



*South Gippsland*  
Shire Council

*Come for the beauty, Stay for the lifestyle*

# **SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL AGENDA PAPERS**

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**SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE 2016  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LEONGATHA  
COMMENCING AT 2.00PM**

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**PROPOSED 2016-2017 ANNUAL BUDGET - S223  
SUBMISSION CONSIDERATION AND DETERMINATION**

## **MISSION**

***To effectively plan and provide for the social, built, economic and  
natural environments that ensure the future wellbeing of  
South Gippsland Communities.***

# **SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SPECIAL MEETING OF  
COUNCIL OF THE SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL WILL BE  
HELD ON 1 JUNE 2016 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,  
LEONGATHA COMMENCING AT 2.00PM**

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**Tim Tamlin**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

## **SECTION A - PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

### **A.1 WELCOME**

Please ensure Mobile phones remain 'off' during the Council Meeting.

### **A.2 OPENING PRAYER**

We pray to God to guide us so that the thoughts we have and the decisions made this day, are in the best interests of the people of the South Gippsland Shire.

Amen

### **A.3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS**

The South Gippsland Shire Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this Land, Elders past and present, their Spirits and Ancestors.

### **A.4 APOLOGIES**

### **A.5 REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

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## A.6 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR COUNCILLORS

Any interest that a Councillor or staff member has deemed to be significant and has disclosed as either a direct or an indirect interest is now considered to be a conflict of interest. Conflict of interest legislation is in sections 77A, 77B, 78, 78A-D and 79 of the Local Government Act 1989. This legislation can be obtained by contacting the Council's Corporate Services Directorate (Governance Services) or by accessing the Victorian Legislation and Parliamentary Documents website at [www.legislation.vic.gov.au](http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au). An interest may be by close association, financial, conflicting duties or receipt of gifts.

If a Councillor or staff member discloses any interest in an item discussed at any Council Meeting (whether they attend or not) they must:

- Complete a disclosure of interest form prior to the Meeting (forms are available from the Organisational Development Department – Governance).
- Advise the Chair of the interest immediately before the particular item is considered (if attending the Meeting).
- Leave the Council Chamber or Meeting room while the item is being discussed and during any vote taken (if attending the Meeting).

The Councillor or staff member will be advised to return to the Council Chamber or Meeting room immediately after the item has been considered and the vote is complete.

Councillors should check the Minutes of the Council Meeting to ensure their disclosure is recorded accurately.

Councillors are not required to disclose conflict of interest in relation to matters only considered at Meetings they do not attend.

Detailed information is available in Conflict of Interest – A Guide for Councillors June 2011.

Type of Interest		Example of Circumstance
<b>Direct Interest</b>		Reasonably likely that your benefits, obligations, opportunities or circumstances will be directly altered. Reasonably likely to receive a direct benefit or loss measurable in money. Reasonably likely that your residential amenity will be directly affected.
<b>Indirect Interest</b>	Close Association	A member of your family has a direct interest or an indirect interest. A relative has a direct interest. A member of your household has a direct interest.
	Indirect financial Interest	Likely to receive a benefit or loss, measurable in money, resulting from a change to another person's interest. Holding shares in a company or body that has a direct interest (subject to threshold). When a person with a direct interest owes money to you.
	Conflict of Duty	Manager or member of the governing body of an organisation with a direct interest. Trustee for a person with a direct interest. Past dealings in relation to the matter as duty to another person or body.
	Applicable Gift	Gifts valued at \$500 in previous 5 years. Election donations valued at or above \$500 in previous 5 years. Gifts other than election campaign donations that were received more than 12 months before a person became a Councillor are exempt.
	Party to the Matter	Initiated or became party to civil proceedings in relation to the matter.

## 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](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au). Further information or a copy of the policy or can be obtained by contacting Council's Organisational Development Department (Governance).

## **A.7 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR STAFF**

Sections 80B and 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 require members of Council staff who have delegated functions and /or provide advice to Council or a Special Committee to disclose conflicts of interest. If Council staff have written, provided information/advice or approved a Council Report and have a conflict of interest it is the responsibility of that staff member to disclose the interest. Guidance to identifying and disclosing a conflict of interest is contained in Department of Planning and Community Development in '*Conflict of Interest A Guide for Council staff*', October 2011.

## **SECTION B - COUNCIL REPORT**

### **B.1 PROPOSED 2016-2017 ANNUAL BUDGET - S223 SUBMISSION CONSIDERATION AND DETERMINATION**

Corporate and Community Services Directorate

#### **STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Nil

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

At the Council Meeting 23 March 2016, Council endorsed its Proposed 2016-17 Annual Budget for public exhibition and invited formal submissions under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Council received 13 written submissions by the closing date of 5.00pm Wednesday 27 April 2016.

Council considered and provided direction on all submissions at a Briefing Session on 18 May 2016.

The submissions have been reviewed and a response developed for each one, for Council's final determination.

#### **Document/s pertaining to this Council Report**

- **Attachment 1** - S223 Submissions Summary and Response
- **Attachment 2** - S223 Submissions to the 2016-17 Proposed Budget

#### **LEGISLATIVE / ACTION PLANS / STRATEGIES / POLICIES**

Local Government Act 1989, sections 129 and 223

#### **INTERNAL POLICIES / STRATEGIES / DOCUMENTS**

- Public Submission Process (Section 223) Policy
- Council Plan 2013-2017
- Long Term Financial Strategies

#### **COUNCIL PLAN**

Outcome:	4.0	A leading Organisation
Objective:	4.1	Pursue best practice in organisational development and operations of the organisation
Strategy:	4.2.3	We will make informed decision and provide

opportunities for the community to participate in the decision making process.

## **CONSULTATION**

The Proposed 2016-17 Budget was placed on public exhibition from 31 March to 27 April 2016. 13 submissions were received and are provided in **Attachment 2**.

Nine submitters indicated that they wished to speak to their submissions. The presentations took place on 18 May 2016 and provided Councillors with an opportunity to ask questions of the submitters and seek further clarification.

## **REPORT**

### **Background**

The Proposed 2016-2017 Annual Budget has been prepared following community consultation throughout the year and is guided by priorities outlined in its key strategic documents including the Council Plan 2013-2017 and Long Term Financial Strategies.

There are a number of key themes to the submissions which include:

- Support of specific initiatives included in the 2016-17 Proposed Budget
- A request for funding for a new initiative
- A proposal that some events receive ongoing funding (rather than having to apply through the Community Grants process)
- A challenge to the Rating Strategy, particularly in relation to Vacant Land rates
- Multiple issues including the budget process, the organisational structure, priorities identified in the Capital Works budget and the allocation of funds in the Operational budget.

### **Discussion**

Following the Open presentations on 18 May, Councillors held a Closed Briefing session to consider and provide direction on each submission.

The attachments included with this report encapsulate community feedback arising from the public exhibition of the Proposed Budget.

There was one late submission, which has not been accepted as part of the formal submission process. However, the person who responded outside the designated period has taken up the opportunity to present his views on the Proposed Budget at a Public Presentation session on 18 May.



## **Proposal**

It is proposed that Council consider and make a determination on all 13 submissions with the aim of presenting a final Budget to Council for adoption on 22 June 2016.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The current Proposed Budget is sustainable and meets the requirements determined by the Act. Council is required to ensure that a sustainable Budget can be passed that will not place a financial burden on future generations.

## **RISKS**

If Council determines that only insignificant changes be made to the Budget, then a final Budget can proceed with minor amendments to the adoption stage scheduled for the 22 June 2016 Council Meeting. This approach minimises Council's risk of breaching legislation.

If Council determines that significant changes are to be made to the Budget then Council would be required to prepare a new Proposed Budget and undertake a further Section 223 public consultation process.

If this is required, Council would not be able to meet the legislated deadline of 30 June 2016. In this situation a request to the Minister for Local Government for an extension of time would be required, with no guarantee of approval potentially leaving Council in breach of the Act.

## **CONCLUSION**

The deliberation of formal community submissions lodged under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989, is the final stage of determining changes required to the 2016-2017 Budget. Final amendments will then be made to the 2016-2017 Budget, the four-year Strategic Resource Plan and the Long Term Financial Plan, so they can be presented to Council for adoption on 22 June 2016.

Submitters will be notified of Council's decision, along with the reasoning upon which it has been based.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council receives and notes the 13 submissions (Attachment 2 – S223 Submissions to the 2016-17 Proposed Budget):**

- 1. Submission 1 from Neil Breeden/Ken O'Neill re Hudson Road.**
    - 1.1 That no changes to the budget be made OR the following changes be made to the budget**
  - 2. Submission 2 from Michael Lester, Prom Coast Arts Council re the Arts and Culture Strategy**
    - 2.1 That no changes to the budget be made OR the following changes be made to the budget**
  - 3. Submission 3 from Michael Lester, South Gippsland Art Alliance re the Arts and Culture Strategy**
    - 3.1 That no changes to the budget be made OR the following changes be made to the budget**
  - 4. Submission 4 from Lillian Brittain, Spring is South Gippsland re the Spring is South Gippsland event**
    - 4.1 That no changes to the budget be made OR the following changes be made to the budget**
  - 5. Submission 5 from Paul Katsieris, Walkerville Ratepayers and Residents Association re a Pedestrian Safety Path in Walkerville**
    - 5.1 That no changes to the budget be made OR the following changes be made to the budget**
  - 6. Submission 6 from Donald Atkins re budgeted roadworks and seawall improvements at Walkerville North**
    - 6.1 That no changes to the budget be made OR the following changes be made to the budget**
  - 7. Submission 7 from Vincent Morfuni re multiple topics**
    - 7.1 That no changes to the budget be made OR the following changes be made to the budget**
  - 8. Submission 8 from Meg Knight re multiple topics**
    - 8.1 That no changes to the budget be made OR the following changes be made to the budget**
  - 9. Submission 9 from Chris Chapman re multiple topics**
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- 9.1 That no changes to the budget be made OR the following changes be made to the budget**
- 10. Submission 10 from Roger Harvey re Rates on Vacant Land**
  - 10.1 That no changes to the budget be made OR the following changes be made to the budget**
- 11. Submission 11 from Susan Hanson re the Leongatha streetscape and the Municipal Precinct including the Leongatha Library**
  - 11.1 That no changes to the budget be made OR the following changes be made to the budget**
- 12. Submission 12 from Dan Monaghan, Leongatha Basketball Association regarding fees for use at the SPLASH stadium**
  - 12.1 That no changes to the budget be made OR the following changes be made to the budget**
- 13. Submission 13 from Eijse Blaauw re the Budget document**
  - 13.1 That no changes to the budget be made OR the following changes be made to the budget**
- 14. That Council thanks the community members for their submissions and advises them in writing of the decision based on the reason set out in Attachment 1 - S223 Submission Summary and Response.**

