

Mayor's Message



My thoughts are with the many locals who have been impacted by the recent sudden, tragic and very public loss of three very much loved, respected and valued members of our community.

The impact is being felt greatly as many locals remember those who have passed away and reflect on their kindness, active participation and significant contributions to our region through education, religious and community support organisations.

In typical South Gippsland fashion, our community is together supporting one another – demonstrating the same caring qualities that those who have left us would have extended to others. The thoughts and prayers of our Council are with the family, friends and community members at this difficult time.

If you need to speak with someone, Beyond Blue offers a Support Service that is available 24/7 for brief counselling on 1300 22 4636.

Offshore Wind Meetings

Councillors took the opportunity to meet with representatives of Star of the South a few weeks ago to discuss how their project is progressing and other relevant matters to South Gippsland around offshore wind.

We also welcomed our local state member, Danny O'Brien MP, sharing his support for local Gippsland benefits through the energy transition to renewables that is occurring. We thank him for sharing directly with Councillors also. Much of what Danny is taking to Parliament is what we as a Council have also been advocating for since initial consultation with the Federal Government occurred.

Council is continually working in this space to ensure that, where practicable, the thoughts of our community are communicated through and we get as much benefit as possible from this new industry.

Canberra Visit – One Gippsland

As part of our One Gippsland commitments, along with our Chief Executive Officer Kerryn Ellis, I travelled to Canberra last week. With representatives from Latrobe City and Baw Baw Shire Councils, as well as Food and Fibre Gippsland, it was a great opportunity to continue our ongoing advocacy on behalf of our region.

As Deputy Chair, I led the regional delegation at meetings with: the Hon. Catherine King MP, the Hon. Kristy McBain MP, the Hon. David Littleproud MP, the Hon. Darren Chester MP and Senator the Hon. Carol Brown as well as a number of senior ministerial advisors.

The key message being that our region is going through some significant transition and as a result, we are looking for investment and support in key areas including: freight fast-track, road safety, ports investment, rail improvements, tourism recovery, digital connectivity, health and wellbeing, education and capitalising on the region's strength in food and fibre.

One Gippsland is comprised of all six Gippsland councils plus a range of industry and stakeholder representatives. Being part of One Gippsland makes our individual voices stronger, and shows a united front to those at higher levels of government.

Adam and Poh

Earlier this year, foodies Adam and Poh came to South Gippsland to film in our region for their SBS show *Great Australian Bites*. Check it out on Tuesday 22 August from 8.00pm.

Cr Nathan Hersey – Mayor