

**2017/18 Proposed Budget and 2017-2021 Draft Council Plan
SUBMISSIONS and RESPONSES**



Number	Elected to Speak?	Speaking Timeslot	Submitter Name <i>(click on name to view submission)</i>	Submission Title	Response	Budget Impact - One Off	Budget Impact - Recurrent
1	No	N/A	Rebecca Parker	Equestrian/Expo Centre	Progressing the development of a business case will investigate detailed factors to be considered with the establishment of a multipurpose undercover Equestrian / Expo Centre.	Nil. Funding for Equestrian Centre already proposed.	Nil
2	No	N/A	Richard Powell	Equestrian/Expo Centre	Progressing the development of a business case will investigate detailed factors to be considered with the establishment of a multipurpose undercover Equestrian / Expo Centre.	Nil. Funding for Equestrian Centre already proposed.	Nil
3	No	N/A	Marilyn McGeary	Equestrian/Expo Centre	Progressing the development of a business case will investigate detailed factors to be considered with the establishment of a multipurpose undercover Equestrian / Expo Centre.	Nil. Funding for Equestrian Centre already proposed.	Nil
4	No	N/A	Wendy Whelan	Equestrian/Expo Centre	Progressing the development of a business case will investigate detailed factors to be considered with the establishment of a multipurpose undercover Equestrian / Expo Centre.	Nil. Funding for Equestrian Centre already proposed.	Nil
5	No	N/A	Debra Collins	Equestrian/Expo Centre	Progressing the development of a business case will investigate detailed factors to be considered with the establishment of a multipurpose undercover Equestrian / Expo Centre.	Nil. Funding for Equestrian Centre already proposed.	Nil.
6	No	N/A	Janine Bullock	Equestrian/Expo Centre	Progressing the development of a business case will investigate detailed factors to be considered with the establishment of a multipurpose undercover Equestrian / Expo Centre.	Nil. Funding for Equestrian Centre already proposed.	Nil
7	No	N/A	Lisa Catherwood	Equestrian/Expo Centre	Progressing the development of a business case will investigate detailed factors to be considered with the establishment of a multipurpose undercover Equestrian / Expo Centre.	Nil. Funding for Equestrian Centre already proposed.	Nil
8	No	N/A	Paul Macphail & Anneke Homan	Equestrian/Expo Centre	Progressing the development of a business case will investigate detailed factors to be considered with the establishment of a multipurpose undercover Equestrian / Expo Centre.	Nil. Funding for Equestrian Centre already proposed.	Nil
9	No	N/A	Lorraine Norden	Public Open Spaces in Venus Bay	The review of the Land Realisation Project will consider all Council owned land in the Shire and pay a particular focus on the Council land in Venus Bay. It is planned to develop a strategic direction for the Council land in Venus Bay due to the history of the community's concerns. This direction will be informed by the outcome of the review of the SGSC Open Space Strategy 2007 that is currently underway. Council also looks forward to the outcome of the Wildlife Environment Protection and new skate park projects that the Venus Bay community chose to allocate budget from the \$400,000 Community Infrastructure budget which may involve the use of Council land.	Nil	Nil

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10	Yes	10:55am	Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula	Public Open Spaces in Venus Bay	The review of the Land Realisation Project will consider all Council owned land in the Shire and pay a particular focus on the Council land in Venus Bay. It is planned to develop a strategic direction for the Council land in Venus Bay due to the history of the community's concerns. This direction will be informed by the outcome of the review of the SGSC Open Space Strategy 2007 that is currently underway. Council also looks forward to the outcome of the Wildlife Environment Protection and new skate park projects that the Venus Bay community chose to allocate budget from the \$400,000 Community Infrastructure budget which may involve the use of Council land.	Nil	Nil
11	No	N/A	Kam Saraswati	Public Open Spaces in Venus Bay	The review of the Land Realisation Project will consider all Council owned land in the Shire and pay a particular focus on the Council land in Venus Bay. It is planned to develop a strategic direction for the Council land in Venus Bay due to the history of the community's concerns. This direction will be informed by the outcome of the review of the SGSC Open Space Strategy 2007 that is currently underway. Council also looks forward to the outcome of the Wildlife Environment Protection and new skate park projects that the Venus Bay community chose to allocate budget from the \$400,000 Community Infrastructure budget which may involve the use of Council land.	Nil	Nil
12	No	N/A	Peter Pryster	Public Open Spaces in Venus Bay	The review of the Land Realisation Project will consider all Council owned land in the Shire and pay a particular focus on the Council land in Venus Bay. It is planned to develop a strategic direction for the Council land in Venus Bay due to the history of the community's concerns. This direction will be informed by the outcome of the review of the SGSC Open Space Strategy 2007 that is currently underway. Council also looks forward to the outcome of the Wildlife Environment Protection and new skate park projects that the Venus Bay community chose to allocate budget from the \$400,000 Community Infrastructure budget which may involve the use of Council land.	Nil	Nil
13	No	N/A	Janet Carey	Public Open Spaces in Venus Bay	The review of the Land Realisation Project will consider all Council owned land in the Shire and pay a particular focus on the Council land in Venus Bay. It is planned to develop a strategic direction for the Council land in Venus Bay due to the history of the community's concerns. This direction will be informed by the outcome of the review of the SGSC Open Space Strategy 2007 that is currently underway. Council also looks forward to the outcome of the Wildlife Environment Protection and new skate park projects that the Venus Bay community chose to allocate budget from the \$400,000 Community Infrastructure budget which may involve the use of Council land.	Nil	Nil
14	No	N/A	Anna Kijek	Public Open Spaces in Venus Bay	The review of the Land Realisation Project will consider all Council owned land in the Shire and pay a particular focus on the Council land in Venus Bay. It is planned to develop a strategic direction for the Council land in Venus Bay due to the history of the community's concerns. This direction will be informed by the outcome of the review of the SGSC Open Space Strategy 2007 that is currently underway. Council also looks forward to the outcome of the Wildlife Environment Protection and new skate park projects that the Venus Bay community chose to allocate budget from the \$400,000 Community Infrastructure budget which may involve the use of Council land.	Nil	Nil

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15	No	N/A	Sally Moseby	Public Open Spaces in Venus Bay	The review of the Land Realisation Project will consider all Council owned land in the Shire and pay a particular focus on the Council land in Venus Bay. It is planned to develop a strategic direction for the Council land in Venus Bay due to the history of the community's concerns. This direction will be informed by the outcome of the review of the SGSC Open Space Strategy 2007 that is currently underway. Council also looks forward to the outcome of the Wildlife Environment Protection and new skate park projects that the Venus Bay community chose to allocate budget from the \$400,000 Community Infrastructure budget which may involve the use of Council land.	Nil	Nil
16	Yes	11:05am	Gillian Upton	Public Open Spaces in Venus Bay	The review of the Land Realisation Project will consider all Council owned land in the Shire and pay particular attention to the Council land in Venus Bay. It is planned to develop a strategic direction for the Council land in Venus Bay due to the history of the community's concerns. This direction will be informed by the outcome of the review of the SGSC Open Space Strategy 2007 that is currently underway. Council also looks forward to the outcome of the Wildlife Environment Protection and new skate park projects that the Venus Bay community chose to allocate budget from the \$400,000 Community Infrastructure budget which may involve the use of Council land.	Nil	Nil
17	No	N/A	Marion Kavanagh	Public Open Spaces in Venus Bay	The review of the Land Realisation Project will consider all Council owned land in the Shire and pay a particular focus on the Council land in Venus Bay. It is planned to develop a strategic direction for the Council land in Venus Bay due to the history of the community's concerns. This direction will be informed by the outcome of the review of the SGSC Open Space Strategy 2007 that is currently underway. Council also looks forward to the outcome of the Wildlife Environment Protection and new skate park projects that the Venus Bay community chose to allocate budget from the \$400,000 Community Infrastructure budget which may involve the use of Council land.	Nil	Nil
18	No	N/A	Patrick Finnigan	Upgrade of Balook St, Mirboo North	<p>Council does not have a dust suppression process or budget and in instances where dust suppressant products have been used in the past, they have been at the cost of the property owners abutting the road, and have a very limited lifespan. The only permanent method of eliminating dust from an unsealed road is to construct and seal the road.</p> <p>Sealing an urban road such as Balook Street would be covered by Council's C42 Special Charge Scheme Policy. Funding of the works would be subject to a cost recovery process from the properties abutting the road. In order to commence a Special Charge Scheme, consent from at least 70% of property owners would need to be obtained. Council has Service Statements for all its civil asset programs including the sealing of unsealed roads. A requirement of this Service Statement is that traffic volumes must exceed 150 vehicles per day (vpd). The latest counts for Balook Street in February 2017 are 101 vpd. Council has prioritised all unsealed urban roads with respect to sealing these roads and currently Balook Street is ranked 98 out of 349 urban unsealed roads.</p>	<p>\$300,000</p> <p><i>Council's contribution would be in the order of \$100,000 on the basis that it contributes a third of the cost as per the Special Charge Scheme Policy.</i></p>	<p>\$1,100 approx. per annum</p>

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19	No	N/A	Geraldine & Tony Conabere	Sealing of Savages Rd, Fish Creek	<p>Although unfunded, Council has recently developed a "Bell Seal Intersection" (sealed section entering an unsealed road) Program which prioritises all intersections within the Shire where "Bell" seals are required on the unsealed section of a Council road that abuts a VicRoads sealed road. Some of the criteria used to prioritise bell sealing intersections include traffic volumes of each road, accident history at the intersection, whether the unsealed road carries high volumes of heavy vehicles, if it is a school bus route, if it is a through road or not, the sight lines from the unsealed road, and the speed zone.</p> <p>Council has prioritised all unsealed roads in this instance and Savages Road is ranked 9 out of the 153 identified "Bell" areas of unsealed municipal road intersecting VicRoads arterial roads. The sealing of the "Bell" area of Savages Road / Waratah Road intersections would involve a distance along Savages Road of approximately 38 metres, and an area of around 400 square metres, including the left turn splays. It is estimated that this would cost in the order of \$20,000.</p>	\$20,000 approx. <i>Bell Seals Intersection program - if funded</i>	\$175 approx. per annum
20	No	N/A	Residents of Henrys Road	Sealing of Henrys Road Loch/Nyora	<p>The budget for Henrys Road upgrade was re-allocated to the sealing of the unsealed section of North Poowong Road in 2015/16 on the basis that North Poowong Road carried higher volumes of traffic including commercial vehicles. Unfortunately that project has not been able to be delivered as yet due to the difficulties in obtaining the necessary environmental approvals. Henrys Road is ranked 75 in terms of priority for the gravel to seal program. There is currently no funding in future years for this program with the exception of the completion of Hudsons Road in 2017/18. This is due to the reduction in Roads to Recovery funding at the conclusion of 2016/17 financial year. Blackspot funding has also been reduced in recent years and Henrys Road has not been included on any potential project listing from VicRoads for this program. There is currently some design work being carried out for widening works on two crests along Henrys Road and the bend at the southern end on the basis that Henrys Road remains a gravel road. Funding will be sought for these works in future years.</p>	Nil	Nil
21	No	N/A	Owen Newman	Footpath on Balding St, Mirboo North	<p>Balding Street footpath extension along the west side from Baths Road to Couper Street is currently ranked 14 out of 129 identified footpath extension projects. The estimated cost is \$80,000. Balding Street footpath is currently unfunded and not listed in the forward Capital Works Program. However, the following projects are identified for Mirboo North and are listed in the 2017/18 and 2020/21 financial years respectively:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baths Road, from Allen Street to Balding Street; and - Couper Street, from Baths Road to Ogilvie Street on the north side. <p>Council could consider the inclusion of Balding Street footpath extension in the forward Capital Works Program following the completion of these other footpaths in Mirboo North as these paths will provide connectivity to Balding Street.</p>	\$80,000 <i>Footpath Extension Program</i>	\$900 p.a <i>Ongoing maintenance</i>

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22	No	N/A	Bob Hickman	Support of Arts & Culture Strategy	Council is committed to supporting the development of arts, culture, and creative industries across South Gippsland. In order to provide support effectively, Council directed that a four year arts strategy be developed to realise the outcomes established in the recently adopted C03 Arts and Culture Policy. The Strategy was developed in conjunction with a working party that comprised of representatives of our Arts Sector. The bulk of the budget allocated for 2017/2018 will be put towards a resource dedicated to implementing the actions in the Strategy.	Nil	Nil
23	No	N/A	Anna Walter	Art & Culture	The Strategy has been developed closely with South Gippsland's Arts & Creative Industries Sector and includes a vision to recognise South Gippsland as a region that has a strong art and cultural identity, rich in diversity and opportunity. One of the 7 themes of the Strategy is "Places and Spaces" and includes actions to develop places to perform and exhibit.	Nil	Nil
24	No	N/A	Korumburra Business Association	Korumburra Revitalisation Project	Council adopts an annual budget with an indicative long term financial plan. Each year a new annual budget is required to be adopted. Allocation is made for the project detailed design in the 2017/18 annual budget. Detailed design provides greater assurance of project costs and must be completed before seeking grant funding and obtaining the necessary approvals to complete the project e.g. VicRoads. Grant funding support is required to complete the project. Construction is identified in the long term financial plan as 2020/21 as this is likely the earliest opportunity to commence the project when giving consideration to grant funding opportunities. Following adoption of the 2017/18 annual budget, Council will determine its next list of priority projects for advocacy and funding. This process will inform Council's future budgets including financial considerations for the 2018/19 annual budget.	Nil	Nil
25	No	N/A	Noelene Cosson	Footpath to Korumburra Secondary College	The design for an upgrade of this path to a shared path facility is on the design program for 2017/18. When the design is completed, opportunities for capital funding to deliver this project will be sought.	Nil	Nil
26	No	N/A	Korumburra Community Development & Action	Footpaths in Korumburra	1. The design for an upgrade of this path to a shared path facility is on the design program for 2017/18. When the design is completed, opportunities for capital funding to deliver this project will be sought. 2. The Skip Walking Track proposal will be included in the review of the Council's 2010 Paths and Trails Strategy planned to commence first quarter of 2017/18 financial year. 3. The proposal for a walking track from Isabelle Boulevard to Hannah Rise will also be included in the review of the Council's 2010 Paths and Trails Strategy. It is also planned to incorporate this walking track in any future sub-division of the land between Isabelle Boulevard and Hannah Rise. It should be noted that there is no current or future funding budgeted for the Paths and Trails Strategy recommended works.	Nil	Nil

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27	No	N/A	Mary-Ann Van Ballekom	Korumburra Revitalisation Project	Council adopts an annual budget with an indicative long term financial plan. Each year a new annual budget is required to be adopted. Allocation is made for the project detailed design in the 2017/18 annual budget. Detailed design provides greater assurance of project costs and must be completed before seeking grant funding and obtaining the necessary approvals to complete the project e.g. VicRoads. Grant funding support is required to complete the project. Construction is identified in the long term financial plan as 2020/21 as this is likely the earliest opportunity to commence the project when giving consideration to grant funding opportunities. Following adoption of the 2017/18 annual budget, Council will determine its next list of priority projects for advocacy and funding. This process will inform Council's future budgets including financial considerations for the 2018/19 annual budget.	Nil	Nil
28	No	N/A	David Rasmus	Korumburra Revitalisation Project	Council adopts an annual budget with an indicative long term financial plan. Each year a new annual budget is required to be adopted. Allocation is made for the project detailed design in the 2017/18 annual budget. Detailed design provides greater assurance of project costs and must be completed before seeking grant funding and obtaining the necessary approvals to complete the project e.g. VicRoads. Grant funding support is required to complete the project. Construction is identified in the long term financial plan as 2020/21 as this is likely the earliest opportunity to commence the project when giving consideration to grant funding opportunities. Following adoption of the 2017/18 annual budget, Council will determine its next list of priority projects for advocacy and funding. This process will inform Council's future budgets including financial considerations for the 2018/19 annual budget.	Nil	Nil
29a 29b	No	N/A	Dianne McCarthy	Korumburra Revitalisation Project	Council adopts an annual budget with an indicative long term financial plan. Each year a new annual budget is required to be adopted. Allocation is made for the project detailed design in the 2017/18 annual budget. Detailed design provides greater assurance of project costs and must be completed before seeking grant funding and obtaining the necessary approvals to complete the project e.g. VicRoads. Grant funding support is required to complete the project. Construction is identified in the long term financial plan as 2020/21 as this is likely the earliest opportunity to commence the project when giving consideration to grant funding opportunities. Following adoption of the 2017/18 annual budget, Council will determine its next list of priority projects for advocacy and funding. This process will inform Council's future budgets including financial considerations for the 2018/19 annual budget.	Nil	Nil
				Footpath to Korumburra Secondary College	The design for an upgrade of this path to a shared path facility is on the design program for 2017/18. When the design is completed, opportunities for capital funding to this deliver this project will be sought.		

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30	No	N/A	Milpara Community House	Korumburra Revitalisation Project	Council adopts an annual budget with an indicative long term financial plan. Each year a new annual budget is required to be adopted. Allocation is made for the project detailed design in the 2017/18 annual budget. Detailed design provides greater assurance of project costs and must be completed before seeking grant funding and obtaining the necessary approvals to complete the project e.g. VicRoads. Grant funding support is required to complete the project. Construction is identified in the long term financial plan as 2020/21 as this is likely the earliest opportunity to commence the project when giving consideration to grant funding opportunities. Following adoption of the 2017/18 annual budget, Council will determine its next list of priority projects for advocacy and funding. This process will inform Council's future budgets including financial considerations for the 2018/19 annual budget.	Nil	Nil
31a 31b	Yes	11:15am	Terry Waycott	Korumburra Revitalisation Project	Council adopts an annual budget with an indicative long term financial plan. Each year a new annual budget is required to be adopted. Allocation is made for the project detailed design in the 2017/18 annual budget. Detailed design provides greater assurance of project costs and must be completed before seeking grant funding and obtaining the necessary approvals to complete the project e.g. VicRoads. Grant funding support is required to complete the project. Construction is identified in the long term financial plan as 2020/21 as this is likely the earliest opportunity to commence the project when giving consideration to grant funding opportunities. Following adoption of the 2017/18 annual budget, Council will determine its next list of priority projects for advocacy and funding. This process will inform Council's future budgets including financial considerations for the 2018/19 annual budget.	Nil	Nil
				Footpath to Korumburra Secondary College	The design for an upgrade of this path to a shared path facility is on the design program for 2017/18. When the design is completed, opportunities for capital funding to this deliver this project will be sought.		
32a 32b	No	N/A	Jennifer Keerie	Korumburra Revitalisation Project	Council adopts an annual budget with an indicative long term financial plan. Each year a new annual budget is required to be adopted. Allocation is made for the project detailed design in the 2017/18 annual budget. Detailed design provides greater assurance of project costs and must be completed before seeking grant funding and obtaining the necessary approvals to complete the project e.g. VicRoads. Grant funding support is required to complete the project. Construction is identified in the long term financial plan as 2020/21 as this is likely the earliest opportunity to commence the project when giving consideration to grant funding opportunities. Following adoption of the 2017/18 annual budget, Council will determine its next list of priority projects for advocacy and funding. This process will inform Council's future budgets including financial considerations for the 2018/19 annual budget.	Nil	Nil
				Footpath to Korumburra Secondary College	The design for an upgrade of this path to a shared path facility is on the design program for 2017/18. When the design is completed, opportunities for capital funding to this deliver this project will be sought.		

