

# Cr Gilligan's Message



*South Gippsland  
Shire Council*

Hello South Gippsland, I hope you are taking time with your special people to enjoy the school holidays with heaps on across the shire for young and old. As a newcomer to boatie life, the fam and I have been exploring stunning Anderson Inlet, we are spoilt for choice of outdoor adventure in South Gippy.

**OCTOBER IS SENIORS' MONTH:** a time to celebrate and connect, ask a senior their story, finding a senior is never hard, just look in any volunteer organisation! Offer to do a small thing for a senior living alone today, it doesn't take much to build connection, and it all helps build stronger healthier communities.

**POOLS, HAVE YOUR SAY:** Council released a critical paper on our abundant ageing pool network needing renewal well beyond council's financial means. We are approaching the point where we can't put all SIX pools into the long-term financial plan without modelling a \$40-million intergenerational debt.... It's this council's responsibility to decide how we turn the eye-watering renewal gap into a thriving long term aquatics future. Current pool user or not, have your say, it's your money!

**ENERGY COMMISSIONER VISIT:** Over four years council's position has been to provide in principle support for the three major energy transition projects impacting South Gippsland; oil and gas decommissioning, Marinus Link and offshore wind, with ongoing caveats around environmental and agricultural protection and community benefits.

Opportunity knocks with new industry and to take advantage we need planning and investment that enables our region to flex with workforce surges and settle back down with the right amount of permanent growth. Council secured a significant federal grant in partnership with Wellington Shire Council and GLAWAC to plan for just that - infrastructure and services in the right places, for the right reasons, for the long term.

Last week at my invitation we hosted the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner, Tony Mahar. After a full day with Tony in the Wellington Council Chambers, I was energised by how we collaborated and articulated a compelling shared story to take back to the Federal Government, our seat at the table is non-negotiable. The conversations and outcomes were in proportion with the challenges – huge but not insurmountable, with plenty of gold.

**SKATE PARK ACTIVATION:** I'd like to take this opportunity to give a big shout out to local entrepreneurs Woody, Chloe and Audrey, the brains behind the Grow Skate Society <https://growskatesociety.com.au/> who run amazing inclusive all ability events across Victoria. We are so lucky you call South Gippy home, thanks for bringing life to our network of skate parks.

Thanks for reading, stay safe, do your fire season prep, slow for animals and don't forget to celebrate those seniors!