



Have your say on South Gippsland Shire Council's Proposed Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan

South Gippsland Shire Council's Proposed Budget 2024/25 – 2027/28 and Long-Term Financial Plan are now available for community review following endorsement at Wednesday's Council Meeting.

The draft documents provide Council with a financially sound foundation to deliver services to the local community and to achieve the strategic priorities outlined in the Council Plan. The budget and financial plan provide long-term sustainability, and a framework for the incoming Council to build upon, whilst introducing a number of new initiatives to meet community needs.

This year's proposed budget initiatives include:

- \$300,000 for Building Maintenance: To address crucial maintenance needs including safety and functionality of community buildings.
- \$160,000 for Roadside Drainage Maintenance Spraying: To enhance roadside maintenance efforts including road pavement and proper drainage.
- \$50,000 for Land Management Partnership with South Gippsland Landcare: To establish a partnership to bolster land management efforts, focusing on weed control and biodiversity preservation.
- \$30,000 for Live4Life Program: To support mental health education and suicide prevention for rural youth, addressing commitment to community well-being.
- \$50,000 to Implement Coal Creek Strategic Plan: Kickstarting the implementation of outcomes from the Coal Creek Strategic plan.
- \$60,000 for Community Leadership Program: Empowering community members to foster skills development, leadership and community betterment.

These initiatives are in addition to a proposed capital works program totaling \$36.3 million. The program includes annual road and footpath renewal works and an array of community-based infrastructure projects.

The current economic landscape was carefully considered during budget discussions, with interest rates, the elevated cost of living, and soaring building costs, all contributing to the pressure of needing to achieve more with fewer resources. Throughout the development of the proposed budget, Council has considered these challenges to ensure responsible financial management that best serves the community's needs.

Despite these challenges, the annual budget shows a combined income of \$94.363M and an underlying surplus of \$4.775M which puts Council in a strong financial position moving forward.'

Feedback on the Proposed Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan can be provided from now until Sunday 5 May at: yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Quote attributable to Cr Clare Williams, Mayor South Gippsland Shire Council:

"Our focus remains on investing into initiatives that will benefit our community now and in the future. The Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan reflect Council's commitment to building a financially sustainable South Gippsland while aligning with the aspirations and needs of the community."

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