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33	No	N/A	Angie Bowen	Korumburra Revitalisation Project	Council adopts an annual budget with an indicative long term financial plan. Each year a new annual budget is required to be adopted. Allocation is made for the project detailed design in the 2017/18 annual budget. Detailed design provides greater assurance of project costs and must be completed before seeking grant funding and obtaining the necessary approvals to complete the project e.g. VicRoads. Grant funding support is required to complete the project. Construction is identified in the long term financial plan as 2020/21 as this is likely the earliest opportunity to commence the project when giving consideration to grant funding opportunities. Following adoption of the 2017/18 annual budget, Council will determine its next list of priority projects for advocacy and funding. This process will inform Council's future budgets including financial considerations for the 2018/19 annual budget.	Nil	Nil
34a 34b	Yes	2:45pm	Korumburra Round Table	Korumburra Revitalisation Project	Council adopts an annual budget with an indicative long term financial plan. Each year a new annual budget is required to be adopted. Allocation is made for the project detailed design in the 2017/18 annual budget. Detailed design provides greater assurance of project costs and must be completed before seeking grant funding and obtaining the necessary approvals to complete the project e.g. VicRoads. Grant funding support is required to complete the project. Construction is identified in the long term financial plan as 2020/21 as this is likely the earliest opportunity to commence the project when giving consideration to grant funding opportunities. Following adoption of the 2017/18 annual budget, Council will determine its next list of priority projects for advocacy and funding. This process will inform Council's future budgets including financial considerations for the 2018/19 annual budget.	Nil	Nil
				Footpath to Korumburra Secondary College	The design for an upgrade of this path to a shared path facility is on the design program for 2017/18. When the design is completed, opportunities for capital funding to this deliver this project will be sought.		
35	No	N/A	Giovanna Nobile	Korumburra Revitalisation Project	Council adopts an annual budget with an indicative long term financial plan. Each year a new annual budget is required to be adopted. Allocation is made for the project detailed design in the 2017/18 annual budget. Detailed design provides greater assurance of project costs and must be completed before seeking grant funding and obtaining the necessary approvals to complete the project e.g. VicRoads. Grant funding support is required to complete the project. Construction is identified in the long term financial plan as 2020/21 as this is likely the earliest opportunity to commence the project when giving consideration to grant funding opportunities. Following adoption of the 2017/18 annual budget, Council will determine its next list of priority projects for advocacy and funding. This process will inform Council's future budgets including financial considerations for the 2018/19 annual budget.	Nil	Nil
				Footpath to Korumburra Secondary College	The design for an upgrade of this path to a shared path facility is on the design program for 2017/18. When the design is completed, opportunities for capital funding to this deliver this project will be sought.		

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36	No	N/A	Scott Lawrence	Various Topics	<p><i>Korumburra Revitalisation Project</i> - Council adopts an annual budget with an indicative long term financial plan. Each year a new annual budget is required to be adopted. Allocation is made for the project detailed design in the 2017/18 annual budget. Detailed design provides greater assurance of project costs and must be completed before seeking grant funding and obtaining the necessary approvals to complete the project e.g. VicRoads. Grant funding support is required to complete the project. Construction is identified in the long term financial plan as 2020/21 as this is likely the earliest opportunity to commence the project when giving consideration to grant funding opportunities.</p> <p>Following adoption of the 2017/18 annual budget, Council will determine its next list of priority projects for advocacy and funding. This process will inform Council's future budgets including financial considerations for the 2018/19 annual budget.</p> <p><i>Footpath to Korumburra Secondary College</i> - The footpath in Jumbunna Road is programmed for renewal in the 2017/18 Council Budget.</p>	Nil	Nil
37a 37b 37c	No	N/A	Jane Brocklesby	<p>Footpath to Korumburra Secondary College</p> <p>Korumburra Revitalisation Project</p> <p>Creative Industry</p>	<p>The design for an upgrade of this path to a shared path facility is on the design program for 2017/18. When the design is completed, opportunities for capital funding to this deliver this project will be sought.</p> <p>Council adopts an annual budget with an indicative long term financial plan. Each year a new annual budget is required to be adopted. Allocation is made for the project detailed design in the 2017/18 annual budget. Detailed design provides greater assurance of project costs and must be completed before seeking grant funding and obtaining the necessary approvals to complete the project e.g. VicRoads. Grant funding support is required to complete the project. Construction is identified in the long term financial plan as 2020/21 as this is likely the earliest opportunity to commence the project when giving consideration to grant funding opportunities.</p> <p>Following adoption of the 2017/18 annual budget, Council will determine its next list of priority projects for advocacy and funding. This process will inform Council's future budgets including financial considerations for the 2018/19 annual budget.</p> <p>An Art, Culture and Creative Industry Strategy is currently being developed. This strategy covers the Emerging Creative Industries and will include a plan to develop a network.</p>	Nil	Nil
38a 38b 38c	No	N/A	Tony Parisi	<p>Branding of South Gippsland</p> <p>Creative Industry</p> <p>Business Diversification</p>	<p>Council has received a report which reviews branding in South Gippsland. The report has 33 recommendations for Council's consideration. A copy of the report can be found on our website. The future direction of branding in South Gippsland will be considered following the review of the Council's Economic Development and Tourism Strategy.</p> <p>An Art, Culture and Creative Industry Strategy is currently being developed. This strategy covers the Emerging Creative Industries and will include a plan to develop a network.</p> <p>Diversification of the South Gippsland economy is an identified priority in Council's Economic Development and Tourism Strategy.</p>	Nil - Funding for Art, Culture and Creative Industry Strategy already allocated.	Nil

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39	No	N/A	Mark Alsop	Creative Industry	An Art, Culture and Creative Industry Strategy is currently being developed. This strategy covers the Emerging Creative Industries and will include a plan to develop a network.	Nil - Funding for Art, Culture and Creative Industry Strategy already allocated.	Nil
40	No	N/A	Georgia Patton	Creative Industry	An Art, Culture and Creative Industry Strategy is currently being developed. This strategy covers the Emerging Creative Industries and will include a plan to develop a network.	Nil - Funding for Art, Culture and Creative Industry Strategy already allocated.	Nil
41	No	N/A	Cheryl Denman	Rate System	<p>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 rates and charges paid by some property owners increased whilst other property owners experienced a decrease.</p> <p>The Rating Strategy is scheduled for review in 2017/18 at which time all rate differentials and their impact will be considered. Council also has a Rates & Charges Hardship Policy, the objective of which, is to provide relief to ratepayers who are suffering from financial hardship and need assistance.</p>	Nil	Nil
42	Yes	11:25am	Barry Gilbert	Rates System	<p>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 rates and charges paid by some property owners increased whilst other property owners experienced a decrease.</p> <p>The Rating Strategy is scheduled for review in 2017/18 at which time all rate differentials and their impact will be considered. Council also has a Rates & Charges Hardship Policy, the objective of which, is to provide relief to ratepayers who are suffering from financial hardship and need assistance.</p>	Nil	Nil
43	No	N/A	Keith Brydon	Differential Rating	<p>Taking into consideration the advice provided by a Rating Strategy Steering Committee (comprising three councillors and seven community members) 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.</p> <p>As a result the rates and charges paid by some property owners increased whilst other property owners experienced a decrease.</p> <p>Council at its Special Council Meeting held on 24 June 2015 amended the 2014-2018 Rating Strategy to create a separate 'rural residential' rating category with a 70% differential rate. The rationale for the classification being: - 'Council recognises that some ratepayers with properties greater than or equal to 18.30 hectares with an Australian Valuation Property Classification Code 117 (Residential Rural / Rural Lifestyle properties) undertake primary production activities on their property that add to the rural character and contribute to the primary production output of the municipality'</p>	Nil	Nil

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					The Rating Strategy is scheduled for review in 2017/18 at which time all rate differentials and their impact will be considered.		
44	Yes	11:35am	Steve Finlay	Rates System	Councils are in various stages of preparing proposed budgets for 2017/18. In 2016/17, South Gippsland budgeted to raise \$39.6m rates and charges. The average rates and charges raised by large rural councils in 2016/17 was \$36.8m and the median \$35.9m. All Councils with the exception of Glenelg (1.06%) and Moorabool (3.5%) increased rates by 2.5%. It is anticipated that the majority of Councils will have 2.0% rate rises for 2017/18.	Nil	Nil
				Questions from 10 April	Letter with submission.		
45a 45b 45c	Yes	11:45am	Gus Blauuw on behalf of South Gippsland Action Group	General Budget Comments	<p>Section 127 (2) (b) and (c.) of the Local Government Act requires the budget to contain a description of the services and initiatives to be funded in the budget. The services delivered by Council are those undertaken to meet the needs of the community as reflected in the Council Plan. The Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand 'Victorian Council Model Budget 2017/18' best practice guide for reporting local government budgets specifically recommend 'that the services be described at a level which gives the reader a good understanding (but not detailed) of the services undertaken by Council'. Section 3.6 Budgeted Statement of Human Resources in the Budget document include information on staff numbers and staff expenditure.</p> <p>It is noted that the \$5.707m Operating Surplus in Section 2.6 Reconciliation with Budgeted Operating Result varies to \$5.706m surplus in the Budgeted Comprehensive Income Statement. This rounding difference will be rectified in the final 'Adopted Budget' document.</p> <p>Section 127 of the Local Government Act requires that the Budget contain financial statements in the form and containing the matters required by the Regulations. Regulation 9 of the Regulations requires that the financial statements must be in the form set out in the Local Government Model Financial Report. The financial statements in the Proposed Budget align with the Local Government Model Financial Report. Section 8 of the budget document provides further analysis of the Operating Budget.</p>	Nil	Nil
				Layout of Service Indicators	<p>The budget document has been prepared with reference to Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand 'Victoria Council Model Budget 2017/18' a best practice guide for reporting local government budgets in Victoria. Section 127 (2) (b) and (c.) of the Local Government Act requires the budget to contain a description of the services and initiatives to be funded in the budget. Section 2 'Services and Service performance Indicators' describe the services delivered by Council are those undertaken to meet the needs of the community as reflected in the Council Plan. Council's departments are allocated to Council Plan Strategic Objectives.</p> <p>The Local Government Service Performance Reporting Indicators included in Section 2 'Services and Service performance Indicators' are prescribed measures that must also be included in the budget.</p> <p>Section 3.6 'Budgeted Statement of Human Resources' discloses human resource information</p>		

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					<p>which shows all Council staff expenditure and the number of full time equivalent Council staff as required to be reported pursuant to Regulation 10 (1) (c) of the Regulations.</p> <p>Income and Expense Statements Section 127 of the Local Government Act requires that the Budget contain financial statements in the form and containing the matters required by the Regulations. Regulation 9 of the Regulations requires that the financial statements must be in the form set out in the Local Government Model Financial Report. The financial statements which includes the 'Comprehensive Income Statement' in the Proposed Budget align with the Local Government Model Financial Report.</p>		
46	Yes	11:55am	Lindsay Love on behalf of South Gippsland Action Group	Various Topics	<p><i>Budget - Rate Capping</i> - The budget document has been prepared with reference to Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand 'Victoria Council Model Budget 2017/18' a best practice guide for reporting local government budgets in Victoria.</p> <p>The 2017/18 budget and in particular the 15 year forward budgets have factored in rate capping to continue (refer bar chart on page 4). The bar chart on page 9 and the associated commentary clearly disclose and document the financial challenges that Council faces in future years.</p> <p>The 'underlying result' key performance indicator on page 10 and the associated commentary provide further discussion on this matter and how it intends to deal with it. Had Council modelled into the forward budgets yet to be identified productivity gains, it could then be argued that 'the administration is trying to make it look better that it is'.</p> <p><i>Council Plan / Budget</i> - The purpose of the linkage to the Council Plan is to show how the budget contributes to the achievement of the Council Plan. It therefore includes discussion on the Strategic Framework, Council's Purpose, its Vision for Success and its Commitment to the Community.</p> <p><i>Inequitable Distribution of Spending</i> - Council is required to plan in advance for major infrastructure projects, including future recreation spaces and facilities. Council's Southern Leongatha Outline Development Plan and the Soccer Facilities Plan both highlight the need for a rectangular sports field in the major future growth area south of the Leongatha hospital. Council has powers to acquire land directly or through the rezoning and subdivision process for this type of purpose.</p> <p>The distribution of spending at a local government level is the same as for State and Federal Governments: revenue is collected from across the municipality and distributed based on need. Services and well-maintained infrastructure assets are provided throughout the Shire in order to meet the aspirations and needs of the community and to foster an environment that is seen to be a desirable place to live and work.</p>	Nil	Nil

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					<p><i>Service & Service Performance Indicators</i> - The Victorian Government introduced a new Local Government Performance Framework (LGPRF) which became mandatory for implementation by all councils beginning 2015/16. The Local Government Act provides the legislative basis for the LGPRF that are supported by prescribed indicators contained within the Regulations. The Service Performance Indicators must be included in the budget under Section 127 (2) (da) and (db) of the Local Government Act.</p> <p><i>Budget Comprehensive Income Statement</i> - Section 127 of the Local Government Act requires that the Budget contain financial statements in the form and containing the matters required by the Regulations. Regulation 9 of the Regulations requires that the financial statements must be in the form set out in the Local Government Model Financial Report. The financial statements which includes the 'Comprehensive Income Statement' in the Proposed Budget align with the Local Government Model Financial Report.</p> <p>Sections 8,9,10 and 11 of the budget document provide further analysis on the financial statements. This includes discussion on significant items and movements (e.g. Commentary on Section 8.3.6 'Other Expenses' on page 87 on the \$360k variance in other expenditure). Section 12.3 'Budgeting methodology for the Long Term Financial Plan includes commentary about employee cost increments.</p> <p>Table 8.1 Budgeted Income Statement reconciles the Income Statement surplus to the adjusted underlying surplus.</p> <p>Section 9.1.2 Investing Activities (\$5.96m Increase) is the net cash outflow movement in 'Investing Activities' between two financial years. The commentary that follows describes the inflows and the outflow movements. The detailed line items in the Statement of Cash flows in contained in the preceding Section 3.4 Budgeted Statement of Cash Flows. The \$8.42m transfer payments relates to reclassifying the movements of investments that are greater than 90 days between the Balance Sheet line items 'Cash and cash equivalents' and 'Other financial assets' in accordance with Australian Accounting Standard requirements. This movement has to be reflected as an 'investing Activity' movement in the Statement of Cash Flows.</p> <p>The \$18.99m cash used in Investing Activities is the net of \$20.14m expected budgeted outlays to be expended on capital works less \$1.15m proceeds expected from capital sales as detailed in Section 3.4 Budgeted Statement of Cash Flows. That net outlay in part contributed to the net \$1.45m reduction in cash from \$9.04m to \$7.5m.</p> <p>Section 9 'Analysis of Budgeted Cash position', in particular Section 9.2.1 Statutory Reserves and Section 9.2.5 Discretionary Reserves describe Council's budgeted cash reserve position. Council's budgeted expenditure outflows on the caravan parks exceed budgeted inflows for 2017/18, therefore there is no budgeted cash quarantined in the caravan parks reserve at the end of 2017/18.</p>		

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					<p><i>Council Plan -</i></p> <p>1. <u>No time to review and set template</u> a. Timeframe and content requirements are set by legislation. It is a tight timeline however the Council has been actively involved in preparing the contents of the plan, with Councillors involved in numerous workshops to develop and shape the plan.</p> <p>2. <u>Growth and Prosperity</u> a. Community responses were used to inform the Council Plan and the Budget. Submissions received in response to the directions outlined will provide a check for Council on alignment with broad community views. b. INDICATORS – Financial – Council is required to report on a range of performance indicators established by Local Government Victoria. This public information is available for comparative purposes against all other Victorian Council's on the KnowYourCouncil website. The audited indicators are listed in the Council Plan and Budget, remaining indicators are collected and published in the Annual Report and on the KnowYourCouncil website annually. c. Aged and Disability Services – i. While changes have occurred in the funding system, Council is currently still a provider of service and is yet to make a decision as to whether or not to transition from providing this service in the future. ii. The 2017/18 Budget reflects the presumption that Council will remain a service provider until such time as an alternate decision is made. iii. If the service provision changes, there will be significant changes to both revenue and expenditure. d. The Council has requested a review of its Caravan Park which will include its financial and operational activities on the Caravan Parks. A report on this will be presented to Council in coming months. Council will make a decision on its future involvement of managing caravan parks including revenue, operational and capital expenditures at that time. e. Council, as part of the continuous improvement process, considers alternate ways of providing services. Shared services have commenced as a result of previous reviews and the Council Plan sets direction, as reflected in proposed Strategy 4.2, to pursue options that can improve service provision in an efficient way using technology, collaborative procurement and shared services. f. The Proposed Budget has financial performance measures including i. Longer Term Financial performance indicators – refer page 10,106-111; and ii. Prescribed Financial Performance Indicators as contained in Part 3 of Schedule 3 of the Regulations (pages48-50) g. The budgeted surpluses in the Comprehensive Income Statement provides a level of net cash flows from operating activities in the Cash Flow statement which enables Council to self-fund its recurrent capital works renewal program (that is shown as 'net cash used in Investing Activities' in the Cash Flow Statement. h. The budgeted reserves in the Balance Sheet for 2017/18 amount to \$359m, budgeted rates and charges for 2017/18 amount to \$41m. The vast majority of budgeted reserves in the Balance Sheet relate to periodic Asset revaluation increments. Council is budgeting to have</p>		