**Attachment 1**  
**S223 Submissions Summary and Response**



2016 Submission Summary and Responses

Number	Speaking Timeslot	Submitter Name	Submission Title		List the Council Plan or Strategies it relates to?	Budget Impact - One Off	Budget Impact - Recurrent
1	4.40pm	Neil Breeden/Ken O'Neill	Hudson Road	This project is currently proposed for the 2016/17 financial year for \$1.3M. This is pending the adoption of the 2016/17 Annual Budget on 22 June 2016. Thank you for forwarding your submission in support of this project.	Council Plan	Nil \$1.3M capital cost fully funded from the Roads 2 Recovery Program.	Nil Recurrent cost for gravel roads per km is approx. the same as sealed roads.
2	4.50pm	Michael Lester, Prom Coast Arts Council	Arts and Culture Strategy	Thank you for supporting the inclusion of \$20,000 in the 2016/17 budget to undertake a detailed Arts Strategy. The contribution made by the Arts and Culture sector to the wellbeing of the community as well as the visitor experience and the local economy is very much appreciated. The Great Southern Portrait Prize has been well supported through Council's community grants program over a 5 year period, in accordance with the Community Grants guidelines. Council supports many worthy events across the Shire but does not have a funding stream to provide ongoing financial support to a select group of events. However, this issue can be considered through development of the Strategy	Arts and Culture Policy, Community Grants Policy	Nil-allocation already available for Arts Strategy	Nil at this time as strategy yet to be undertaken
3		Michael Lester, SG Art Alliance	Arts and Culture Strategy	Thank you for your support for the inclusion of \$20,000 in the 2016/17 budget to undertake a detailed Arts Strategy. Council acknowledges the key role that the arts sector plays in attracting visitors and the economic benefit a well developed arts sector brings to the Shire. The support of the South Gippsland Art Alliance in identifying the need for a strategy and your commitment to participate in its development and implementation is very much appreciated.	Arts and Culture Policy	Nil-allocation already available for Arts Strategy	Nil at this time as strategy yet to be undertaken
4	5.00pm	Lillian Brittain, Spring is SG	Funding for Spring is South Gippsland	The contribution made by the Spring into South Gippsland working group to the wellbeing of the community as well as the visitor experience and the local economy is very much appreciated. The Groups move into the digital world has extended its profile and visitor interest. Council recently invested in a major upgrade of its website and while we can promote the Spring into South Gippsland Festival on our website we are not considering a second South Gippsland website. Prom Coast Regional Tourism may be willing to promote your festival on their website which promotes tourism and events in the region. The Group's application for a community grant for the 2016 festival has been received. Council's decision regarding successful Community Grants will be announced in July 2016. Council does not have a funding stream to provide ongoing financial support to a select group of events. However, this issue may be considered through development of the Arts and Culture Strategy in 2016/17.	Arts and Culture Policy and Economic Development and Tourism Strategy	Nil	Nil
5	5.10pm	Paul Katsieris, Walkerville Ratepayers and Residents Assoc.	Pedestrian Safety Path, Acacia Rd Walkerville	The Walkerville Ratepayers and Residents Association (WRRRA) are requesting Council consider funding a pedestrian path along Acacia Road Walkerville as part of the 2016/17 budget. This path is not included in the Paths & Trails Strategy which is used as a basis for Council allocating funding for new path assets and this project is therefore not currently included in the 2016/17 or future year budgets. The Paths & Trails Strategy is scheduled for review in the 2016/17 financial year and it is noted that an action from the "Seasonal Population Impacts in Coastal Towns Plan" was to investigate a footpath on Acacia Drive, Prom Views Estate at the time of reviewing the Paths & Trails Strategy. With regard to your request to Council to provide a grant to assist in the commissioning of a feasibility study for the proposed path, we would recommend that you consider applying through Council's community grants program which provides funding opportunities for studies into proposed community based projects. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available and the next round of community grants funding will open from 1 July to 31 August 2016.	Paths and Trails Strategy	There is no budget allocated to this project in the 2016/17 budget.	If this facility was built, a recurrent budget increase in the vicinity of \$2,000 per annum would be required for maintenance of the path.
6	5.20pm	Donald Atkins	Objection to Expenditure on road works & seawall at Walkerville North	Council's contribution to this project is based on protecting Council's assets (road and carpark) through the remediation of the existing seawall and increasing its height by 500mm. The issue of reduced parking in the current design which has been developed by the Walkerville Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management (WFRM) is currently being taken up by Council with WFRM in order to maximise the quantity of parking which will be further developed through detailed design. Community consultation will occur as part of permit requirements and prior to the work being undertaken.	Council Plan	Nil. \$130,650 fully funded in the draft 2016/17 budget.	Nil. No proposed change to the recurrent budget although the increased height of the seawall should reduce maintenance costs on the short length of adjacent road and car park resulting from storm events.



## 2016 Submission Summary and Responses

Number	Speaking Timeslot	Submitter Name	Submission Title	List the Council Plan or Strategies it relates to?	Budget Impact - One Off	Budget Impact - Recurrent
7	5.30pm	Vincent Morfuni	<p>Various topics</p> <p>The budget that Council will consider on 22 June 2016 will include any amendments made as a result of public submissions, the updated rate base from the biennial revaluation as well as supplementary rates brought to account since the proposed budget was prepared on 23 March. Council's overall rate increases will be capped to the amount set by the Victorian Government (2.5 per cent). The actual rate increases experienced by individual ratepayers will be different due to this being a revaluation year. If the value of an individual property increases by more than the average for all properties, then the rates on that property will increase by more than 2.5 per cent. Those that increase by less than the average will receive a lesser rate increase.</p> <p>Council adopted the Rating Strategy 2014-2018 that applied an incentive principle to vacant land owners to develop their properties by increasing the Vacant Land rates to 200 per cent of the General Rate (over a two year period). The Rating Strategy is scheduled for review in 2017/18, at which time all rate differentials and their impact will be considered.</p> <p><b>Administration and Service Costs</b> South Gippsland Shire Council's staff provide a high level of in-house service delivery compared to many other local governments that choose to contract-out their services. Some of the services we directly provide and are included in our salaries budget are road sealing and resheeting, drainage and footpaths, parks and gardens, maternal and child health and home and community care.</p> <p><b>Municipal Building</b> A range of options were analysed and evaluated with Council making provision for a future development in 2022-24 with details to be decided by the Council of the day.</p> <p><b>Funding "loss making" Enterprises</b> Council funds a range of community services, many of which do not achieve full cost recovery. Services that enhance community wellbeing, such as swimming pools, recreation facilities, libraries, services for families and the elderly all play an important role in making our Shire attractive to live in and visit.</p> <p><b>Leongatha Capital Works</b> As Leongatha is the central business district of South Gippsland and accommodates the largest population base in the Shire, it would be expected that a greater proportion of the capital works budget would be allocated to Leongatha. Council's capital works budget is determined on priorities for the Shire and not on a ward basis.</p> <p><b>Media and Communications</b> Council's Media and Communications team not only ensures the community is aware of the key things that Council is doing on a weekly basis through liaison with the local media but also manages the Council website, social media, prepares advocacy materials and provides a key role in supporting staff through community engagement processes. The total cost of the Communications unit is less than three-quarters of 1 per cent of the total Council budget.</p> <p><b>Venus Bay Land Sales</b> Council's Land Realisation policy identifies land that is no longer deemed useful to Council's needs. The proceeds of all land sales go back into the Shire-wide Capital Works budget.</p> <p><b>Venus Bay Waste Services</b> The Venus Bay garbage charges have only increased by 1.7 per cent on that which residents are currently paying (consistent with the rest of the municipality). However when the 2015/16 budget was adopted Venus Bay had an optional kerbside garbage service and that subsequently changed to a six month compulsory service. This year a six month compulsory service costs \$142.80 and for 2016/17 it will cost \$145.25. The 12 month optional service cost is \$223.20 this year and will cost \$227.00 in 2016/17.</p>	Rating Strategy 2014-2018 Long Term Financial Strategies	Nil	Nil



## 2016 Submission Summary and Responses

Number	Speaking Timeslot	Submitter Name	Submission Title		List the Council Plan or Strategies it relates to?	Budget Impact - One Off	Budget Impact - Recurrent
8	5.40pm	Meg Knight	Various topics	<p><b>Overview/Opportunity</b> Council will not receive a rates revenue increase of 4.27 per cent. The rates have been increased by 2.5 per cent in keeping with the Victorian Government's rate-capping policy. The garbage charge is a fee for service that is levied to recover the full cost of providing the service. Some ratepayers do not receive a garbage service and do not pay for it and it should not be confused with rates. It should also be noted that the actual rate increases experienced by individual ratepayers will be different due to this being a revaluation year. Significant cost reductions were achieved by revising both the Roads &amp; Bridges and Non-Residential constructions indices as described on page 51 of the Proposed Budget 2016/17. Employee cost projections for 2016/17 were also moderated from 2.85 per cent to 2.50 per</p> <p><b>Employee Costs</b> The restructure of Council's workforce was to position Council for the future. The restructure did achieve a recurrent \$190,000 cost reduction per annum in the forward budgets when compared to the previous 2015/16 adopted Budget / Long Term Financial Plan.</p> <p><b>Benchmarking</b> South Gippsland Shire Council staff provide a high level of in-house service delivery compared to many other local governments who choose to contract-out their services. Some of the services we directly provide and are included in our salaries budget are road sealing and resheeting, drainage and footpaths, parks and gardens, maternal and child health and home and community care. We are consistently working toward best value through technology, collaborative procurement and shared services. The six local governments in the Gippsland region have developed a strong alliance and are actively working together to achieve improved efficiencies through</p> <p><b>Consultancy Costs</b> Council has planned to engage in various consultancies to an estimated value of \$640,000 to support the delivery of its programs and services in 2016/17. This work mainly relates to planning and design activities across Council. These projects include Korumburra streetscape master plan, Leongatha rail yards landscape masterplan, projects that support the strategic land use planning of the Shire and other projects/service reviews which are outlined in Council's Proposed Annual Budget 2016/17.</p> <p><b>Caravan Parks</b> Council's vision for the Yanakie and Long Jetty Caravan Parks is to maximise the benefit of these Crown Land assets for residents and visitors to Gippsland by making them available for as many people as possible to enjoy and to enhance the tourism experience our Shire has to offer. Future Caravan Park revenue provides Council, as the Committee of Management, with the opportunity to make capital improvements to the parks and improvements to the foreshore reserve which may not be possible under private management. Council has engaged expert consultants to develop masterplans for the Yanakie and Long Jetty Foreshore caravan parks, which will be completed in the coming months. The purpose of these plans will be to define the future direction of each park and to outline the</p> <p><b>Coal Creek</b> Council endorsed a report outlining a series of recommended cost-saving initiatives for Coal Creek in August 2015, and has been working towards implementing these throughout the financial year. The recommendations were based on analysis undertaken by KPMG with a view to achieving a more realistic and improved financial position, and Council will be assessing its performance against each of these recommendations following the conclusion of the 2015/16 financial year.</p>	<p>Long Term Financial Strategies</p> <p>Council Plan</p> <p>Council Plan</p> <p>Council Plan</p> <p>Caravan Park Business Plan and Masterplans</p>	Nil	Nil

Number	Speaking Timeslot	Submitter Name	Submission Title	List the Council Plan or Strategies it relates to?	Budget Impact - One Off	Budget Impact - Recurrent	
8	5.40pm	Meg Knight	Various topics	<p><b>Media and Communications</b> This team manages Council's interactions with the media, not only the requests from journalists but also the placement of advertisements including Noticeboard and the Mayor's Message in each of the four weekly papers in the municipality. It also maintains the website, looks after the intranet for staff, and monitors and updates Council's social media presence. The team provides support to Councillors and the Executive in the form of speech notes, and event planning - particularly the Australia Day events. The team prepares posters, flyers and other promotional material to support Council activities. At the moment the distribution of the hardcopy SG Matters community newsletter is being reviewed with electronic dissemination being investigated. The team also includes Community Engagement expertise to support Council officers to work with the community through the planning and implementation of various projects. In addition, the team is responsible for the preparation of all the advocacy materials produced to support Council in its efforts to attract support for key infrastructure projects such as the Great Southern Rail Trail, the Northern Towns Connection Project, the Leongatha Heavy Vehicle Alternate Route and the Karmai Community Children's Centre. The total cost of the Media and Communications team - all its functions and employee costs - is less than three-quarters of 1 per cent of the total Council budget.</p>		Nil	Nil
				<p><b>Municipal Precinct Study</b> Council has taken measures to address how it is best using its infrastructure and reduce the level of its property portfolio. These measures include the Strategic Land Review and the Blueprint for Social Infrastructure. The Blueprint recommends consolidation of services into new community hubs to, amongst other things, reduce the high maintenance costs involved with managing ageing facilities. The Municipal Precinct Study addresses objectives of the Strategic Land Review as well as recommendations of the Blueprint. The Municipal Precinct Study researched current industry trends with government office spaces and analysed South Gippsland Shire Council's capabilities and limitations with its current office accommodation and customer service delivery.</p>	Strategic Land Review and Community Social Infrastructure Blueprint		
9	5.50pm	Chris Chapman	Various topics	<p><b>Best Practice Budgeting</b> The Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate encourage councils to refer to the best practice guide when preparing budget documents. The best practice guide is produced by a Working Party which is comprised of representatives from the accounting profession, local government practitioners and major local government sector peak bodies.</p>		Nil	Nil
				<p><b>Rating Strategy</b> Council in June 2014 prepared a Rating Strategy 2014-2018 that changed the rating structure to achieve a more equitable distribution of the rate burden. As a result the amount of rates and charges paid by some property owners has increased whilst other property owners have experienced a decrease. The Rating Strategy is scheduled for review in 2017/18 at which time all rate differentials and their impact will be considered. Each individual municipality differs in the make-up of its physical area, property type mix and number of assessments. As a comparison, City of Whitehorse has approximately 65,000 rateable assessments and an area of 65sq km, whilst South Gippsland Shire has just over 19,000 assessments and area of 3,300 sq km. As a result South Gippsland has to charge a higher level of rates to cover the cost of</p>			
				<p><b>Service Description and Revenue</b> The intention of Section 3 of the Proposed Budget 2016/17 document is to describe services at a level that gives readers a good understanding (but not detailed) of the services undertaken by Council. The Analysis of the Operating Budget provides information on the key income and expense items making up the current year forecast and the forthcoming year operating budget including an analysis of significant items and movements in income, expenditure and adjusted underlying operating result.</p>			



