

Proposed 2021/22 Council Budget and Financial Plan Ready to Review

South Gippsland Shire Council endorsed the Proposed 2021/22 Council Budget and Proposed 2021/22 to 2030/31 Financial Plan at its meeting yesterday which has now been released for community comment.

The Council Budget and Financial Plan are fundamental for Council's function as they outline how it will fund future operations. At its core, the Council Budget notes Council's aspirations for the next four financial years – how it intends to serve our community and deliver services and capital works.

In the Budget, Council is adhering to the 1.5 per cent rate increase in line with the cap set by the Victorian Government under the Fair Go Rates System. We believe that investing in our community is vitally important as we assess the impacts of COVID-19 and move forward.

The 2021/22 Budget is one part of the 2021/22 to 2024/25 budget and includes a range of exciting priorities for this financial year, including:

- Welcoming and onboarding South Gippsland's newly elected Councillors.
- Working in partnership with the community to develop a new Vision for South Gippsland.
- \$4.839M for the Korumburra Hub project.
- \$4.275M for the Great Southern Rail Trail.
- \$3.512M for the redevelopment of the Little Commercial Street Streetscape in Korumburra.
- The Bair Street streetscape works will be finalised.
- \$1.1M for the Leongatha Railway Site Transformation project, which includes a pedestrian bridge to provide access to and from Bair Street and improvements to the Apex Park car park.
- \$600,000 for the Korumburra Railway Precinct project.
- Commencement of investigation and consultation into the future uses of Memorial Hall in response to the outcomes of the revised Arts Strategy.

The overall Capital Works program for 2021/22 totals \$39.223M, which includes \$1.756M of projects that have been carried forward from 2020/21.

Those wishing to make a submission can do so online at via www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au or email to submission@southgippsland.vic.gov.au. Those who prefer can send it in writing to the Chief Executive Officer, South Gippsland Shire Council, Private Bag 4, Leongatha VIC 3953 or deliver personally to Council reception. Submissions must be received by 5.00pm 17 May.

**Quotes attributable to South Gippsland Shire Council Chair Administrator,
Julie Eisenbise**

“The Council Budget has been prepared after many months work from our staff and Administrator deliberation. Particular attention has been paid to the impacts of COVID-19 and helping our community recover from this unprecedented pandemic. We are now inviting community members to provide their feedback on the Proposed Budget and Financial Plan.

“It is our hope that many community members will take part in this review as it ensures we are prioritising projects that the community would like to see completed. This also forms part of our preparation for when the new councillors are elected in October.”

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