

## Renewable Energy Impact and Readiness Study adopted

At its July Council Meeting, South Gippsland Shire Council endorsed the South Gippsland and Latrobe City Renewable Energy Impact and Readiness Study 2024.

The Study was developed by Council in partnership with Latrobe City Council and Regional Development Australia with support from consultants Urban Enterprise. It will assist in positioning South Gippsland for the arrival of nationally significant renewable energy projects that are set to be established off the Gippsland coast in the coming years.

It examines the readiness of key towns that may be required to service and support renewable energy projects, business and employment opportunities, skills development, supply chain requirements, housing and accommodation, infrastructure (including ports), and community readiness.

The Study was brought about to enable Council to plan for the impacts of the Federal Government's announcement of the Gippsland Offshore Energy Area in 2022. Following advocacy from South Gippsland Shire Council and others, some significant changes were made to the initial zones. This Study demonstrates Council's ongoing commitment to ensuring South Gippsland is ready to benefit from the Renewable Energy Zone, and that risks and concerns are mitigated.

Since then, multiple advocacy meetings have occurred where South Gippsland has reiterated our position and that of our community with Victorian and Federal Government representatives.

You can read the Study on Council's website: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/renewableenergy](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/renewableenergy)

### **Quote attributable to Clare Williams, Mayor of South Gippsland Shire Council**

*"South Gippsland has a positive reputation with government representatives at all levels of government. We have been a strong partner from day one, clearly articulating the challenges and opportunities for our region. I am excited to see this continue alongside this Renewable Energy Impact and Readiness Study."*

*"I would like to thank the Council staff from both South Gippsland Shire Council and Latrobe City Council for*

*preparing this Study alongside Regional Development Australia so this can be a useful and tangible tool to continue our strong advocacy in this space. I truly believe we are planning for the future, before it plans us.”*

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