

Mayor Message



Hello South Gippsland,

Our August Council Meeting was a ripper – clocking in as the second-longest South Gippsland Shire Council livestream, just 6 minutes shy of the record. It was packed with robust debate and some great decision making.

Proposed renaming of the Korumburra Recreation Reserve Oval

One of the standout moments for me was Council's endorsement to begin community consultation on renaming the Korumburra Recreation Reserve Oval to "Summerfield Oval". This proposed name honours the legacy of Allen Victor Summerfield or "Cobra" as he was commonly known, a cherished figure in the Korumburra community. I encourage everyone to share their thoughts – consultation is open until 21 September at yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au.

Accessible Pontoon at Port Welshpool

We also approved entering a \$750,000 funding agreement with Better Boating Victoria to construct a new Accessible Pontoon at Port Welshpool. This will be a fantastic addition to our region, improving access and inclusivity for all.

Citizenship Ceremony

Last week, we welcomed 19 of Australia's newest citizens at our August Citizenship Ceremony at Memorial Hall in Leongatha. It was a heartwarming evening celebrating the rich cultural diversity that continues to grow in South Gippsland.

Meeniyan Community Hub

We also officially opened the Meeniyan Community Hub, a brilliant new community asset. It's wonderful to see our capital works projects coming to life after significant planning and partnership with our community.

Funding for South Gippsland

I had the pleasure of meeting with Tom McIntosh MP to celebrate some exciting State Government funding announcements:

- \$1 million for the Korumburra Tennis Club Pavilion Redevelopment Project
- \$2 million towards employee accommodation at Woorayl Lodge in Leongatha



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Congratulations to both organisations, these investments will have lasting impacts.

Road Safety

I also want to gently remind everyone about road safety, especially when operating slow-moving vehicles. If you're driving one, please do so safely – consider pulling over to let others pass, avoid peak traffic times, and always be mindful of visibility and speed. These small actions can prevent serious accidents and keep our rural roads safe for everyone.

South East Australian Transport Strategy (SEATS)

Recently, I attended the South East Australian Transport Strategy (SEATS) meeting, where we continued advocating for improved transport infrastructure across our region. It's encouraging to see our priorities being recognised at a broader level.

Marinus Link

Deputy Mayor Sarah Gilligan, Councillor Brad Snell, and Director Strategy and Partnerships Christian Stefani represented South Gippsland at the recent Marinus Link Meeting. Their involvement highlighted the strong advocacy our Council has maintained around energy infrastructure and regional benefits.

Decommissioning Works

Councillor Clare Williams attended an ExxonMobil platforms and pipeline decommissioning information session last Wednesday evening. It provided a good opportunity to learn more about what is involved and next steps.

Council Induction Day

I also had the pleasure of welcoming our newest staff members at Council's employee induction morning. It's always a pleasure to meet the people who help drive our organisation forward.

Meeting with Minister's

Finally, we caught up with Bev McArthur MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government and Scrutiny of Government, and Renee Heath MP, Shadow Assistant Minister for



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Multicultural Affairs and Victims of Family Violence. We discussed key issues including cost-shifting, asset management, and the challenges of Council-managed roads. These conversations are crucial as we continue to advocate for fairer outcomes for local government.

It's been a busy and productive few weeks, and I'm proud of the work we're doing across all levels of government to deliver for South Gippsland.

Take care,

Mayor John Schelling