## 2016 Submission Summary and Responses

Number	Speaking Timeslot	Submitter Name	Submission Title		List the Council Plan or Strategies it relates to?	Budget Impact - One Off	Budget Impact - Recurrent
9	5.50pm	Chris Chapman	Various topics	<p><b>Foster</b> The Foster Streetscape project involves the reconstruction of the narrow section of Main Street from the Station Road intersection to just short of the McDonald Street roundabout. The project includes the replacement of stormwater drainage lines, footpaths, kerb &amp; channel, road pavement (all of which are in poor condition), and new street furniture. The overall project has been developed in consultation with the Foster Community Association and Foster Chamber of Commerce. The project also includes development of the laneway adjacent the Foodworks supermarket, the design for which was funded by Council's Community Grants Program to the Foster Community Association. The works will be procured through a tender process which will ensure competitive pricing.</p> <p>Council's Parks &amp; Gardens staff plant out around the cenotaph with advanced plants to provide a colourful display for Anzac Day commemorations as requested by members of the RSL. The remainder of the plantings come from cell trays that are the most economical to purchase, and in our experience have the highest success rate. At times the rain received is not sufficient, especially for new plantings, and additional watering is required to ensure the survival of the plants.</p> <p>The Parks &amp; Gardens budget is broken down by functions across the Shire (not locations) such as grass mowing, garden maintenance, floral displays, trees, playgrounds, public furniture, and landscaping. The 2015/16 budget is \$2.1m and this includes 19 staff (eight of whom work from the Foster depot), vehicles, plants, and materials. Residents, visitors, and traders are very supportive of the Foster</p> <p><b>Capital Works</b> Appendix C of the Proposed Budget 2016/17 provides a detailed list of the capital works projects that will be undertaken for the 2016/17 year. The majority of these items are rehabilitation works for existing road assets to satisfy Council's obligations under the Road Management Act and in accordance with Council's Road Management Plan and Road Infrastructure Asset Management Plan. Council allocates funding in its Long Term Financial Plan for the maintenance and rehabilitation of road assets. Each year these works are carried out on projects which are prioritised based on condition and other weighted criteria such as traffic volumes. The works are then delivered by a combination of competitive tendering and utilisation of Council's depot resources. Funding of these works is through a combination of Council funding, the Federal Government Roads to Recovery Program and other grant funding opportunities on a project-</p> <p><b>Executive Remuneration</b> The Executive Office/Management budget comprises the Chief Executive's salary, the CEO's Executive Assistant and Councilor Support, organisational legal fees, memberships to key regional organisations and consultancies as well as other standard operating costs. The Chief Executive Officer's salary is determined by the Council and the salaries for the Executive staff are determined by the CEO.</p> <p><b>Staffing Costs</b> South Gippsland Shire Council staff provide a high level of in-house service delivery compared to many other local governments who choose to contract-out their services. Some of the services we directly provide and are included in our salaries budget are road sealing and resheeting, drainage and footpaths, parks and gardens, maternal and child health and home and community care. Council is consistently working toward best value through technology, collaborative procurement and shared services. The six local governments in the Gippsland region have a developed a strong alliance and are actively working together to achieve improved efficiencies through</p>	Council Plan		
10	-	Roger Harvey	Rates on Vacant Land	Council adopted the Rating Strategy 2014-2018 which applied an incentive principle to vacant land owners to develop their properties by increasing the Vacant Land rates to 200% (over a 2 year period). The Rating Strategy is scheduled for review in 2017/18 at which time all rate differentials and their impact will be considered.	Rating Strategy 2014-2018	Nil	Nil
11	-	Susan Hanson	Support of the Council Precinct (Library) & Expenditure of the entry to Leongatha	Thank you for forwarding your submission in support of the Bair Street revitalisation project and the Municipal Precinct project. The latter project includes a new principal library and it is proposed that it be developed over a 2 year period, commencing 2022/23. The proposed timeframes reflect Council's capital works priorities across the Shire over the next 10 years, and our capacity to fund such an ambitious project. We value your input into the budget process through the community workshops and the formal submission process.	Leongatha Streetscape Draft Masterplan - Bair Street 2016. Municipal Precinct Study - August 2015. Social Infrastructure	Nil	Nil



## 2016 Submission Summary and Responses



Number	Speaking Timeslot	Submitter Name	Submission Title		List the Council Plan or Strategies it relates to?	Budget Impact - One Off	Budget Impact - Recurrent
12	-	Dan Monaghan, Leongatha Basketball Association	SPLASH Court Hire Fees	The fees for SG SPLASH are set in consultation with the YMCA to achieve the income projections contained within the contract. It is acknowledged that the fees are higher than the community managed stadiums. This is reflective of having professional facility management and the expenditure on the maintenance of the facility. In recent years the lighting has been upgraded in the stadium and the floors completely resurfaced and re line marked. Removal of the \$2 door entry would result in a loss of income to the YMCA of an estimated \$16,000 - \$18,000 per annum which would require Council to meet this shortfall in income or increase fees elsewhere within the centre.	Council's Fees and Charges Schedule. Splash Business Plan	Estimate of \$16,000 - \$18,000 per annum	Estimate of \$16,000 - \$18,000 per annum with annual increase
13	-	Eijse (Gus) Blaauw	Income & Expense Budget Statement - General Ledger Expense Details	The budget document has been prepared with reference to Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand 'Victoria Council Model Budget 2016/17' a best practice guide for reporting local government budgets in Victoria. Detailed ledger accounts will not be provided. Section 5 the Analysis of the Operating Budget provides information on the key income and expense items making up the current year forecast and the forthcoming year operating budget including an analysis of significant items and movements in income, expenditure and adjusted underlying operating result. Section 3 Services, Initiatives and Service Performance Indicators (pages 22-43) provides a description of the services and initiatives to be funded in the budget. This sets out the services, initiatives and major initiatives that will be achieved in line with the Council Plan as required by Section 127 (2) (b) and (c) of the Local Government Act. Appendix D, the Long Term Financial Plan includes the capital works budget (pages 142-151).	Long Term Financial Plan and Victorian Council Model Budget 2016/17	Nil	Nil

## **Attachment 2 S223 Submissions to the 2016-2017 Proposed Budget**

### **SUBMISSION 1 - NEIL BREEDEN/KEN O'NEILL**

To the Mayor and Councillors

South Gippsland Shire Council

9 Smith Street

Leongatha 3953

1<sup>st</sup> January 2016

#### **PETITION FOR SEALING OF HUDSONS ROAD**

We the undersigned respectfully request the South Gippsland Shire Council to place on its capital works program the sealing of the section of Hudson's Road from the Korumburra South Road to the Leongatha South – Outtrim Road as a matter of high priority. In presenting this petition for sealing this section of Hudson's Road we make the following comments in support of the request:-

1. This section of Hudson's Road is the last remaining section that remains unsealed and has been under consideration for sealing by Council since local government restructure in 1994.
2. If this section of Hudson's Road is sealed it will provide a sealed connecting link between the Leongatha South Outtrim Road and the South Gippsland Highway at Fishers Treated Pine plant just south of Korumburra.
3. If sealed it will provide a shorter sealed route to and from Melbourne for Leongatha South and Pound Creek residents.
4. Currently there is no completely sealed route between Leongatha and Inverloch (west of the Bass Highway) for use by cyclists. Sealing this section of Hudson's Road will provide a safe "off highway" cycling route between Leongatha and Inverloch and surrounding districts.
5. Of particular importance is the use of Hudson's Road by Leongatha Primary School students who have traditionally used this route in their bike excursions to and from Inverloch.

**SUBMISSION 1 - NEIL BREEDEN/KEN O'NEILL**

2/

6. This section of Hudson's Road is traversed by a natural drainage line that takes stormwater from land to the north and east including the aerodrome. During heavy rainfall events this drain overtops Hudson's Road causing damage to the road surface including loss of pavement as well as filling in the drains along the sides of the road. Sealing of the road as proposed (including upgrading of the culverts) will eliminate the cost of regularly repairing this section of road due to flooding including replacement of pavement material. It will also overcome any issues with downstream property owners who may require clean up of pavement materials from their properties following these flood events.

For all of these reasons we believe that it is timely for this section of Hudson's Road to be sealed as a matter of priority having regard to convenience for residents of Leongatha South and Pound Creek, community road safety and reduction in cost to Council arising from regular maintenance of this section of Road. In particular we draw attention to the growing number of cyclists using this road between Leongatha and Inverloch including school children.

Yours faithfully

Ken O'Neill

Ph

e-mail.....

**SUBMISSION 2 - MICHAEL LESTER, PROM COAST ARTS COUNCIL**



PO Box 69  
Fish Creek Vic 3959

April 26, 2016

Response to the proposed 2016 – 2017 budget from Prom Coast Arts Council

Dear Councillors

Prom Coast Arts Council would like to comment on the major initiative (reproduced below) from the proposed annual budget.....

*Major Initiatives*

*2.1 Develop an Arts and Cultural Strategy that will implement the Arts & Culture Policy developed with the Arts Community and action Council's resolution to bring elements of the Arts and Tourism together - Arts & Culture Strategy presented to Council by 30 June 2017 (Sustainable Communities).*

*(Note: this initiative is a continued response to an OurSay community top five request that received 227 supporting votes in 2015-2016 for an Arts and Culture Policy and Strategy to be developed. The Policy has been developed by the 'Arts and Culture' community and Council. This initiative is an action arising from the Policy)*

*[Funding allocation for \$20,000 is currently factored into the Budget Initiatives in 20162017.]*

Prom Coast Arts Council Inc is pleased that Council has allocated money to develop strategies so that the Council's Arts and Culture Policy can come to life. This last year has been one of intense preparatory activity, with the OurSay process, public forums and the Art and Culture working group and PCA is eager to put forward suggestions as to how an Art and Culture Policy may be put into practice.

One project that is close to our hearts is the annual Great Southern Portrait Prize exhibition which PCA has presented for ten years now. The GSPP is now biennial due to uncertainty over ongoing funding and volunteer burnout. The GSPP used annual community grants for the first five years and then qualified for major event funding from the Shire. We became increasingly concerned when the \$5000 we were meant to get dropped each year so that the amount for the tenth year of the GSPP was only \$2000. There are some highly successful major events throughout the Shire that need and deserve ongoing funding and should not have to go through the funding mill every year nor be treated like they are a business with an expectation of profitability. Art and

**SUBMISSION 2 - MICHAEL LESTER, PROM COAST ARTS COUNCIL**

artistic activity is not measured by money generated but by wellness, satisfaction and by the involvement of the community and the drawing in of visitors to the region. We expect that the Art and Culture Policy will address such issues as the GSPP and the attendant funding issues.

