

# Mayor's Message



## **Canberra Visit**

Along with the Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive Officer, our visit last week to Canberra was a great success.

The Australian Local Government Association delegates unanimously passed two motions presented by South Gippsland Shire Council.

The first of these motions calls on governments to allow for road betterment after a disaster, such as flooding or a landslide. Currently when receiving disaster funding, we must restore roads and bridges to the way they were before any damage. This simply does not address the ongoing issues. Our motion asked for not just repair, but improving roads impacted by disaster so they become more resilient in the future.

The second motion was calling for minimum consultation requirements for the Commonwealth Government and Departments around projects that achieve 'Major Project' status, such as the declared offshore wind zone off the Gippsland coast. It's not acceptable that governments can choose to take the approach of 'this is happening to your community, get used to it'.

We also took the opportunity to meet with the Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories the Honourable Kristy McBain MP; Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories the Honourable Darren Chester MP; Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development the Honourable Bridget McKenzie MP; and heard from many inspiring presenters at the Australian Local Government Associations 2023 National General Assembly.

We have continued to advocate for the use of the Barry Beach port in developing the offshore wind industry and in the operations and maintenance, funding for roads and other community infrastructure, and emergency management and mitigation. These are advocacy priorities that Council adopted last year and are all key to the continued development of our region.

Having positive relationships with our State and Federal colleagues, and clearly advocating for our local needs can and will make a difference to South Gippsland.

The work that is being done in this space allows us to put South Gippsland front of mind when decisions are being made at the highest levels.

## **Men's Health Week**

This year's Men's Health Week theme focused on loneliness. With 43 per cent of Australian men feeling lonely, it is a great time to consider reaching out to men in your life and social circles and asking them how they are doing. This could be a great opportunity to make the time for a catch up.

Men often overlook basic indicators of changes in health and are less likely to seek professional help. If you know someone who may need to go for a check-up or need some other support, make sure you let them know that you are concerned. Give them a gentle nudge and encouragement to do something about it.

I encourage all men in our community to remember the power of 'silly talk'. There's significant value in spending time with others and just talking rubbish, without the pressure of talking about work, finances, or life's pressures.

### **Children and Families Plan**

The opportunity to have your say on the Children and Families Plan has been extended until Friday 23 June. This is the perfect chance for those with children under 12 years to let us know what services you are using and what we made need to be doing better at.

To have your say, please visit: <https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/early-years>

### **Kindergarten Registrations**

Registrations for 2024 three- and four-year-old kindergarten close soon.

If you haven't already done so, please register your first-round preferences by Friday 30 June to ensure you have the best chance at getting the place you need. To complete your registration, please visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/centralenrolment](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/centralenrolment)

### **Street Tree Planting**

Thank you to everyone who expressed an interest in having a tree planted on your nature strip. Our allocations for tree planting this year have been exhausted.

More details will be available soon on how to request a tree in next year's street tree planting program.

### **Cr Nathan Hersey – Mayor**