

# Administrators' Message



On Wednesday, we were back to an online Council Meeting, which is definitely not our preferred method of conducting Council business, but it does ensure that everyone remains safe. This meeting predominantly covered submissions from our community on the Proposed Council Budget 2021/22. We had nine residents provide feedback 'face-to-face' during the meeting, however there were many more submissions from residents who did not request to speak at the meeting.

We would like to thank all those who submitted their feedback on the Proposed Council Budget 2021/22, and a special thanks goes to Peter Western, Clive Hope, Sean Taylor-Lyons, Lorraine Brunt, Craig Privett, Rebecca Matthews, Alyson Skinner, Dr. Susan Plowright and Joe Piper for coming along and speaking to us during the meeting.

Community feedback is incredibly important in all facets of Council operations, particularly when it comes to documents such as the Budget that set out how Council will prioritise works for the next 12 months and beyond. We work with the community, and it is important that we continue to take your feedback into consideration when creating documents such as this. It really highlights the passion that South Gippslanders have for our region on a broad range of topics and again highlights the volunteering backbone of our Shire.

As you are all no doubt aware by now, regional Victoria saw an easing of some restrictions from Friday 4 June. While this does allow us to move about more freely, it does still come with some limitations. We strongly encourage you all to keep up to date with the latest restrictions on the Department of Health and Human Services website [www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus) and ensure you are getting tested if you have symptoms or have been to an exposure site. If you are eligible, please also consider getting your COVID-19 and flu vaccinations to ensure you are better protected against this virus. Having these vaccines not only protects you, but those closest to you as well.

We know that these lockdowns and restrictions have a significant impact on our local businesses, so please, support local where possible. Go get a coffee and cake, or have a lovely dinner out (or at home if you prefer) – just make sure you go to a local business. We're sure they will thank you from the bottom of their hearts.

We would like to extend our warm congratulations to Jai Newcombe who has been selected at the AFL mid-season draft. Jai is from Poowong and has been playing for the Box Hill Hawks VFL side. With an average of 23 disposals and seven tackles per game so far this season, it was hard for the sides to look past him.

Stay safe, stay well, and we will talk to you all next week.

**Julie Eisenbise, Christian Zahra AM and Rick Brown – Administrators**