

Mayor's Message



It is great to be back after a much-needed break to Western Australia. Exploring Australia and getting some sun has left me feeling refreshed and ready to continue serving my community.

I would firstly like to thank Deputy Mayor Nathan Hersey for filling while I was away. I feel he led our community well and used the weekly message as a helpful tool to keep you informed of current happenings.

Wednesday was Council Meeting day, and it was exciting to hear about all the work the Councillors have done in my absence. My favourite part of Council Meetings is often hearing what everyone has been up to over the course of the month. We also adopted a very important strategy for South Gippsland at this month's meeting – the Social and Affordable Housing Strategy.

This strategy highlights the underinvestment that has taken place in South Gippsland on this issue and how Council is seeking to address it. While Council cannot deliver affordable housing to those who need it, we can advocate to the relevant authorities to get something done. Part of the recommendations in the strategy is to make amendments to the Planning Scheme where appropriate to incorporate the strategy and ensure the investment we attract can be utilised.

I hope that this is the first of many positive steps in our region on this issue. If you are interested in reading the strategy, you can find it at www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/strategies

I also have some exciting engagement opportunities to share with you all this week. The first of these is the Domestic Animal Management Plan.

This is just the beginning of the process for this plan, so we are collecting vital community feedback on key issues in this area. There are a number of ways that you can provide your feedback during this stage including an online survey, written submission, face-to-face engagement events and an online workshop. Those who participate in the survey will be in with a chance to win a \$200 hamper full of local produce.

The other engagement opportunity is the Foster Shared Path project. This project has been made possible by grant funding received from the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) and will allow Council to investigate a possible shared path along Station Road in Foster. The aim of this project is to improve the safety, security and amenity of pedestrians and cyclists that use that section of road while also considering the current and future demand of residents. Like the

Domestic Animal Management Plan, we have no set plans, which gives you the ability to tell us what you want to see in draft concept designs that will be released once this initial engagement is over.

If you are interested in lending your voice to either or both of these projects, please do so before Sunday 11 September 2022 by visiting Council's engagement platform:

yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Finally, I would like to extend my best wishes to those who have been affected by the wet weather we've had over the past week. We also know that many roads didn't cope well with the weather, however I would just like to take this opportunity to implore you remain patient with us on getting these fixed. A little kindness and understanding goes a long way for all of us.

Cr Mohya Davies – Mayor