

Revised Councillor Code of Conduct Adopted

South Gippsland Shire Council adopted the reviewed Councillor Code of Conduct 2021 at its meeting on Wednesday in readiness for the swearing in of the new Council in October 2021.

The Code of Conduct promotes a proactive, collaborative culture for Councillors through five high level principles in the Councillor Charter that underpin them being a successful team. The Codes include the expected behaviour standards to be observed in the course of performing their duties and functions.

Administrators demonstrated their willingness to abide by the new Code of Conduct by agreeing for their electronic signatures to be included in the Councillor Code of Conduct – Administrators Version – 2021.

Both Codes incorporate supporting commitments for each of the Standards of Conduct; a proactive style and content that sets out required behaviours of Councillors along with behaviours that are not to be displayed; a Councillor Charter that promotes behaviours that would help Councillors be a successful team and key elements of dispute resolution.

The reviewed Codes now meet requirements under the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020*. The review of the Councillor Code of Conduct, was also a specific requirement of the *Report of the Commission of Inquiry into South Gippsland Shire Council – June 2019* recommendations.

Both the Councillor Code of Conduct 2021 and Councillor Code of Conduct – Administrators Version – 2021 will be available on Council's website at www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/policies

Quotes attributable to South Gippsland Shire Chair Administrator Julie Eisenbise:

"It is a serious role to serve on Council – as I have experienced as Chair Administrator at South Gippsland and in past terms as Mayor and Councillor in other regions. Therefore, it is vital we make sure the Code of Conduct is of high calibre as it is a key ingredient to the good governance in the way we maintain our standards of behaviour with each other, staff and the community and also how this is managed by future Councillors.

"We have taken a great deal of care and effort in refining the Code. As such all Administrators have placed their signatures on the Code to demonstrate our endorsement which we all do wholeheartedly," said Ms Eisenbise.

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