

Mayor's Message



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

South Gippsland is an economic powerhouse! We absolutely bat well above our weight in all industries with manufacturing; agriculture, forestry and fishing; and construction contributing over \$2.5 billion to our economy each year. Our agricultural output alone contributes 20 per cent of Gippsland's total output. Not only are we important to our region, but we contribute to our state, and our country and help to ensure food security for Australians.

Here's some other fun facts:

- For every person in South Gippsland, there are approximately 10 cows.
- 1.2 million visitors per year come to South Gippsland.
- We are home to over 4,000 businesses.
- We have the lowest unemployment rate in Gippsland at 2.6 per cent.
- We are the largest snow pea grower in Australia.

The success of South Gippsland is without a doubt largely due to our small businesspeople who are working in everything from manufacturing to construction, agriculture, tourism, hospitality, health services, transportation and so much more.

Food and Fibre Gippsland

Did you know that South Gippsland Shire Council is a strategic partner of Food and Fibre Gippsland?

Food and Fibre Gippsland focus on building capacity, innovation and knowledge across Gippsland on all things food and fibre. This \$7 billion industry makes up around half of the region's economic output, and Food and Fibre Gippsland are committed to connecting businesses and growing the sector.

Because of South Gippsland Shire's strategic partnership, if you are a business with fewer than 10 employees, you can become a member for free.

As part of your membership, you'll receive news and updates, invitations to networking events, an associate listing on their website and be the first to be given the opportunity to participate in the region-wide promotion and branding through *Gippsland Trusted*.

To find out more and to become a member, please visit: www.foodandfibregippsland.com.au



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Business Events

Council is committed to supporting businesses and we have two important events coming up.

Meet the Makers is an opportunity for local producers, makers and hospitality business operators to build connections, meet other businesses and explore opportunities to work together.

- **When:** Tuesday 13 October.
- **Time:** 1.00pm to 4.00pm.
- **Where:** Trulli, Meeniyan.
- **Cost:** \$20 per attendee to cover catering costs.

For more information and to be part of this exciting event, please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meet-the-makers

The **Small Business Bus** will be back in Leongatha on Tuesday 10 November from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Free, confidential 45-minute sessions are available for small businesses in South Gippsland. These sessions are tailored to you and can talk about direction, key issues and priorities, and develop a business action plan to achieve your goals.

For more information, please visit: www.business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/small-business-bus

Busy Time for Farmers

It's a busy time for farmers, and that means more agriculture vehicles and machinery on our roads. These vehicles can be slow moving and may also be wide and have attachments such as balers. Please be patient, provide adequate space and be prepared for road travel to take longer.

It is also a reminder that slower vehicles can pull over or make room where safe to do so to allow traffic to safely pass.

Please be patient and travel safely.