

## Draft 2026/27 Budget Released for Community Engagement

At the April Council Meeting, South Gippsland Shire Council endorsed the draft 2026/27 Budget for community feedback.

Development of the 2026/27 Budget commenced early, with Council undertaking community engagement at the very beginning of the process. This provided an opportunity for community ideas to help shape the Budget from the outset.

This initial engagement attracted more than 100 ideas, and funding was identified to support a number of the initiatives suggested. However, events happening on the other side of the world brought impacts right to our doorstep with rising costs, particularly fuel, placing pressure on Council's operating environment and the cost of delivering core services and infrastructure.

As a result, Council made the difficult decision to reframe the Budget, limiting spending on new initiatives to focus on maintaining the services our community relies on and protecting Council's long-term financial sustainability.

Despite this more conservative approach, the draft Budget still delivers meaningful outcomes. It includes a significant but financially manageable \$24 million capital works program to progress important renewal projects. It also provides for the delivery of the first stage of the Region Precincts and Partnerships Program — a \$4.7 million Australian Government-funded initiative being delivered in partnership with Wellington Shire Council.

The Budget also supports the development of a new Economic Development and Visitor Economy Strategy, to be delivered in-house to achieve cost savings, and continues key strategic work including the Sustainable Building Asset Management program and the Aquatic Strategy.

To review the draft Budget and provide feedback, please visit [yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au](https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au). Feedback closes Sunday 3 May.

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

*South Gippsland Shire Council is committed to engaging with our community so that we can deliver what our community values. We entered the 2026/27 Budget process in a position of financial strength, built*

*through consistent and active financial management over recent years. However, maintaining that strength while continuing to meet community expectations is no small task. It requires discipline, foresight, strong focus, and long term sustainability. As Mayor I am incredibly proud of the collaborative and constructive way Councillors and Officers worked together to develop this draft budget. I encourage everyone to take the time to review the draft Budget and provide feedback.”*

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