Cultural tourism has huge potential in this region but there needs to be encouragement, co-ordination and balance. Handled properly there is great potential for cultural tourism that is richly rewarding for the presenters, the art community, the visitors to the region, the Shire and the wider community. Communication and co-ordination are critical and we applaud Council's efforts so far.

We look forward to contributing to the process of developing the Arts and Cultural Strategy.

Regards

Michael Lester

President, Prom Coast Arts Council, Inc.

**SUBMISSION 3 - MICHAEL LESTER, SG ARTS ALLIANCE**

**SOUTH GIPPSLAND  
ARTS ALLIANCE**

April 27, 2016

Response to the proposed 2016/2017 budget

The South Gippsland Arts Alliance (SGAA) is the peak community-based arts body for the South Gippsland region representing the views of professional artists, community based artists and art organisations and art based businesses to Council, Government and corporate stakeholders.

The SGAA supports the initiative of the South Gippsland Shire Council to develop an Arts and Cultural Strategy, leading to the implementation of an Arts and Culture Policy. The SGAA will continue to actively represent the varied interests of the South Gippsland arts community, as has been the case during the initial stages of this process.

SGAA fully supports the positive step being taken with the allocation of \$20,000 to facilitate the creation of this strategy and to action Council's resolution to bring together elements of the Arts and Tourism.

We applaud this first step and believe this will:

- increase the wellbeing of the wider community
- increase the scope and breadth of the arts community
- provide a strong financial return from such an investment

The strategy document will be far reaching and will require a great deal of input from the wider community. As the peak arts body for our region, we look forward to being actively involved in the development of the strategy document.

Michael Lester

for the South Gippsland Arts Alliance

PO Box 60, Fish Creek

**SUBMISSION 4 - LILLIAN BRITTAIN, SPRING IS SG**

**SPRING IS SOUTH GIPPSLAND WORKING GROUP**  
c/o Leongatha Horticultural Society, POB 371, Leongatha 3953

To: Tim Tamlin, CEO, South Gippsland Shire  
and whomever else it may concern.

This submission to the Proposed Budget 2016-2017 process primarily concerns the future of the Spring is South Gippsland project (from this point on referred to as SiSG).

1. It seeks 'in principle' support within the framework of the current proposal.
2. It may seek financial support within this proposed budget.
3. It aims to lay the groundwork for ongoing Shire support in 2017 and beyond.
4. It hopes to create a specific focus from the increasingly competitive and confusing promotional media in the areas that the SiSG project addresses, with a suggested solution.

1. At the start of 2015 SiSG was just concept, by year's end it had achieved its goal, a website supporting horticulture (in its many, varied aspects) as a valuable social, small business and tourism element within our Shire's remarkably beautiful natural landscape. This was achieved by four well qualified volunteers, assisted by Community Strengthening. The cost was less than \$2500, comprising a Community Grant of \$2000 for promotion, and a float of \$500 from Leongatha Horticultural Society for other purposes.

Since its launch in August, the website has developed exponentially, especially over the three Spring months, with a positive response from listees.

- *The Working Group's objectives for this current year include broadening its content, consolidating its links, and, most importantly, fully supporting its device reach.*
- *The Group members have committed to working towards these goals throughout 2016 and to assisting, if requested, with the transition to an ongoing website.*
- *It is thought, at this point, that the website could be productive for up to five years.*

2. Working Group has confirmed eligibility for another Community Grant. We estimate website development/maintenance costs at \$1500 and will apply for this when the round opens. It is only if unsuccessful that we would request this amount from some other Shire fund. Leongatha Horticultural Society will probably continue its support to at least \$500.

3. A review of proposed budget suggests the SiSG project may fall under Section 4. We have had one information sharing meeting with the Director, Corporate & Community, Jan Martin, and her office is currently organising a working meeting with other appropriate officers to try to develop a strategy for SiSG (or an adaption ?) for 2017 and beyond. It appears the project may move from Community Strengthening to Tourism and/or Media.

4. It is in the light of possible transition to a Shire-based SiSG-type website that we suggest consideration be given to creating a website that would complement the Shire's current service-driven site: an attractive, welcoming site based on the Shire's often unquoted theme: 'Come for the beauty – Stay for the lifestyle', and on the precepts so well laid out in Section 4. Like the theme this valuable information is there ready to be developed – a little fertiliser, water and TLC and presto! A website to enjoy! And perfect to link with, or better still, incorporate, the Shire's successful Sustainability strategies and the Food Map and.... ?  
.....?

**SUBMISSION 4 - LILLIAN BRITAIN, SPRING IS SG**

Conclusion:

The Working Group, ably supported by Community Strengthening, has brought the website into its second year as an attractive and efficient promotional gateway to our beautiful region.

There was, operationally, no additional cost to the 2014-15 budget and the same would appear to apply this year also, insofar as the projected cost is so minimal – just \$1500 from a grant or existing promotional/whatever fund.

What we are asking is that Council recognise the Spring is South Gippsland initiative as a priority project, deemed worthy of support into 2017 and beyond.

Or, better, it becomes the basis for a second official South Gippsland Shire website, focussing on our region's natural attractions *as a whole* and embodying 'Come for the beauty – Stay for the lifestyle'.

After all, Gippsland *is* a garden.

Thank you for this opportunity.

We would appreciate also the opportunity to present to Council an overview of the project and our proposals, on May 18.



## **SUBMISSION 5 - PAUL KATSIERIS, WALKERVILLE RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS**

### **WALKERVILLE RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.**

Registered Number: A31312T

**Hon. President: Paul Katsieris   Hon. Treasurer: Irene Irvine   Hon. Secretary: Anne Terrell**

26.04.2016

Att: Mr Tim Tamlin  
Chief Executive Officer  
South Gippsland Shire Council  
9 Smith Street  
Leongatha VIC 3953

via email: [council@www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au)

Dear Mr Tamlin,

#### **Formal Submission (Section 223) – South Gippsland Shire Council proposed Annual Budget 2016–17 and inclusion of a proposal for funding toward a Pedestrian Safety Path along Acacia Road, Walkerville**

I write to you on behalf of the Walkerville Ratepayers and Residents Association (WRRRA); an incorporated organisation representing the community of Walkerville and surrounding areas. The membership of the WRRRA is derived from the areas of Walkerville North, Walkerville South, the Prom Views Estate and surrounding farmland.

The WRRRA would like to make a formal written submission under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 regarding the South Gippsland Shire Council's proposed Annual Budget 2016–17 (the Budget). The submission is comprised of this letter and its attachments.

#### **1.0 Proposed SGSC Annual Budget 2016–17**

The WRRRA notes the proposed Budget contains a number of capital works expenditure items including the allocation of funding towards proposed new and upgraded footpaths, roads, bridges and similar infrastructure.

In relation to the Budget, the WRRRA formally request that Council:

- i consider this submission for the provision of a new Pedestrian Safety Path along Acacia Road, Walkerville (Prom Views) under the provisions of Section 223;
- ii consider including funding for works in relation to the submission in the final Annual Budget for 2016–17;
- iii consider making a grant of \$20,000 to the WRRRA to assist it in commissioning a feasibility study for the proposed pathway;
- iv allows Paul Katsieris, President of the WRRRA (or his prior nominated delegate) to address the Council on behalf go the WRRRA in relation to this submission at an open hearing of the Council.

## **SUBMISSION 5 - PAUL KATSIERIS, WALKERVILLE RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS**

### **2.0 Pedestrian safety along Acacia Road, Walkerville**

In recent years, members of the WRRRA and the broader Walkerville community have become increasingly concerned at a decline in pedestrian safety along Acacia Road (also known as Fish Creek-Walkerville Road). This two-lane road (i.e. single lane in each direction) is the main coastal/regional arterial route linking Walkerville with Fish Creek to the north and with Tarwin Lower to the south.

Contributing to the rising community concern regarding pedestrian safety is the lack of any footpath or defined walking path on either side of Acacia Road with what appears to be an ever-increasing number of pedestrians and vehicular traffic along this stretch of road.

Vehicular traffic and pedestrian use of the road is particularly high during the summer months, school and other holidays. Pedestrians, including family groups with young children regularly walk beside the narrow, uneven Acacia Road verge with fast moving vehicles, often towing caravans and trailers, passing pedestrians at close proximity and at speed. Often, pedestrians and drivers are tourists or holiday makers unfamiliar with local conditions or the area. This increases the likelihood of a serious collision.

Further exacerbating the situation is the fact that visibility for both drivers and pedestrians is less than ideal due to Acacia Road's undulating profile and it being unlit with streetlights despite forming the eastern boundary of the Prom Views estate; the most populated and dense settlement of the Walkerville area.

There are reports of near misses and dangerously close proximities occurring between pedestrians and vehicles. I myself was involved in one such near miss two summers ago when a passing vehicle towing a camping trailer passed by my family and myself who were walking north along the side of Acacia Road. Distressingly, the passing vehicle had its storage drawers un-secured and fully extended outwards at right angles to the camping trailer. Oblivious to the danger caused by this carelessness, the driver of the vehicle passed my family of four at speed with the extended drawers narrowly missing us all. I estimate the distance between the extended drawers and ourselves to have been less than 0.5 of a metre.

It is not unusual now for a passing vehicle towing a caravan or trailer to speed past a pedestrian or a pedestrian group walking along the edge of the poorly defined and unmade roadway edge/verge with only a metre or two in between. The manifest danger in this situation is obvious and must now be addressed as a priority for community safety.

### **3.0 Proposal for a pedestrian safety path**

Concordantly, the WRRRA has procured an indicative concept design for a Pedestrian Safety Path along Acacia Road. The design is indicative only but includes outline plan diagrams and 3-D artists' impressions of a proposed path parallel to Acacia Road. It is attached to this letter in support of this submission.

In general terms, it is envisaged the proposed Pedestrian Safety Path would:

- run parallel to Acacia Road;
- extend for approximately 900 meters in length and be 2.0 – 2.5 metres wide;
- be located approximately 12.0 metres east of Acacia Road thereby providing a safe buffer zone between the pathway and Acacia Road;
- be located within the fire-break strip cleared zone at the western edge of Cape Liptrap Coastal Park;
- be formed of granitic gravel material over a compacted sub-base and in a manner sympathetic to the landscape;
- follow the natural undulations of the land which it traverses;
- require 3 or 4 small timber bridgings where the path would traverse across existing drainage culverts and gullies.

## SUBMISSION 5 - PAUL KATSIERIS, WALKERVILLE RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS

### 4.0 Next steps

The WRRRA is willing to contribute financing from its own limited resources toward a feasibility study for the pathway. However, the WRRRA is also seeking a financial grant from Council to further its concept in a manner acceptable to Council and other relevant stakeholders. At this stage, the WRRRA believes the feasibility study would include:

- a written report on the needs and objectives for the pathway;
- a features and levels survey of the land on which the pathway is to be situated;
- a limited geotechnical testing of the land to determine the existing soil profile;
- a more detailed design of the path including key levels, cross-sections and materials;
- indicative costings.

If Council is able to assist the WRRRA by way of a financial grant then the feasibility study could also include any elements Council deem necessary for the feasibility study to contain.

The WRRRA welcomes any advice from Council as to ways forward. In the interim, as stated in item 1.0 (iv) above, the WRRRA would like the opportunity to address Council regarding this submission at the appropriate time.

