

## Recognition of the Community Support Package

The COVID-19 Community Support Package (CSP) final report was presented and endorsed at the 15 November Council Meeting.

The Community Support Package aimed to provide targeted assistance and stimulus activities specific to the South Gippsland community.

The Package comprised of 18 programs design to support the community, businesses and organisations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and in recovery. Some of these programs included:

- Shop Local campaign, activation and marketing campaign that aimed to stimulate economic activity by encouraging residents to support local businesses both during and post pandemic.
- Fee Waivers that supported 710 local businesses with registrations and permit fee waivers, and the fast-tracking local payments with 94 per cent of suppliers paid within 14 days.
- 11 Arts, Culture and Creative Industry programs to support artists and creative industry professionals.

The Evaluation Report highlights how important and positive this Package was during such an uncertain time. Some of the highlights named in the report include:

- Staff teamwork and collaboration together and with the community;
- Positive community feedback, particularly from volunteers who valued the additional support from Council;
- Grants spent locally, providing extra benefits and support to local groups and initiatives;
- Investment in the Great Southern Rail Trail; and more.

To view the full report, please view the Council Meeting agenda at: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meetings](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meetings)

### **Quote attributable to Kerryn Ellis, CEO South Gippsland Shire Council:**

*“The Community Support Package evaluation report highlights the important team work that occurred across our organisation during a particularly challenging time for everyone in our community. It also provides us with certainty that this action was necessary to ensure our community was supported and a framework should an event similar to this happen again.”*

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