

Administrators' Message



A Council Meeting week is always exciting as we make decisions that positively impact our community. This month, we saw a number of important matters come before Council.

This included the adoption of the Economic Development and Visitor Economy Strategies following the last phase of public consultation. These two documents are vital to South Gippsland and represent the enormous amount of work by the two Advisory Groups that oversaw their development. The groups are made up of local people with sectoral knowledge and expertise and people from outside the region whose subject matter knowledge and experience enabled them to add a fresh perspective within these groups. They have worked extremely well together and have overseen a process that has involved local people extensively throughout the development of these strategies.

Council is extremely grateful to the members of these two groups and thanks them on behalf of the people of South Gippsland for their commitment to the region and diligence in their work. We also applaud the many hundreds of people who contributed constructively through nearly 400 pieces of feedback that were collected and incorporated into the strategies.

Another important update from this week's meeting is the endorsement of West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation (WGRLC) moving to a not-for-profit organisation. This change affects not only South Gippsland, but also Bass Coast and Baw Baw Shire's as we all pool our resources within WGRLC to provide the best library service to all our communities.

We would like to assure our community that the services you know and love about our local libraries will not be negatively affected, in fact, we are confident that they will be improved with investment from sources that wouldn't be possible under the current structure. With this comes a name change from West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation to Myli – My Community Library to promote the delivery of library services beyond the existing West Gippsland region.

Our decision to support the transition to a not-for-profit model only takes effect once all three Council's adopt the same resolution. Bass Coast also made their decision this week and Baw Baw Shire Council is set to consider the proposal at their meeting next week.

Council also adopted our 2021/22 Priority Projects for advocacy including our Strategic Road projects. Projects that are not solely Council's responsibility such as the Wilsons Promontory Revitalisation Project have also been included due to their significant importance to our region.

The projects include:

1. Korumburra Streetscape (Commercial Street);
2. Great Southern Rail Trail (GSRT) Railway Precincts Development (Leongatha and Korumburra);
3. South Gippsland Highway, Korumburra Realignment (Coal Creek bends);
4. Leongatha Heavy Vehicle Alternate Route – Stage Two (Hughes Street);
5. Wilsons Promontory Revitalisation Project;
6. South Gippsland Urban Water Strategy;
7. Bass Highway – Leongatha to Anderson;
8. South Gippsland Highway – Grassy Spur Realignment;
9. Strzelecki Highway – Crightons Hill Realignment; and
10. The Gippsland Tracks and Trails Project.

This was a big meeting, with many more decisions made. For the full list of matters covered, please visit www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings

We would like to finish this week's message with a thank you to our entire community for doing the right thing and following the health advice from the Victorian Government. We know it is difficult being under such heavy restrictions, but it is important for all of us to follow these rules not only for our own health, but the health and wellbeing of our loved ones. We strongly encourage you all to keep supporting your local businesses where applicable, both during this lockdown and once it ends. Also, if you are eligible, we strongly encourage you to get vaccinated at one of the vaccination sites or with your local GP. For all the updates in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak, please visit www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

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