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					<p>\$4.6m cash reserves by 30 June 2018. These are described in the Budget document in Section 9 – Analysis of Budgeted Cash Position.</p> <p>3. Communication</p> <p>a. Council has established Strategy 4.1 in order to increase transparency in open Council Meetings and communicating more clearly the reasons behind decisions. Council Reports contain relevant information, including financial implications, upon which Council makes decisions. It is not intended that reports will contain minutiae financial/resource information. Council sets the direction and standards of service, while the Chief Executive Officer manages the resources and sets the structure to achieve those directions.</p> <p>b. Council's internal Audit Committee and VAGO undertake independent reviews of Council's financial and administrative functions. Their reports are reported to Council. The State Government also instigates investigations and audits into various administrative activities that Council participates in. These reports are normally reported to State Parliament and released to the public.</p> <p>c. Strategy 2.8 and Strategy 4.4 have been included in the Council Plan as a means to consider options that can enhance community concerns with equity in service provision, customer service and complaints handling. While Council currently uses the Local Government Performance Framework indicators and undertakes the annual Community Satisfaction Survey, further development of meaningful indicators is required. Consideration is likely to be given to meaningful indicators in the development of the customer service feedback and improvement system. A Complaints Handling Policy is currently being developed.</p> <p>4. Financial Transparency</p> <p>a. The Budgeting Methodology used for the Standard Financial Statements for the Strategic Resource Plan on page 21 of the Council Plan describes the budget development process. All recurrent operational expenditure and income budgets are developed from a detailed unit cost basis. This is subject to review by management and Council during the budget development process.</p> <p>Section 127 of the Local Government Act requires that the Budget contain financial statements in the form and containing the matters required by the Regulations. Regulation 9 of the Regulations requires that the financial statements must be in the form set out in the Local Government Model Financial Report. The financial statements which includes the 'Comprehensive Income Statement' in the Proposed Budget align with the Local Government Model Financial Report. This Comprehensive Income Statement (that not for profit organisations such as local government) have to prepare is the equivalent report (Profit & Loss Statement) that businesses have to prepare.</p> <p>b. As mentioned previously, Council reports annually to Local Government Victoria on a suite of financial and service indicators. While these are not specifically all stated in the Council Plan, the audited indicators are included with the services in Chapter 2 of the Annual Budget and all of the indicators are reported in the Annual Report. The results for the past few years' results are available on the KnowYourCouncil Website and in Council's Annual Reports. Council receives updates on the progress of these throughout the year and the Audit Committee oversees them as a requirement of their audits.</p>		

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					<p>5. <u>Complaints Procedure/Customer Service/Community Engagement</u> a. As indicated above, consideration is likely to be given to meaningful indicators in the development of the customer service feedback and improvement system. b. The development of a Complaints Handling Policy is currently underway, with a draft policy nearly complete.</p> <p>6. <u>Forward Plan Items – Leongatha South Sports Field</u> a. Council is required to plan in advance for major infrastructure projects, this includes future recreation spaces and facilities. The Council adopted Southern Leongatha Outline Development Plan and the Soccer Facilities Plan both highlight the need for a rectangular sports field in the major future growth area south of the Leongatha hospital. It is clear that this type of facility will be needed as the town grows and that a prominent, relatively flat site may be possible in the area. Council has powers to acquire land directly or through the rezoning and subdivision process for this type of purpose.</p> <p>7. <u>Public Engagement</u> a. Unlike any other industry, government agency, private or not-for-profit business, councils provides around 120 different services to their community. Managing so many services and ensuring that current, relevant plans are in place to guide their provision, is a regular part of Council's business. Legislated timelines also dictate reviews of various policies and plans. b. Council uses many of its networks into the community to provide information into these reviews along with using various forms of community engagement. Over the past twelve months staff involved in community engagement activities have been trained in the International Public Participation principles (IAP2). Many forms of engagement are used. These include formal and informal approaches, on-line and social media, network meetings, surveys and working groups. These various approaches result in a rich mix of ideas coming together to inform the various plans. Further, community members can also use the Public Presentation Sessions to present directly to Council.</p>		
47	Yes	12:05pm	Peter Slifirski	Design Review Panel	Design review panels are used by some Councils to seek advice on large developments or in places where siting and design issues trigger large numbers of planning permits. South Gippsland considers approximately 500 planning permit applications per yer in comparison to the Mornington Shire Council who determine over 2500 planning permit applications each year (most in the State). One key factor in the large discrepancy is the number of planning permit triggers for siting and design in the local planning scheme. A design review panel is not currently considered a method of creating efficiencies in South Gippsland's planning approval times or in design outcomes. Design outcomes must be contained within the planning scheme itself to be defensible at VCAT. Council welcomes architects being involved in the creation of Design and Development Overlays, Neighbourhood Character Statements and the like when projects that address these are undertaken as part of Structure Plans and related Planning Scheme Amendments.	Nil	Nil

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48	No	N/A	Brian Hess on behalf of the South West Gippsland Transport Group	Transport	The proposal to fund an Integrated Transport Strategy was considered by the previous Council and not supported. Each year initiatives from the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy are funded through the annual budget process. The strategy is under review and Council will consider the merits of funding this proposal during the review of the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy.	\$20 to \$75K depending on the number of other Councils that would contribute.	Nil
49	No	N/A	David Arnault	Strategic Planning	Council is concerned about the implications of climate and societal change on the future of the shire. Council has undertaken a number of studies on sea level rise implications and now incorporates them into planning decisions on the coast. Council is currently undertaking a large state funded project on the long term future of the extensive sea walls and coastal levee banks in the shire. It also has plans in place to address heat stress and other climate based incidents and has an Emergency Management Officer on staff to keep these processes up to date.	Nil	Nil
50	No	N/A	GippSport	Sport & Recreation	Council recognises the immense value of formal and informal sport and physical activity to the community. Council has included funding in the 17/18 budget to support the committees that manage 20 recreation reserves and 4 indoor recreation centres. Council has also allocated funds to assist with accessing external funds to enhance specific recreational facilities. Council's Community Strengthening team provide opportunities for volunteer committee members to enhance their skills and Council's Community Grants are regularly accessed by a wide range sporting organisations for local improvements at facilities. The value of physical activity for health and social connection is reflected in Council's Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan. Council appreciates the support provided to both local South Gippsland clubs and directly to Council by GippSport, with Council staff and GippSport staff collaborating on joint projects on a regular basis.	Nil	Nil
51	Yes	12:15pm	Sandy Point Community Group	Waratah Way Shared Trail	The review of the 2010 Paths & Trails Strategy which will be carried out during 2017 will include the Waratah Bay to Sandy Point trail based on the report by Ethos NRM. It is not intended to carry out any more studies or seek permit approvals until this review is complete.	Nil	Nil
52	No	N/A	Doug James	Sandy Point Camping Ground	At present Council has no plans to develop any new caravan park sites. The Sandy Point caravan park is in private ownership. Any plans to redevelop the current caravan park would require a planning permit and would be subject to public consultation and a decision of Council. With respect to private investment in a new caravan park, Council would provide advice and assistance to a private operator if they sought to develop a new site.	Nil	Nil
53	Yes	12:25pm	Wilma Western	Various Topics	<i>Language</i> - Council appreciates the encouragement for using plain language and will adjust the verb to 'are' in the Vision, as indicated.	Nil	Nil

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					<p><i>Transparency</i> - Council is keen to Increase transparency in decision making and many initially closed matters do enter the public realm through a formal Council report and/or community engagement activity. Also note the recent Ombudsman's investigation into the transparency of local government decision making, which identified "<i>the inherent complexity involved in measuring the transparency of a councils' decisions. It is not simply a matter of looking at the number of decisions made in closed meetings.</i>" While confidentiality clauses will still be applied where appropriate, they will be accompanied with explanatory text.</p> <p><i>Community Engagement</i> - Council uses a range of community engagement methods based on international public participation principles. The live-streaming of Council meetings is an example of new approaches being introduced. Community engagement has informed the proposed Council Plan which reflects the stages to be achieved for many of the 'project journeys' which commenced with the previous Council and also includes new 'project journeys' generated through community interest and engagement with the current Council.</p> <p><i>Transport Influence on Budget</i> - Council is working with Vic Roads, neighbouring Councils and through the South East Australian Transport Strategy (SEATS) to lobby for ongoing upgrades to regional transport infrastructure.</p> <p><i>Caravan Parks</i> – Council will receive an open report detailing a review of Council's caravan park operations since taking over the parks after the 2016/17 financial year end.</p> <p><i>General Budget Comments</i>- The budget document has been prepared with reference to Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand ' Victoria Council Model Budget 2017/18' a best practice guide for reporting local government budgets in Victoria. The key change in this year's Guide was providing greater clarity on what information is required by legislation as compared to good practice.</p> <p><i>Land Swap</i> -Council's obligations in the Lease for the Library and the timing to relocate the Library conflicted and posed a problem with ending the lease without penalty of ongoing rent. Accordingly, to allow for proper planning and community consultation, a further five year option was taken up. Planning will now progress to the identification of a suitable site to relocate the Library and if relocated, the existing Library building can be used for other purposes until the end of the Lease term without the problem of rental paid for vacant space. With regards to the potential land swap, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been prepared by Council's lawyers who will ensure Council's interests and the RSL interests (being a private operator) are well protected during investigations and more importantly, in any contractual documentation. If this matter proceeds, community consultation will include, but not be limited to, Council complying with its statutory obligations under sections 189 and 223 of the Local Government Act, 1989 regarding the proposal to sell Council land. At this point in time the MoU and any dealings with the RSL will remain confidential until a position has been determined.</p>		
54	No	N/A	Gil & Meredith Freeman	Various Topics	Council adopts an annual budget with an indicative long term financial plan. Each year a new annual budget is required to be adopted. Allocation is made for the project detailed design in the 2017/18 annual budget. Detailed design provides greater assurance of our project costs and must be completed before seeking grant funding and obtaining the necessary approvals	Nil	Nil

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					<p>to complete the project e.g. VicRoads. Grant funding support is required to complete the project. Construction is identified in the long term financial plan as 2020/21 as this is likely the earliest opportunity to commence the project when giving consideration to grant funding opportunities.</p> <p>Following adoption of the 2017/18 annual budget, Council will determine its next list of priority projects for advocacy and funding. This process will inform Council's future budgets including financial considerations for the 2018/19 annual budget.</p> <p><i>Korumburra Railway Station Precinct</i> - Council and the Working Group are progressing with the Business Plan to submit to VicTrack (under the "Community Use of Vacant Railway Buildings Program") to potentially source grant funds in order to utilise the building as a multi-function / multi-purpose community facility.</p> <p>Items a - e. 1. The Freeman's points listed a-e in their submission seeking improvements in the Korumburra railway precinct were all addressed with concept plans in the Korumburra Town Centre Streetscape Master Plan Report - May 2016. 2. Actions in that plan sought priority for detailed plans to be drawn up for each of these locations in the Freeman's list from a-d. 3. Note that the Meredith's point 'c' about access from Commercial St through the car park (between Kelly's Bakery and the Post Office) improvements specifically asks for the traffic to be routed one-way. The circulation issue through this area was focussed on by both public and the various consultants and Council's relevant staff (engineering and planning) and was revisited to be extra sure of the final decision. The outcome was that although it wasn't ideal, traffic had to remain two-way because the alternative exits/entries at Bridge St and at the north-west end on a steep embankment (opposite King St approximately) were even more unsafe than retaining the two-way version with main entry and exit between the PO and the bakery. Further, that satisfactory, practical and relatively affordable improvements could not be made to change this situation. This applied regardless of which way the traffic was routed in a one-way direction. 4. In response to point (e), the Master Plan, which was accompanied by a parking study, confirmed that extra car parking was not required in Korumburra due to plentiful supply. However due to proposed changes in the streetscaping of Commercial St, parking was proposed to be rearranged and increased in the car park between the post office and Kelly's Bakery, and also along the road on the south side of the railway line opposite the station. Further, new signs needed to be installed to direct drivers to existing car parking out of sight behind the shops on the south side of Commercial St. The signs would reduce current problems with a perceived lack of vacant parking and unnecessary traffic circulation by people looking for parking. The Little Commercial St car park was also proposed to be upgraded and landscaped.</p> <p>In response to the Great Southern Rail Trail extension from Leongatha to Korumburra, Council has allocated \$120,000 in the proposed 2017/18 Annual Budget to undertake more detailed investigation of costs involved in the two rail trail extension projects (Leongatha to Nyora and</p>		

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					<p>Welshpool to Hedley) which will include the development of an economic impact study. Council are looking into potential grant opportunities to assist Council with project costs should this proceed to construction phase. Extensive consultation with stakeholders such as the neighbouring councils (Bass Coast, Cardinia, Casey, and Wellington), VicTrack, and VicRoads will be occurring throughout the entire phase of this project. A Council Report will be tabled in 2017 detailing the consultation outcomes with these stakeholders and grant funding opportunities available.</p> <p><i>Coal Creek Community Park and Museum</i> The review of coal creek community park and museum is part of council's future strategies. To build strong partnerships and strengthen the arts and culture whilst being active in identifying cost saving initiatives for the future operations of the site. Coal Creek will also be considered in the review of the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy.</p> <p><i>Food Safety & Registration</i> - Council understands there is a need to review the food safety registration fee policy and amounts. The fees charged in some instances are up to 50% above the fees charged by similar Councils. However, community groups and sporting clubs are exempted from paying fees which is not common practice for most Councils. Council's registration fees represent 77% cost recovery of providing the service. Council commits to reviewing food safety registration fee policy during 2017/18 with outcomes to be implemented in 2018/19 budget.</p>		
					<p><i>Electric Charging Stations</i> Council understands that there is a need to diversify transport options and fuel types as part of moving towards a sustainable South Gippsland. The Sustainability team at Council are aware that there are some electric vehicle charging points in neighbouring councils. Sustainable modes of transport are supported by the aims and objectives of Council's Sustainability Strategy 2016-2020. Council understands the environmental benefits of electric vehicles, however, at this point in time, other sustainability priorities are taking precedence. Council's Sustainability team are keen to pursue this within South Gippsland in partnership with local groups and organisations if funding and resourcing opportunities exist.</p>	\$3,000 - \$15,000 <i>per charging station</i>	Unknown <i>maintenance costs</i>
					<p><i>Branding of South Gippsland</i> Council has received a report which reviews branding in South Gippsland. The report has 33 recommendations for Council's consideration. A copy of the report can be found on our website. The future direction of branding in South Gippsland will be considered following the review of the Council's Economic Development and Tourism Strategy.</p>	Nil for assessment phase	A change of branding may require significant funding depending on implementation.
55	Yes	12:35pm	Vincent Morfuni	Various Topics	<p><i>Rating Policy</i> - When developing the 2017/18 Proposed Budget / Long Term Financial Plan, Council determined to remove the municipal precinct, library and community centre project scheduled to be undertaken in 2022/23 and 2023/24 and redirect the resulting financial capacity to a number of project initiatives that are detailed in Section 7.3 'Internal Influences' of the budget document. The proposed 2017/18 budget and forward budgets have factored in annual rate increases of 2%. This will generate sufficient cash flows from operating activities to be able to continue to self-fund the recurrent capital renewal work requirements in 2017/18 and coming years.</p>	Nil	Nil

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					<p><i>Administration Costs</i> - 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 shared services.</p> <p><i>Waste Management Fees</i> - Venus Bay is the only locality in the Shire where compulsory kerbside services are offered for a period of 6 months of the year, with the option to receive a full year service at additional cost. All residential properties in other towns within the Shire where compulsory kerbside service are provided are charged for a full year. The flexible nature of the service in Venus Bay is specifically designed to cater for the majority of property owners, with the option for a full year service for permanent residents. Kerbside service charges are based on the principle of full cost recovery for the services provided. The proposed increases in service charges will recover the increased costs of providing the service in 2017/18. Annual increases in kerbside contract costs have been calculated and are the basis for the increases in the charges. Kerbside services are not generally able to be offered on an optional basis, because the cost of providing the service needs to be recovered through the service charges. If too many property owners opted out of the services, the cost per property for the remainder would make the service unviable to deliver.</p> <p><i>Risk Management</i> - SGSC recognises that Venus Bay is one of six localities in our Shire which have been assessed as having very high bushfire risk in accordance with the Victorian Fire Risk Register. The CFA in collaboration with Council and other emergency services; and in consultation with community; has developed a "Community Information Guide – Bushfire" which is available on Council website. This guide will help residents make informed decisions to mitigate their risk in the event of a bushfire. While Council does undertake some fire prevention and risk mitigation strategies; in the event of an emergency, Victoria Police will be the responsible agency to co-ordinate evacuations.</p> <p><i>Capital Expenditure</i> - The \$4.5M budget allocation for Bair Street is based on an assumed grant funding income of \$3.0M resulting in Council's net contribution to this project at \$1.5M. A study has already been carried out to assess the benefits provided by the "Leongatha Revitalisation Project" which comprises four sub-projects, the major element being Bair Street. The draft report indicates there are significant benefits to be derived from this project in terms of uplift in sales, employment during construction, attraction of additional visitors and attraction of non-retail activities.</p>		
56	No	N/A	Bill Gurnett	Various Topics	<p><i>Rail Trail Development</i> - The option of connecting the existing Great Southern Rail Trail from Welshpool to the Shire boundary at Hedley and beyond to Alberton to connect into Wellington Shire's network will also be part of this feasibility study.</p> <p><i>Green Space Development</i> - Refer to Strategic Planning for response to this item.</p>	Nil	Nil

