

# Deputy Mayor's Message



Dear Residents,

In last week's message, I mentioned the Councillor Catch Ups taking place across the Shire. These have been really well received by our community and I want to thank everyone who has come along so far. There are still some catch ups scheduled for the coming weeks:

- Thursday 11 August 7.00pm to 8.00pm – Nyora Hall.
- Friday 12 August 10.00am to 11.00am – Koonwarra Store.
- Friday 12 August 6.00pm to 7.00pm – Mirboo North & Community Foundation's Co-Space, 96 Ridgway.
- Tuesday 16 August 10.30am to 12.00pm – Old Ferry Terminal, Port Welshpool.
- Tuesday 16 August 1.00pm to 2.00pm – Toora Hall.

I encourage you to get along to one of these opportunities and engage with Councillors.

Not only are we listening to your concerns now, we are acting through both advocacy and proactive steps within Council. Our first set of Priority Projects were adopted at the 29 June Council Meeting. These are:

- Roads such as Stage Two of the Leongatha Heavy Vehicle Route and the South Gippsland Highway Realignment in Korumburra (Korumburra Bends);
- Connectivity;
- Early Years Infrastructure;
- Health and Recreation;
- Emergency Preparedness; and
- Coastal Protection.

These are key areas Councillors have had plenty of feedback on. Our community has let us know the changes they want to see in our region and we have listened and created a list that gives guidance, without restricting us from advocating for other projects as they come up or as more funding opportunities present themselves.

To support this, we adopted the first Advocacy Strategy for South Gippsland that provides

guidelines to ensure our region is front of mind for State and Federal Government politicians.

Within that, it clearly states the role of Council staff and Councillors, so we can work collaboratively to achieve amazing things for our community. This is something this Councillor group is extremely passionate about.

If you would like to learn more about Council's priority projects and view the Advocacy Strategy, please visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/priorityprojects](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/priorityprojects)

I wanted to touch on this week about the business support that Council offers. Owning and operating a business can be challenging, and Council wants all businesses to succeed in our region. Owning a business can be isolating too, so having resources to support you can be extremely beneficial.

To support South Gippsland businesses, the Economic Development team within Council provides the following:

- A monthly eNewsletter with resources, training opportunities etc.
- Face-to-face business visits.
- Monthly mentoring clinics through the Small Business Mentoring Service.
- Business Concierge Service that provides personal and tailored support.
- Supporting local Business Associations.
- Facilitating Business Victoria workshops on a range of topics such as generating cashflow and marketing.

For more information on these services, please visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/business](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/business)

I am continually encouraged by the increased economic vibrancy of South Gippsland and thank those hard-working business owners and operators who work to create such vibrancy.

**Cr Nathan Hersey – Deputy Mayor**