

## Final Phase of \$2M COVID-19 Community Support Package Endorsed

South Gippsland Shire Council endorsed activities for the final phase of the \$2M COVID-19 Community Support Package at its meeting yesterday.

The final allocation of the package is worth \$505,000 and includes community and economic elements as well as an allocation to evaluate the effectiveness of the overall package.

The following activities were endorsed:

- Free Flu Immunisation Program 2021 of \$25,000
- Grants to Sporting Clubs of \$40,000
- Insurance Rebate for Community Groups of \$40,000
- Sustaining Community Connections Package of \$50,000
- Economic and Visitor Economy Strategy Implementation Package of \$235,000
- Community Connection Through Arts Package of \$85,000
- Community Support Package Effectiveness Evaluation of \$30,000

The most significant part of the package was an allocation of \$235,000 to implement recommendations from the Economic Development and Visitor Economy strategies that are currently out for public consultation. The strategies will drive post-COVID economic and business recovery, and help to respond to challenges and opportunities that South Gippsland is expected to face over the next 10 years, to position South Gippsland as a prosperous and thriving economy and a key destination.

Those wanting more information on the support package and initiatives can visit:

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/covidsupport](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/covidsupport)

An evaluation of the \$2M COVID-19 Community Support Package will be presented to Council by September 2021.

### **Quotes attributable to South Gippsland Shire Chair Administrator Julie Eisenbise:**

*South Gippsland Shire Chair Administrator Julie Eisenbise was pleased to allocate the final funds from the \$2M COVID-19 Community Support Package to benefit the community.*

*"It has been a significant time for us all as we have navigated the pandemic and its effects over*

*the last twelve months. No one could have predicted the outcomes for our community in terms of health, business and social connection but as we start to recover it is also important to reflect on our own actions during this time.*

*“We have been extremely thankful to be in a position to provide targeted support and stimulus activities for our community and economy. By endorsing the final phase of the \$2M COVID-19 Community Support Package we complete the commitment we made to our community and implement the much-needed support our region requires,” said Administrator Eisenbise.*

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