

# Support for local industry

**South Gippsland Shire Council seeks government support to foster emerging industries like offshore wind development while protecting its largest and most valuable existing industry—agriculture.**

As South Gippsland navigates new economic opportunities through offshore wind, it is essential that regional communities hosting related infrastructure—including ports and workforce accommodation—receive clear and lasting benefits. Council calls for the development of a consistent, enforceable community benefits framework that includes local employment, training, and procurement opportunities; directs investment into infrastructure, housing, and essential services; and supports social and community development. This framework must also preserve the liveability, character, and long-term sustainability of regional towns.

At the same time, it is critical to strengthen the Victorian Planning Scheme to enhance protections for land within farming zones, safeguarding vital agricultural land and supporting the continued viability of South Gippsland's agriculture industry, which remains the backbone of the local economy.

Balanced government support is needed to ensure emerging industries can thrive without compromising the health and sustainability of established sectors. A coordinated approach is vital to achieving a fair, inclusive, and regionally balanced transition that benefits all parts of the community.

## Request Australian Government

**Council calls on the Australian Government to:**

- Establish a clear, transparent, and enforceable community benefits framework that guarantees direct investment into communities located in the vicinity of offshore wind projects. These communities must receive tangible social and economic benefits in recognition of their role in hosting and supporting this critical infrastructure.

## Victorian Government

**Council calls on the Victorian Government to:**

- Strengthen the Victorian Planning Scheme to enhance protections for land within farming zones, helping to safeguard vital agricultural land and support the long-term viability of the agriculture industry.

