjoy."

To find out more about the project or to submit an Expression of Interest, please visit www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/gsbt

The project is being delivered as part of Council's \$2M COVID-19 Community Support Package. Expressions of interest close 5pm Monday 15 February.