Yours Sincerely,



**Paul Katsieris**  
Hon. President  
Walkerville Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc.

Attachments: Pedestrian Safety Path, Acacia Road Walkerville A3 drawings dated 23.03.2016 incl:

- |   |                        |       |
|---|------------------------|-------|
| - | Context Plan           | SK-01 |
| - | Site Plan              | SK-02 |
| - | View 1 - Looking North | SK-03 |
| - | View 2 - Looking South | SK-04 |

SUBMISSION 5 - PAUL KATSIERIS, WALKERVILLE RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS



<p><b>CLIENT</b>                  WALKERVILLE RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION</p>	<p><b>PROJECT</b>                  WALKERVILLE WALKING PATH PROPOSAL                  ACACIA ROAD WALKERVILLE</p>	<p><b>DRAWING TITLE</b>                  CONTENT PLAN                  PROPOSED WALKING PATH</p> <p><b>SCALE</b>                  1:5000 @ A3</p>	<p><b>DATE</b>                  23.03.2016</p> <p><b>DRAWING NO</b>                  SK-01</p>	<p>Studio 1102, Level 11                  The Century Building                  125 Swanston Street                  Melbourne Vic 3000  <a href="http://www.katsierisorigami.com">www.katsierisorigami.com</a></p>	<p><b>KATSIERIS ORIGAMI</b></p>
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SUBMISSION 5 - PAUL KATSIERIS, WALKERVILLE RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS



<b>CLIENT</b>	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>DRAFTING TITLE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>KATSIERIS ORIGAMI</b>
WALKERVILLE RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION	WALKERVILLE WALKING PATH PROPOSAL ACACIA ROAD WALKERVILLE	PROPOSED WALKING PATH	23.03.2016	
		<b>SCALE</b>	<b>DRAFTING NO</b>	
		1:3000 @ A3	SK-02	
				Studio 1102 Level 11 The Century Building 125 Swanston Street Melbourne Vic 3000 www.katsierisorigami.com

SUBMISSION 5 - PAUL KATSIERIS, WALKERVILLE RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS



**/ CLIENT**  
WALKERVILLE RATEPAYERS AND  
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

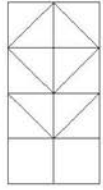
**/ PROJECT**  
WALKERVILLE WALKING PATH PROPOSAL  
ACACIA ROAD WALKERVILLE

**/ DRAWING TITLE**  
VIEW 1 - LOOKING NORTH  
**/ SCALE**

**/ DATE**  
23.03.2016  
**/ DRAWING NO**  
SK-03

**Studio 1102 Level 11  
79-81 Swanston Street  
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**KATSIERIS ORIGAMI**



SUBMISSION 5 - PAUL KATSIERIS, WALKERVILLE RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS



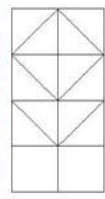
**CLIENT**  
WALKERVILLE RATEPAYERS AND  
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

**PROJECT**  
WALKERVILLE WALKING PATH PROPOSAL  
ACACTA ROAD WALKERVILLE

**DRAWING TITLE**  
VIEW 2 - LOOKING SOUTH

**DATE**  
23.03.2016

**DRAWING NO**  
SK-04



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**SUBMISSION 6 - DONALD ATKINS**

Mr Tim Tamlin  
Chief Executive Officer  
South Gippsland Shire Council

submission@southgippsland.vic.gov.au

PRIPPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET 2016- 2017

**MAYORS INTRODUCTION**

The Mayor, Cr Mr. Bob Newton is to be commended for his very thoughtful and interesting introduction to the 2016-2017 Budget papers.

The Mayor speaks of the exciting year ahead, to actively work with residents, to understand the diversity of business and activities, to also to ensure that these are sustainable and meet Councils and community expectations.

He then goes on to say in a later paragraph:-

**Quote.**

*In my years in Local Government, never have I seen so much emphasis on community engagement, and rightly so. It is our responsibility to recognise the importance of involving the community in our work to ensure that the best approach is taken for all decisions and actions. Council facilitated 51 community meetings and engagement opportunities over the last 18 months to encourage the involvement of community members in discussions. Unquote.*

These are the principles that most ratepayers and residents would believe are the very foundation of a well managed Shire Council. These words speak of that great Australian tradition, A Fair go for all

The 2016-17 Budget appears to be a well thought out and responsible budget. The photo of The Great Southern Rail Trail at the Black Spur and its completion is an example of what can be achieved and that has the potential to be beneficial to all ratepayers and visitors, it also has the potential to bring other economic gains. There have been other projects that have been put in place for the good and well being of the general Community. These have followed consultation with ratepayers and communities involved. In some cases a project may only impact on a small part of the community. In other cases the community of interest can include the whole of the Shire and even beyond



### SUBMISSION 6 - DONALD ATKINS

There are many other issues and ideals that are dealt with in these budget papers. I leave these to those more directly concerned in other areas.

Unfortunately there is a case where so called proposed improvements are being made without proper consultation with the whole Community..

I refer particularly to the proposed expenditure of \$130650. on road works and seawall maintenance at Walkerville North. The Shire Council has recently resealed the road from the junction of the Fish Creek Walkerville Road and Tarwin Walkerville Road , to the ramp onto the beach at the south end of Bayside Drive. It is noted that the aggregate used in this reseal was approximately 5-7mm. In view of the amount of pedestrian traffic using this road it appears to be a good choice.

However I recently received by mail a handwritten envelope containing a notice of a planning application for road and landscape works at Bayside Drive Walkerville North. (Planning Permit. 2015/398). This planning application related to an outlay and plans, posted on the Walkerville North hall and what this planning application was for. This a different plan to that posted there in 2008.

I subsequently put in an objection to that planning application which was duly acknowledged by the Shire Council.

Part of my objection stemmed from what has been the lack of consultation with the community on a public road, that is also a holiday and recreational destination. Far from seeking to improve and enhance things for these visitors it seeks to restrict and deny access. Yes, it may enhance the look of the actual area but at the cost to the many users going there and over mainly the summer months. Also Walkerville North is a very seasonal recreation area and the proposal is for a cosmetic car park and landscaping that will remain almost empty and unused for the majority of the year

It was also disconcerting to have the applicant for the above planning permit state at the Walkerville Ratepayers and Residents Association, AGM, meeting on Easter Saturday that the Shire Council had committed \$130650. for these road works, including the raising of the existing seawall. This is while the comments on the planning application had only just closed and that the Proposed Annual Budget 2016-2017 was open for comment. I believe that the applicant is pre-empting not only submissions on the planning permit but also submissions on the budget proposal.

This does not reconcile with the principles and ideals set out by the Mayor, Cr Bob Newton in his introduction to the Proposed Annual Budget 2016-2017.

The Walkerville Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management (WFRM) is an unelected, appointed committee consisting of about 11 members. This committee contains members that have been there for more than 25 years. This committee is now composed of the majority being against any real improvement at Walkerville North or South. While paying lip service to improvements nothing of a positive nature really happens. The overall policy has been one of restriction and no improvement. I note a few instance of this below, there are many more.

### SUBMISSION 6 - DONALD ATKINS

An attempt to close the walking track behind the beach from North to South Walkerville was made in 1994. It is not known who made this proposal. A meeting of some members of the WFRCM and the then NR&E decided it should be closed for safety reasons. This could mean people could be cut off between North and South Walkerville at high tide. The alternative was 12 km around the road. Not a very good prospect for a family that may have walked along the beach, had a picnic at either place then got cut off by the tide. It was only after very strong objections to NRE on Xmas Eve 1994 at a meeting on site by the then Chairman of the Ratepayers Association that it was allowed to remain open. Subsequent works were carried out to alleviate what was in reality an extremely low risk.

First Management Plan about 2000. In spite of a survey showing that some 63% of those surveyed being in favour of improvements to boat launching, this was reported in that plan as a majority against. This same plan recommended that the road to the top of the old Lime Kilns be closed, this restriction was done with the loss of valuable parking space.

From 2002 until 2006 an intensive engineering study, at a cost of over \$60000, was done which involved comprehensive studies on sea currents and impacts in Waratah Bay, Erosion and Erosion control measures including impacts caused by seawalls and also five options were put forward for better boat launching and retrieval facilities and which included car and boat trailer parking. A survey was conducted and there were about 600 responses. Of these responses some 78% or 470 responders wanted to pursue the options put forward by Coastal Engineering Solutions.

The majority of the eleven appointed WFRCM Committee voted to do nothing.

They subsequently did nothing.

The WFRCM is the managing body for the Walkerville Caravan Park including a narrow strip of foreshore to about 100 metre past the access onto the beach and the foreshore at Sth. Walkerville it also has an area on the west side of the road adjacent to Waratah St.

The WFRCM receives an income from campers in the Caravan Park and uses this income to make improvements in the caravan park and other areas under its control. While some small improvements have been made outside the caravan park they are fairly limited. The WFRCM is believed to be holding in excess of \$300000. The WFRCM also receives grants for various projects, one of which was to provide a series of stairs and connecting tracks at Sth. Walkerville to prevent people from scrambling through the bush at times of high tides or just to get to or from the beach. This traffic created erosion gullies which were further degrading this area. Objections were raised within this committee to this project as it was claimed it would encourage more visitors to Walkerville? These steps and tracks with one exception were done.

The WFRCM has shown no concern for the erosion between the caravan park and about 100 metres south of McPhersons Creek. The WFRCM has maintained that the road width is a very restricted area because of the native vegetation. It is noted that on their plan for this so called improvement that they are quite content to clear native vegetation, put in a car park and at the same time reduce the total parking?

They have ignored the safety issues with vehicles including tractors launching and retrieving boats in the midst of children, swimmers and any other beach user.

### **SUBMISSION 6 - DONALD ATKINS**

There is an area at Waratah St that with a little more help could provide a picnic and play area, parking and with a good sandy beach and swimming hole provide a safe area away from launching boats etc. It would also increase the capacity for visitors, holiday makers etc. It would possibly reduce the pressure at the end of the road. Any improvement has been minimal.

Time, effort and money was spent on getting a quote for a walking track from the caravan park to the hall. This walking track would have required the clearing of some similar native vegetation as this restrictive car park. It couldn't go ahead because that native vegetation was treated like the orange bellied parrot and therefore protected.

There is a need to have a basic ramp up the toilets at Sth. for people with disabilities, it has been mooted many times, all to no avail.  
The List goes on and on and on.

#### **Conclusion**

For the Shire Council to make any contribution to the raising of the seawall at Walkerville Nth would be an absolute waste of shire money and dereliction of the duty to the whole community. This is not a few potholes up some country lane. This bluestone wall may not be pretty but it is effective. Any works of this nature in this important recreational and holiday destination needs consultation and input from the whole of the Shire of South Gippsland and not just the agenda of an unelected appointed committee of 11. This is money that would be better spent elsewhere. As far as the road is concerned, since the Shire Council has had ownership it is in the best condition that it has ever been. This whole project by the WFRM is nothing more than a cynical attempt to get some sort of official backing for their very restrictive agenda.

My wife and I also own a property at 1 Holt St Walkerville Nth.

Your sincerely

Don Atkins

**SUBMISSION 7 - VINCENT MORFUNI**

V.A.MORFUNI QC

SUBMISSION RE DRAFT BUDGET

*INTRODUCTION*

1. Contrary to some misinformation that I understand some people have been disseminating, I am a ratepayer in Venus Bay. I am not a resident but then neither is the CEO and people do not appear to question his right to comment on the performance of Council.
2. I want to highlight some aspects of the budget that I believe should cause concern to the ratepayers. These include the time frame for consultation, the proper function of council, the allocation of council resources and the “fairness and Equity” of the rates struck by council in the draft budget.

*CONSULTATION PROCESS*

3. The legislation requires that the budget be submitted for public comment and submissions considered .The budget must be adopted by 30 June 2016.The timetable on page 15 of the draft budget indicates

**SUBMISSION 7 - VINCENT MORFUNI**

that submissions close on 27 April 2016, the Submission hearing meeting is to be held on 18 May 2016 and submissions considered by council on 1 June 2016 with the budget presented to council on 22 June 2016 for adoption and sent onto the Minister by 23 June 2016.

4. The effect of that timetable is that ratepayers will, in fact, not have the opportunity of inspecting the actual budget adopted by Council, and will not know which, if any, of the submissions Council received have been adopted.
5. To be meaningful, the process should enable ratepayers to examine the final version of the budget proposed to be adopted by council and comment on it prior to its adoption.
6. The current timeframe simply does not permit that to occur.
7. The reality is that council may simply ignore all or most of the submissions and there is nothing that ratepayers can do until next year's budget.
8. The remedy is to disseminate the draft budget earlier and then disseminate the budget that Council intends to approve for comment.
9. The current system promotes "pork barrelling" because ratepayers do not know what motivated council to accept some and reject other submissions.

