

Administrators' Message



Throughout this week, Administrator Eisenbise has been out in the community observing the aftermath of the storm event from a few weeks ago alongside Manager Infrastructure Planning, Tony Peterson.

While there has been a huge amount of work done to date by Council staff in partnership with emergency services such as the State Emergency Service, there is still a long way left to go and the clean up will take months. Initially, we had over 140 roads impacted by the storm – now only five roads remain closed. Many of our community members and services were without power for some time, most of which have now had power restored.

A number of Council staff, including Chief Executive Officer Kerryn Ellis, have been on site and out in the community helping where they can. For example, Manager Community Safety Luke Mullen was interviewed by ABC Gippsland on Thursday morning in Foster in relation to the storm event. After the interview, he stayed to meet with locals who had been impacted by the event and provided valuable information and links to services that can assist them. Sessions such as this are planned in the most impacted areas over the next week.

We would like to thank all Council staff who have played a part in the clean up and in keeping the community informed.

If you have been affected by the storm and need information on the support services available, you can find a list on Council's website here: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/stormsupport

The recovery from this event is a top priority for Council and we ask for patience as we do this important work.

It was great to hear news this week that Bendigo Bank have reversed their decision to close their Korumburra branch. We would like to extend our thanks to the Korumburra Round Table and Korumburra Business Association who worked with Bendigo and Adelaide Bank to keep the branch in town. The entire Korumburra community also deserves our thanks. If you didn't rally behind your local branch, the decision may not have been reversed.

In another win for Korumburra, Council signed a contract of sale with Michael Lorenz from

Korriga Property Pty Ltd who operate Michael's IGA supermarkets. This will mean a new supermarket for Korumburra.

The sale includes 155-165 Commercial Street, 1 King Street and 28 Victoria Street which is currently the Korumburra Library site, but will become a new full-line supermarket. This site was nominated by Council as the preferred site for a supermarket complex in the Korumburra Town Centre Framework Plan, following extensive community consultation.

Both the new supermarket and the Bendigo branch staying are great outcomes for Korumburra. They are great examples of how Council and the community can work together to bring projects to fruition.

Finally, the Economic Development and Visitor Economy strategies are still out for public comment. There has already been extensive community consultation before it was endorsed at the Council Meeting two weeks ago, but this is an additional opportunity for the general public to have their say. We encourage you all to provide your feedback before it closes on 7 July 2021 at 5.00pm. To do so, please visit www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/exhibition

Julie Eisenbise, Christian Zahra AM and Rick Brown – Administrators