

Mayor's Message



What an exciting week it has been for our Shire with the adoption of some really important plans and strategic documents.

These documents have been in the works for a while, and have formed part of what you may know as the Integrated Plans. This includes the:

- *Community Vision 2040*
- *Council Plan 2022 – 2026*
- *Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2031/32*
- *Rating and Revenue Plan 2022 – 2026*
- *Budget 2022/23 – 2025/26*
- *Asset Plan 2022/23 to 2031/32*

With the introduction of the new *Local Government Act*, we have had to do things differently. We have had to set about doing an unprecedented level of engagement to ensure that these plans truly reflect our community.

Because they have been developed together, they fit together like a jigsaw.

Added to that has been the complexity of being a new Councillor group and having to learn how things work in record time to deliver this work. We knew this work was coming when we went through the election process. At times it has been challenging and there has been a lot of time invested not only from Councillors, but our community and Council staff.

At each stage along the way, we have had our community at the heart of everything and enjoyed meeting with them in a variety of different ways whether it be online, face-to-face, or hearing their thoughts via written submissions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for being part of this engagement and telling us loud and clear what you want us to reflect in the plans. Thank you to the Councillors, Council staff and the community for the hundreds of hours put into developing the plans.

To view the plans and the engagement summary report that accompanies them, please visit yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/provide-plan-feedback

On Friday 24 June, I also attended the Municipal Association of Victoria's State Council which I didn't get a chance to speak about in my message last week. At the event, South Gippsland Shire Council put forward six resolutions which were well supported. These resolutions were early years infrastructure, roads funding, public transport, improved management of state-owned assets and land, pest and weed management, and improved internet and mobile connectivity. After putting these up to the State Council, it was great to hear the messages of support from other Council's around Victoria and it really highlighted to me that our issues and concerns are very similar whether we are in rural or metropolitan areas.

I would also like to let you all know that the Community Grants opened for applications on Friday 1 July. Grants are available in the following categories:

- Minor Projects and Equipment Grant (up to \$5,000)
- Major Projects and Equipment Grant (up to \$10,000)
- Festival and Events Grant (up to \$10,000)
- Planning and Development Reports (up to \$10,000)

To apply and for all the information you need, please visit

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants

Cr Mohya Davies – Mayor