### **SUBMISSION 7 - VINCENT MORFUNI**

10. This year we had the proposal that the draft budget was to be declared confidential until council was obviously advised that it could not do so. Nevertheless the briefing sessions were declared confidential. That declaration is tantamount to an admission that the budget process is secretive and ratepayers do not know the motivation of council that led it to adopt a particular expenditure. It also means that people who are able to exert influence in the background are not in danger of being exposed. The budgetary process should be transparent as should all aspects of council conduct.

### *THE PROPER FUNCTION OF COUNCIL*

11. We elect the council to govern the Shire. That means that Council should be the body that sets the policies and the priorities not the employees of Council. This also means that it is the function of the Mayor to bring the individual councillors together and to get them to act in the best interests of the Shire as a whole.

12. It is inimical to Council's function to have a dominant group impose its will on the council. I believe that an analysis of council minutes indicates that we do have a dominant group that seeks to impose its view on the rest of the councillors. Some may say that it is coincidence that the same councillors vote in a similar way on most issues. That may be right.

**SUBMISSION 7 - VINCENT MORFUNI**

However it may also mean that there is an arrangement that enables that to occur. As Oscar Wilde wrote to lose one parent may be considered a misfortune but to lose both is an act of carelessness. so to vote together in isolated occasion may be coincidence but to vote together regularly may mean that there is agreement to do so.

13. It is also inimical to Council's function to simply adopt the view of the officers. Last year we were told that the massive rate increase was necessary in order to avoid reduction of services. This year Council prides itself in being able to comply with the government imposed cap on rates. A comparison of this year's figures with last year's indicates that those councillors who advocated a reduction in rates last year were correct, despite the criticisms levelled at them.

14. The figures for this year appear to be rubbery. They do so because it is acknowledged that there will be a revaluation this year that will be applied to the rates to be struck. This means that unless the valuations decrease, the actual dollar figure to be paid by ratepayers will be greater than that which is indicated in the draft budget.

15. The draft budget also acknowledges that there may be "supplementary rates" but such rates have not been estimated in the draft budget but "at final adoption council will assess the rate base and update the

**SUBMISSION 7 - VINCENT MORFUNI**

budget with the actual annualised supplementary rates at that time”  
[page 105] accordingly ratepayers do not know the actual rates at this  
time.

ALLOCATION OF COUNCIL RESOURCES

*COUNCIL AUTHORITY WEAKENED*

**A.The Growth of the Media unit**

16.The budget figures indicate that there has been a significant increase in  
the media unit. The need for such increase appears to me, at least, to be  
illusory. A survey of the “media releases” on the Council web page  
indicates that such releases have, at times, been used to criticise some  
councillors for expressing a view antithetical to the CEO and other  
councillors. Thus one such release asserted:

**“ Debunking the bunkum**

**South Gippsland Shire Council’s CEO Tim Tamlin is disappointed  
by the ‘bunkum’ that was bandied about at the Council meeting  
on Wednesday.:**

17.In the commercial world if a CEO criticised members of his board he  
would be disciplined on the spot. However in this case no sanction  
appears to have been imposed on the CEO. It should be recognised that  
it is not the function of the CEO to criticise the Councillors publicly.His



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job is merely to implement the decisions made by Council as a body. It is the Mayor's function to ensure that the CEO extends respect to the councillors. As far as I am aware the Mayor has not taken any steps to ensure that the CEO cease his public criticism of some councillors. This may result in a dysfunctional council and lead to the same consequences as have recently been published in relation to Geelong council

18. Given the fact that there are a number of newspapers that cover council meetings and comment on them, there is no need to have a large media unit that appears to operate as a propaganda body to further the views of the CEO.

19. The cost of the media unit is \$432000.00. [page 30] Its rationale is said to be that it "plays a pivotal role in raising community awareness of Council services and strategic directions. It creates a working interface between Council, Council Departments and the Community through media management, publishing material, social media, website management and internal liaison. "All of these functions appear to be in part duplication, given that departments have to report to council each month and the function of directors should be to keep the board appraised of what is happening on a day to day basis.

**B. The increasing cost of administration**

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20. However the question is even larger. There does not appear to be any dissection of the productivity gains that are said to have been made. The cost of salaries does not appear to have been reduced in this budget. Indeed the cost of employees is forecast to increase by \$997000.00.
21. Council does not appear to have questioned the amount to be spent on administration. The total employee costs are \$23.711M [page 60]. This a million dollars more than last year. As a percentage of total income it is 35% of that total income. By any measure that is an extraordinarily high figure.
22. It becomes even worse when it is compared to the amount spent on delivering services. The estimate for materials and services is \$22.443M. As a percentage of income that represents some 33% of such income. **That is the cost of delivery of services is greater than the actual cost of the services delivered.** How Council can tolerate that situation is beyond belief, and in my view, is reflective of the failure of council to properly govern the Shire. Council should demand and expect productivity increases. It should demand that the CEO justify in detail the management structure that he has put in place. The CEO has 3 directors under him. Each director has 3 managers under him or her. That totals some 13 people in the management team. The total number

**SUBMISSION 7 - VINCENT MORFUNI**

of employees is said to be 263.that means that there is one manager for each 20 employees. How any CEO can justify that ratio is beyond my experience. **Why Council would accede to it is beyond comprehension.**

23.The absurdity of the situation is magnified when one considers that the total population of the shire is some 27000.00 people. We do not need a management structure that is more suitable for an organisation with over one thousand employees, yet Council does not appear to have questioned the need or the justification for such a structure.

**C. The municipal office proposal**

24.The lack of critical analysis by Council is reflected in other decisions recorded in the budget.

25.The most glaring is the provision for the erection of new municipal offices at a cost of some \$24.72M which increases to some \$32M when the interest component is factored in.The brief to the consultants indicate that the justification for the new offices were said to be the age and condition of the present buildings and the location of the present buildings and whether the land could be used more cost effectively. One of the criteria that had to be taken into account was the need to accommodate the library and the preference of the offices to be in the CBD.Of the 7 sites nominated, only one was not in Leongatha. Thus it

**SUBMISSION 7 - VINCENT MORFUNI**

was a reasonably foregone conclusion that the new offices would be located in Leongatha. One has to ask why the council employees could not have undertaken the study that was contracted out to consultants. The more important question is whether the shire needs such a structure. If it is needed why there should not be diversification of locations. It is relevant to ask whether, in the digital age we need such costly physical buildings from which to conduct council business. However given the size of the population and the cost I am of the view that it is not justified to spend so much money on a Taj Mahal for the CEO and the employees. The report indicates that there are presently 86 office based staff projected to increase to 166. The numbers simply do not stack up. The figures also reflect the fact that Council appears to be Leongatha centric.

26. The capital expenditure spending indicates that the vast majority of expenditure relates to Leongatha. The draft budget indicates that money is going to be spent on "improving" the Splash Centre in Leongatha. As I read the figures the result will be that there will be a loss of some \$100000.00 in perpetuity. Why Council considers that it is justifiable to spend money on projects that continue to make losses is beyond comprehension. I would submit that Council should not continue to fund

**SUBMISSION 7 - VINCENT MORFUNI**

loss making enterprises albeit that their support may enhance the status of some councillors.

27. At a purely selfish level I believe that there is a case to be made out for greater expenditure in Venus Bay. I am sure that there are other towns that could justify greater expenditure.

**FAIRNESS AND EQUITY**

28. The draft document asserts that the rate has been struck on the basis of achieving fairness and equity. On the basis of that policy the differential rate for vacant land has a differential of 200%. I believe this to be unfair.

29. Vacant residential land does not provide any income for the owner; it does not utilise any of the services provided e.g. rubbish removal etc. It does not contribute to the degradation of infrastructure. It may be that Council wants to implement social engineering by compelling development of vacant land. However there is no point in developing land when there is no demand. A simple internet search discloses that there are many blocks of land and houses for sale in Venus Bay. Some have been on the market for a long time. The search confirms the lack of demand. That lack of demand has been in place for a long time. Thus an owner of vacant land is faced with two equally unpleasant alternatives- develop the land and leave it vacant or sell it at a low price. This is neither fair nor equitable.

**SUBMISSION 7 - VINCENT MORFUNI**

30. The lack of fairness is further highlighted when comparison is made with vacant rural land. The general rate for vacant rural land is the same as for farm land. Other than its size there is no difference between rural residential vacant land and residential vacant land. Yet rural residential vacant land has a much lower general rate than residential vacant land. 1.113193 for residential compared to 0.389618 for rural residential vacant land.

31. The use does not differ—they are both residential. The rate should be the same and should be struck at the rural residential vacant land rate.

32. The lack of fairness is further exposed if comparison is made between the rate to be charged for the service rate under section 162 of the Act. The general increase is said to be 1.70%.

33. The increase in respect of Venus Bay however is 6904.58% in respect of Waste Service charge G and 44.40 % in respect of waste service charge H. There is no justification for such an increase. The rate should have been the same as in other areas.

34. The increase of those charges in respect of Venus Bay flies in the face of the fact that 8 out of 10 houses in Venus Bay are only occupied some of the time and therefore they would not be any ratepayer demand for the service.

**SUBMISSION 7 - VINCENT MORFUNI**

35. It also highlights the lack of community consultation in respect of the issue. As far as I am aware the ratepayers of Venus Bay were not asked if they wanted the increased service and were certainly not told the cost of such increase.

36. Council has also adopted a policy of selling land that it owns in Venus Bay. Such land was extracted from developers on the basis that it would be used for community amenities. There are not many community parks in Venus Bay and the sale of such land will ensure that there will not be land available in the future for such purposes. Again the ratepayers of Venus Bay were not consulted on that issue.

37. When one compares the cost of rates to the level of services actually enjoyed by ratepayers in Venus Bay one has to question whether there is any value for money and precisely where does the fairness and equity lay. In fact a councillor has said that Council looks on Venus Bay as a "cash cow". Having regard to the manner in which it is being treated in the budget that assessment is correct and it is unfair.

**CONCLUSION**

38. I ask Council to explain

- a. **Why it tolerates the massive expenditure on Administration;**

**SUBMISSION 7 - VINCENT MORFUNI**

- b. How it can justify a result that means more is spent on the cost of services than the value of the services delivered;**
- c. Why it considers appropriate to spend \$32M to house 86 office based employees at present and a maximum of 186 by the end of the project;**
- d. Why it did not consider a cheaper alternative;**
- e. Why it continues to fund loss making enterprises;**
- f. Why so much of the capital budget is being spent on Leongatha;**
- g .Why it is justified in spending nearly \$.5M dollars on a propaganda unit;**
- h. how can it justify an increase of over 6000% in respect of waste service charge in Venus Bay;**
- i. Why it is selling off land in Venus Bay and what use is going to be made of the proceeds;**

39.If satisfactory answers cannot be provided by council it should not adopt the draft budget.



**SUBMISSION 7 - VINCENT MORFUNI**

Dated 21 April 2016

*Vincent A Morfuni*

V.A.Morfuni

## SUBMISSION 8 - MEG KNIGHT

### *S223 SUBMISSION ON DRAFT BUDGET 16/17*

*TO: South Gippsland Shire Council  
BY: Megan Knight*

*YES, I would like to speak to submission*

#### **1. Overview**

I am grateful that SGSC has met the rate cap, but I do note the increase in general and waste charges and that in essence, Council will receive an increase of 4.27% in rates revenue for 16/17 so Council can trumpet “only” a 2.5% increase but is still looking at a comfortable increase in revenue.

I note also the reasoning given to rate payers in previous budgets that rate increases of around 7% in preceding years and 4.9% last year were totally justified as otherwise there would be a large reduction in the services Council could provide.

My eyebrows are raised when clearly that reasoning no longer applies when Council can suddenly keep within the cap of 2.5%. However with continuing rises linked to inflation and with the effect of compounding, ratepayers are still facing a future of substantial increased quantum of rates.

