

Mayor's Message



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

As we mark National Volunteer Week, I want to recognise and celebrate the remarkable contribution that volunteers make across South Gippsland every single day. Ours is a community built on generosity, connection and a willingness to lend a hand, and nowhere is that more evident than in the thousands of people who give their time, energy and skills to support others.

From sporting clubs, emergency services and service organisations, to arts groups, community committees, and neighbourhood houses, volunteerism is woven into the fabric of life in South Gippsland. Volunteers are often the quiet achievers, behind so much of what makes our region thrive. Our volunteers coach our children, support our older residents, raise funds for important causes, maintain community assets, protect our natural environment and help create the events and experiences that bring people together.

In many ways, volunteers are the heartbeat of our towns across South Gippsland. The contribution extends far beyond the hours they donate: they strengthen social connections, build resilience and help foster the strong sense of belonging that makes South Gippsland such a special place to live. On behalf of Council and our community, I extend sincere thanks to every volunteer across the region. Your contribution is deeply valued. Thank you!

Alongside celebrating the people who make our communities strong, there is also much to be optimistic about when we look to South Gippsland's economic future.

Our region is entering a period of significant opportunity, with several major projects set to deliver investment, employment and long-term economic benefits. Construction has commenced on some new projects in our region and at Barry Beach, the decommissioning of offshore oil and gas infrastructure is expected to generate substantial local economic activity.

While decommissioning marks the end of one chapter for these assets, it is also creating new opportunities – requiring skilled workers, specialised services, logistics and supply chain support. This work positions South Gippsland as an important contributor to a growing and highly specialised industry, while helping to support local jobs and broader economic growth.



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The Marinus Link project is another significant project for our region. As a major nation-building piece of infrastructure connecting Tasmania and mainland Australia, Marinus Link will support the transfer of renewable energy across Bass Strait while also bringing construction activity, workforce demand and associated economic benefits to Gippsland.

Taken together, these projects signal an important shift in our regional economy. They represent diversification, investment and new pathways for employment and business growth. Importantly, they also reinforce South Gippsland's role in supporting Australia's energy transition and future infrastructure needs.

Periods of change always bring challenges to navigate, but they also bring opportunity. South Gippsland has a proud history of adapting, innovating and working together to make the most of what lies ahead. The challenge for us with this new set of circumstances is to ensure that all the things we value about South Gippsland – our farming sector, our welcoming villages, our tightknit communities – are enhanced by these opportunities.

With strong communities, dedicated volunteers and significant economic investment on the horizon, there is every reason to feel optimistic about South Gippsland's future.

I am confident that South Gippsland has a bright future as a great place to live, work and enjoy.