

Updated Governance Policies

South Gippsland Shire Council is continuing to strengthen its commitment to good governance, accountability and transparency through a series of updated governance policies.

At its July Council Meeting, Councillors considered three revised policies covering public transparency, fraud and corrupt conduct, and councillor gifts, benefits and hospitality.

The proposed changes reflect current legislation, contemporary governance standards and recommendations arising from Council's ongoing governance improvement program.

The Draft *Public Transparency Policy* will be released for community consultation for four weeks, providing residents with an opportunity to help shape how Council makes information and decision-making processes accessible and understandable.

Council adopted an updated *Fraud and Corrupt Conduct Policy*, reaffirming its zero-tolerance approach to fraud and corruption and aligning the policy with the latest Australian Standards.

In addition, changes to the *Councillor Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy* will introduce a publicly available register summarising gifts declared by Councillors. The register will be published on Council's website and updated every six months, providing the community with greater visibility and confidence in Council's governance practices.

The suite of policies forms part of Council's ongoing commitment to maintaining high standards of integrity, openness and accountability across the organisation.

Quotes attributable to South Gippsland Mayor, Cr Nathan Hersey:

"Our community expects openness, accountability and integrity from its Council – these policy updates reinforce our Council's commitment to meeting these expectations."

"By strengthening our governance framework and increasing transparency, we're making it easier for residents to understand how Council operates and how decisions are made."

"The introduction of a public register of Councillor gifts is another practical step towards ensuring our community has confidence in the integrity of its elected representatives."

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