



## **Economic Development Strategy Advisory Group (EDSAG) Terms of Reference**

### **The South Gippsland Economy**

South Gippsland Shire is located 90 minutes south east of Melbourne with a population of about 30,000 in an area of 3,300 square kilometres. Its major centres are Leongatha, Korumburra, Mirboo North and Foster.

South Gippsland has an economy with an annual output of \$3.7 billion. It is one of Australia's most productive dairy regions for farming and processing. It has strong beef production including an export abattoir. The horticulture sector is expanding, most notably in snow peas, potatoes, grapes and organic production.

South Gippsland has emerging Energy and Resource sectors. Between 2015 and 2050, twenty-two percent of Greater Melbourne's demand for sand will be supplied from South Gippsland. The Star of the South windfarm is Australia's first proposed off-shore wind farm and has the potential to supply up to 18% of Victoria's electricity needs.

Steady population growth continues to support the construction sector and the Shire receives approximately 1.2 million visitors per annum to enjoy a range of coastal assets including Wilsons Promontory. There are two commercial shipping ports and a highly skilled steel and engineering sector. The health and education sectors continue to provide new professional employment opportunities.

South Gippsland's strong agricultural presence, proximity to Melbourne and emerging markets present enormous opportunity to grow and diversify the local economy.

### **Goal**

An Economic Development Strategy for South Gippsland that encourages and supports sustainable economic growth within the Shire. The strategy will be aligned to local, regional, Victorian and Federal economic objectives.

Establish an Economic Development Strategy Advisory Group (EDSAG) to provide strategic input and leadership during the development and implementation of the strategy. Council and the EDSAG will work together to position South Gippsland as a key economic location by:

- Supporting the COVID-19 economic recovery and other emergencies that impact the economy;
- Growing existing and attracting new businesses and industries;
- Strengthening local employment, investment and innovation;
- Supporting the development of required infrastructure to build the economy; and
- Strengthening the links between business, government, education and community.

### **Membership**

The EDSAG will comprise of eight members, seven independent members and one member of Council's Executive. One independent member will be selected as Chair.

Independent members are appointed by Council following an Expression of Interest (EOI) undertaken by the Chief Executive Officer. Members will be recommended to Council on the basis of their specialist skills and knowledge.

Members may terminate their membership at any time. Notice of termination is to be provided in writing to Council.

### **Remuneration**

Independent members will receive an honorarium of \$500 per meeting and the Chair will receive \$750 per meeting.

### **Resources**

The EDSAG will be supported by Council's Economic Development and Tourism team which includes secretarial and administrative support.

### **Assisting Membership**

Subject matter specialists will be invited to provide advice to the EDSAG during the Strategy development.

### **Consultation**

Consultation will occur with industry experts and business leaders. A draft Economic Strategy will be developed for public comment.

### **Term**

Membership will commence on the formal appointment by Council and conclude on 30 June 2022. The EDSAG will oversee two stages:

- Year 1 Strategy Development
- Year 2 Strategy Implementation

**Vacancy**

In the event of a member vacancy, a replacement by Expression of Interest, will be appointed by Council. This may include using the EOIs to establish the EDSAG.

**Termination**

A member may be removed at the discretion of the CEO if they are considered to be working outside the interests of the group or in breach of relevant South Gippsland Shire Council policies.

**Meetings**

There will be 5 meetings for the EDSAG during the first year. The schedule of meetings will be developed in consultation with Council and the members of the group.

From time to time, a joint meeting with the Visitor Economy Strategy Advisory Group (VESAG) may be coordinated to take advantage of the invited specialists.

**Governance**

An agenda will be circulated to the EDSAG five days prior to the meeting and members are encouraged to contribute to agenda items. Minutes will be recorded by Council and will be circulated to the committee within two weeks of each meeting.

The EDSAG will comply with the South Gippsland Shire Council policies in relation to:

- Conflict of Interest
- Code of Conduct
- Antidiscrimination, bullying and harassment
- Grievances

**Intellectual Property**

The Member, in performing their duties, must use their best endeavours not to breach the intellectual property rights of any third party.

**Reporting**

With the assistance of Council staff the EDSAG will prepare the following reports to Council:

Year 1 – Strategy Development

1. Draft Economic Development Strategy
2. Final Economic Development Strategy

Year 2 – Strategy Implementation

1. Economic Development Strategy Implementation Progress Report
2. Economic Development Strategy Final Implementation Report

**Instrument of Agreement**

**THIS AGREEMENT** made this .....day of ....., 20.....

**BETWEEN**

of

**("the Member")**

- and -

**SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL**  
of **9 SMITH STREET, LEONGATHA 3953**

**("the Council")**

Executed by the parties on the date set out at the commencement of this Instrument of Agreement:

**SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED BY:**

By ..... On behalf of

..... Witness

**SIGNED SEALED AND DELIVERED**

By ..... Authorised Officer  
**(South Gippsland Shire Council)**

..... Witness