

Mayor's Message



Hello South Gippsland.

Providing constructive feedback to Council is something we as a Councillor group and organisation have encouraged since the beginning of our term. We want to hear from our community and we have shown that time and time again with multiple projects and even with Councillor Catch Up opportunities. However, this feedback needs to be provided through the appropriate channels. Flyers to other residents, comments or posts on a closed Facebook group and other methods are not constructive, especially when they are disrespectful towards either my Councillor colleagues or Council employees. Please consider the way in which you are trying to share your point of view and whether that is how you would like someone to share their feedback on you.

Advocacy Success

In happier news, Council's work in the advocacy space continued last week with a visit from the Honourable Gayle Tierney MP, Minister for Regional Development in Mirboo North. This was followed by meetings in Canberra with the Honourable Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development and Local Government, Member for Monash Russell Broadbent as well as senior advisors to the Honourable Murray Watt (Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Emergency Management) and the Honourable Michelle Rowland (Minister for Communications). The purpose of the visits was to advocate on behalf of the South Gippsland for increased telecommunication and disaster recovery support.

Last Wednesday, we were pleased to see our advocacy efforts supported with a \$200,000 grant announced by Minister Gayle Tierney on behalf of the Victorian Government. The funding is for the establishment of a Mirboo North Community and Business Resilience Hub and to support the popular Winterfest event.

Council Meeting

There was lots of discussion at last week's Council Meeting, but we got there in the end. We were pleased to adopt a new Arts and Civic Memorabilia Collection Policy, a new Children and Families Plan and – after significant consultation over many months – an updated General Local Law. Each of these documents received extensive consideration by the Councillor group and we are pleased that they have now been endorsed.

Reappointment of Chief Executive Officer

Finally, and excitedly, at last week's Meeting we also endorsed the reappointment of Kerryn Ellis as Chief Executive Officer for South Gippsland Shire Council under a new five-year contract. This is terrific

news for the organisation and for South Gippsland. We are very fortunate to have a CEO of Kerry's calibre and we have achieved so much under her strong, considered leadership. It was a great finish to the Council Meeting and provides Council, and South Gippsland, with a solid foundation for the years ahead.

Cr Clare Williams – Mayor