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Number	Elected to Speak?	Speaking Timeslot	Submitter Name <i>(click on name to view submission)</i>	Submission Title	Response	Budget Impact - One Off	Budget Impact - Recurrent
					<i>Paths & Trails Strategy Review</i> - The review of the 2010 Paths & Trails Strategy which will be carried out during 2017 will include potential options for expansion of the existing rail trail network.		
57	No	N/A	Meeniyar Progress Association	Various Topics	<i>Equestrian/Expo Centre</i> - The preparation of a business case and detailed design will ensure this important project is investment ready for grant funding applications.	Nil. Funding for Equestrian Centre already proposed.	Nil
					<i>Community Hubs</i> - The review of the Blueprint for Social and Community Infrastructure 2014 should identify the progress made by Council in supporting the diverse range of uses / services in its buildings and add any additional steps required due to a town's service level changes. This review will include how the Blueprint recognises the objectives of the Community Strengthening Strategy as well as other strategic directions of Council and those of the State Government that may benefit or impact services and facilities.	Nil	Nil
					<i>Community Strengthening & Engagement Strategy</i> - Community Strengthening is undertaken by a wide range of Council teams. Council has committed resources through the 2017/18 budget to ongoing community strengthening activity via the work of specific Community Strengthening team members, support for Council and community volunteers, provision of community grants. At this time there are sufficient resources allocated to revise and implement the existing Community Strengthening Strategy and ensure that it assists with a whole of Council approach to partnership with the civic sector.		
					<i>Community Partnerships</i> - Council has for many years provided a range of means by which small local groups actively participate in determining local issues. The numerous Section 86 Committees, Advisory Committees and Community Grant Programs already in place, are examples of how local models can work. Strategy 2.8 is aimed at investigating further models that Council may utilise in the future. It is considered premature at this stage to include a further strategy for a Small Towns Capital Works Community Budgeting Program, as budgeting arrangements need to remain flexible so that potential models can be considered in a holistic way.		
					<i>Home & Community Care</i> - As part of deliberations on options for the future of Home & Community Care services, Council has endorsed two guiding principles, being; assurance of service delivery and continuity to all eligible constituents; and, maintenance of local employment where possible.		
					<i>Road Maintenance</i> - A review of the service standards for unsealed roads is currently being undertaken as part of the Business Integration project. Stakeholder consultation is part of this process.		
					<i>Footpath Extension Program</i> - The footpath extension program prioritises future footpath projects by taking into account whether they are in the busier commercial areas or link to community facilities such as schools.		
58	No	N/A	John Anthony	Various Topics	An Art, Culture and Creative Industry Strategy is currently being developed. This strategy covers the Emerging Creative Industries and will include a plan to develop a network.	Nil - Funding for Art, Culture and Creative Industry Strategy already allocated.	Nil

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Number	Elected to Speak?	Speaking Timeslot	Submitter Name <i>(click on name to view submission)</i>	Submission Title	Response	Budget Impact - One Off	Budget Impact - Recurrent
					<p><i>Enforcement Processes</i> - Council is required to administer and enforce various state government legislation along with Council's General Local Law 2014. Council is obligated to deal with breaches of the legislation as they become apparent and ensure the property, person or matter is brought back into compliance. Numerous case law including Pyrenees Shire Council v Day, show Councils not appropriately fulfilling their statutory obligations are breaching their statutory duty and could be found negligent and liable for future damages if a person was injured/killed or property damaged due to the breach not being rectified.</p> <p>Council's Compliance and Enforcement Policy outlines the main themes of its compliance and enforcement program. These themes are education, compliance and enforcement. The policy does not place a priority on any of the particular themes. Education can include prosecuting a serious breach to raise awareness in the general community. The number of compliance and enforcement matters Council deal with each year can be measured in the thousands. Whilst community members may be aggrieved when directed to comply with a particular piece of legislation, there are various internal and external mechanisms to have those decisions reviewed.</p> <p>The Victorian Government has put in place a number of organisations to deal with complaints regarding local government. These organisations include Local Government Victoria, the Victorian Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate and the Victorian Ombudsman. If community members are uncomfortable raising their compliance and enforcement concerns with Council directly, they can raise their concerns directly with these bodies.</p>	Nil	Nil
59	Yes	12:45pm	Meg Knight	Various Topics	<p><i>Employee Costs</i> - Section 12.3 Budgeting methodology for the Long Term Financial Plan includes commentary on employee costs.</p> <p>The employee costs increments have been set at 2.00% from 2017/18 to 2018/19 (EA period) and at 2.50% from 2020/21 to 2023/24 and then at 2.75% from 2024/25 onwards. It also has factored in the increase in superannuation contributions from 9.5% to 10.0% to occur in 2021/22 and then to increase by 0.5% each year thereafter until it reaches 12.0% in 2025/26.</p> <p>Commsec Wages Prices Index project a 2.1% movement to occur in 2016/17 and 2.6% on 2017/18.</p>	Nil	Nil

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					<p><i>Defined Benefit Superannuation</i> - Section 8.2.5 Discretionary Reserves include commentary on actions being taken to meet expected calls and provisioning for the calls.</p> <p>It states 'The General reserve's primary purpose is to accumulate funding for likely future funding calls made for defined benefits superannuation liabilities'.</p> <p>There is a specific Long Term Financial Strategy dealing with transfers to the general reserve. (refer Long Term Financial Strategy document, in particular pages 19-23).</p> <hr/> <p><i>Free RV Camping</i> - It is anticipated that Council will review its policy in relation to free RV camping during the current Council term. Franklin River Reserve is a public park managed by Council. Rubbish removal and site maintenance occurs on an annual basis at the reserve, this has continued since the 2014 Council resolution to continue free camping at Franklin River Reserve. A report for the 27 July 2016 Ordinary Council meeting stated that the rubbish removal for the 15/16 financial year was \$3,538. General maintenance for the park is about \$56K per annum. It is planned to remove rubbish bins in the park from May 2017.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Caravan Parks</i> - Council will receive an open report detailing a review of Council's caravan park operations since taking over the parks after the 2016/17 financial year end.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Coal Creek Community Park and Museum</i> - Council will receive an open report detailing a review of Coal Creek operations after the 2016/17 financial year end. No budget has been provided for further consultants reports or the removal of asbestos from the buildings that you refer to under the care of the Friends of Coal Creek.</p>		

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Number	Elected to Speak?	Speaking Timeslot	Submitter Name <i>(click on name to view submission)</i>	Submission Title	Response	Budget Impact - One Off	Budget Impact - Recurrent
					<p><i>Media & Communications</i> - The Media & Communications team is in many ways the link between Council and the community. While a number of residents pay close attention to Council activities, the vast majority are more likely to become aware of what's going on at Council when it coincides with the other aspects of their lives. For those members of our community the brochures, Noticeboard advertisements, website, Facebook and other communication channels are invaluable.</p> <p>In the 10 months since 1 July 2016 the Media & Communication team (which consists of a Coordinator who also manages Customer Service, one officer who works 11 hours a week, one who works 18 hours a week and one full-time officer whose role also includes Engagement) has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answered 361 media enquiries. • Facilitated 143,252 website sessions that resulted in almost half a million page views. • Proofed and designed documents for centralised kinder enrolments, the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan, the Annual Report, Bair Street revitalisation, Foster streetscape, and the new residents' guide, among myriad others. • Issued 155 media releases. • Designed and launched a new staff intranet. • Coordinated the fortnightly staff newsletters. • Managed the weekly Noticeboard for the four local papers. • Supported the Mayors to produce the weekly Mayor's Message. • Written speeches and event notes. • Managed the Community Capital Works Allocation project. • Designed and placed general advertising for other teams within the organisation. • Provided engagement support to the wider organisation when consulting with the community. • Conducted the Australia Day awards and presentation ceremony. • Supported the executive through the requirements of the election caretaker period. • Built the number of Facebook followers to almost 2500, with a peak post reach of close to 45,000. <p><i>Legal Costs</i> - Council can confirm that there is no specific monetary allocation in the draft 2017/18 budget for legal settlement in which Cr Rich had a direct conflict of interest. Council also confirms receipt of your FOI request which is currently being processed.</p>		
60	Yes	12:55pm	David Lewis	Various Topics	<p><i>Capital Expenditure</i> - Council in developing the Proposed 2017/1 Budget / Long Term Financial Plan determined to remove the municipal precinct, library and community project scheduled to be undertaken in 2022/23 and 2023/24 and reallocate the resulting financial capacity to a number of projects. Council is now seeking feedback during this Section 223 budget submission process to assist them with deliberations prior to adopting a final budget in June.</p> <p><i>Services Expenditure</i> - The services delivered by Council are those undertaken to meet the needs of the community as reflected in the Council Plan.</p> <p>The Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand 'Victorian Council Model Budget 2017/18' best practice guide for reporting local government budgets specifically recommend</p>	Nil	Nil

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					<p>'that the services be described at a level which gives the reader a good understanding (but not detailed) of the services undertaken by Council'.</p> <p><i>Council Plan & Overheads/Staff Costs</i> - The Council Plan's primary function is to set the strategic direction for Council for the coming four years. To this end, the Plan, along with the Budget, are required to concentrate on articulating where Council will allocate its resources. The four year Strategic Resource Plan outlines the forecast allocation of resources to achieve the Council Plan objectives and strategies. Council's proposed strategy 4.2 pursues continuous improvement and best practice in service deliveries. Productivity savings are often found through these processes. Council generally re-invests these savings back into various service need areas or allows them to flow through to the 'bottom line' with flow on savings to rate payers. In addition, Council and legislative requirements inform what services and functions we provide, with these having impacts on resources used. Even with some staff numbers being reduced, remaining staff are provided with salary increments each year aligned to the Enterprise Agreement.</p>		
61	Yes	1:05pm	Ralph Gallagher	Various Topics	<p><i>2016 Submission</i> - The submission received during last years S223 process regarding the 2016/17 Proposed Annual Budget was received after the exhibition period had closed. An invitation was extended to attend a public presentation session in May 2016 and a written response was provided by Cr Davies on 29 June 2016.</p> <p><i>Budget</i> - Council at its meeting on 22 March 2017 prepared a Proposed 2017/18 Budget that is on public exhibition and has invited the public to make submissions to the budget. The budget contains a description of the services and initiatives to be funded in the budget. The services delivered by Council are those undertaken to meet the needs of the community as reflected in the Council Plan. Council will consider the submissions made prior to adopting the final budget in June 2017.</p> <p><i>Community Budgeting</i> -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The \$400,000 was determined by a Notice of Motion, which was brought to the August 2015 Council meeting. The Notice of Motion was carried unanimously. 2. There was an open invitation for community members to participate in this project. 3. The townships selected were also determined by the Notice of Motion referred to above. 4. As demonstrated by the December 2016 resolution to support the Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club, the ultimate decision on all these projects rested with Council. While the community intent was contrary to the original resolution that the \$400,000 be spent on Council owned or controlled infrastructure and assets, Council ultimately determined that allocating \$150,000 to the VBSLC was an appropriate use of the Community Capital Works Allocation funds. 5. Questions regarding the intent behind the Notice of Motion would be best put to those who brought the notice. A report into the current Community Capital Works Allocation project has not been prepared as the project is not yet complete: the funding is in the proposed 2017/18 budget. 	Nil	Nil

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					<p><i>Rates</i> - Taking into consideration the advice provided by a Rating Strategy Steering Committee, comprising three councillors and seven community members, 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.</p> <p>As a result the rates and charges paid by some property owners increased whilst other property owners experienced a decrease.</p> <p>The Rating Strategy is scheduled for review in 2017/18 at which time all rate differentials and their impact will be considered.</p> <p><i>Surpluses & Reserves</i> - The Financial Performance Report February 'Notes: Material Variations projected Budget to Original Budget' describes key variations that contributed to the surplus projection increasing from \$5.66m to \$8.31m (major contributor being \$2.3 additional Federal Blackspot grant being received- that funds capital expenditure that is costed to the Balance Sheet).</p> <p>Section 127 of the Local Government Act requires that the Budget contain financial statements in the form and containing the matters required by the Regulations. Regulation 9 requires that the financial statements must be in the form set out in the Local Government Model Financial Report. The financial statements which include the 'Comprehensive Income Statement' in the Proposed Budget align with the Local Government Model Financial Report. The underlying operating result is the operating result excluding capital income. This is one of the key longer term financial performance indicators that Council has used for over 10 years to assess the financial integrity of the budgeted financial statements in the Long Term Financial Plan. The State Government two years ago also included this measure as one of its mandatory prescribed indicators on which all councils are required to report.</p> <p>Section 9 'Analysis of Budgeted Cash Position' of the budget document describes Council's reserves. Section 3 'Statement of Changes in Equity' in Council's Long Term Financial Strategies document (which is on Council's website) discuss in some detail Council's strategic management processes in relation to internal reserves.</p>		
62	No	N/A	Gabrielle Gloury	Various Topics	<p><i>Rates Reduction</i> - The forward budgets in the Long Term Financial Plan are modelled to increase by 2.0% per annum. Any net favourable productivity gains identified in 2017/18 and future years will be allowed to flow through to the bottom line.</p> <p><i>Community Hubs</i> - The review of the Blueprint for Social and Community Infrastructure 2014 should identify the progress made by Council in supporting the diverse range of uses / services in its buildings and add any additional steps required due to a town's needs and service level changes. This review will include how the Blueprint recognises the objectives of the Community Strengthening Strategy as well as other strategic directions of Council and those of the State Government that may benefit or impact provision local government services in smaller towns.</p>	Nil	Nil

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					<p><i>Shared Services</i> - Council is implementing many of the business improvement suggestions raised by the submitter. Cloud computing has already been implemented for data management and software systems are progressively moved into cloud based environments. One of the aims in moving to cloud based technologies, is to create more opportunities for shared service provision. Council has also commenced delivering some services as a shared arrangement and often uses shared procurement arrangements to seek more efficient outcomes than can be achieved on its own.</p> <p>The Council Plan incorporates the development of a Digital Strategy and the further pursuit of continuous improvements to encourage the creation of higher valued services. Further shared services are anticipated to be part of the solutions implemented in the future.</p> <p><i>Capital Works Funds</i> - The majority of Council's capital works funding is allocated to renewal projects. Renewal funding is directed towards existing assets such as roads and buildings and allocated using a prioritisation process that takes into account asset condition, level of usage and other relevant parameters. Capital funding for upgrade or new works as well as grant funded projects are reported to and approved by Council either as part of the annual budget process or on a case by case basis.</p> <p><i>Business Processes</i> - Cultural alignment is an aspect that the Management Team is addressing. All position descriptions contain key performance areas and these are followed through in individual annual staff development plans that also include a range of indicators. Nonetheless the submitter's concern that the Council Plan could be strengthened in relation to staff performance and development, is a valuable one. To this end Council is encouraged to consider an additional Strategy along the following lines: "Enhance staff skills, capabilities and well-being through the implementation and ongoing development of the SGSC People Plan."</p> <p>Meaningful organisational performance indicators monitoring staff health and well-being are to be developed within the SGSC People Plan.</p>		

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63	Yes	1:15pm	Rosemary Cousin	Various Topics	<p><i>General Comments</i> - The submitter has provided proposed wording of a revised Vision for Council's consideration as follows:</p> <p>"South Gippsland Shire will be a place where our quality of life and sense of community is balanced by sustainable and sensitive development and growth of our population, economy and community well-being." Council may choose to amend the Vision, or retain the current wording. As a means of providing clarity on terminology use, the Council Plan 'Objectives' are the four overarching headings, while the 'Objective Overviews' are a series of statements provided to give substance to what is being covered within each 'Objective'.</p> <p><u>Objective 1</u> Council's advocacy campaigns targeting Priority Projects and Community Grants have been highly successful over many years in gaining grants to fund community facilities. The Council Plan seeks to continue these campaigns. While further outcome indicators may be beneficial, the only factors Council has control over, and thereby accountability to deliver, are the input measures of making delegations and submitting quality applications. Council may wish to consider allocating resources to develop an Advocacy Strategy with further indicators, however at this stage it may unnecessarily divert resources from the successful strategies currently in place.</p> <p><u>Objective 4</u> The strategies outlined in Objective 4 seek to address customer concerns regarding continuous improvements in service delivery and customer service. Council has already commenced these improvements with the development of a Complaints Handling Policy that is currently in draft form. Other improvements using technology solutions, service reviews and customer feedback will be used to improve Council's customer service.</p> <p><i>Economic Development & Tourism Strategy</i> - The Food Sector and speciality food businesses and their link to the Visitor Economy will be an ongoing focus of the Economic Development and Tourism. This flows from the development of the Food Futures report and development of the Food Cluster.</p> <p><i>Environmental Health Fees</i> - The Victorian Food Act 1994 require Councils to register individual food businesses rather than individual buildings/kitchens where the food is produced. Therefore if a number of individual businesses are using the same kitchen in a community building, each business would need to be registered separately. Council understands there is a need to review the food safety registration fee policy and amounts. The fees charged in some instances are up to 50% above the fees charged by similar Councils. However, community groups and sporting clubs are exempted from paying fees which is not common practice for most Councils. Council's registration fees represent 77% cost recovery of providing the service. Council commits to reviewing food safety registration fee policy during 2017/18 with outcomes to be implemented in 2018/19 budget.</p>	Nil	Nil

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					<i>Approvals</i> - South Gippsland Shire Council compares very favourably in comparison to the Victorian average for planning permit decisions. Our results can be compared with other Victorian Councils at https://knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au . Despite this we are always open and looking for new ways to improve our service. We are currently developing online permit submissions and electronic responses to applicants. This follows recent improvements to make planning permit applications on advertisement available on our website.		
64	Yes	1:25pm	Energy Innovation Co-operative	Various Topics	<p><i>Sustainable Growth</i> - Council has a Sustainability Strategy that steers Council's decision making with regards to sustainable growth and development within the Shire and in partnership with the community. The suggestion of adding the word "sustainable" to Strategy 1:1 will strengthen this connection. Council is encouraged to consider the following proposed wording for Strategy 1.1: "Develop a 'vision' for the future growth, sustainability and development of the Shire in partnership with the community."</p> <p><i>Contractors</i> - Council's Procurement Policy promotes and recognises the importance of using local suppliers through the below policy statement. Council evaluates all tenders and major quotes based on the published criteria taking into consideration this policy statement to ensure best value. "Council encourages local suppliers and providers to compete for the provision of Council goods, services and works. Council recognises the contribution made by procurement to the economic prosperity of the Shire. Council staff are encouraged, where practical, to purchase from local businesses (suppliers within the South Gippsland Shire and the immediate neighbouring municipalities) where purchases are justified on best value grounds for South Gippsland Shire, which include local economic, environmental and social benefits."</p> <p><i>Rail Trail Development</i> - The option of connecting the existing Great Southern Rail Trail from into the boundaries of neighbouring Shire's will be part of the feasibility study. Discussions have already commenced with Bass Coast Shire, Wellington Shire and Cardinia Shire Councils.</p> <p><i>Community Partnerships</i> - Council has for many years provided a range of means by which small local groups actively participate in determining local issues. The numerous Section 86 Committees, Advisory Committees and Community Grant Programs already in place, are examples of how local models can work. Strategy 2.8 is aimed at investigating further models that Council may utilise in the future. Budgeting arrangements need to remain flexible so that potential models can be considered in a holistic way. As an example, the Community Grants Program has a 'major events' category that acts as a 'seeding' fund to assist start up events to commence. The intent of these seeding programs is for community groups to become self-sufficient over a period of three years, so that they are not dependent on ongoing subsidies from Council.</p> <p><i>Renewable Energy Programs</i> - Councils Sustainability Strategy recognise that reducing energy consumption is one of the biggest challenges for our community. Council is proactive in this space having recently introduced Environmental Upgrade Agreements for our business community. Action items in the Sustainability Strategy include supporting audits for households, businesses and community groups to identify opportunities to improve energy and water efficiency as well as supporting the implementation of community-owned renewable energy projects within the municipality.</p>	Nil	Nil
						Nil. Funding for rail trail feasibility study already proposed.	Subject to feasibility study and negotiations.
						Nil	Nil

