

# Mayor's Message



Hello South Gippsland.

How resilient you all are – taking everything in your stride and supporting each other to keep going. The definition of community is being highlighted in all pockets of our region, and I could not be prouder to be Mayor.

While the clean up continues, it may be taking a greater toll on you, your neighbours or loved ones. I encourage you all to keep an eye on each other's mental health, and reach out for support if you need it. Some of the supports available include the Emergency Recovery Hotline (1800 560 760), Latrobe Regional Health Mental Health triage (1300 363 322), Lifeline (13 11 14), Beyond Blue (1300 224 636) and Latrobe Mental Health and Wellbeing (walk in at 23 Hazelwood Road Morwell or call 1800 571 142). Gippsland Southern Health Service will also be at the Relief Point in Mirboo North between 1.00pm and 4.00pm Monday to Wednesday, 12.00pm to 3.00pm Thursday and 1.00pm to 4.00pm on Friday. It is not weak to ask for support and you are not alone.

There is also a number of financial support options that may be available to you. These include Emergency Relief Payments, Prolonged Power Outage Payments, Major Event Day Payments, Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund and free Financial Counselling.

All of these details can be found by visiting: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/stormeventupdate](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/stormeventupdate)

## **Storm Advocacy**

This week, Chief Executive Officer Kerryn Ellis and myself went to the Victorian Parliament to advocate for additional storm assistance for our region.

We met with a range of key government representatives, seeking support for additional waste services for impacted residents, clean-up assistance and relief hubs to help our region prepare and respond to future emergency events. Those we met with include: Minister Melissa Horne MP (Local Government and Roads and Road Safety), Minister Gabrielle Williams MP (Government Services and Public and Active Transport), Minister Jaclyn Symes MP (Emergency Services), Minister Gayle Tierney MP (Regional Development), Minister Harriet Shing MP (Water and Housing) and Minister Natalie Suleyman MP (Small Business). Thank you to all those we met with for taking the time to meet with us and for showing genuine concern for our region and community.

Thank you also to Tom McIntosh MP (Member for Eastern Victoria) for helping us meet with these representatives and your ongoing support of South Gippsland.

I would also like to thank our other local members Danny O'Brien MP and Melina Bath MP for being present in our community. Both have also advocated strongly for the support we need.

### **Catch Up with a Councillor**

Deputy Mayor Nathan Hersey and myself along with other Strzelecki Ward Councillors will be visiting towns in the ward on Sunday 3 March.

We will be at Moo's at Meeniyah between 9.00am and 10.00am, The Tiny Teapot Korumburra from 10.30am to 11.30am and Poowong Hotel from 12.00pm to 1.00pm.

Come along and say 'hi'!

### **VEC Boundary Review**

The Victorian Electoral Commission are seeking feedback from residents on proposed changes to our ward boundaries.

Due to the storm event, they have extended the closing date to Wednesday 13 March 2024 at 5.00pm. To review the changes and provide your feedback, please visit: [www.vec.vic.gov.au/south-gippsland](http://www.vec.vic.gov.au/south-gippsland)

**Cr Clare Williams – Mayor**