#### **2. Opportunity**

I would hope that with the framing of the 16/17 budget and ensuing budgets within a rate cap, that Council is taking the opportunity to really look at how it budgets. I would hope that zero budgeting would be the way to go each year – rather than simply “adding on” costs to the base cost of services each year. Look at each service – how much does it cost, what is the best way to deliver that service effectively and efficiently.

#### **3. Employee Costs**

- Last year we were assured that the restructuring of Council staff would result in a more efficient and productive work force
- 15/16 budget \$23.9M for 262.5 staff numbers
- 16/17 budget is \$25.02M for 263.4 staff numbers
- More people and \$1M more for staff costs for 16/17 budget
- So why are our employee costs so high ?

#### **4. Bench marks**

- Let us bench mark SGSC against figures in the Essential Services Commission report on Rate capping
- Employee costs for a large rural shire (we fit the parameters of that grouping) are 36% of expenditure
- SGSC – 44.5%
- Indeed if you took employee costs as a % of rates and charges revenue at SGSC it is a staggering 62.7%

## **SUBMISSION 8 - MEG KNIGHT**

### **5. Consultants/Contractors**

- It has been explained to me by Council that our employee costs are high because we have staff rather than contractors and consultants
- It would be helpful if Council could undertake a cost benefit analysis of which is better – employee or contractor – and in which specific areas
- In terms of consultancy I note that in the 16/17 budget \$640,000 is budgeted for consultants fees
- Certainly that is better than the \$913,000 for 15/16, but what are these consultancies
- However for employee costs of \$25.02M I would hope that there is a level of expertise and objectivity within staff to undertake the work of the consultants
- With staff numbers at an all time high I would also hope that consultants are not being used to balance workloads across Council either
- So why are our consultancy costs so high ?

### **6. Scope of Shire**

- I remind Council that we have 19,000 rateable properties
- 28,000 people living in the Shire
- 263.4 FTE staff numbers – it is a lot of people ! AND a lot of money from rates \$25.02M – just to look after us
- Are we getting full value for money ?

### **7. Council Managed Enterprises**

- Council reminds us frequently that they undertake rigorous planning and continually search for efficiencies
- This seems at odds with Council's decision to run Caravan Parks and Coal creek
- I repeat that commercial ventures should be left to private enterprise
- Council should not attempt to run commercial ventures even if they have self declared high level business expertise
- I should mention that I have no trouble with Caravan Parks being required to meet all standards and regulations
- But for goodness sake – supervise the lessee or the Manager under contract to ensure high level of operation – don't take over and try and do it yourself
- It is interesting to note that despite protestations at the time of taking over the Parks that Council would be absolutely transparent regarding their operation, the information for the 16/17 budget is difficult to find or in the case of operating expenditure not available so I have had to assume 15/16 expenditure levels

## **SUBMISSION 8 - MEG KNIGHT**

### **8. Caravan Parks – Yanakie**

- The Business Plan accepted by Council justifying the take over of the Park had income for 16/17 at \$743,016.97 (sic) and a net profit of \$298,659.32 (sic)
- Income in budget for 16/17 is \$355,949 (plus very small additional amounts from kiosk and other charges which I cannot find)
- If I understand correctly nearly half the annual site holders have left and some of the remainder are not paying so this income may also be as rubbery as the original plan
- Capital expenditure is \$90,699
- If we extrapolate expenditure from 15/16 of \$624,864
- There will certainly be no profit made at Yanakie this year – loss of \$300,000 ??
- Note Council has given us no indication of costs of legal action regarding Parks either

### **9. Caravan Parks – Long Jetty**

- The Business Plan accepted by Council justifying the take over of the Park had income for 16/17 at \$510,858.50 (sic) and a net profit of \$244,471.10 (sic)
- Income in budget for 16/17 is \$272,242
- Capital expenditure is \$84,470
- If we extrapolate expenditure from 15/16 of \$976,064
- There will certainly be no profit at Long Jetty this year

### **10. Why do I care about Caravan Parks when our rate increase has met the cap of 2.5%**

- Because of the millions of dollars it has cost ratepayers
- We could have had far smaller rate rises than those inflicted prior to the cap
- This money could have been far better spent on our roads or other infrastructure
- Council carried on about closing pools which were only making small losses and yet has trumpeted what a success they have made of the caravan parks when they have lost money hand over fist
- Because Council is spending \$20,000 to look at taking over Waratah Bay Caravan Park and I can see more million dollar losses coming

### **11. Coal Creek**

- Income for 16/17 is \$105,908
- Expenditure has hovered around the \$700,000 - \$800,000 per annum over previous years
- It will be clear therefore that there will be at least \$500,000 deficit for 16/17
- Council has spent tens of thousands on various reports on Coal Creek and despite numerous considerations at Council meetings has seemingly taken no action whatsoever to stem the bleeding
- The cost of \$500,000 p.a. could provide capital funding which could be far better spent within the Shire
- For goodness sake do SOMETHING !

## **SUBMISSION 8 - MEG KNIGHT**

### **12. Media & Communications**

- I note media and communications will cost the Council \$432,000 this year
- That is a lot of spin
- Please don't send us snail mail full colour "Gippsland Matters"
- We ratepayers know when you are doing a good job and when there is new infrastructure or our roads graded
- Don't spend our money telling us
- I am glad to see a report being proposed on Visitor Centres and their costs – do hope a consultant is not being used for this

### **13. Libraries, New Municipal Precinct and other planned edifices**

- Before money is spent on consultancies and plans and reports
- What are the future trends for municipal buildings (and indeed all office buildings)
- Surely Council staff can find that out
- Are we using our infrastructure to the maximum and best use now – are we thinking laterally about what could be done
- For example in Foster, rather than have a large employer, Parks Victoria move out of the building – why do we need a larger library ?
- For story telling – use the Scout Hall, Crawford Hall, the Halls at respective Churches, Prom Childrens Centre etc etc
- For students to study and use computers – utilise the school facilities
- The answer to a problem is not always to build a new building

### **14. Closing**

- I know I go on and on about the same things – but these are the big costs facing Council
- Employee costs
- Consultancy costs
- Costs of running commercial ventures better left to private enterprise
- Wasting money on media and communications
- Not tackling the long term future of "edifices" in a cost effective manner
- SGSC can do better than this.

**SUBMISSION 9 - CHRIS CHAPMAN**

Tim Tamlin  
Chief Executive Officer

**Section 223 Submission to the Proposed Budget for 2016-2017**

Dear Mr Tamlin,

Thank-you for the opportunity to review and make a submission to the Proposed Budget for 2016-2017. I have a number of submissions to make, but for brevity and efficiency I have included them in this one document.

I look forward to council's response and the opportunity to be heard in due course.

Sincerely,

Chris Chapman

**Submission 1**

Whilst I appreciate the need for detail, the document lacks any form of summary that most residents would be able to read, understand, or on which to develop an informed opinion. It concerns me greatly that this document is regarded as a "best practice guide for reporting local government budgets in Victoria". How many practice guides are available for council to reference? Who decided this was "best practice"? I doubt many residents will take the time or effort to wade through 163 pages. I respectfully request a suitable summary document for laypersons be made available. (I understand this document is a statutory requirement. However, it should also be readable).

**Submission 2**

Being a relatively new resident to South Gippsland I have taken an immediate and active interest in the local community and it seems to me that many residents are concerned with their local council, its charges, quality of service delivery and transparency.

- My own rates went up over 25% in the most recent rates cycle, as did many other residents I have spoken with. It seems disingenuous and unrepresentative to suggest the rate rise over recent years has only been 5-7% per annum.
- Rates in at my former address were approximately half of what is being charged here in South Gippsland, for a property worth double the value! Would you please explain the extraordinary rate values and excessive increase in 2015/16.
- I would suggest that council is disconnected from both its own residents and also the reality of operating in a competitive and transparent business environment. Every day in my own

### **SUBMISSION 9 - CHRIS CHAPMAN**

business I need to make difficult financial decisions without the luxury of a guaranteed revenue base or guaranteed annual price increase.

I ask council to justify its inordinately high rates charges. I material reduction in rates must be a priority for council.

#### **Submission 3**

In Chapter 3 of the Budget document a series of tables describe each "service area" along with projected expenditure and revenue. Could you please provide details of the revenue for each service area and how it is raised?

Many of the "Descriptions" in these tables are extremely generic. Could you please provide further information as to the actual service delivered or value provided to the residents of South Gippsland?

#### **Submission 4**

##### **Capital Expenditure**

Could you please advise which capital items are new projects and which items are asset renewal projects. The structure of this section of the budget needs to be far more transparent so that residents can properly understand what is being proposed. It would be most helpful if each capital line item included the following:

1. Description of the proposed project
2. Whether it is a new project or an asset renewal project
3. If a new project, who initiated and who approved the project
4. What component of the funding is coming from rates income and what component is coming from government grants (or other sources).

I would also like to understand why Leongatha gets such a significant allocation of capital funds (~\$1.6M). What is this allocation intended to fund?

#### **Submission 5**

##### **Section 7.1.3**

I note an allowance of \$1M for the Foster Streetscape.

Foster already has one of the prettiest and well maintained streetscapes of any small town I have visited.

1. Could you please the detail of these proposed Streetscape works?
2. Have the residents of Foster made specific requests that are being addressed by this proposed allocation of funds? If so, please provide details.
3. Can council provide details to illustrate that the proposed works have been budgeted in a competitive and cost efficient manner? Can a similar job be completed for less money?

Further to the capital expenditure proposed for Foster, I seek answers to the following question with regard to operational costs: (I couldn't find any details in the budget to answer these questions).

1. Are councillors and administrators aware that the gardens are regularly replanted just as plants/vegetables/herbs are maturing? Why do we have council workers watering the garden beds when it's raining? (although I know it doesn't rain much these days)

**SUBMISSION 9 - CHRIS CHAPMAN**

2. What is the annual budget for the small army of gardeners, administrators, vehicles and machinery etc as well as plants and supplies for the Foster township.
3. Is this effort and expense a result of specific requests from Foster residents?
4. Who approves this initiative and the funding?

**Submission 6**

I would ask the same questions for each items described in section 7.1.3. \$13.39M is a lot of money – and no substantiating information is provided on which any fiduciary assessment can be performed.

To this effect, I ask Council to provide details for each capital expenditure item described in Section 7.1.2

1. Could you please advise in detail each item proposed in the following table.
2. Have the residents of the specific area, or South Gippsland, made specific requests that are being addressed by these proposed allocations of funds?
3. Can council provide details to illustrate that the proposed works have been budgeted in a competitive and cost efficient manner? Can a similar job be completed for less money?
4. Are each of the roadworks programs funded with State Government Grants; with the obvious inference being that our Federal taxes are funding the roads. If not, are specific resident requests or clearly prioritised plans driving each of these line items?

Works Civil Design	\$190,000
Guard Rail Projects	\$138,000
Town Entrance Leongatha	\$1,410,000
Bair Street Landscape – Leongatha	\$150,000
Hudson’s Road Korumburra South	\$1,300,000
Roads Reseal Preparation	\$824,000
Roads – Reseals	\$1,810,000
Sealed Rehabilitation Program- Ashenden Street	\$661,000
Sealed Rehabilitation Program- Berrys Creek Road	\$136,000
Sealed Rehabilitation Program- Dollar Road Dumbalk	\$532,000
Sealed Rehabilitation Program- King Street & Scott Crt Korumburra	\$230,000
Sealed Rehabilitation Program- Koonwarra – Pound Creek Road Leongatha	\$225,000
Sealed Rehabilitation Program- Little Commercial Street Korumburra	\$58,000
Sealed Rehabilitation Program- Main Street Stony Creek	\$51,000
Sealed Rehabilitation Program- Old Waratah Road Fish Creek	\$100,000
Sealed Rehabilitation Program- Stony Creek Dollar Road – Stony Creek	\$91,000
South Road Poowong	\$1,350,000
Walkerville North – Road & Retaining Wall Protection	\$131,000
Bridge Rehabilitation Program	\$210,000
Major Culvert projects. The project is Stewart and Dunlops Road	\$42,000
Footpaths and Cycle ways projects	\$598,000
Drainage projects	\$111,000



## **SUBMISSION 9 - CHRIS CHAPMAN**

### **Submission 7**

#### **Section 3.4 Strategic Outcome 4 – A Leading Organisation**

I note that \$775,000 is allocated to Executive Office/Management. Please provide the details on this figure. Has council undertaken an independent review of staffing levels and remuneration to reflect community expectations and corporate performance? South Gippsland Council is in fact an incorporated company (GST exempt), operating as a Body Corporate, and yet it operates a monopoly with little regard for open market competition or accountability. In days gone by Local Councils had a Town Clerk. Now we have a CEO paid a corporate salary. Given the Executive Officers of Council Inc. are not subject to normal market competitive measures of performance, nor are they expected to meet sales or services targets, why are residents expected to fund salary packages more aligned to the "big end of town". How much is paid to the CEO and executive team and who approved these salary packages?