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					<p><i>Wording of Strategy 3.5</i> - The review of Council's Building Portfolio will be driven by the review of the Blueprint for Social Community Infrastructure. The focus is on provision of facilities to meet the changing and/or growing needs of our community. We will encourage renewable energy and energy efficiency throughout Council's building portfolio as well to the wider community by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Implementing projects via Council's Revolving Sustainability Fund o Working with local groups and organisations to support and facilitate community owned renewable energy projects via membership on the ComMET (Communities Making Energy Together) Roundtable o Facilitating fixed interest, long term loans for sustainability projects on non-residential rate paying properties via the Environmental Upgrade Agreement Service - http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/environmentalupgrades o Taking advantage of relevant partnership and grant opportunities as they arise <p>The review will take into account the actions of the Sustainability Strategy regarding renewal energy. Any new buildings, will necessarily be constructed to the meet renewal energy efficacy standards at that time.</p>		
65	No	N/A	Tony Walker	Various Topics	<p><i>Climate Change</i> - Council's key strategic document is the Council Plan followed by the Sustainability Strategy 2016-2022 which provides the action items to deliver on the Council Plan. The Sustainability Strategy has a section dedicated to Climate Change and Risk.</p> <p><i>Sewerage in Fish Creek</i> - The provision of reticulated sewerage schemes is the responsibility of the local water authority, in Fish Creek's case, South Gippsland Water. Whilst there are significant community benefits gained from reticulated sewerage schemes, they are also expensive infrastructure projects for local water authorities to deliver. In recent years a number of small towns in South Gippsland have been seweraged under a redundant State Government program which heavily subsidised the sewerage infrastructure costs for landowners. At present there are no sewerage subsidy schemes and new sewerage schemes are generally only provided using the user pays principle. Infrastructure costs vary greatly between towns depending on topographical, existing infrastructure and design differences. Typically the start-up cost for a new sewerage scheme is between \$30k and \$60k per lot. Given the associated costs, new sewerage schemes will only gather momentum when there is strong support from the local community and landowners.</p> <p><i>Council has received a report which reviews branding in South Gippsland. The report has 33 recommendations for Council's consideration. A copy of the report can be found on our website. The future direction of branding in South Gippsland will be considered following the review of the Council's Economic Development and Tourism Strategy.</i></p> <p><i>Community Hubs</i> - Council has community facilities spread across the shire. Planning for these is contained, in part within the Community Infrastructure Statements available on Council's website.</p>	Nil	Nil

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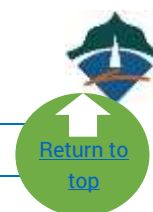


Number	Elected to Speak?	Speaking Timeslot	Submitter Name <i>(click on name to view submission)</i>	Submission Title	Response	Budget Impact - One Off	Budget Impact - Recurrent
66	No	N/A	Access & Inclusion Advisory Committee	Various Topics	<p><i>Additional Economic Development Strategies</i> - The Access and Inclusion Committee is supportive of the Objective 1 and has sought to identify further components for Council's consideration. The proposed additional strategies contain good suggestions, however it is considered that these points are operational aspects that can fit under the broader strategies of 1.1, 1.2 and 1.5. The Economic Development & Tourism Committee is encouraged to consider these suggestions, including the proposed performance indicators, in the review of the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy.</p> <p><i>Suggested rewording of Objective 2 Strategies</i> - The Access and Inclusion Committee has provided alternate wording for the third 'Objective Overview' under this Objective. Council is encouraged to consider amending the proposed wording of this Objective Overview to: "Communities are supported by services for people who are elderly, who have a disability and for families, youth and children."</p> <p>The Access and Inclusion Committee has provided alternate wording for the Strategy 2.2 under this Objective. Council may consider amending the proposed wording of this strategy to: "Update and continue to implement the Blueprint for Social Community Infrastructure – with consideration of a policy position on Community Hubs – so that the services and the infrastructure to support them are planned, ready for business, population growth and support accessibility.</p> <p>The suggestions raised for the Community Strengthening and Engagement Strategy will best be addressed during the development of the Strategy. The Committee is encouraged to support Council staff during the development of the Strategy so the aspects they have raised can be incorporated.</p> <p>The Committee has raised concerns that Strategy 2.8 is difficult to understand. Council is encouraged to consider the wording of this Strategy to better articulate what it means for the benefit of readers.</p> <p>The Committee has proposed an additional strategy seeking ..."to advocate for those affected by changes to policy and service delivery". To align this more closely with the areas of concern Council is encouraged to consider incorporating the inclusion of additional wording to Strategy 2.9 as follows: "Determine and implement the arrangements for the future Aged and Disability service provision, including advocating on behalf of those affected by policy and service delivery changes."</p> <p>The Committee has proposed an additional strategy to "Continue to actively support Council's Advisory Committees." The intent of this proposal is already holistically covered within Strategy 2.1. For this reason, a separate strategy is considered not warranted. The Committee has provided a number of potential strategic indicators for Council's consideration. Care is required in the development and monitoring of indicators to ensure they are capturing relevant and meaningful data. Further work would be required to determine the feasibility of collecting data and analysing it.</p>	Nil	Nil

**2017/18 Proposed Budget and 2017-2021 Draft Council Plan
SUBMISSIONS and RESPONSES**



Number	Elected to Speak?	Speaking Timeslot	Submitter Name <i>(click on name to view submission)</i>	Submission Title	Response	Budget Impact - One Off	Budget Impact - Recurrent
					<p><i>Footpath Extension Program</i> - Projects under the footpath extension program are designed to meet accessibility and safety standards where possible. Tactile Ground Surface Indicators (TGSIs) are currently installed on projects in business/commercial areas and on arterial road routes.</p> <p><i>Additional Public Toilet/Parking Strategies</i> - A Shire wide public amenities review has been completed. In response to this review, a public amenities policy has been drafted and this policy provides triggers for Council to consider the addition of new public toilets in high use areas. A key driver within the policy is to prioritise toilet facilities which currently do not meet accessibility standards. Disabled parking constructed in past years comply with the superseded Australian Standard. When streetscapes are upgraded or disabled parks are relocated, they are installed to the current Australian Standard.</p> <p><i>Additional Organisational Strategies</i> - The Access and Inclusion Committee has suggested 2 further strategies to implement staffing enhancements; the first to investigate approaches of employing more people with disabilities and the second to implement the Staff Health and Well-being Policy. The Council Plan could be strengthened through the inclusion of one staff focused policy. To this end Council is encouraged to consider an additional Strategy along the following lines: "Enhance staff skills, capabilities and well-being through the implementation and ongoing development of the SGSC People Plan."</p> <p><i>Plain English/Other Languages</i> - The translation of the Council Plan into other languages, suggested by the Committee, would require a financial allocation to achieve this as it is currently not budgeted. Rather than translate the Plan into other languages, non-English speaking community members are encouraged to access the Translating and Interpreting (TIS) National that provides free interpreting services to non-English speaking Australian citizens and permanent residents. TIS National provides immediate phone interpreting assistance 24 hours a day, every day of the year with access to over 2400 contracted interpreters speaking more than 160 different languages and dialects.</p>		
67	No	N/A	Loch Community Development Association	Various Topics	<p><i>Loch Streetscape</i> - The Loch Streetscape is programmed for construction in 2019/20. The timing of this project is influenced by Bair Street in Leongatha being delivered in 2017/18 and the next section of Stanley Street in Toora being delivered in 2018/19. Also on the program is the design for the Korumburra Streetscape being carried out in 2017/18 with the project being delivered in 2020/21.</p> <p><i>Korumburra Rail Trails</i> - The option of connecting the rail trail west of Leongatha through to Nyora and beyond into neighbouring municipalities will be part of the feasibility study for the extension of the Great Southern Rail Trail.</p>	Nil	Nil



Submission 1 - Rebecca Parker - Equestrian/Expo Centre

To the South Gippsland Shire Council,

I would like to take this opportunity to comment around the importance of the council budgeting for the establishment of a Regional Exhibition Centre at Stony Creek.

I feel this is of upmost importance to the local area given there are no such similar facilities within 2-5 hrs of South Gippsland, these being at Werribee Park, Tatura Park and Elmore.

The facility could be host to all aspects of Equestrian, obviously the Stony Creek Racecourse is already existing, as is the small sand arena, and we now offer a state of the art accredited Cross Country course and a large fenced grassed area which can fit 4 dressage arenas or 2 showjumping arenas. The addition of an undercover all weather arena would make the venue a highly sought after location for our local community and would be utilised by the Pony Clubs, Adult Riding Clubs, Campdrafters, Western riders and the list goes on.

In addition to this we would also be able to cater for Farm expos, Dairy and Beef weeks, Dog schools, Markets, Concerts, Car shows and all such similar events that would generally need to be cancelled if our South Gippsland weather becomes unpredictable as can happen on a regular basis.

The construction of this all weather facility would bring in more visitors to South Gippsland who would then be supporting local business and increasing the prosper of our community.

In recent times there have been issues with holding events on local sporting ovals due to the damage caused – being able to have a multi purpose facility in such a central location at Stony Creek would give an alternative venue without any loss or damage to these sporting grounds.

I hope that this proposal is seriously considered as a priority as the potential for regional growth is huge from a tourism and a permanent residency aspect also as it would make the area more appealing to live if we offered such a facility.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Parker

Submission 2 - Richard Powell - Equestrian/Expo Centre



To Whom It May Concern,

My opinion is that the subject centre offers South Gippsland a great economic opportunity to conduct various events undercover for a relatively little outlay. The economic exercise undertaken to demonstrate its financial viability has shown the project would succeed and not be a burden to the shire. The business case demonstrated repayment of the original outlay in a matter of a few years.

This project provides a unique opportunity to gain facilities which are rare and sought after.

I implore the council to grasp this opportunity to demonstrate your vision for the future.

Regards

Richard Powell



Submission 3 - **Marilyn McGeary** - Equestrian/Expo Centre

Meeniyana had 7000 visitors for the 2017 Garlic festival, now an annual event, which has rocketed Meeniyana to the forefront as a township of prominence. There is a need for Council to support improved recreational facilities, especially such a well researched and needy multi purpose one. Council should demonstrate innovation and foresight and provide support financially and advocate in written form to other government bodies for this community group.

Marilyn McGeary, Meeniyana resident
Support for Stony Creek submission for equestrian centre



Submission 4 - **Wendy Whelan** - Equestrian/Expo Centre

To Sth Gippsland Shire councillors,

Here is my submission in FAVOUR of the Stony Creek Multi-purpose Exhibition centre

I believe the proposed plans for a Multi-purpose Exhibition centre in the centre of the south Gippsland shire would be an amazing boost to the economic future of this area.

Studies already completed show such a centre would be a great drawcard for business's, tourism, flow on employment and more. The only other multipurpose centres in Victoria are in Melbourne and two within the Shepparton Shire, that are extremely well patronised and very profitable.

With Sth Gippslands' changeable weather an Exhibition centre with a huge undercover area would be a major asset for our shire. Many events currently have to get cancelled or postponed. This would be avoided if we had such a centre in our shire.

I would also like to see the Exhibition centre located outside of the Leongatha region, as I believe that too much of our shire's money is spent here and not all people get to benefit.

I believe that building the Exhibition centre at Stony Creek, would be an ideal location, with Sth Gippsland Highway access, the shortest route to the Latrobe Valley opposite the venue and ample parking available.

I would like to see this project funded as soon as possible so that all people in our shire have an all weather meeting place to run events to benefit all.

Yours Sincerely

Wendy Whelan

Rate payer, Dairy Farmer, member of the Young Dairy Network, member of Bennisson Adult Riding Club

Just imagine our future.



Dear Councillors,

I was lucky enough to be awarded the Corner Inlet Citizen of the Year on Australia Day 2017 in recognition of my contribution to the Equestrian community over my 39 years living and working in South Gippsland and have seen many young riders come through our local clubs.

We have some outstanding young Equestrian people in this area who travel huge distances to Indoor riding arenas weekly to attend lessons & clinics. The construction of an undercover facility at Stony Creek with an indoor riding arena would be a huge asset to the South Gippsland Shire and would allow these riders to flourish and reach their potential without the need for many hours on the road. High-level coaches and developing riders would also come to this area to make use of the facility.

As an example, we currently have two outstanding young 19 yr old riders : Molly Barry from Kardella who is training for the Sydney & Adelaide 3 Day Events and ultimately aiming for Olympic selection and Adeline Collins from Fish Creek who has been selected to represent Australia at the Pony Club Australia Interpacific Event in America in June 2017. These girls both started their careers in local Pony Clubs and have travelled many of kilometres to facilities outside the SG Shire to attain the coaching they needed to reach their potential. These two young women ran an outdoor training clinic for young riders at Stony Creek recently in horrendous weather, but could have tripled the entries had there been an undercover area to ride in. They are keen to continue coaching in this area as well as further developing their own equestrian careers, but to do so they need a quality indoor arena to work in.

Coaches, spectators, riders and families contribute significantly to a community when they come to a clinic or an event (some events can span a week), so as well as putting Sth Gippsland on the map, an Exhibition Centre at Stony Creek will also benefit Leongatha businesses with most people heading to the nearest major town during their stay to shop, refuel, seek entertainment and accomodation. The exhibition Centre will itself provide employment through management, maintenance and catering.

I hope that the South Gippsland Shire will seriously consider the importance of this proposed Exhibition Centre when setting this years budget.

Kind Regards,

Debra Collins

WGZ Chief Instructor/CIPC President



Stony Creek Exhibition & Equestrian centre proposal

Working party

Budget submission

Exhibition centre for South Gippsland Shire

26th April 2017

Dear Sirs/ Madams,

Council should continue to budget for a regional exhibition centre in this shire. The funds would enable completion of concept plans and business studies to be finalized and project commenced.

A large indoor complex would ensure year round use and reduce costly cancellations due to our delightful weather.

Janine Bullock, Beverley Shandley, Bill Pratt, Jocelyn Mackie



Janine Bullock

RE: Budget submission Exhibition Centre project

Dear councillors,

The proposed plans for a Multi-purpose Exhibition centre in the centre of the south Gippsland shire would be a boost to the economic future of this area.

Studies completed show such a centre would be a great drawcard for business's, tourism, service industry employment and more.

The only other multipurpose centres in Victoria are in Melbourne and 2 within the Shepparton Shire that are extremely well patronised and very profitable.

Just imagine our future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janine Bullock".

26th April 2017



Submission 7 - Lisa Catherwood - Equestrian/Expo Centre

To the South Gippsland Shire Council,

On behalf of Bennison Adult Riding Club Incorporated, I would like to take this opportunity to request that there is consideration in the up coming council budget for the establishment of a Regional Exhibition Centre at Stony Creek. Along with the racecourse, there is already a small sand arena and new cross country course however should there be an undercover all weather arena it would mean this site could be utilized all year round by many different clubs and associations. South Gippsland winters can mean many rallies and events need to be cancelled or can not even be considered due to high rainfall and subsequent soggy grounds. Currently HRCVA Clubs in the South Gippsland area have to travel to such facilities as [Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre](#) or [Boneo Park](#) to attend Top Team Trophy events held under the HRCVA umbrella, some events even further. It would be fantastic to have such facilities in the South Gippsland Region, it would mean such large events could be hosted locally benefiting local clubs along with local businesses due to the influx if visitors.

Kind regards,

Lisa Catherwood
Secretary/Newsletter/Publicity & Website Administrator
Bennison ARC Inc.
<http://www.bennisonarc.com>



Submission 8 - Paul Macphail and Anneke Homan - Equestrian/Expo Centre

To whom it may concern,

We would like to express our opinion about the Stony Creek Exhibition Centre. We would really like to see the plans to go ahead, because it would be great to have a multi purpose indoor arena for a lot of different activities. It will benefit so many people in the local area and with being able to hold indoor events it will attract visitors from outside the shire.

Personally we hope to benefit from it, by being able to do working dog demonstrations, trials and clinics in the building.

Thanks for your consideration.

Kind regards,
Paul Macphail and Anneke Homan



Submission 9 - Lorraine Norden - Public Open Spaces in Venus Bay

11 April 2017
Tim Tamlin
CEO
South Gippsland Shire Council

Re: Council Plan 2017-2021/Proposed Plan March 2017

This submission addresses Strategy 3 of the Proposed Plan: Improve South Gippsland's Built Assets and **Value our Natural Environment**. The objective of Strategy 3 is to **protect and enhance the natural environment**. Strategy 3.7 to achieve the objective is "Review the Land Realisation Project in regard to public open spaces in Venus Bay." This is what we wish to support for the following reasons:

1. The Proposed Plan states that Council is committed to valuing "the community spirit, vibrancy and unique character of each of our towns and rural communities". This is what we have been asking for regarding our town. Venus Bay is unique in the shire and unlike other rural townships. We value our small parks and reserves for their contribution to providing habitat for our local wildlife and native flora. Community spirit is shown by the ongoing campaign to save our precious open space. Time and again the community has fought these land sales, a small David against Council's Goliath, but we have never given up! Surely it is time for Council to recognise our commitment and remove Venus Bay from the Land Realisation Project forever.
2. The Venus Bay Community has fought for many years to stop the sale of Public Open Space.
 - a. 1999 *Municipal Strategic Statement* (SGSC). The objective is to maintain the delicate landforms and character of Venus Bay by discouraging vegetation removal, medium density residential development and development in areas subject to erosion.
 - b. 2005 *StratPlan* (TLVBA) **83% of respondents rated the natural environment as important.**
 - c. 2007 *Venus Bay Public Open Space Final Report* (SGSC). This document identifies all open spaces – 31 - and recommends retention, sale, consolidation, or purchase of adjoining land to extend.
 - d. 2008 Petition opposed to the proposed sale of Council Public Open Spaces containing over 1000 signatures.
 - e. 2013 Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula (FVBP), Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association (TLVBA) and Venus Bay Community Centre (VBCC) submission objecting to sale of eight POS reserves at Venus Bay, in addition to the volumes of private objectors.
 - f. 2013 Council passed the motion NOT to sell all but one of these. Incredibly, council rescinded the decision after the public had left the meeting.
 - g. 2014 Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula (FVBP), Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association (TLVBA) and Venus Bay Community Centre (VBCC) detailed submission re the *Evaluation Matrix Strategic Land Review* that objected to both the sale of land and the lack of consultation with the stakeholders.
 - h. 2015 Combined VBCC and FVBP submission to the *Strategic Land Review* proposed sale of six council owned blocks of land at Venus Bay, followed by council hearing.
 - i. 2016 Submissions from VBCC and FVBP objecting to proposed sale of two more council owned reserves.



