

# Mayor Message



Hello South Gippsland,

The end of the year is fast approaching. Our final public Council Meeting of 2025 will be held on Wednesday 10 December from 2.00pm.

As we all enjoy the Christmas and New Year period, I was to encourage everyone to drive safely and take care on our roads.

## Gippsland Leadership Program

The high-quality services that South Gippsland Shire Council provide are made possible because of the dedicated people who work for Council.

It's important that we have opportunities for our staff to grow and learn!

Proudly, the Gippsland Community Leadership Program has seen two of our own recent graduates in Ben Lehmann (Open Space Assets and Projects Officer) and Andrea Phillips (Coordinator Rates and Revenue).

The 10-month program is designed to build strong, connected leaders across the region through collaboration and hands-on learning. It's great to have people within our organisation who are committed to strengthening their skills and leadership capability for the benefit of our community. Well done and congratulations Ben and Andrea!

## South Gippsland Youth Strategy

Council is currently seeking feedback to help inform the development of a new Youth Strategy. This Strategy will guide Council's work on issues impacting young people in South Gippsland and outline how they can have a stronger voice in matters that affect them.

We encourage everyone — especially our youth — to have their say on the Youth Strategy via Council's engagement portal: <https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/>

## Marinus Link

Last week, I attended the Marinus Link "Meet the Contractors" session in Leongatha.

With over 300 people turning up, it was a very well-attended event, which provided a valuable opportunity for local businesses to connect with lead contractors ahead of construction commencing next year. The Marinus Link project is significant for our



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region, and we want to ensure that our businesses — and our local economy — are positioned to benefit from the project.

### **Briefings from the community**

Last week, Councillors met with Mirboo North community members Matt Snell (Mirboo North Primary School) and Ruth Rogan (Mirboo North District Foundation) for a cuppa and a relaxed conversation about their strategic goals and challenges.

It was encouraging to connect face-to-face and to hear directly. As part of our commitment to open engagement, we will be holding more Coffee Catch-Ups next year.

### **Viplus Dairy Toora**

Councillor Schelling and Councillor Finlay recently visited Viplus Dairy where they joined a delegation from China to celebrate 10 years of partnership in Toora. It's great to see local businesses like Viplus strengthening trade ties and contributing to increased economic activity in right here in South Gippsland.

### **Award recognition**

Congratulations to Councillor Sarah Gilligan on her nomination for the Mary Rogers Award. This award from the Victorian Local Governance Association celebrates and acknowledges the significant contributions and achievements of women councillors in local government.

Being nominated twice for the same award in the same year, shows that Cr Gilligan is recognised across Victoria for her strong contributions to local government.

Congratulations!

**Mayor Nathan Hersey**