

Administrators' Message



With the announcement a few weeks ago that regional Victoria was to be put back into lockdown, an understandable sense of frustration and uncertainty gripped our region. While we have not been directly affected by COVID-19 for some time, we still must do our part by obeying the restrictions and getting vaccinated.

We were happy to hear that the Victorian and Federal Government will be co-funding business support for regional business who have been impacted by the lockdown. All the details about eligibility and how to apply can be found at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au

We would also like to encourage everyone to keep shopping local where possible. Many of our businesses are offering COVID-Safe options – such as pick up or delivery – so let's do what we can to support them.

This week, rates notices were sent out to ratepayers across South Gippsland. It is important to note during the current circumstances that there is time before these are due, and our Rates team are here to support you. Please contact them as soon as possible on 5662 9200 if you do need a helping hand.

In a small municipality like ours, rates are a significant portion (63.7 per cent) of our operating income. This income must cover employee costs, materials and services, depreciation/amortisation, other expenses and borrowing costs. Materials and services for example makes up 33.7 per cent of the operating expenditure with a total of \$23.411 million for this financial year.

We have a unique challenge in South Gippsland of having one of the largest municipalities by area, but quite a small population. We have over 2,000 kilometres of roads to maintain and a land area of over 3,200 kilometres squared. This size comes with a number of challenges, particularly when it comes to services that often need to be replicated in many townships so all residents have access to the services they need.

For more information on rates, please visit www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/rates

Finally, we would like to congratulate Dallas Loughridge from Bena who played in the Australian silver medal-winning team at the FIBA under 19 World Cup. The final was played in Hungary with the team going down to the USA in the grand final. A truly magnificent effort for that team of

young women. Whenever we see a South Gippslander on the international stage we feel immensely proud. We understand how much hard work and commitment it takes to compete at this elite level not only from the athlete themselves, but their family and friends. Congratulations to you Dallas and your family.

Julie Eisenbise, Christian Zahra AM and Rick Brown – Administrators