

Proposed Annual Budget Engagement Report

BACKGROUND

South Gippsland Shire Council welcomed feedback on the Proposed 2023/24 Annual Budget from 20 April to 12 May 2023. Feedback was submitted via Council's Your Say Engagement platform and promoted via:

- Council's website
- Council's Facebook page
- Local newspapers
- Radio advertising (3GG and South Coast FM)
- In The Know online newsletter
- Mayor's Message
- Word of mouth

A live Facebook Q&A session was also held on Wednesday 3 May to obtain community feedback.

OVERVIEW



Three written submissions



One budget enquiry



Eight surveys



3,968 reach - Facebook Q&A



196 visits to the Your Say platform

SUBMISSIONS

Three budget submissions were received via the Your Say platform. A budget enquiry was also received via email. The budget submissions related to:

- A proposal for a new rating category for rural lifestyle properties
- A request for financial support for new cricket nets at Korumburra Cricket Club
- Fee reduction, increased court access and funding for a backboard for the Leongatha Basketball Association.

FACEBOOK QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (Q&A)

The Facebook Q&A provided South Gippsland residents with an opportunity to chat to Councillors in real time and to ask questions about the Proposed Budget.

The Facebook Q&A was promoted via local newspaper, Facebook, Council's website and In the Know.

Some of the key themes from the Budget Q&A were:



Waste charges



Rate increases and Concessions



Capital Works (roads, building, speed limits)



Arts and Culture

SURVEYS

A survey on Your Say provided an option to provide quick feedback on the Proposed Budget. Eight surveys were received in total. Please note, that one survey that was submitted had no content.

Some of the key themes from the surveys were:

- Affordable Housing
- Road Infrastructure
- Coal Creek
- Rate increases
- Capital Works



2023/24 Proposed Annual Budget Responses to feedback

Council reviewed all of the feedback received from the community after the engagement period had concluded. In-line with Council's Engagement Strategy, all feedback was equally weighted.

After consideration, Council:

- Adjusted the Proposed Budget to accommodate the request by the Leongatha Basketball Association for a 50 per cent fee reduction for the 2023/24 financial year.
- Agreed to investigate the feasibility of increased court access for the Leongatha Basketball Association outside of pool/venue opening hours. Funding for a second backboard was not supported at this time but will be referred to the 2024/25 Budget for consideration.
- Determined that external funding remains the best opportunity to secure new cricket nets for the Korumburra Recreation Reserve. Council will seek to work with the Korumburra Cricket Club on a grant application to Sport and Recreation Victoria when new grant opportunities become available.
- Agreed to consider Rural and Rural Lifestyle properties as part of Council's in-house rating differential review which is scheduled to occur in 2023/24.

Council would like to thank all of the people who provided budget submissions, survey comments and Facebook feedback. This collective input is valuable and helps to shape Council's future direction.

