

Mayor's Message



While the transition program rolls on, all Councillors are starting to do more outreach with the community and attend meetings relevant to our role.

This week I attended a meeting with Leader of the Nationals in Victoria Peter Walsh, Member for Gippsland South Danny O'Brien MP and Member for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath MP alongside Deputy Mayor Hersey and Chief Executive Officer Kerryn Ellis. They warmly congratulated myself, Deputy Mayor Hersey and all Councillors on our successful election and expressed that they were elated to have local democracy return to South Gippsland.

It was a great opportunity to brief the group on the issues of importance for our community and hear their thoughts on these issues. We also provided an overview of Council's top priorities for advocacy to State and Federal Government over the next 12 months. One of these projects was Stage Two of the Leongatha Heavy Vehicle Alternate Route which will provide the community with a number of benefits such as:

- Safety improvements for motorists.
- Reduced traffic congestions.
- Increased pedestrian accessibility.
- Economic benefits through improved freight and visitor movement.
- Creation of a safer crossing point for users of the iconic Great Southern Rail Trail.
- Removal of traffic from the CBD/retail precinct.

Other projects included in this priority list include three road realignments to ensure the safety of our community and visitors to our region. More information on priority projects can be found at www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/priorityprojects

On Tuesday 30 November, myself and a number of other Councillors attended a Walk Against Family Violence as part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign. The campaign aims to raise awareness about gender inequity and to prevent family violence before it begins. A group of approximately 40 people dressed in orange went on a short walk along McCartin and Bair Streets and ended at the back of the Council offices in front of a banner that read 'Let's Chat' – the slogan for this year's campaign.

Unfortunately, family violence impacts every region, including South Gippsland. The walk on Wednesday helped us send a message that it will not be tolerated and simply cannot continue. We cannot keep losing people this way.

I would like to thank everyone who came along to the walk, even those who weren't intending to, but saw us walking and decided to join midway through. It was a truly inspiring event.

Lastly, I would like to thank the community for reaching out to not only myself, but all Councillors. We have received some lovely messages since our election, which is very humbling for us all. We have also received a lot of feedback from the community on what they would like to see actioned. While we may not have responded to you just yet, please know we are doing all we can to get these requests through to the correct departments to action. If you have not reached out yet but would like to, you can find the contact information for each Councillor on Council's website: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/councillors

Cr Mohya Davies – Mayor