- j. 2016 Submissions objecting to the removal of reserve status on reserve.
 - k. 2017 PowerPoint presentation to Council requesting that Venus Bay be removed from the Land Realisation Project
3. Community decision making.
- Objective Overview 2 in the draft Council Plan includes: "A Council that listens to and continues to involve the community in decision making and delivery of services and projects."
- Strategies to achieve the objective 2.1: Where appropriate support community groups to achieve projects they have ownership of and want to progress.
- The Venus Bay community has demonstrated its willingness to work with Council to achieve a sustainable ongoing resolution to the issue. **The Community Land Stewardship Program** set up in 2014 is a partnership approach with South Gippsland Shire Council and community members & organisations in Venus Bay and district.
- It facilitates the local community to 'adopt' a Reserve and develop a management plan to manage the vegetation to provide amenity and wildlife habitat.
4. Venus Bay does not have enough open space. Although Venus Bay township is adjacent to Cape Liptrap Coastal Park, within the township zone there is less than 2% reserved open space, much less than the current requirements. As blocks are developed currently they are totally cleared of vegetation. Land was set aside as Public Open Space in the original subdivision of very small allotments to protect against over development. Why sell what little we have?
5. Venus Bay businesses rely on tourism and particularly eco-tourism for their livelihood. Tourists value the low-key, natural landscape and feel of the town, along with the opportunity to encounter wildlife in their daily activities. As development continues and our Public Open Space is sold, the reason Venus Bay is popular will be lost.

We support the draft Council Plan in its Review of the Land Realisation Project regarding public open spaces in Venus Bay and ask that all Venus Bay reserves are removed from the Project in perpetuity. Objective overview 1 includes recognition and support of the unique character of our smaller towns where "quality of life and sense of community is balanced by sustainable and sensitive development."

Venus Bay is a special case and this deserves recognition.

Lorraine & Will Norden



Submission 10 - Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula - Public Open Spaces in Venus Bay



2 April 2017
Tim Tamlin
Chief Executive Officer
South Gippsland Shire Council

Submission re Proposed Council Plan 2017-2021

This submission from Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc. (FVBP) addresses Strategy 3 of the Proposed Plan: "Improve South Gippsland's Built Assets and **Value our Natural Environment.**" The objective of Strategy 3 is to **protect and enhance the natural environment.** Strategy 3.7 to achieve the objective is "Review the Land Realisation Project in regard to Public Open Spaces in Venus Bay."

We invite Councillors and Council Officers to view the attached Power Point submission that details its support for removing Venus Bay Public Open Space from the Land Realisation Project.

We wish to speak to our submission at the Public hearing of submitters at 10.45am on Wednesday 17 May 2017.

Yours sincerely

Mae Adams (President)
Janet Carey (Secretary)
Lorraine Norden (Treasurer)

Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc



Venus Bay – a special case



Public Open Space



- Venus Bay is unique for a settlement in South Gippsland Shire.
- Bordered by the dunes of Cape Liptrap Coastal Park and Bass Straight on one side, and Anderson Inlet on the other, the estate is built on an environmentally sensitive sand spit, subject to erosion.
- The original subdivision of the estate in the 1960s created small housing blocks. At the time pockets of public open space were reserved as a buffer against the time when many blocks were developed.
- That time is now.
- These 'pocket parks' comprise less than 2% open space when current guidelines are from 5-10% for new estates.

Aside from providing places to play, be active or relax, public open spaces afford many benefits.





Public open space can increase the aesthetic appeal, amenity and value of a neighbourhood



- Social benefits can be gained through community interaction and activation of places for formal and informal sport and recreation.
- Cultural benefits can be gained through recognition and interpretation of Indigenous and historic values.
- Economic benefits can be gained through provision of services supporting visitation for sport, recreation and tourism.

<https://www.817.org.au/support-and-advocacy/.../public-open-space>

Environmental benefits can be gained through protecting local biodiversity and visual landscapes, and retaining ecological systems and linkages



Blocks are being totally cleared for housing, removing all vegetation





Blocks are too small to allow a buffer of vegetation.
Reserves provide this buffer.



If this is allowed to continue Venus Bay will become a moonscape!



This is what is happening – vegetation removed to clear block - building
takes up the entire area. Pave Paradise....





Where will local native fauna go when habitat is removed?
Public open space provides sanctuary and corridors for movement.

Reserves act as a refuge for rare flora



Coast Bitterbush *Adriana quadripartita* listed as rare in Victoria

Adriana quadripartita Coast Bitter-bush
listed as vulnerable in Victoria
Reserve: 150 Canterbury Road



Reserve: 2 Redmond Court

The Venus Bay community has spoken many times, over many years:

- 1999 *Municipal Strategic Statement (SGSC)*. The objective was to maintain the delicate landforms and character of Venus Bay by discouraging vegetation removal, medium density residential development and development in areas subject to erosion.
- 2005 *StratPlan (TLVBA)*. This document stresses the value residents place on retaining the status quo re development potential, given the general agreement that the peninsula should never have been subdivided. The great majority of respondents (83%) rated the natural environment as important.
- 2007 *Venus Bay Public Open Space Final Report (SGSC)*. This document identifies all open spaces – 31 – and recommends retention, sale, consolidation, or purchase of adjoining land to extend.
- 2008 600 people attended a community meeting to protest against a proposed subdivision for a new housing estate at Venus Bay, which would have entailed further development of an already inappropriate subdivision.
- 2008 Petition opposed to the proposed sale of Council land containing over 1000 signatures.
- 2013 Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula (FVBP), Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association (TLVBA) and Venus Bay Community Centre (VBCC) submission objecting to sale of eight POS reserves at Venus Bay.
- 2014 Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula (FVBP), Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association (TLVBA) and Venus Bay Community Centre (VBCC) detailed submission re the *Evolution Matrix Strategic Land Review* that objected to both the sale of land and the lack of consultation with the stakeholders.
- 2015 Combined VBCC and FVBP submission to the *Strategic Land Review* proposed sale of six POS reserves at Venus Bay, followed by Council hearing.
- 2016 Submissions from VBCC and FVBP objecting to proposed sale of two more POS reserves.
- 2016 Submissions objecting to the removal of the reserve status on these POS reserves.
- 2017 Presentation to new Council from VBCC and FVBP detailing reasons why no further POS reserves at Venus Bay should be sold.



Volunteer efforts to protect and conserve POS

- **The Community Land Stewardship Program** set up in 2014 is a partnership approach with South Gippsland Shire Council and community members & organisations in Venus Bay and district.
- It facilitates the local community to 'adopt' a Reserve and develop a management plan to manage the vegetation to provide amenity and wildlife habitat.
- All Council Reserves have been audited by volunteers for flora and fauna and several vulnerable and rare species have been identified.



Is there another way? Does this land need to be sold?

We are a different community:

- Venus Bay is a unique and fragile part of the shire and its intrinsic value should be recognised and facilitated.
- What if Venus Bay was excluded from the land realisation project...would it really make that much financial difference to the bottom line for council?
- It has been claimed that each Reserve costs the Shire \$6000 per year to maintain, but all that is done at Venus Bay is an annual slashing that could not possibly account for that amount.
- Let the community be self-determining...the shire is looking for ways to enable community participation and enduring community leadership...we are showing you this. Work with us, let us work with you to define Venus Bay as a sparkling jewel in the crown of the Shire.





Could it be an opportunity to value what environmental assets we have for all?...it converts to eco-tourism and development dollars anyway.



Onion Orchid *Microtis unifolia* found on Reserve.
All native orchids are protected in the wild in Victoria



Swamp Wallaby

Tourism and the future

- Businesses in Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower rely on the influx of holiday makers over the summer period. Sustainable tourism, as the fastest growing sector of the market, proudly looks to the future.
- Locals and tourists come for the unspoilt environment, the peaceful village atmosphere and the chance to interact with local fauna – kangaroos, swamp wallabies, wombats, koalas and echidnas.
- Removal of vegetation not only removes habitat for our native fauna but also destroys the amenity of the area. Once that is gone Venus Bay will have lost its special appeal and the reason for visitation.



We welcome the new Council – a chance to correct a wrong?

- The latest proposal from the Shire is to remove Reserve status from 3-5 Marine Parade (Public Park and Recreation Zone) and 30 A Inlet View Road (Township Reserve).
- These blocks were voted for sale by the previous Council against community wishes.
- They can still be saved if the Reserve status is not removed.





Please don't sell our reserves!





Submission 11 - Kam Saraswati - Public Open Spaces in Venus Bay

Attn: Tim Tamlin, CEO, SGSC,

Dear Tim,

I am writing to strongly oppose the SGSC proposal to sell-off public reserves and blocks of public land in the 1st and 2nd Estates of Venus Bay.

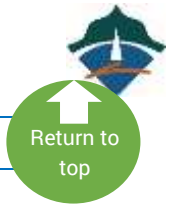
I am a long term resident and ratepayer here.

My main reason is that there are already a large number of new dwellings being approved and built in 2nd estate. As a result there are fewer open tracts across the narrow peninsula from Andersons inlet side to Cape Liptrap Coastal Park adjacent to the beach. These transverse tracts allow the profuse wildlife to move between these two natural habitats. As more and more fenced in properties are manifesting, the kangaroos in particular are becoming alienated from their tracks and paths and it is now not unusual to encounter them stranded and confused and unable to move into the bush. I myself pay rates on 2 blocks on either side of Atherton Drive, and have no fences at all in order to provide and facilitate the transit for our native animals. There is definitely regular movement and activity at dusk and dawn and throughout the night as the animals enjoy this transit/access.

I know that from SGSC perspective, Venus Bay is a large source of rates money which you can utilise for other projects in your budget. We receive limited services in return for the money you collect from Venus bay ratepayers, and it would be good if Council would acknowledge that per ratepayer it already does pretty well out of Venus Bay in terms of what you get from us, versus what you give back in the form of services, in comparison to other zones such as Leongatha and Korumburra. We accept this is the case, but ask that you acknowledge that our first priority is preservation of our natural habitat and heritage. We do not wish for "progress" such as we see in Inverloch. This is why we have come here to live and this is what we want our elected Shire Council to acknowledge and support. A sell-off of public natural assets in Venus Bay in order to bolster your budget would contradict the Shire's charter and the wishes of the ratepayers of the Venus Bay Area who already pay a bigger than proportional share of the cost of your wages etc which are paid to you to enact the wishes of the communities who have elected you to office and which you are supposed to serve.

Yours sincerely,

Kam Saraswati



Dear Councilors.

I have lost count of the number of representations I have made regarding this issue.

As a permanent resident of Venus Bay, I object to the sale of land because of its significant value to the residents and our environment.

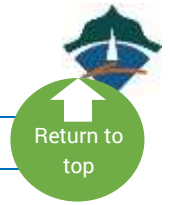
- The Venus Bay Community has repeatedly expressed its objection to this action by the Shire and over a long period. So why is the Shire persisting with this proposal, defying the wishes of our community? This is yet another example of the Shire being totally out of touch with our community.
- Venus Bay has a very low amount of public open space, less than 2%. I believe that the recommended proportion is 5%.
- The sale is short sighted, once sold, it is gone forever!
- The land is a habitat for native fauna and forms corridors for them.
- The land also contains endangered fauna, such as native grasses.
- It forms breathing spaces for our community.
- The land is used by the community.
- The land is part of our fragile coastal environment.

Selling this land is very much like selling the Family Jewels, except that in this case the Family (Venus Bay Community) will not get the money as it will be spent elsewhere.

Venus Bay suffers from excessively high rates, very little of which is spent in Venus Bay. Now you're selling our precious breathing spaces and again, the money will go to some project outside our community.

Why aren't you listening?

Peter Prysten & Sonia Zalucki



Submissions at Council
Councillors
South Gippsland Shire Council

Dear Councillors,

Submission to draft Council Plan 2017-21.

I am writing in support of Objective 3 in the draft Council Plan 2017-21: “Improve South Gippsland’s Built Assets and **value our natural environment**” and “**Council seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment.**” I support item 3.7 to achieve this objective: “Review the Land Realisation Project in regard to public open spaces in Venus Bay.”

As I have said in many previous submissions, Public Open Space (POS) Reserves in Venus Bay are an integral part of our unique, sensitive and precious natural environment and should not be sold for the short-sighted motive of small pecuniary gain. I urge you to remove all Venus Bay POS Reserves from the Land Realisation Project for the following reasons:

The Venus Bay Peninsula is a fragile sand spit held together by vegetation. It is bordered by Cape Liptrap Coastal Park and the Saltmarsh wetlands of Anderson Inlet, both areas of very high conservation value. Saltmarsh communities are listed under the the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Federal) - the highest level of protection awarded. It is critical habitat for resident, and migratory birds which are subject to International agreements. The critically endangered Orange-bellied parrot has been sighted here. The environmental significance of the residential areas along the centre of the peninsula is recognised by planning overlays ESO7 (first and second estates) and RCZ (third estate). Permits are required to lop or remove native vegetation. The 30 areages on the third estate are managed by landowners as habitat for native wildlife.

The POS Reserves and roadsides of the estates contain significant remnant Indigenous vegetation including rare and threatened species such as Coast Ballart *Exocarpos syrticola* and Coast Bitter-bush, *Adriana quadripartite*, ground orchids and grasses (less than 1% of native grasslands remain in Victoria). There are valuable stands of Coast Banksia Woodland, an Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC), which is listed as vulnerable by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). Coast Banksia, *Banksia integrifolia*, is regenerating well at Venus Bay, unlike at the Prom, where it is struggling.



This vegetation supports a diversity of native wildlife: Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Wombats, Koalas, Swamp Wallabies, Short-beaked Echidnas, Ring-tailed and Brush-tailed Possums, Eastern Pygmy Possums, Swamp Rats, Swamp Antechinus (listed as threatened under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988), over 200 species of birds as well as reptiles, frogs and insects. The Reserves act as important refuges for wildlife in the midst of human settlement and activity. They link with roadside vegetation to form corridors which allow animals, particularly small native birds such as the Superb Wren, Grey Fantail and Silvereye, to travel through the landscape (small birds require less than 30 metres between cover). These corridors link with Cape Liptrap Coastal Park and the Reserve on the Inlet foreshore managed by DELWP.

The Reserves are of inestimable value for research into the Flora that existed along our coast prior to European settlement. We are very fortunate at Venus Bay to still have a productive natural seedbank. Where given space, such as on our Reserves, indigenous plants naturally regenerate. As a member of Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula, I have spent countless hours, together with local botanists, visiting the Reserves in different seasons to document regenerating plants.

Our natural environment has great economic benefit for the Shire. It is well known that treed and vegetated street and townscapes with Public Open Spaces, enhance the value of residential property. This results in increased rate revenue for Council.

Small businesses are the heartbeat of our local economy. They depend on the increasing flow of visitors who flock to Venus Bay to enjoy the beauty of our natural environment and view our abundant wildlife.

This is the response to the following question put to respondents in the StratPlan survey conducted by the Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Association in 2005: Q: “How important is the surrounding environment to the future prosperity and sustainability of both townships (Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower)? A: "93% said very important.”

Tourism is worth millions to the economy of the Shire and if our natural assets were promoted properly, in a sustainable way, eco-tourism could be worth millions more. The natural environment of Venus Bay is a priceless asset that should be valued, protected and enhanced as you say Council seeks to do. Retaining our system of POS Reserves is crucial to conserving the integrity of our environment. I ask you not to sell our Reserves and work in co-operation with the Venus Bay Community to protect and enhance them.

Yours sincerely,
Janet Carey



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Submission 14 - Anna Kijek - Public Open Spaces in Venus Bay

Re: Review the Land Realisation Project in regard to public open spaces

I fully support this REVIEW and hope, that if you seriously think about "Valuing our Natural environment", then Venus Bay POS Reserves should be permanently removed from the land sell-off process.

Regards

Anna Kijek



Submission 15 - Sally Moseby - Public Open Spaces in Venus Bay

RE: Strategic Resource Plan 2017 – 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

I am very pleased to be able to provide a submission on the above plan, and thank you for the opportunity to express my views on the Strategic Plan in relation to Venus Bay.

I note many references throughout the Plan to the importance of utilising the vision and skills of the existing community (Strategies 1.1, 2.1, 2.3, 2.8) whilst at the same time planning for an increased population and future community. South Gippsland Shire already has at its disposal an incredibly enthusiastic number of volunteers - a disproportionate number considering its population - who dedicate their time to the community and the environment and provide social cohesion within the area. When my family purchased a property in Venus Bay 7 years ago we very quickly became aware of the work of such groups as Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula and Venus Bay Community Centre and their positive impact.

It has been my impression that these groups have been ignored when they have tried to have input into Shire decisions in the past. (Two examples I'm aware of: Council disregarded a petition of over 1,000 signatures to prevent the sale of blocks of land – a number that is unusual even in highly populated areas of Melbourne; the rescission by two councillors of a vote that was taken when the public and a number of councillors had left the Chamber having witnessed a majority vote to sell some block whilst saving others). It is therefore encouraging to see that the future Strategic Plan advocates harnessing the knowledge and enthusiasm of groups such as these to possibly create an exciting eco-area with many elements to attract a strong tourist market. The vision of these stakeholders, along with other interested parties, can help formulate ideas to implement Strategies 2.5, 2.6, 2.8, 3.7 and 3.8.

Kind regards,
Sally Moseby



Valuing our Natural Environment: Support Strategy 3.7

So many times, I, and many others, have written asking that the Council accept and respect the wishes of the people of Venus Bay who have repeatedly shown that their highest priority value is the natural environment. For many years, over a decade, in meetings, letters, Council feedback sessions, in submissions, newspapers and other media the residents, when asked what is most important to them, have responded that it is preserving the **existing** natural environment. That is why there has been such a pushback against SGSC for it's plans to rezone and sell off, for housing, our public land, our **Public Open Spaces** and our **Public Park and Recreation Zones**.

