

It is great to see that local democracy is again alive and well in South Gippsland with the announcement of the successful candidates in the 2021 South Gippsland Shire Council election. I am delighted to congratulate the following individuals who will be sworn in next week as Councillors:

- Sarah Gilligan (Coastal-Promontory Ward)
- Scott Rae (Coastal-Promontory Ward)
- Mohya Davies (Coastal-Promontory Ward)
- Jenni Kerrie (Strzelecki Ward)
- Michael Felton (Strzelecki Ward)
- Nathan Hersey (Strzelecki Ward)
- John Schelling (Tarwin Valley Ward)
- Clare Williams (Tarwin Valley Ward)
- Adrian Darakai (Tarwin Valley Ward)

I look forward to working closely with our new Councillors over the course of their term, and understanding more about what they wish to achieve during this time.

I would also like to thank all the other candidates who put themselves forward for election, and supported the democratic process. Although they were unsuccessful this time, I encourage the candidates to be involved in collaboration opportunities with Council over the next three years and consider running again at the next election.

This year's election saw our community turn out in droves! Because of this, we received one of the highest ballot return rates in the state. This is a massive achievement that our entire community should be proud of. It also fills the Councillors and Council with confidence that the people who have been elected truly represent the community and their hopes for the region. I would personally like to thank our community for this magnificent effort.

Councillors will be sworn in on Tuesday 16 November, with the Mayor to be elected on Wednesday 17 November. I, along with the Council staff, look forward to seeing who the Councillors decide will be the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Since this is taking place next

week, this will be the last message I publish. It has been an honour to keep you all up to date on what has been happening at Council during the election period.

Last Thursday was Remembrance Day, a day in which we all pay our respects to those who have fought for our country. No matter how you recognise this day, I hope you were able to pause to reflect, pay respect and remember those who have served and are still serving in our defence forces, as well as those who have died or suffered in conflicts, wars and peacekeeping operations. Lest We Forget.

Kerryn Ellis – Chief Executive Officer