

Mayor's Message



Hello South Gippsland.

This week Deputy Mayor Nathan Hersey, Councillor Sarah Gilligan, Chief Executive Officer Kerryn Ellis and I were in Canberra to attend the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly. The four-day Assembly was a terrific opportunity to be in the room with other local government colleagues from across Australia and talk about how we can continue building trust within our community. South Gippsland Shire Council also submitted two motions – one on securing policy and financial support for communities directly impacted by renewable energy transition targets and one on reclassifying telecommunications to an essential service – to the National General Assembly that were supported unanimously.

While in Canberra for the Assembly, we met with Australian Government representatives to raise matters of interest and benefit to our community. These included the need for funding and policy support to ensure the developing offshore wind industry provides benefits to our community and businesses as well as emphasising the need for the infrastructure cost to fall with the offshore wind proponents, not with Council; the need for urgent funding for Mirboo North and other communities impacted by the February storm event; the need for coordinated national action to address the impacts of climate change on coastal communities; and the need for improved and more resilient telecommunications, particularly when emergency situations arise.

Thank you to the following representatives for meeting with us: Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister the Hon. Anthony Albanese, Advisor to the Hon. Kristy McBain MP (Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories), Brendan Moon (Coordinator General of the National Emergency Management Agency), and the Hon. Catherine King MP (Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government).

Our advocacy efforts are extremely important to highlight how South Gippsland can continue to be a productive and trusted partner. These opportunities don't come easy, and we have been working hard during our term to ensure we get the meetings with the right decision makers so South Gippsland is well-and-truly on the map.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who provided their thoughtful feedback as part of the Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Plan. Hearing from our community is vitally important to ensure we are on the right track, especially with changes to Plans and Strategies that guide the work of Council staff.

Please continue providing that feedback either through these formal engagement opportunities or by contacting any Councillor. All of our details are on Council's website.

Expressions of Interest Now Open

Fantastic news this week for our local artists and artist groups – Coal Creek are now taking Expressions of Interest to exhibit there during 2024 and 2025.

There are two distinct exhibition spaces at Coal Creek to choose from that are open when the Park is – Friday to Monday during school terms and every day during school holidays.

For more information or to complete your Expression of Interest, please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/exhibition-eoi

Cr Clare Williams – Mayor