So many times I, and others have written outlining reasons why selling our POs and PPRZ is a bad and unpopular idea to the residents who actually live amongst and highly value these little bush havens.

Democracy everywhere is under scrutiny, pressure and even contest. People say 'the system is broken'. Is our system broken? We live in layers of democracy. At this local level, where peoples' wishes and voices can clearly be heard and known, I think it is very important that democracy function as it should. Respecting and implementing the wishes and values of the residents is good for the local community, it is good for local democracy, it is good for the body politic. It is the right thing.

PLEASE listen and respond **democratically** to the clear, demonstrated, enduring wishes of the residents of Venus Bay and cease immediately the proposed rezoning and sale of our public lands, our POS and PPRZ.

Thank you.

Gillian Upton



Submission to the

South Gippsland Shire Council
COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021

To: Mr. Tim Tamlin
Chief Executive Officer
South Gippsland Shire Council
Private Bag 4
Leongatha 3956

C/C Councillors: R. Argento, A. Brown, L. Brunt, M. Edwards, D. Hill, M. Kiel, A. McEwen,
J. Rich and A. Skinner.

From: Marion Kavanagh

24th April 2017



I welcome the opportunity to submit to the South Gippsland Shire Council COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021
My submission is in reference to:

3. Improve South Gippsland's Built Assets & Value our Natural Environment.

3.7 Review the Land Realisation Project in regard to public open spaces in Venus Bay.

I support Council having a review of the current policy of selling publicly owned land in Venus Bay.
In the review of this policy I ask that Council staff and our Council representatives show that they do
Value our Natural Environment by paying particular attention to the following:

1.

That you become aware of the number of publicly owned blocks of land there were in Venus Bay
in 2000 and determine the public land that has been sold in the past 17 years. How many of the
51 properties on the Council list of publicly owned land in 2000 are now privately owned?

(See attached list of 2000 council owned land in Venus Bay)

The attached map of Venus Bay indicates there were 22 commercial blocks plus 2 lane accesses
in Atkinson Ave and Louis Rd, and 22 commercial blocks in Mercury Dr. and Juno Rd, with 2
frontage easements and a large reserve behind them between Mercury Dr. and Saturn Pd.

(See attached map of part of the 1st Estate highlighted in green) I understand that some, if not
all of these blocks have been restructured and consolidated into 17 house sized parcels of land
and that these were included on the list as council owned blocks in 2000. (They are the Atkinson
Ave., Louis Rd., Mercury Dr., Juno Rd, and Saturn Pd. properties highlighted in green on the list.)
These restructured blocks are, I believe, now in private ownership. (3 of the Louis Rd./Atkinson
Ave commercial block have houses on them and 2 of the Juno Rd. blocks have built structures.)
If this is so, the South Gippsland Shire Council has received a financial benefit through the sale of
this land. This also means that the Venus Bay community, through the eventual sale of all 17
properties, will be making a far greater contribution to the South Gippsland Shire Council Land
Realisation Project than other communities of similar size.

In addition to this contribution, Council has been advocating an economic argument that
remaining publicly owned reserves and spaces, part of the historical requirement of Public Open
Space percentages for housing developments, should be included in the Land Realisation
Project. Loss of more parcels of publicly owned land is not justifiable and is not fair.

I strongly recommend that the review removes all remaining Council owned public land in Venus
Bay from consideration for sale on the grounds that Venus Bay has already contributed an
undisclosed but substantial amount to the Land Realisation Project.

2.

That decision makers investigate and become aware of the strong and clear messages sent by
the Venus Bay community to the South Gippsland Shire Council about our Public Open Spaces
over the past 15-20 years.

The community of Venus Bay places immense value on the place that the natural environment
of the township, its bush environs and the wildlife it supports has in our lives. In many of the
areas where community consultation has occurred in the past these values are repeated over
and over again. We **do not support** the sale of any of our public open spaces.

Councillors should familiarise themselves with the community's expectations and with
submissions supporting the wishes of the community in:

The Venus Bay Strategy Plan	2005
Urban Design Framework	2006
South Gippsland Open Space Strategy	2007
Save Our Reserves Petition to Council	2008
Community Infrastructure Plan Tarwin Lower Venus Bay	2014



Evaluation Matrix for the Strategic Review of land Holdings 2014
Proposed Sale of Public Open Space May 2014

I recommend that all involved in making the decision to sell publicly owned land in Venus Bay acknowledge the consistent position of the Venus Bay community over the past 20 years as part of that review and act to stop any further sales.

3.

The review is an opportunity for Councillors and Council employees to take a more insightful look at the contribution small vegetated council owned parks can play towards the holiday and tourist economy of Venus Bay.

Council must change the 'one size fits all' mentality that determines all public open space has the same purpose and value across the Shire. It needs to change the way it regards the reserves of Venus Bay.

Venus Bay is promoted as a destination that is a natural attraction.

It is surrounded by calm inlet waters, wide expanses of surf beaches and is located on an isthmus of significant vegetation that is habitat supporting a diverse list of species of birds and animals. The urban township of Venus Bay is in the centre of this environment and is very much a part of this natural attraction.

Our small neighbourhood spaces should be viewed as unique and valued assets worthy of promotion as part the Venus Bay nature tourist destination. The reserves are pockets of habitat that play a very important role in allowing the birds and animals to survive and move about freely.

The opportunity to connect natural spaces and promote informal 'nature trails' between the habitat blocks, the larger reserves, the surf beaches, the Coastal Park, and the inlet and river waterways is here for Council to explore and promote.

How different and special would it be to advocate Venus Bay as a chance to live, holiday and visit a small coastal town with such a diverse set of natural attractions - the vegetated natural urban landscape and its wildlife being a central element?

The Council Plan 2017-2021 states that "Council seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment." Council mentions many times in plans and governance documents the value it places on the environment yet it rarely makes major decisions that actually protect or save anything.

Protecting the remaining natural areas of Venus Bay might go some way to put right the past bad planning and environmental decisions of the old Woorayl Shire in approving the development of such a unique and sensitive isthmus some 50 years ago, and might also compensate for the inaction of subsequent Councils in protecting the natural environmental values of the Venus Bay urban area.

This review of the Land Realisation Project of public open space in Venus Bay is great opportunity for Council to actually do something positive to protect some of what little habitat is left. Once reserves are lost to private ownership they are taken from the community forever. The vegetation is lost, the habitat is lost and most of the birds and animals will not survive.

Yours faithfully

Marion Kavanagh



2000

List 3 51.

TABLE 1 LOT DESCRIPTION

CT #	Vol/Fol.	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	ASSET DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS	TOWN	ZONE	CIV	DATE
36	9900/609	PS54882	Reserve	b/n 112 & 150 Canterbury Rd	Venus Bay	PPRZ	3,500	Jun-00
33	9900/606	PS54880	Park Reserve	b/n Centre Rd & Anthony	Venus Bay	TZ	3,500	Jun-00
32	9900/605	PS54175	Reserve	143A Inlet View Rd	Venus Bay	TZ	35,000	Jun-00
31	9900/604	PS54174	Park Reserve	48-54 Louis Rd	Venus Bay	PPRZ	45,000	Jun-00
30	9900/603	PS54172	Reserve	crn Canterbury & Louis	Venus Bay	TZ	15,000	Jun-00
29	9900/602	PS52663	Park Reserve	52-54 Saturn Pde	Venus Bay	PPRZ	35,000	Jun-00
28	9900/601	PS52662	Park Reserve	21 Paris Cres	Venus Bay	PPRZ	35,000	Jun-00
27	9900/600	PS52661	Park Reserve	b/n Orion & Saturn	Venus Bay	PPRZ	40,000	Jun-00
26	9900/599	PS52660	Park Reserve	b/n 59A Mercury & 68 Pandora	Venus Bay	PPRZ	35,000	Jun-00
35	9900/608	PS54881	Reserve	crn Lees & Constance	Venus Bay	PPRZ	36,000	Jun-00
37	9900/610	PS54904	Park Reserve*	Lees Rd (east of Carol)	Venus Bay	PPRZ	20,000	Jun-00
38 A	9900/611	PS56446	Reserves*	crn Zenner & Lees	Venus Bay	TZ	16,000	Jun-00
38 B	9900/611	PS56446	Reserves	4 St Ives Cres	Venus Bay	TZ	19,000	Jun-00
38 C	9900/611	PS56446	Reserves#	rear of 26-42 St Ives Cres	Venus Bay	PPRZ	30,000	Jun-00
39 A	9900/612	PS56447	Reserves	22-24 Fishermans Road	Venus Bay	TZ	25,000	Jun-00
39 B	9900/612	PS56447	Reserves	3-5 Marine Pde	Venus Bay	PPRZ	30,000	Jun-00
39 C	9900/612	PS56447	Reserves	6 June Ct	Venus Bay	TZ	14,000	Jun-00
40 A	9900/613	PS56448	Reserve	Neil St	Venus Bay	TZ	15,000	Jun-00
40 B	9900/613	PS56448	Reserve	14 Condon Cres	Venus Bay	TZ	15,000	Jun-00
40 C	9900/613	PS56448	Reserve	24 Condon Cres	Venus Bay	TZ	15,000	Jun-00
42	9900/615	PS56449	Reserve	3 McMillan Ave	Venus Bay	TZ	12,000	Jun-00
43 A	9900/616	PS56450	Reserve	2 Margaret St	Venus Bay	TZ	15,000	Jun-00
43 B	9900/616	PS56450	Reserve*	Lees Rd (b/n lts 1031 & 1042)	Venus Bay	PPRZ	38,000	Jun-00
44 A	9900/617	PS56451	Reserve*	744-748 Lees Rd	Venus Bay	PPRZ	40,000	Jun-00
44 B	9900/617	PS56451	Reserve	8 Gary Ct	Venus Bay	TZ	15,000	Jun-00
54	10006/192	R1 PS301541M	POS Reserve	b/n Monour Ct & Redmond Ct	Venus Bay	LDRZ	30,000	Jun-00
55	10006/193	R2 PS301541M	POS Reserve	b/n 27 & 28 Redmond Ct	Venus Bay	LDRZ	18,000	Jun-00
34	9900/607	PS54880 PH10B	Vacant Land	31A Canterbury Rd	Venus Bay	PPRZ	140,000	Jun-00
41	9900/614	PS56449 CAP114 & 62A	Reserve* (Van Chief)	b/n April Ave & Black Ave	Venus Bay	PPRZ	100,000	Jun-00
72	10006/193	lot 2 PS312565	Vacant Land#	b/n Mercury & Saturn	Venus Bay	TZ	3,000	Jun-00
73	10134/106	lot 3 PS312565	Vacant Land#	Mercury crn Juno	Venus Bay	TZ	3,000	Jun-00
74	10134/107	lot 4 PS312565	Vacant Land#	b/n Mercury & Saturn	Venus Bay	TZ	3,000	Jun-00

See other map

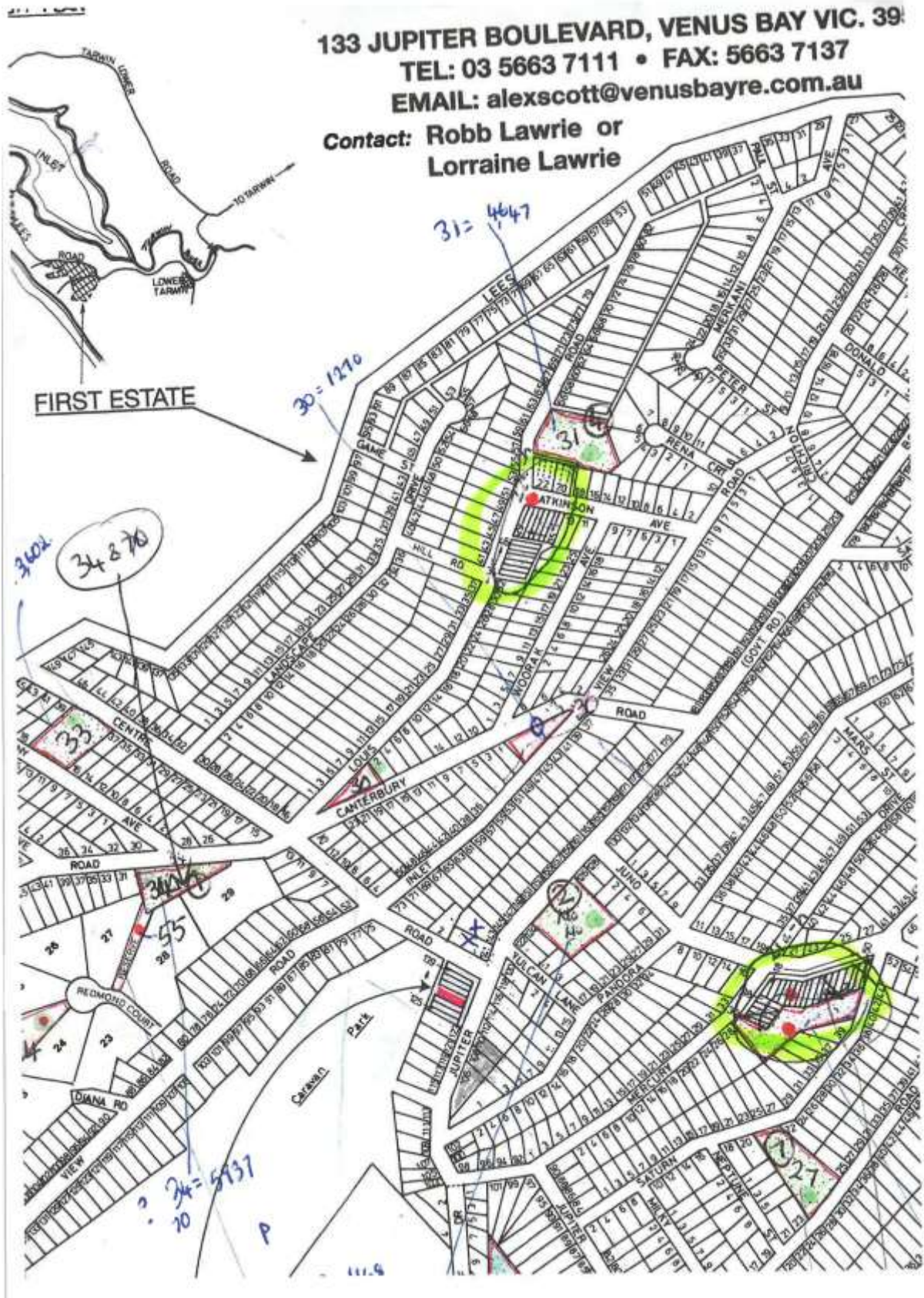


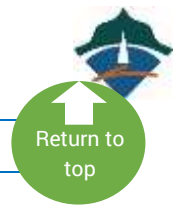
TABLE 1 (cont.) LOT DESCRIPTION

Lot #	Lot Description	Lot Area (sqm)	Lot Value (\$)	Lot Type	Lot Status	Lot Notes
75	10134/108 lot 5 PS312565	C	3,000	Venus Bay	TZ	
76	10134/109 lot 6 PS312565	C	5,000	Venus Bay	TZ	
77	10134/110 lot 7 PS312565	C	6,000	Venus Bay	TZ	
92	10394/467 pl lot 322 LP52661	C	3,000	Venus Bay	TZ	
61	10089/969 lot 323 LP52661	C	3,000	Venus Bay	TZ	
88	8362/325 lot 324 LP52661	C	3,000	Venus Bay	TZ	
90	8362/326 lot 325 LP52661	C	3,000	Venus Bay	TZ	
	LP52658					
	PT CA 10 R-936					
	PT CA 10 R-936					
30	9900/603 PS54172		15,000	Venus Bay	TZ	
87	8324/366 lot 979 LP54172	C	3,000	Venus Bay	TZ	
89	8324/227 lot 838 LP54172	C	3,000	Venus Bay	TZ	
91	8324/224 lot 835 LP54172	C	3,000	Venus Bay	TZ	
86	8324/365 lot 978 LP54172	C	35,000	Venus Bay	LDRZ	
70	10006/191 PS301541		3,000	Venus Bay	TZ	
62	10089/970 lot 834 LP54172	C	3,000	Venus Bay	TZ	
82	10202/986 lot 3 PS318675	C	2,000	Venus Bay	TZ	
83	10202/987 lot 4 PS318675	C	2,000	Venus Bay	TZ	

Tickets - 1000
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I understand that you are in consultation for the next budget for south Gippsland Shire, We have been talking to the roads and maintenance dept over the last 15 years about fixing the road at Balook Street Mirboo North, that's becoming worse and worse every year.

There is so much dust that this year we had to move away for 3 months from Jan to April as the dust is too much at times for my wife and 3 children who suffer from Asthma.

I have sent emails to the local counsellors and have minimal or no response to our pleas for assistance.

We are seeking an amendment to the budget to include funding for the maintenance upgrade of Balook Street, and not just dumping more dirt on it, as the recent rains at the end of March washed most of that down the road.

There needs to be something done, every resident needs to be able to enjoy the outside in spring and summer without being suffocated in dust every time someone drives down the road. We pay our rates and demand that something be done and not looked into or the rhetoric of if you want it you pay, it's a council road and you have an obligation to us rate payers to provide a service that keeps all the users and people living in the street safe.

The pictures above are cars going past at 30 km ph, the dust is even worse when the speed is higher. I have videos of the garbage truck going past and it's chokingly thick with dust. The dust in the pictures blankets inside and out of the house.

Regards

Patrick Finnigan



Submission 19 - Geraldine & Tony Conabere - Sealing of Savages Rd, Fish Creek

To whom it may concern

We would like to submit that Bell Seals for both ends of Savages Road, Fish Creek be included in the proposed SGSC budget. We have been writing to Council, specifically to Alan Landers from 12th January 2017, regarding the Bell Seals. Please see the following information.

