



Have your say about the future of our Coastal Communities

Consultation for the South Gippsland Coastal Strategy has now commenced following endorsement at Wednesday's Council meeting.

From Venus Bay to Port Welshpool, our coast is a treasured asset. Not just for the people who live in our many coastal communities, but for everyone who lives, works and visits South Gippsland. However, it is facing a range of pressures, including climate change risk, increasing residential and commercial development, and increasing demand for infrastructure and services. It's clear that we need to take proactive steps to respond to these challenges and prepare our coastal communities for the future.

Our new Coastal Strategy, a major initiative of the 2022-2026 Council Plan, will provide strategic direction for South Gippsland's coastal areas and guide sustainable land use and development.

To ensure the Strategy reflects the views of the South Gippsland community, an extensive engagement process will be undertaken from now until 31 January 2023. This will include pop-ups at markets and festivals, an online survey and forums, written submissions and, we hope, many conversations amongst the community.

Council is keen to hear from South Gippslanders about what they think should be included in the Strategy, what coastal areas are most at risk, and what they consider to be the greatest challenges and opportunities facing our coastal communities. To get the conversation started, we have prepared a Discussion Paper that provides information about some of the challenges and how we might respond

Some of the potential actions include:

- Removing growth areas from the planning scheme for Venus Bay, Sandy Point and Waratah Bay, which means the townships would not expand beyond their current boundaries.
- Limiting new residential development in coastal townships to a single dwelling per lot.
- Introducing subdivision controls to prevent the creation of additional residential lots in coastal towns.
- Reviewing coastal land management arrangements regarding Council's foreshore management areas.

To find out more about the Coastal Strategy engagement and how to get involved, please visit:
yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Quote attributable to Cr Nathan Hersey, Mayor South Gippsland Shire Council:

“We are fortunate to have a magnificent coastline that so many people are passionate about. This engagement provides an opportunity for you to let us know how you think our coastline should be protected. I would like to encourage everyone to get involved. The more feedback we receive the more likely we are to get a strategy that truly reflects the views, and expectations, of our local community.”

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