

Special Meeting of Council

Business to be transacted:

That Council:

1. Extend Free Green Waste Amnesty
2. Close the Meeting to the public to allow for the consideration of:
 - a. Closed Items: CONTRACTUAL MATTERS, three (3) items pursuant to section 89(2)(d) of the Local Government Act 1989; and
 - b. Closed Item: PERSONNEL MATTER, pursuant to section 89(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1989.

5 February 2020
Council Chambers, Leongatha
Commencing at 11:00am



agenda



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Come for the beauty, Stay for the lifestyle



MISSION

South Gippsland Shire will be a place where our quality of life and sense of community are balanced by sustainable and sensitive development, population and economic growth.

Privacy

Council is required to keep minutes of each Council meeting. The minutes contain details of proceedings which may include personal information about community members disclosed as part of presentations, submissions and questions. The minutes of Council meetings are a public record and can be inspected by members of the public.

Council undertakes audio recordings of Council Meetings as a contribution to good governance and accuracy of minutes. An audio recording of this meeting is being made for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of minutes of the meeting. In some circumstances the recording may be disclosed, such as where Council is compelled to do so by court order, warrant, and subpoena or by any other law such as the Freedom of Information Act 1982. It should be noted that other people present at the meeting may be recording the meeting and Council has limited power to regulate this. Council has developed a policy to regulate recordings, "*Sound Recording of Council Meetings*".

A copy of this policy is located on Council's website www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the Special Meeting of Council of the South Gippsland Shire Council which will be held on 5 February 2020 in the Council Chambers, Leongatha commencing at 11:00 am

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Bryan Sword
Acting Chief Executive Officer

1. COUNCIL REPORTS

1.1. EXTENSION OF FREE GREEN WASTE AMNESTY PERIOD

Infrastructure Directorate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Australia has suffered a devastating early bushfire season with fires across several states, including east and north Victoria, burning through hundreds of thousands of hectares and destroying hundreds of properties.

Each year South Gippsland Shire Council provides its residents with a green waste amnesty period where green waste can be dropped off at transfer stations free of charge. The amnesty period is provided to encourage residents to clean up their properties prior to the peak fire danger period. The green waste amnesty period runs from the Saturday prior to the Melbourne Cup Day until 31 December each year. Outside of the green waste amnesty period, residents are able to dispose of green waste at transfer stations upon payment of disposal fees.

In the wake of devastating bushfires across eastern Victoria, it is recommended that Council provide its residents the opportunity to clean up their property and surrounds to further reduce fire risks through the provision of a one-off additional green waste amnesty in 2020 only for a period of four weeks.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Provide a one-off additional green waste amnesty in 2020 only, for a period of four weeks, commencing immediately after required mulching has been completed (approx. mid-February);**
- 2. Broadly advertise the details of the additional green waste amnesty period;**
- 3. Increase its waste management budget in the 2019/20 financial year by an additional \$53,000 to fund costs associated with the provision of the four week free green waste amnesty period in 2020.**

REPORT

Australia has always had devastating bushfires, therefore the importance of preparing and planning for the high-risk bush fire season is paramount.

At the 24 April 2013 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council resolved to introduce fees for the disposal of green waste at transfer stations from 1 July 2013. Prior to that date, green waste was accepted free of charge at transfer stations.

To ensure that the fees did not deter residents from reducing fire risk through the responsible clearing and disposal of green waste, the report also recommended the provision of an amnesty period, during which green waste disposal fees would be waived for residents. The amnesty period commences from the Saturday before Melbourne Cup Day and runs until the end of December each year. The objective of the amnesty period (as outlined in the Council Report) is not to provide a “free” service to residents, but to encourage the reduction of fire risk on private properties in the shire.

Since it was introduced, the green waste amnesty has been well utilised by the community with approximately 65 per cent of the total annual amount of green waste received at transfer stations, disposed of during the amnesty period.

CONSULTATION

Council were consulted at a Confidential Briefing Session on 22 January 2020.

RESOURCES

Any extension to the current amnesty period length will have a financial impact for Council. The figures in **Table 1** are conservative estimates only, based on previous years of green waste amnesty data and current contract costs. The actual costs involved would vary based on the actual volume of green waste received and could well be significantly higher, if volumes of green waste received during the amnesty are higher than anticipated. It is not expected that costs will be notably less than the figures estimated.

Table 1 – Financial Impact of a Green Waste Amnesty Extension (Estimate)

ITEM	COST (EX GST)
Increased green waste management costs, based on 6,514m ³ of green waste (average amount received in the last five years during December)	\$14,161 (minimum)
Mulching, based on 1,636m ³ of mulch produced (ratio of 4m ³ of green waste received to 1m ³ of mulch produced)	\$27,384
Advertising (local newspapers)	\$1,000
Lost income (based on average January income for the last 3 years)	\$10,363
Total	\$52,908

Therefore, it is recommended that Council increase the waste management budget in the 2019/20 financial year by an additional \$52,000 to fund costs associated with the provision of the additional four week free green waste amnesty period in 2020.

RISKS

The main risk posed to Council is the financial impact of providing an additional green waste amnesty period. There is potential for actual costs to be higher than the estimated costs above if high volumes of green waste are received.

It is believed the positive outcomes of properties reducing their fire risks outweigh the financial impact of providing the additional amnesty period.

CONCLUSION

Despite the generous green waste amnesty period already provided by Council every year in November and December, with the current bushfire situation affecting east and north east Victoria, an additional green waste amnesty is justified to encourage residents to reduce their fire risks further.

It should be advertised as a one off arrangement with future years reverting to the regular amnesty times.

STAFF DISCLOSURE

Nil

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Council Policy

Documents are available on Council's website: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

2019/20 Annual Budget
Sustainability Strategy
Waste Management Strategy

Legislative Provisions

Local Government Act 1989

2.1. CLOSED SESSION

Consideration of confidential matters under the Local Government Act 1989, section 89(2).

According to section 89 of the Local Government Act 1989, Council may consider items in closed session. There must be a resolution to move 'In-Committee' stating the reasons why the matter(s) need to be considered in this way. The reasons provided for within the Act are matters concerning personnel, personal hardship, industrial issues, contracts, proposed developments, legal advice or any other matter that Council considers would be prejudicial, to it or any other person.

Once 'In-Committee' discussions and debate have concluded, a further resolution to resume open Council is required.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council close the meeting to the public to allow for consideration of:

- 1. Three (3) CONTRACTURAL MATTERS pursuant to section 89(2)(d) contractual matters; and**
- 2. One (1) PERSONNEL MATTER pursuant to section 89(2)(a) a personnel matter of the Local Government Act 1989.**

3. MEETING CLOSED

NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council open to the public will be held on Wednesday, 26 February 2020 commencing at 2pm in the Council Chambers, Leongatha.