

Councillor Message



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

I like that our Mayor, shares his regular Mayor's Message column with other Councillors so we can share our thoughts with the community, so thanks Nathan.

South Gippsland Shire Councillors come from different backgrounds, with different experiences and views and, I think, they are quite representative of the community as a whole. But more on that later, first some Council updates.

Expressions of Interest – Musicians for Coal Creek

Council is also seeking expressions of interest from musicians to perform at Coal Creek on two Sundays in November. Four acts are being sought to support headline performers at both events. To find out more, please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/EOI-Sunday-Sessions

Planning Scheme Update

Council is currently seeking community feedback on a review of the South Gippsland Planning Scheme to assess how it is functioning in practice. The Review may inform minor updates or improvements to ensure the Scheme continues to operate effectively. Interested stakeholders and members of the community are encouraged to provide their input: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/PlanningSchemeReview2026

First 72 Hours Workshops

Council is running a series of workshops designed to help residents prepare for the first 72 hours after an emergency. The sessions are coming up in Leongatha, Foster, Mirboo North and Korumburra. For more information, please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/72hrs-workshops

Prior to writing this column, I asked around about what people would like me to include. Below is what they said.

On the big-picture issues, people's concerns were cost of living, fuel prices and how artificial intelligence will impact us.

These are all major concerns that Council has little control over, but need to consider when making decisions.



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While on a more local level, people raised: car parking in our towns, the “Do Not Spray” Register, the new roadside bin collection system, roads, rubbish (again), lower rates and roads again!

And sorry if I forgot to include some suggestions. Councillors do listen to these concerns, welcome ideas and do what we can. So please don’t think you are wasting your time, or ours, with feedback and complaints. We will do what we can.

Back to our group of Councillors. We are indeed representative of the wider community, basically ordinary people interested in how we can contribute and make a difference.

Our different backgrounds and views can lead to “robust debate” but while joint decisions, similar to the idea of “cabinet solidarity”, may sometimes be hard to accept, I have genuine respect for the commitment and views of all the other South Gippsland Shire Councillors.

When I’m asked how it’s going being on Council, my reply is, “It’s interesting, and frustrating,” and yes, it is an honour to have the opportunity to represent the community.