

Mayor Message



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Hello South Gippsland.

Last week, Deputy Mayor Sarah Gilligan, CEO Allison Jones, Director Strategic Partnerships Christian Stefani and I enjoyed the chance to meet with Danny O'Brien, Member for Gippsland South and Leader of The Nationals and Melina Bath, Member for Eastern Victoria. This was a fantastic opportunity to continue discussing South Gippsland's advocacy priorities, and the challenges and opportunities facing our region.

Community Grant Sessions

Council's Community Grants Program is open until Sunday 31 August. To help prepare your application, Council is running four information sessions. These sessions provide an opportunity to learn more about the grants program and how they can support your community group.

Pop in to speak to Council's Grants Officer about the program between 10.00am and 3.00pm at one of the following locations:

- Monday 28 July – Leongatha Library
- Tuesday 29 July – Korumburra Library
- Monday 4 August – Foster Library
- Thursday 7 August – Mirboo North Library

Hard Waste Collection Bookings

Hard waste collection bookings are now open until Sunday 31 August. Hard waste collection in South Gippsland is a 'user pays' service, meaning only those that use the service pay for it. This service provides convenience, particularly for those that are unable to attend a transfer station themselves. Collections will take place during October and November.

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/hardwaste

Leongatha Fire Brigade Awards

I had the pleasure of attending the Leongatha Fire Brigade awards night on Saturday. This is an annual event that recognises the committed service of a number of Brigade



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members. A big congratulations to all award winners and thank you for the incredible service you provide our community.

July Council Meeting

Last Wednesday, Council held its July Meeting, where we covered a wide range of important topics. At this meeting, Council adopted the proposal to rezone and subdivide at 108 and 110 Parr Street, Leongatha. This will be submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval. The amendment will result in approximately 171 lots in Leongatha, which is a small step in helping to address the shortage of available housing in our region.

The Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) was also discussed. Council maintains its opposition to the proposed levy, while acknowledging the Victorian Government's intention to proceed. The current model of different calculations between agricultural and commercial rates unfairly places the load on our regional producers and we are seeking equity. We are also seeking that all funds collected are fully reinvested into emergency services within those same communities.

We are happy to continue pushing back against the request for Council to collect funds on behalf of the Victorian Government, without our ratepayers directly reaping the benefits from this.

Thanks South Gippsland,
Cr John Schelling – Mayor