

Statement from the Mayor: CEO Reappointment

“Council was united today in its agreement to reappoint Kerryn Ellis as the Chief Executive Officer of South Gippsland Shire Council under a new five-year contract.

During her time at Council, Ms. Ellis has demonstrated strong leadership, clear thinking and an unwavering commitment to the people of South Gippsland. I know I speak for all Councillors when I say that our decision to reappoint is the right decision, and that we have every confidence in Ms. Ellis’s abilities, professionalism and integrity.

Ms. Ellis started her employment at South Gippsland Shire Council in March 2020, following a difficult time for South Gippsland. Ms. Ellis’ commencement also coincided with the beginning of COVID lockdowns and a period of national uncertainty.

Despite this unconventional beginning, Ms. Ellis was resolute in her desire to make changes at Council that would give incoming Councillors the greatest chance of success, when South Gippsland emerged from administration to undertake local government elections in 2021.

As one of the duly elected Councillors, I will forever be appreciative of the work that was undertaken by Ms. Ellis’s in creating solid foundations – based on teamwork and unity – that would guide our Councillor group and inform our decision-making throughout our term.

There have been many achievements over the past four years that are testament to Ms. Ellis’s confident and accomplished leadership, but here are just a few highlights.

- Under Ms. Ellis’s leadership the South Gippsland community’s overall satisfaction with Council has increased 20 points since 2019.
- Award success has been achieved with a State Award for Planning Excellence and a LGPro Specialist Award for the Shaping South Gippsland community engagement project. This initiative helped to inform development of the Community Vision and four-year Council Plan.
- Ms. Ellis was recognised as one of the top 50 public sector women in 2021 by the IPAA, Victoria’s

peak public purpose sector professional association.

- South Gippsland Shire Council now has a 9.6 per cent staff turnover rate; the lowest in Gippsland and one of the lowest in Victoria.
- Ms. Ellis was one of only four local government leaders nationally invited to speak at an event centred around workforce retention in local government.
- Council received national recognition for its Councillor Transition program.

These are tremendous achievements and I have no doubt that there will be many more to come. On behalf South Gippsland Shire Council, I would like to thank Kerry for her work rebuilding South Gippsland Shire Council and for setting a clear, positive direction for our region's future."

Cr Clare Williams

Mayor South Gippsland Shire Council

For media enquiries, please contact the Communications team on 5662 9200
South Gippsland Shire Council, 9 Smith St. (Private Bag 4), Leongatha 3953
communications@southgippsland.vic.gov.au
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au