South Gippsland Coastal Strategy Adopted

At last week's Council meeting a Coastal Strategy for South Gippsland was formally adopted.

The Coastal Strategy provides strategic direction for our coastal areas and will help guide sustainable land use and development.

It covers the following themes:

- Population pressure and development.
- Environment and landscape.
- Development and infrastructure land management.
- Community and economy.

The Coastal Strategy is vital for our coastal communities as it helps us to understand, and plan for future challenges such as the increasing demand for residential and commercial development in coastal areas, climate change risks and ageing infrastructure.

The document contains 23 separate actions ranging from modification to the South Gippsland Planning Scheme and further policy development, to the promotion of community safety in coastal townships. Some of these actions Council will be able to undertake independently, however many will require extensive collaboration with key partners including other levels of government and, most importantly, local communities.

This strategy has been informed and developed through two rounds of extensive community consultation; around 800 people provided comments and submissions which helped to identify the issues and opportunities faced by our coastal areas. Council acknowledges that this document could not have been developed to this level without this community feedback, and are thankful for the opportunity to produce this plan for our region.

Quote attributable to Cr Nathan Hersey, Mayor South Gippsland Shire Council:
"This is a strategy informed by our community, for our community. It identifies future risks and the steps we need to undertake to prepare for them. The underlying theme of the Strategy is partnership – our best chance of success is if Council and different groups and levels of government, work together. It is clear that so many locals want to protect our coastline and coastal townships, and the adoption of the Coastal Strategy is a significant step in achieving this community objective."