

# Mayor's Message



## March Council Meeting

While much on the agenda was relatively procedural, some points of business generated some worthy discussion.

A revised **Asset Management Strategy** was unanimously adopted. This is a balanced Strategy that recognises the need for responsible management of Council and the community's assets, while recognising our tightening financial environment under rate capping.

Council unanimously endorsed two **Motions** to go to the **Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)** and the **Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly**.

The first is in relation to road betterment and disaster funding, which calls for funding arrangements to be changed to allow for road improvements after natural disasters – not simply returning the road to what was there previously. The risk of only returning a road to what it once was, is that Council may have to return and do the same work over again due to another natural disaster. We should be using our scarce resources to improve our infrastructure over time.

The second is a call for minimum consultation requirements for projects that achieve Major Project Status. Council has been clear that our community has not been given the opportunity to have meaningful discussion on the offshore wind project, which falls into this category of 'Major Project Status'. Council is proud of the high standard of community engagement we deliver, and we believe the Commonwealth and State Governments should commit to doing the same. We believe that a community engagement framework, which includes Local Government Authorities, should be developed and required for projects that receive this status.

Council responded to a **petition** that was received at the previous Council Meeting regarding **reusable nappies and other sanitary items**. While at this time we decided not to implement a rebate program to encourage our community to make this change, it has started an extremely important conversation about making conscious decisions to reduce our waste. Thank you to the lead petitioner and those who signed the petition for bringing this important conversation to our table.

The final thing I would like to mention is a **planning application** for a **new service station, truck stop and convenience restaurants in Korumburra**. This came before Council due to the number of objections received to the proposal. There were different views in our chamber

which prompted robust discussion on the potential benefits and risks of the application. The application was approved with 35 conditions.

If you would like to watch the meeting back, please visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live)

### **Community Leadership Program Launch**

The launch of the 2023 Community Leadership Program was held on Thursday 16 March. Council is encouraged to see people from all different backgrounds, communities and ages coming together to become better leaders through this program.

Thank you to Deputy Mayor Clare Williams, all other Councillors and our Chief Executive Officer who attended. I look forward to watching this year's intake grow and develop into stronger leaders in South Gippsland throughout this process.

### **South Gippsland Jobs Expo**

The South Gippsland Jobs Expo was a tremendous success with 26 local employers coming along to find their next employees. Over 250 jobs were available on the day and hundreds of people streamed through the doors of Memorial Hall to see what was on offer.

Thank you to everyone who came along and participated.

### **Planning Scheme Review**

Thank you to those who provided feedback on the South Gippsland Planning Scheme Review. It is fantastic to see people taking opportunities to voice their thoughts on important matters. Please continue to look out for new engagement opportunities or sign up to Your Say South Gippsland to get them delivered to your inbox, simply visit <https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/register>

**Cr Nathan Hersey – Mayor**