

Mayor's Message



Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan

Last week, Council took another important step toward implementing the 2022-2026 Council Plan established for this term of Council, by adopting the updated Long-Term Financial Plan, 2023/2024 Annual Budget and Council Plan annual initiatives at Wednesday's Council Meeting. The Budget is fiscally responsible and ensures that we can continue to deliver much needed projects and services. It also allows us to have funds available for the things that are important to our community including roads, which will now receive \$400,000 in additional funding.

This Annual Budget also contains a \$36.832 million Capital Works Program that touches every corner of our Shire.

Thank you to those in our community who provided feedback on the proposed Budget. This was important to ensuring we are hitting the mark with our proposals.

To view the Annual Budget, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/budget

Planning Scheme Review

At the 28 June Council Meeting, Council adopted the South Gippsland Planning Scheme Review.

The Planning Scheme Review, which must be undertaken every four years, was a thorough review with an intention of ensuring the character and attributes that we all value about our unique townships are preserved and growth is responsibly managed. The review also established a program of priority strategic work to be progressed over the next four years.

This now means the Chief Executive Officer can pass along the Report to the Minister for Planning and request a Planning Scheme Amendment to adopt the changes.

If you would like to read through the adopted Planning Scheme Review Report, you can visit <https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/planning-scheme-review>

NAIDOC Week 2023

This year's theme for NAIDOC Week is 'For Our Elders'. It encourages us to consider the important role Elders play in our communities and families.

In South Gippsland, we are working with a number of other partners to support the NAIDOC Week Indigenous Art Exhibition in Wonthaggi.

Councillor Catch Ups

On site 'Councillor Catch Ups' will resume soon. Along with Strzelecki Ward Councillors, Cr Felton and Cr Keerie, we will be providing opportunities for meetings with locals in our Ward.

More details will be available soon through this Message, South Gippsland Shire Council's Facebook page and the fortnightly eNewsletter 'In the Know'.

ArtCubes in Loch

The colourful ArtCubes have made their way to Loch. With photographers and artists of all ages utilising the Cubes while they are in town, I encourage you all to head to Loch and check them out. Currently artist Jo Quirk is doing free portraits!

For more details on the ArtCubes and what is happening in Loch until 25 July visit:

<https://visitsouthgippsland.com.au/artcubes>

Emergency Resilience Funding

Council recently secured funding through Emergency Recovery Victoria's Community-led Recovery Support Grants Program.

With this funding, Council has run, in partnership with Red Cross, RediCommunities Workshops in Foster and Mirboo North. These workshops were designed to improve community disaster resilience planning.

Thank you to everyone who came along, including the emergency services and Council staff who made these workshops possible.

Cr Nathan Hersey – Mayor