

Tuesday 21 September marked the beginning of the election period at South Gippsland Shire Council. While some of our communications to the public, including this message, may be different to what you normally see, we are still here to assist our community from 10.00am to 2.00pm at Council offices (9 Smith Street, Leongatha) or by telephone, email or website between 8.30am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday.

The election period is in place until 23 October 2021 at 6.00pm and is designed to ensure that no communications are sent out that could impact the election. While this is somewhat lessened with the Administrators in place, we are still conducting as we would with a community-elected Council in place to ensure consistency. During this period, only essential and procedural matters can be brought to the October Council Meeting and voted on by Administrators.

To ensure our community are still getting updates from Council on a weekly basis and so Administrators are not commenting on matters that may unduly influence the election, I will be continuing on in the Administrators place for this message.

Candidate nominations for the election have now closed. We would like to wish all of the following community members well in their election campaign:

Coastal-Promontory Ward	Strzelecki Ward	Tarwin Valley Ward
Scott Rae	David Amor	Jeremy Curtis
Mohya Davies	Jim Forbes	Lindsay Love
David Liebelt	Michael Patrick Felton	Andrew Corcoran
Anda Banikos	Frank Hirst	Adrian Darakai
Mat Morgan	Andrew McEwan	Rosemary Cousin
Sue Plowright	Nathan Hersey	John Schelling
Sarah Gilligan	Jenni Kerrie	Nicole Edwards-Galal
		Clare Williams
		Don Hill
		Leslie John Harmer

The updated COVID-19 roadmap was announced by Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews on 20 September. While it may not have been what we were all hoping for, it is great to see what the way out of the pandemic looks like and some certainty over what happens at each stage. This has been an extremely challenging time for many of us, and at South Gippsland Shire Council,

we have and continue to do what is needed for our community.

We know that many businesses have and continue to face challenging times due to these restrictions. At South Gippsland Shire Council, there are a range of services available to support businesses including a monthly free business mentoring clinic, grant programs (which can be viewed on our Grant Finder website southgippsland.grantguru.com.au), the Victorian Government's Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme, their Business Cost Assistance Program and the Business Recovery and Resilience Mentoring program. Council also have a Business Concierge service to help businesses through the process of applying for permits to start or expand your business. We also have the new Shop Local campaign that has been created to support out local traders.

If you need any support, whether it is for your business or for yourself, please do not hesitate to contact us on 5662 9200. Our staff are here to help.

As the Bair Street Revitalisation project draws tantalisingly close to completion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Council staff, contractors and South Gippsland Water for their hard work. The work you have all done is nothing short of astounding and has resulted in a great makeover of one of our main thoroughfares.

Kerryn Ellis – Chief Executive Officer