

Community Engagement Policy Adopted

South Gippsland Shire Council adopted the Community Engagement Policy at its meeting this week following an extensive community consultation process.

Council undertook a Community Engagement Review towards the end of 2020 which provided community members with an opportunity to share their preferences for future community engagement activities via an online survey and review the draft policy via an online forum.

The following community suggestions were received for the Community Engagement Policy and incorporated into the adopted policy:

- That the Policy should include that all community correspondence must be accessible.
- All correspondence with the community through engagement should be published and searchable on Council's website (in pages not documents).
- That the Policy should include a dedicated place where community engagement opportunities will be advertised so that interested parties could sign up. Council's e-newsletter or a website engagement hub was suggested.
- That the Policy needs more detail on how the feedback is sought and provide community members with assistance to understand the material that is provided to them for them to be able to comment.

The online survey responses and a written submission made suggestions for community engagement more broadly and will be utilised by Council staff when developing future community engagement activities to ensure they meet community expectations.

A full outline of the feedback received is available in the February Council Meeting Agenda at www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meetings

The Community Engagement Policy is available to view on Council's website at www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/policies

Quotes attributable to South Gippsland Shire Chair Administrator Julie Eisenbise:

South Gippsland Shire Chair Administrator Julie Eisenbise was thankful to every community member who provided feedback for the Community Engagement Policy.

"Council understands the importance of being connected with our community and our Community Engagement Policy ensures that our community members are at the heart of our decision-making processes.

"Thank you to each person who took the opportunity to share their views on community

engagement either through the survey, online forum or written submission. This feedback provides an outline of how we can meet the expectations of our community and opportunities for us to improve,” said Ms Eisenbise.

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