



Council Seeks Feedback on Draft Governance Rules

South Gippsland Shire Council is inviting community feedback on its Draft Governance Rules. Council endorsed the rules for community consultation at the October Council Meeting.

The Draft Governance Rules define how Council operates, specifically around how meetings are run, and how the public can participate. The review aims to improve and clarify processes, address previous inconsistencies, and strengthen good governance practices.

One of the proposed updates is that public questions would need to relate directly to items listed on the Council Meeting agenda. This approach is designed to improve meeting flow and ensure that questions are directed through the most appropriate channels for a timely response. Currently, questions submitted for Council Meetings must wait to be addressed at the meeting, even when they relate to matters that could be actioned earlier in accordance with Council's Customer Service Charter. An additional change is that agenda-related questions can be read out by the submitter if they are in attendance at the relevant Council Meeting. If the submitter is unable to attend the questions would still be read out.

In addition to these changes, Council is introducing new measures to improve transparency and convenience. Where appropriate, contract and tender reports will be considered in open Council Meetings, with confidential attachments used to protect sensitive commercial information. The meeting agenda will also be reordered so that items like petitions and public questions appear earlier in the session which would potentially be more convenient for community members looking to attend a meeting in-person.

To read the Draft Governance Rules and to share your feedback, please visit:

<https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/>

Quote attributable to Cr John Schelling, Mayor South Gippsland Shire Council:

"Council's governance framework is vital for decision-making. The proposed updates to the Governance Rules aim to clarify processes and centre meetings around current Council business. We encourage all community members to provide feedback on these proposed

rules.”

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