

## South Gippsland Shire Council Endorses Motions for MAV State Council

At Wednesday's Council Meeting, South Gippsland Shire Council endorsed two motions for submission to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council.

The MAV State Council gives councils across Victoria the opportunity to put forward motions on matters of strategic and state-wide significance. If supported by other councils, these motions are then advocated by the MAV on behalf of local government across the state.

Council's first motion calls for a review of the legislated process for electing Mayors and Deputy Mayors. Council is seeking MAV advocacy to the Minister for Local Government, with the matter to also be referred to the Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel.

The motion highlights the need to reduce psychological safety risks associated with conducting these elections in open Council meetings. Options proposed for consideration include conducting voting in closed Council with results reported publicly, or introducing secure electronic secret ballots.

The second motion asks Council to provide written support for Wellington Shire Council's motion calling on the MAV to write to the Minister for Energy and Resources in support of establishing a Payment in Lieu of Rates (PiLoR) Framework for offshore electricity generators in Victoria. Such a framework would enable offshore energy projects to contribute payments in lieu of Local Government rates.

South Gippsland Shire Council has been a strong advocate for PiLoR in recent years. Council has made submissions in response to the *2024 Draft Victorian Transmission Guidelines* and the *Renewable Energy Zone Study Area* process, and has consistently called for the benefits of new energy investment to flow through to the communities most directly impacted.

### **Quote attributable to Cr Nathan Hersey, Mayor of South Gippsland Shire Council**

*"These motions support safer, respectful decision-making and ensure we keep advocating for fair outcomes so regional communities benefit from the investment happening around them."*

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