

# Mayor's Message



Hello South Gippsland.

One of the best things about being a Councillor is representing the community. This happens in so many different ways, such as sitting on Committees, meetings with State and Federal MPs and catching up with our community. It has and always will be the greatest privilege to represent you all as Mayor.

This week, Chief Executive Officer Kerry Ellis and I met with Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC the Governor of Victoria. This was a great opportunity for us to again demonstrate the remarkable and hard moments that our community have gone through in the past month. Shining a light on how our community has mobilised to support each other, and what we need from other government agencies to continue cleaning up.

While we visited the Governor, we also attended the Rural Councils Victoria meeting, which was held at state Parliament and provided another great opportunity to meet with the Premier of Victoria and a number of government Ministers. Meeting with our counterparts from other regions and presenting joint advocacy opportunities to government is always valuable. We are never alone in our challenges.

Recently, Councillor Scott Rae attended a South East Australian Transport Strategy (SEATS) Committee meeting. At the meeting, Committee members spoke about transport network issues that affect industrial freight and our communities. Councillor Rae took the opportunity to speak about a suite of improvements and projects that we would like to see completed.

## **Engagement Opportunities**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Future of Coal Creek survey and put their hand up to be part of the Community Assembly. The survey is now closed and the Community Assembly recruitment is happening now. I'm really looking forward to seeing the feedback from you all.

Due to the storm event, the engagement opportunity for *Amendment C119sgip – Areas Susceptible to Erosion* has been extended to Friday 22 March. This amendment proposes to update the Erosion Management Overlay to protect areas susceptible to erosion and remove the need for permits in some situations.

To view and provide feedback on any current engagement opportunity, please visit:

<https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au>

## **International Women's Day**

This year, International Women's Day focussed on giving women equal opportunity to earn, learn and lead.

I am very fortunate to be a leader, and be surrounded by amazing women every day who do extraordinary things in varying fields. Every woman is doing something that others look up to, and I'm really proud to see women continuing to be included and thrive in our community.

**Cr Clare Williams – Mayor**