

Mayor's Message



Proposed Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan

At this week's Council Meeting, we endorsed the 2023/24 Budget and Long Term Financial Plan (10 Year Plan) for community feedback.

As always, Council can best serve you when you engage at these key planning milestones to ensure your needs are met as a community. Every resident has the opportunity to share their thoughts on Council's future priorities.

Some of the key priorities in the Budget include:

- Youth mental health.
- Roads and roadside vegetation management.
- Implementing actions from the recent Coastal Strategy and South Gippsland Planning Scheme Review.

We are also proposing a \$36.832 million investment in our major capital works initiatives including the Korumburra Streetscape project, refurbishment of the rail precinct in Leongatha and Korumburra, Venus Bay streetscape, and construction and sealing of Simons Lane Leongatha. This amount includes a \$25.542 million direct investment from Council.

We will be hosting a Facebook Q&A with Councillors on Wednesday 3 May between 5.30pm and 6.30pm for any resident who has questions about the proposed Budget and Long Term Financial Plan.

To provide your feedback prior to Friday 12 May at 5.00pm, please visit

<https://yoursay.southgippsland.com.au>

Municipal Association of Victoria Gippsland Region Meeting

It was a privilege to host the meeting of the MAV Gippsland regional representatives this week. This was a great opportunity to meet with representatives of each of Gippsland's six councils to highlight local issues and bring them onto the broader regional agenda. Thank you to representatives from Bass Coast, Baw Baw, East Gippsland, Latrobe City and Wellington Shire Councils for attending and contributing.

Yellow Brick Road Open in Leongatha

Yellow Brick Road financial brokers opened their new branch in Leongatha last week with the official opening by Mr Mark Bouris, Chairman of Yellow Brick Road.

It is fantastic to see new businesses coming to South Gippsland and offering a new service to our community. Developing South Gippsland into a thriving economic centre where businesses will relocate and expand to is a key element of our Economic Development Strategy.

If you are having a business or community group opening that you would like a Councillor to attend, please contact the South Gippsland Shire Council office.

Citizenship Ceremony

Congratulations to Australia's newest citizens who were welcomed at our second Citizenship Ceremony for the year on Wednesday. Choosing to call Australia home is a big deal, and we are all so glad that you all chose to come to South Gippsland. Welcome!

ANZAC Day

A day for us all to reflect and remember those who sacrificed so much for the life we enjoy today.

ANZAC Day is always well attended across South Gippsland and it holds a special place in the heart of many Australians. Our Councillors will be attending many local events on ANZAC Day to join with our community in this important reflection.

Candlelight Vigil

Wednesday 3 May 2023, landmarks around Victoria will be illuminated in purple and a Candlelight Vigil held to mark National Domestic Violence Remembrance Day. This is a moment to remember the women and children who have been lost to domestic and family violence.

Every week, the life of one woman in Australia is taken at the hands of an intimate partner. Sadly, Gippsland has some of the highest incidence of domestic and family violence in the state, with the South Gippsland Shire having the 26th highest recorded rate in 2022.

A local vigil will be held outside the South Gippsland Shire Council main office in Leongatha from 6.30pm. All community members are welcome to attend.

Cr Nathan Hersey – Mayor