

## Leongatha Heavy Vehicle Route

Leongatha is South Gippsland's largest town and a major industrial, government, medical, retail, and service centre. It contributes \$1.3 billion to the regional economy and provides over 4,000 jobs. South Gippsland's three highways intersect in Leongatha connecting South Gippsland with Melbourne, the Latrobe Valley and Bass Coast.

Due to significant traffic congestion and safety issues, the South Gippsland Highway was redirected away from the town's commercial centre in 2016. This was the first stage of the Leongatha Heavy Vehicle Route. A highly praised pedestrian friendly redevelopment was then completed in Leongatha's central business district in 2021, leveraging off the reconfigured highway route.

The current route has two uncontrolled intersections which are causing congestion and delays. There are also increased safety concerns related to the recent extension of the Great Southern Rail Trail between Leongatha and Korumburra.

The extension has increased usage and highlighted the need for improved pedestrian and cyclist access across the highway. The second stage of the Heavy Vehicle Route is now needed to resolve traffic and safety issues.

## Our Request

### South Gippsland Shire Council is seeking:

- \$2 million in funding support from the Australian or Victorian Governments to support the Department of Transport and Planning to conduct a detailed planning study for Stage 2 of the Leongatha Heavy Vehicle Alternate Route.

Stage two of the Leongatha Heavy Vehicle Route is a priority project endorsed by One Gippsland.

