

Mayor's Message



Community Engagement

Local issues can be complex and Council is creating opportunities to know the desires and vision of our community before setting a course of action.

So, what does Council get from engaging with the community?

Firstly, we gain a better understanding of local needs and aspirations.

Council is not about simply telling the community what will happen, we want open and ongoing discussion between Council and the community.

Secondly, we hear diverse perspectives which allow for better decision making.

When Council is inundated with input from those with the loudest voice or the strongest opinion, the outcomes can be detrimental to the community as a whole. We want a balanced understanding of the community views and to enhance the final decision.

Thirdly, community engagement increases transparency. It is a public process and it keeps Council accountable.

Lastly, community engagement supports community ownership.

Increased trust in Council to make better decisions in the interest of all means we create results that everyone is proud of.

If you would like to receive notifications of new engagement opportunities, please register to Council's engagement platform Your Say South Gippsland by visiting

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

As always, Councillors are more than happy to hear from you regarding any particular concerns you have. Councillor's contact details can be found on Council's website

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

South Gippsland Coastal Strategy

On Saturday 25 February, I was privileged to welcome participants to a Community Dialogue as part of the Coastal Strategy engagement. I would like to thank those who attended for making this event such a success and giving up your time so selflessly.

Events

Last week Councillors attended the Toora Horse Yards opening, the Foster Show and the Leongatha South Community Picnic. Coming up we have Dinner on the Mount at Mount Eccles on 4 March, the Prom Coast Festival from 10 to 13 March, the South Gippsland Jobs Expo on 16 March and the Loch Long Lunch on 19 March just to name a few.

If you have an event you would like a Councillor to attend, please feel free to reach out. We love coming along and hearing the stories of South Gippsland.

Planning Scheme Review

There is just over one week left to provide your feedback to the South Gippsland Planning Scheme Review.

I encourage you to look through the summary document or the entire report and provide your thoughts. We are particularly interested in your feedback on the strategic work for the next four years.

Not many councils offer this opportunity to provide feedback on the Planning Scheme Review, so please take advantage. To provide your feedback online before 15 March 2023, please visit <https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/planning-scheme-review>

Cr Nathan Hersey – Mayor