### **Submission 8**

#### **Section 5.3 Expenditure**

I note that 48% of cash expenses (I have excluded non-cash expenditure) are staffing costs. This represents a massive opportunity for cost reduction through process improvements, organisation restructuring and better use of technology. Have all avenues for the removal or reduction of duplicated services (across other councils and government departments) been addressed to ensure residents are receiving the very best value for their money? We need and expect our council to be a community based organisation, not a corporate based business with the associated overheads.

SUBMISSION 10 - ROGER HARVEY

**r g harvey**  
development design town planning

pty  
ltd

11 January 2106

Shire of South Gippsland  
ATT: Lord Mayor Councillors and CEO (Tim Tamlin)  
Private Bag 4  
Leongatha  
VIC 3953



Dear Lord Mayor, Councillors and Tim Tamlin

**RE: SUBMISSION TO DRAFT BUDGET - RATING STRATEGY FOR VACANT LAND - PORT WELSHPOOL CASE STUDY.**

I am writing to outline the difficulties the current rate strategy for vacant land presents for locations such as Port Welshpool and hope this can be taken into account when the next Budget is prepared including reinstating a Special Rate for some vacant land.

You will be aware that in the current rate period there has been a significant increase in the Council rates applied to vacant land. From the Council Rating Strategy I understand the reason for the increase is 'to encourage vacant land owners to develop their properties' (8.10 Vacant Land, P74). I also understand that the previously available 'Restricted Land Category' has been abandoned.

My submission is that this approach is overly simplistic and imposes a significant economic burden upon some markets, such as Port Welshpool, that are already depressed. My reasons are expanded upon below.

On the face of it the council's strategy has logic - by increasing the cost of holding land owners are incentivised to sell land or develop it themselves. However not all land markets are the same, for example the more buoyant conditions of suburban Leongatha are a stark contrast to the market conditions of Port Welshpool. In reality, the various factors influencing market decisions are far more complex and dynamic than the simple logic underpinning the council's strategy.

The council's assumption on vacant land is based on the following:

- The market has willing buyers (as well as sellers);
- the market has sufficient general strength and viability for the laws of supply and demand to operate, and
- consumers can buy land with confidence over what they can build, and in what time frame.

In fact these conditions do not apply in Port Welshpool in that;

- The market is depressed. Values have been falling since the mid 2000's;
- As a predominantly holiday destination, it is a highly discretionary market in terms of consumer decisions. The lack of facilities, and the failure of the Long Jetty to be reopened are a reminder of its declining conditions. This is compounded by a skewed older demographic of permanent dwellers - always dwindling, and with no employment prospects to encourage new residents.
- At most times there are few, if any buyers in the market, hence reducing land prices does not actually follow the expected 'buy' reaction from the market;
- There is already an oversupply of land on the market, and
- Town planning requirements and complex underlying conditions such as climate change, bush fire and conservation controls make investment decisions (and appropriate advice from council) uncertain and complicated.

### SUBMISSION 10 - ROGER HARVEY

I speak from personal experience having developed an eco friendly 21 lot subdivision around 2005.

In recent times our experience has been that it is virtually impossible to sell land for anything near the council valuation. To understand how depressed the land market is, it is understood there have been only three land sales over the past year, and these have occurred under virtual 'fire sale' conditions. This is appalling, and points to a dead market. To be fair to the real estate agents, they attempt to prop up the market with inflated prices, but which cannot be realised in fact. Hence there are a large number of properties for sale (land and dwellings) which have no reasonable prospect of being purchased for the asking price.

The council's rating strategy compounds the problem and at the same time applies valuations that cannot be met under current market conditions. One of the few ways we have been able to sell land has been to build houses. Consumers put off by the uncertainty and complexity of the planning system are sometimes willing to buy a finished product. However, analysis of this exercise has revealed residual land prices lower than \$30,000. At this rate it is not a viable proposition. We are happy to reveal these figures in detail.

Increasing holding costs on vacant land will only lead to more 'fire sales' and the potential collapse of the market, and with it council's artificially high land valuation base.

Our conclusion is that council, rather than penalising vacant land holders in Port Welshpool, should offer help by the following:

- Reinstating a suitable Special Rate for vacant land in locations where market conditions are very poor and declining. This may only be a small segment of the Shire wide supply of vacant land and hence be an acceptable budgetary impost;
- consider ways by which investment and permanent residents and holiday dwellers may be incentivised to enter the market, for example the Long Jetty project, and
- consider ways by which the planning and regulatory framework can be simplified, for example by abandoning the ESO3 control which simply adds friction to an already depressed market and adds *no identifiable public benefit*. I make this comment as a qualified and experienced town planner.

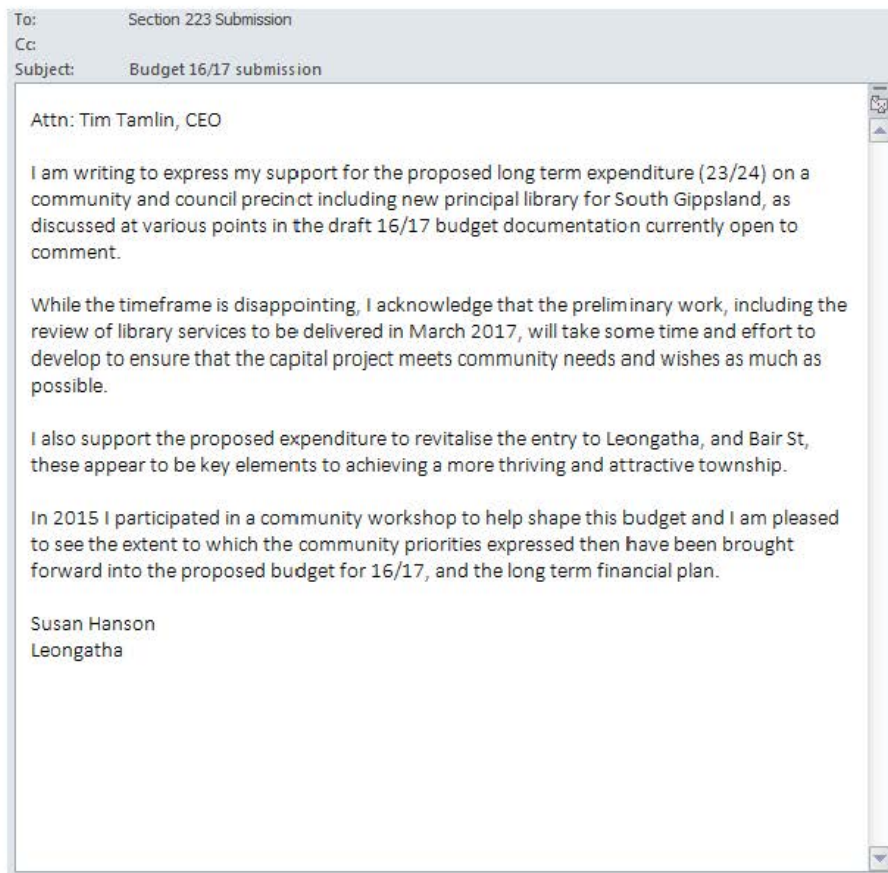
I welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss any of the above. I hope these comments assist you in framing the future Budget. I would be interested to know whether other vacant land holders located in areas with 'difficult' markets have expressed similar sentiments.

Yours sincerely



Roger Harvey

**SUBMISSION 11 - SUSAN HANSON**



**SUBMISSION 12 - DAN MONAGHAN, LEONGATHA BASKETBALL ASSOC**



**Leongatha Basketball Association**

P.O Box 134, Leongatha, 3953  
[Leongatha.basketball@gmail.com](mailto:Leongatha.basketball@gmail.com)

27 April 2016

Dear Councillors

**Re: Budget Submission – SPLASH Court Hire Fees**

Leongatha Basketball Association would like Council to consider reducing the hiring cost of SPLASH Stadium Basketball Rental (single court) at \$42.00 per hour as outlined in Appendix E Fees and Charges, page 159 of the 2016/2017 Budget.

In 2014/2015 financial year Leongatha Basketball paid over \$23,000 for court hire to run two seasons of basketball. This equates to approximately \$1000 per week. In addition to court hire costs, our members are charged \$2 door entry for every game. In real terms, court hire of \$42 plus \$2 entry per player (with an average of 7 players per team) equates to SPLASH receiving \$60 per hour per court.

SPLASH is one of the most expensive courts to hire across the region with the exception of Korumburra and Foster (see table 1). Korumburra and Foster are able to offset their court hire fees through operating canteen facilities at the venues, with all revenue going back to the association. Their players' fees are at least \$20 per season cheaper than Leongatha. Leongatha Basketball is unable to subsidise any of their court fees as SPLASH operates the canteen at the venue. This increases costs for our members and we are at risk of losing players due to increasing fees.

Table 1

Stadium	Per hour charge
SPLASH	\$42
Meeniyar Basketball Stadium	\$20
Poowong Basketball Stadium	\$25
Mirboo North Basketball Stadium	\$20
Foster Basketball Stadium	\$50
Korumburra Basketball Stadium	\$40
Phillip Island Basketball Stadium	\$35
Wonthaggi Basketball Stadium	\$30
Inverloch Basketball Stadium	\$35

Leongatha Basketball believes the hire charge is excessive compared to other stadiums in the South Gippsland Bass Coast region and court hire is used to subsidise the cost of running the pool. Whilst we agree the pool is a fantastic community asset, we do not believe the users of the stadium should be subsidising the costs of the pool.

Leongatha Basketball proposes the following options for Council to consider:

1. Reduce court hire fee to \$28 per hour and retain \$2 door entry; or
2. Reduce the court hire fee to \$33 per hour (average court hire cost across region) and remove \$2 door entry.

Kind Regards

Dan Monaghan  
Leongatha Basketball Association President

**SUBMISSION 13 - EIJSE (GUS) BLAAUW**

To: Section 223 Submission  
Cc:  
Subject: Re: Proposed 2016 Budget

To all nine South Gippsland Shire Coucilors,

I have perused The Proposed Budget 2016 and the information provided in the Income and Expense Budget Statement is not sufficiently detailed for me to make a valid opinion as to appropriate acceptable financial and other Budget measures proposed by the Councilors of theSGSC. I need financial details by General Ledger Expense Item for all General Ledger Accounts.

Please provide me with your appropriate response by return to either provide met with these details in printed form appropriate to the Proposed 2016 Budgeted Profit and Loss Statement or provide me with appropriate means to obtain those details within the next few days. If you are unable or unwilling to provide me with the details requested I hereby notify you of my requirement for an extension of the deadline advertised to make relevant submission of such magnitude as to ensure that I have sufficient time to prepare and submit proposals and/or objections to the Proposed 2016 Budget.

Please confirm receipt of this request and related details as soon as possible in consideration of the tight time schedule for response submissions,

Sincerely,  
Eijse (Gus) Blaauw

## **SECTION C - MEETING CLOSED**

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next Ordinary Council Meeting open to the public will be held on Wednesday, 22 June 2016 commencing at 2pm in the Council Chambers, Leongatha.