

Mayor's Message



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Engaging with Councillors

Our Council has made very conscious improvements to create more opportunities for you to engage with Councillors. We know and understand that easy access to your elected councillors is important, but we also acknowledge that the open engagement helps us to better represent the needs and expectations of our community.

This Wednesday 22 July, Councillors from the Tarwin Valley and Coastal Promontory Wards will be in Leongatha and Meeniyan to hear your thoughts.

Deputy Mayor Snell and Councillors Schelling and Williams will visit businesses in the Leongatha CBD between 10.00am and 12.00pm to speak with local owners and operators. These conversations will help inform the development of Council's new *Economic Development and Visitor Economy Strategy*.

Meanwhile, Councillors Finlay, Gilligan and Rae will host a community drop-in session at the Meeniyan Hub from 10.00am to 1.00pm. No booking is required—simply stop by, say hello and share your ideas and feedback.

There are also opportunities to meet the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on the second Tuesday of every month, or upon request at other times. There are some meeting time slots available at the next scheduled meeting day, on 11 August. To book a time please visit www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meetthemayor

The upcoming 'conversation with councillors' day will be held in Port Welshpool on 2 September, with some time slots to formally present to Council still available in the afternoon. The day will also have a drop-in session for anyone to come along and have a casual chat. The time for the drop-in session will be advertised closer to the date once the formal presentations to Council are scheduled.

Presentations to Council can also be made on the first Wednesday of every month.

To present to Council please visit www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/presentingtocouncil
Council is committed to genuine engagement and strong representation for South Gippsland as we continue to work to make South Gippsland an even better place to live, work and enjoy.



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Public Transparency Policy

Community engagement is now open on Council's draft Public Transparency Policy. The draft policy outlines the principles that guide how Council makes information publicly available and reinforces Council's commitment to transparency, accountability and good governance. It also recognises that some information must remain confidential or be protected by law. Community members can view the draft policy and provide feedback through Council's website until 12 August 2026.

Community Satisfaction Survey

Council has received the results of its annual Community Satisfaction Survey, which show improvements across all key areas. Overall performance has increased by three points, value for money by four points, and community consultation and engagement by three points. While there is still more work to do, I am encouraged by the positive movement in these results and together, Councillors will continue to strive to provide high quality services, infrastructure and representation that makes our community proud.

Coal Creek Heritage Day

The next Coal Creek Heritage Day will be held on Saturday 1 August. The Coal Creek Heritage Day events are a wonderful opportunity to step back in time and experience South Gippsland's rich history through demonstrations, heritage displays, traditional trades and activities for all ages. Heritage Days take place on the first Saturday of every month.

Thank you to the volunteers from the Friends of Coal Creek who are excelling in making these days engaging and fun for all to enjoy! Please get along and make the most of a great day out.