



## South Gippsland Community Transport

South Gippsland Shire Council will change how it provides community transport services following a decision at last week's Council meeting. Instead of directly providing community transport, Council will instead work to establish a Community Transport Provider Network to support the coordination of services across the region.

The decision to shift away from direct delivery to coordination was made following the release of an independent review of the program. The review revealed the service is underutilised due to the emergence of other community transport providers in South Gippsland. At the time of the review, Council's transport service had three regular users and two volunteer drivers.

Any revenue derived from the disposal of any assets related to the community transport service will be directed to the provision of community service programs at Council.

The reduced need for a community transport program has coincided with nation-wide changes to the aged and disability sector. Most clients who had previously used Council's service are now supported by other providers or through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) or My Aged Care. The increase of service providers in the region has also seen the introduction of paid staff providing transport who are able to provide a more comprehensive service. Assistance will be given to existing clients to transfer to other transport providers.

### **Quotes attributable to South Gippsland Shire Chair Administrator Julie Eisenbise:**

"Council recognises that there are now other organisations in our community who are better placed to provide community transport. Instead Council will take on a coordination role through the establishment of the Community Transport Provider Network which will assist many South Gippsland residents."

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