



South Gippsland Shire Council Adopts Updated Governance Rules

At Wednesday's Council Meeting, new Governance Rules were endorsed. The new Rules are intended to improve and clarify processes, address previous inconsistencies, and strengthen good governance practices, particularly relating to Council meetings.

The Rules form an integral part of Council's *Good Governance Framework* and are required under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

The newly adopted Rules clarify several important processes, including:

- **Public Question Time:** Following feedback received during community consultation, the maximum length for Public Questions has been increased to 200 words per question (up from the 100-word limit initially proposed). The submission deadline for Public Questions has also been adjusted to 24 hours prior to the start of the Council Meeting. Public Questions are required to relate to Council Meeting Agenda Topics, and the Questioner may read their question out when they are present at the Council Meeting.
- **Meeting Procedures:** The Rules clarify the process when introducing a motion or an amendment.
- **Petitions:** An updated process for receiving and noting Petitions has been included.
- **Elections:** Changes have been made to the process for the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The changes relate to the way Councillors vote for the candidate in the order nominations are received, and updating the process should there be a tie or no candidate receiving an absolute majority of votes.

The development of the Governance Rules followed a month-long community engagement involving online submissions and in-person drop-in sessions.

Quotes attributable to South Gippsland Shire Mayor, Nathan Hersey:

“The adoption of the Governance Rules 2025 is an important step in fulfilling our responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2020. By reviewing and updating the Rules we are committed to strengthening the orderly conduct of our meetings.

“Council has listened to feedback and subsequently made appropriate changes that increase community engagement with Council and that supports positive and open engagement.”

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