

# Mayor's Message



Presiding over my first Council Meeting this week was a great privilege.

Councillors considered several items and shared their monthly updates.

The proposed leases of Yanakie Caravan Park and Long Jetty Caravan Park in Port Welshpool were considered this month. Both of these Caravan Parks are in a spectacular part of the world, which we all know well and are privileged to have in our backyard. I'm pleased the caravan parks will remain strong for tourists into the future.

We also considered a report on Council's future involvement in the Early Years, which is growing with increased hours for children. While this is great for families, it is a strain on the services we currently have in place. Council will continue to be involved in this service, but must be aware where that involvement stops. I look forward to seeing this report aid our decision making in the future.

There was ample discussion regarding climate, with a petition response and the endorsement of the Coastal Strategy Discussion Paper for engagement. While the petition response may not be exactly what the submitters wanted, it does show that this Council is willing to act. We must consider climate when we make decisions and Council is conscious of that fact. I would like to thank the petition submitters for bringing this issue to Council.

The Coastal Strategy Discussion Paper is now available for feedback. It has been a long road, and the Council staff have done a fabulous job pulling together the information and some potential actions for the community to consider. This is just the first stage – an opportunity for the conversation to begin. We ask you all to turn up to make your voice heard. There will be online and face-to-face opportunities to provide feedback. I encourage you to check out <https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/coastal-strategy> to find out all the details. This first round of engagement closes 31 January 2023.

You can watch the Council Meeting by visiting [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live)

Speaking of engagement, there are also opportunities for Foster locals. Both the Foster Structure Plan Discussion Paper and a Pioneer Street Traffic Proposal are up on Council's engagement site for feedback. These close on 23 December 2022 and 8 January 2023 respectively, so head online now to make your voice heard:

<https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au>

Christmas cheer was in the air at the Carols in the Creek event last Friday. It is fantastic to see our community getting out and enjoying being together at Coal Creek. Well done to all involved in making the night special, including Santa who took time out of his busy schedule to spread some joy.

The South Gippsland Australia Day Photo Competition is back. Professional and amateur photographers are encouraged to take part in the competition by capturing what they think hits this year's theme of "Reflect, Respect, Celebrate: We're All Part of the Story." For more information and to submit your entry, visit

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDayCompetition](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDayCompetition)

This is my last message for 2022, and it certainly has been a great year for Councillors. I would like to extend my well wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2023 and wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Please enjoy this time with your loved ones, stay safe and drive safely.

**Cr Nathan Hersey – Mayor**