

Telecommunications and Transport

South Gippsland Shire Council is seeking improved transport and telecommunications infrastructure to enhance accessibility, sustainability, and emergency resilience for the community.

South Gippsland Shire Council is calling for enhanced transport and telecommunications infrastructure to better meet the needs of its community.

Council requests that bicycles be accommodated on V/Line buses servicing South Gippsland to improve sustainable travel options. Further, Council seeks increased funding to expand community and public transport services, with a particular focus on improving routes that connect residents to vital services such as healthcare, education, and social support, ensuring greater accessibility for all.

On telecommunications, Council urges the immediate reclassification of telecommunications as an essential service, accompanied by urgent regulatory reforms. These reforms should require service providers to increase backup power capacity for all phone towers from the current 18 hours to 72 hours, in line with Victoria's emergency preparedness program, *The First 72 Hours*, to ensure communication resilience during emergencies.

Request Victorian Government

Council calls on the Victorian Government to:

- Accommodate bicycles on V/Line buses to and from South Gippsland.
- Provide funding to expand community and public transport options in South Gippsland, with a focus on improving routes that connect residents to essential services such as healthcare, education, and social support.
- Immediately reclassify telecommunications as an essential service and introduce urgent regulatory changes requiring providers to increase backup power for all phone towers—from 18 to 72 hours—in line with the state's emergency preparedness program, *The First 72 Hours*.

