

Additional Grant Application Underway for Railway Precincts Upgrade

South Gippsland Shire Council noted \$5 million in grant funding applications for the Great Southern Rail Trail Railway Precincts Upgrade (Leongatha and Korumburra) at its meeting yesterday.

Council has a \$2 million grant application under the Victorian Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund and a \$3 million grant application to the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund pending for the railway precincts.

The project intends to re-imagine the use of the land within the Leongatha and Korumburra railway station precincts to enhance activity around the centres of the towns. It is envisaged that the projects will provide for precincts within the grounds of the railway stations that will bring together various community services and open space activities.

If the grant applications are successful, the upgrade of these railway precincts will benefit not just the towns, but the whole Great Southern Rail Trail. They will improve the experience of the trail for visitors and local residents alike.

Council has also allocated a \$1 million contribution to the project in its 2021/22 Budget.

Quotes attributable to South Gippsland Shire Chair Administrator Julie Eisenbise:

South Gippsland Shire Chair Administrator Julie Eisenbise was hopeful both grant applications would be successful so the project could proceed.

"Council is hopeful that the State and Federal Governments will look favourably on our pending applications as we have a fantastic opportunity to revitalise these railway precincts and in turn create a boost for the South Gippsland community."

"Both the Korumburra and Leongatha communities have been asking over many years for the railway precincts to be addressed. This is the perfect opportunity for us to deliver on this request and strengthen the Great Southern Rail Trail as a fantastic tourism driver for our region," said Ms Eisenbise.

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