Kind regards
Geraldine and Tony Conabere

From: Council

Date: Thursday, 15 December 2016 3:29 pm

To: Geraldine Wilson

Subject: RE: Bell Seal - Intersection of Waratah Road / Savages Road, Fish Creek - CRN 178271

Dear Geraldine and Tony

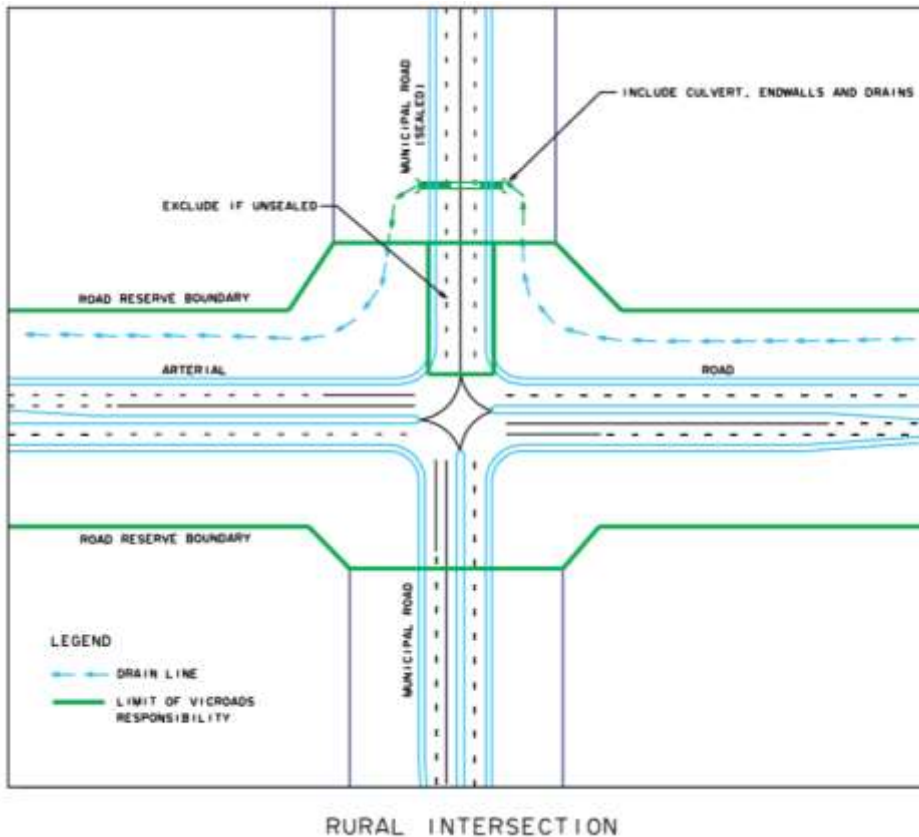
With regard to your enquiry about sealing of the first 50 metres of the unsealed section of Savages Road at its intersection with Waratah Road (a VicRoads arterial road) the responsibility for this falls to Council. This is in line with the "Operational Responsibilities for Public Roads Code of Practice" gazetted by the Victorian Government on 17 December 2004. Once this "Bell" area of an unsealed municipal road intersection with a VicRoads arterial road is sealed the responsibility for maintenance of these areas reverts to VicRoads in line with the Code of Practice. I have included an extract referring to rural intersections from the Code of Practice below for your information.

11. Rural Area – Intersections

- (1) **VicRoads performs the functions of a responsible road authority** with respect to the intersection of an arterial road with a municipal road within the limits of responsibility shown in Figure 6.
- (2) If the limits of responsibility are not able to be determined by reference to Figure 6, those limits shall be a line square to the entering roadway defined as the greater of –
 - (a) the limit of the property splay at the intersection;
 - (b) the limit of the longest splitter island;
 - (c) five (5) metres measured from the stop line.
- (3) The intersection includes:
 - (a) culverts under municipal roads that carry major road drainage, including upstream and downstream table drains;
 - (b) road markings, including painted chevrons (or painted islands) on the municipal road;
 - (c) all traffic signal hardware, including detector loops in municipal road pavements and pathways;
 - (d) slip lanes, acceleration and deceleration lanes, and roadway areas where detector loops are installed;
 - (e) any signs (eg. Statcon, traffic direction signs) that control the movement of traffic to and from the arterial road, being located on either the arterial road or intersecting municipal road;
 - (f) advance direction signs on the municipal road, and any advance warning signs on the municipal road that are directly related to the operation of the intersection with the arterial road; and
 - (g) all kerb and channel within the defined limits of VicRoads responsibility.
- (4) **Council performs the functions of a responsible road authority** with respect to the municipal road up to the limit of VicRoads responsibility shown in Figure 6.



Figure 6



In order to address the extent of Council’s responsibility for these unsealed “Bell” areas I am currently developing a prioritised list of all these types of intersections within the Shire. Once this is completed a program for sealing these “Bell” areas of unsealed municipal road intersections with VicRoads arterial roads will be developed enabling consideration for inclusion into Council’s future Capital Works Program on a priority basis. Some of the criteria used to prioritise bell sealing intersections will include traffic volumes of each road, accident history at the intersection, whether the unsealed road carries high volumes of heavy vehicles, if it is a school bus route, if it is a through road or not, the sight lines from the unsealed road, and the speed zone.

The sealing of the bell area of the Savages Road / Waratah Road intersections would involve a distance along Savages Road of about 38 metres, and an area of about 400 square metres, including the left turn splays. It is estimated that this would cost in the order of \$20,000.

Unfortunately, in the current funding environment, we are unable to provide funding for this type of works. Notwithstanding, a future program is under development in the anticipation that future funding will become available.

If you wish to discuss this matter further please contact me at Council.



24th April 2017

South Gippsland Shire
Private bag 4
Leongatha VIC 3953

Re: Proposed Annual Budget 2017-2018
Council Plan 2017-2021

Henrys Road Loch/Nyora

Following are details of correspondence from the South Gippsland Shire Council re the sealing of 3.5 kilometres of Henrys Road:

1. 20.3.10 "Currently Henrys Road is listed for 2013/14 in Council's draft Capital Works Program."
2. 21.5.12 "Council advises that this project remains funded in the proposed 4 year Capital Works Program for sealing between the South Gippsland Highway and Eagle Rise" in the 2014/15 financial year.
3. September 2012 Nyora & District Community News "Council's Chief Assets Manager, Alan Landers, has confirmed sealing of Henrys Road, scheduled for the 2014/15 financial year, will run from Grady Road(?) Nyora to the Henrys Road corner with Sanctuary Close."

BUT Henrys Road was not sealed.

In the proposed 2015/16 Budget summary, Henrys Road was deleted and replaced with North Poowong Road sealing. The sealing did not occur on that road. We were led to believe that the giant earthworm was threatened. And then sealing did occur on the Grand Ridge Road, a much needed project.

In the current Council Plan and Proposed Annual Budget 2017/2018 there is no mention of the sealing of Henrys Road. WHY?

The lack of safety of this road is extremely serious because:

1. There are many near misses.
2. Narrow pavement width
3. Dangerous corners
4. Lack of visibility with short sight lines
5. Incorrect camber – deep ridges in road surface – washaways across pavement
6. Blind sharp corner near entrance to South Gippsland Highway
7. The speed limit has not been lowered.
8. Loose gravel

The gravel section of Henrys Road has 18 houses and a further 8 on feeder roads. As well, there are the many residents who reside adjacent to the sealed section of Henrys Road and feeder roads in Nyora, who use the gravel section.

Are the programs : "Roads to Recovery" and "Black Spot" able to be used for the purpose of sealing, BEFORE SOMEONE IS KILLED?



Submission 21 - Owen Newman - Footpath on Balding St, Mirboo North

Chief Executive Officer
South Gippsland Shire,

I believe the shire needs to consider building a footpath on Balding street, Mirboo North with some of the funding for this years/next years budget. It is a narrow road that is used regularly by local traffic, including many trucks coming and going to the quarry in old thorpdale road. There are many pedestrians who use this road, including children and the elderly on mobility scooters, to access the park at the top of the street and shops beyond that. It is situated on a steep hill that provides poor visibility to vehicles and pedestrians going up and down it making it quite dangerous. I have witnessed the elderly local in his mobility scooter nearly being hit several times! Being a narrow road and poor nature strips on either side (some parts overgrown) there is limited ability for pedestrians to walk safely up and down the hill. I fear there will be an accident soon if an alternative is not given to pedestrians to get up and down this street.

Regards, Owen Newman



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Submission 22 - **Bob Hickman** - Art & Culture

To Whom it may concern,

After reading your Draft Council Plan I can only commend the Shire on its initiative to employ an Arts Officer and take seriously the economic benefits of the Arts in our region in terms of tourism, economics and general well-being.

May the Plan be the first step in re-invigorating our Shire as a place to visit, stay and live.

Yours Sincerely, Bob Hickman Artist/ Resident

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Submission 23 - **Anna Walter** - Art & Culture

Anna Walter

To
Chief Executive Officer
South Gippsland Shire Council
Private Bag 4
Leongatha, VIC 3953

Foster, 22-04-2017

Dear Sir,

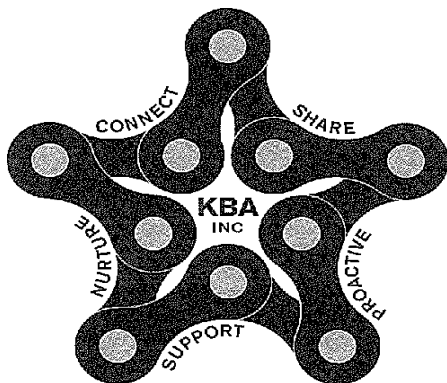
With interest I read through the Draft Council Plan and I would like to congratulate the Shire Council on their intent to support Art and Culture in a meaningful and substantial way for the future.

I remember when the Shire Council of South Gippsland was still located in the Foster Chambers, before the amalgamation, and vision for the arts motivated the Council in those days to build the Stockyard Gallery, around 1990. As a volunteer and strong supporter of Stockyard Gallery I see how important it is for the community to cultivate an interest in arts and to support it. An essential part of it is also to maintain and improve a gallery and arts space where artists feel comfortable and welcome to exhibit and sell their work and the community feels drawn to and invited to visit and be part of the arts scene in many different ways. Such a venue is also extremely valuable for visitors to the district, especially as our scenic coastline is much loved by tourists.

After a long waiting time it is just wonderful to see the Shire Council pick up the baton and follow this vision. I can see a promising future for "Arts in South Gippsland" and would like to express my encouragement to make these exciting plans become reality.

Sincerely,

Anna Walter



Korumburra Business Association Inc.
PO Box 78
Korumburra Vic 3950

President: Noelene Cosson
Secretary: Shirley Arestia
Treasurer: Trudi Mantell

Email: kbasecretaryconnect@gmail.com

20th April 2017

South Gippsland Shire
Private Bag 4
Leongatha Vic 3953

Dear Council

Submission on Proposed Budget

We were pleased to see the funds put forward to the Korumburra Revitalisation project which includes the review of the Town Centre Framework Plan, selecting a location for the Community Hub and landscaping design for the Railway. We would like to have more input into this as the review progresses and trust that there will be an opportunity to put our thoughts forward during the process.

We would like to express our concern that the Korumburra Streetscape project is still listed on the budget in 2020/21. We believe there is room to bring this project forward at least 12 months to 2019/20 financial year after the detailed design and costing is completed in 2017/18. We realise that this project will rely on significant government funding but bringing it forward will at least mean it is ready to go if a funding opportunity becomes available.

The current Branding review acknowledges Korumburra as the gateway to South Gippsland and the importance of giving a favourable impression as people enter the region. This on top of the safety issue that has been previously highlighted with the need for two lanes to become one at the top of Commercial street, the manoeuvring the dog leg by large trucks, the need for traffic calming along Commercial Street and the uneven paving all add to the reason why Council need to consider bringing forward this project.

Regards

Noelene Cosson

Noelene Cosson



President

Submission 25 - **Noelene Cosson** - Footpath to Korumburra Secondary College



South Gippsland Shire
Private Bag 4
Leongatha Vic 3953

Dear Council

Submission for Draft Budget

After spending some time looking through the Draft Budget which for the average person is not an easy task, I can not see where any funds have been allocated towards the upgrade of the Walking Track to the Korumburra Secondary College. This track is in desperate need of repair and is not only a track utilised by the students of the school but it is used by the general public for fitness all day every day.

Please consider allocating funds to this neglected Walking Track before you pass the budget for the coming financial year.

Kind regards

Noelene Cosson
Resident



24th April, 2017

Chief Executive Officer,
South Gippsland Shire Council,
Leongatha. Vic.

Dear Sir,

Korumburra Community Development and Action Inc. would like to contribute to the discussions regarding the proposed Shire Budget.

We note that there is no provision for walking tracks which we consider are an important feature of our town and worthy of the Shire's investment.

There are three which we would like to bring to your attention and request funding be allocated to them.

1. The footpath which goes along Jumbunna Road out to the Secondary College is desperately needing attention, especially the very low section outside Favas which gets flooded in winter. We realise this needs VicRoads input but would encourage the Shire's leading and support in getting this done.
2. The Skip Walking Track is a great addition to our town's attractions and would be worthy of inclusion in your deliberations.
3. The walking track which starts in Isabella Boulevard and goes over the hill to Hannah Rise is a vital link for school students going to the Secondary College and residents of Korumburra wanting to walk into Korumburra and those wanting some exercise.

All of these routes are well used for utilitarian and health reasons and would greatly benefit from the Shire's attention now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Syd Whyte,

President, KCDA Inc.



Submission 27 - **Mary-Ann Van Ballekom** - Korumburra Revitalisation Project



To: Chief Executive Officer, South Gippsland Shire Council

As a resident of the Town of Korumburra, I believe higher priority should be given to the Korumburra Town Centre Plan that includes the redevelopment of the Korumburra Streetscape and would request the South Gippsland Shire Council bring forward their plans and budget allocation to the 2018/2019 year instead of the 2020/2021 financial year.

Many plans have been developed and much consultation has been had. The time for action is now, not 3 year's time.

From: Mary-Ann van Ballekom

Submission 28 - **David Rasmus** - Korumburra Revitalisation Project



To: Chief Executive Officer, South Gippsland Shire Council

As a resident of the Town of Korumburra, I believe higher priority should be given to the Korumburra Town Centre Plan that includes the redevelopment of the Korumburra Streetscape and would request the South Gippsland Shire Council bring forward their plans and budget allocation to the 2018/2019 year instead of the 2020/2021 financial year.

Many expensive plans have been developed and too much consultation expense has been sunk into this just to be left on the shelf. The time for action is now, not 3 year's time.

From: David Rasmus

Submission 29a - **Dianne McCarthy** - Korumburra Revitalisation Project



As a resident of the town of Korumburra, I believe higher priority should be given to the Korumburra Town Centre Plan that Includes the Korumburra Streetscape and would request the South Gippsland Shire Council bring forward their plans and budget allocation to the 2018/2019 year instead of the 2020/2021 financial year.

Many plans have been developed and much consultation has been had. The time for action is now, not in 3 year's time.

From Dianne McCartney.

Submission 29b - **Dianne McCarthy** - Footpath to Korumburra Secondary College



As a resident of the town of Korumburra and one who uses the walking track along Jumbunna Road to the Korumburra Secondary College, I am very concerned about safety for residents and students using this path and would request the South Gippsland Shire Council to allocate funds in their upcoming budget to commence plans for the redevelopment of this walking track to ensure it is a solid, wide, all weather track that is not partially under water in wet weather.

From Dianne McCartney.



MILPARA COMMUNITY HOUSE INC.

21 Shellcot Road, Korumburra.
PO Box 136, Korumburra, 3950.
ABN 84 361 485 080
Web: www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au

Telephone: 5655 2524
Fax: 5658 1375
E-mail: milpara@dcsi.net.au

24 April 2017

Chief Executive Officer
Mr Tim Tamlin
South Gippsland Shire Council
Private Bag 4
Leongatha VIC 3953

Dear Mr Tamlin,

Re: Draft Council Budget 2017/2018

Milpara Community House is uniquely placed to receive feedback and comments from community members on matters of concern to this community.

Over 10,000 people visit the Community House annually, many are local members of the community.

Often comments are made about the imbalance of local government spending invested in the town and it is clear many people feel Korumburra is low down on the council's priorities list.

Feedback received is that, as a community, Korumburra is feeling very optimistic about its future, is highly engaged and moving ahead in many areas. Korumburra citizens contribute an extraordinarily high number of voluntary hours to make Korumburra a better place. Milpara alone to date has received over 2800 hours of volunteer support from 1/7/2016 to 31/3/2017.

Progressing plans now, not in 3 year's time, is integral to improving the town and its community facilities and keeping the momentum continuing. This enhances civic pride and community engagement, strengthens the social and economic underpinnings of the town and makes it better for everyone in our community.

With respect, Milpara Community House requests the South Gippsland Shire Council to reconsider the priority placed on projects such as Korumburra's Streetscape Plan (as part of the Town Centre Framework Plan and the Korumburra Revitalisation Project), bring forward the development and commencement of this project from 2020/21 to the 2018/2019 financial year and amend the budget allocation accordingly.

Yours sincerely,


Neil Coxon
President



Submission 31a - **Terry Waycott** - Korumburra Revitalisation Project

To: Chief Executive Officer, South Gippsland Shire Council

As a resident of the Town of Korumburra, I believe higher priority should be given to the Korumburra Town Centre Plan that includes the redevelopment of the Korumburra Streetscape and would request the South Gippsland Shire Council bring forward their plans and budget allocation to the 2018/2019 year instead of the 2020/2021 financial year.

Many plans have been developed and much consultation has been had. The time for action is now, not 3 years' time.

From: Terry Waycott

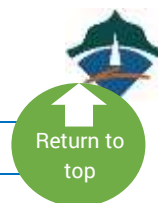


Submission 31b - **Terry Waycott** - Footpath to Korumburra Secondary College

To: Chief Executive Officer, South Gippsland Shire Council

As a resident of the Town of Korumburra and one who uses the walking track along Jumbunna Road to the Korumburra Secondary College, I am very concerned about safety for residents and students using this path and would request the South Gippsland Shire Council to allocate funds in their upcoming budget to commence plans for the redevelopment of this walking track as an urgent project.

From: Terry Waycott



Submission 32a - Jennifer Keerie - Korumburra Revitalisation Project

As a resident of Korumburra, someone who works in the town, and has young people growing up here and attending school, I am very keen to see Korumburra grow and prosper.

I work closely with community on many levels and am actively engaged in a number of projects for this town. I also get to meet many newcomers to the area and hear their comments as to what brought them to this location. The news is very positive and there is much hope for the future.

I am concerned that there has been little investment in this town on essential developments such as implementing the streetscape plan that has been 'in a planning phase' for a considerable period of time. To maintain the momentum of growth and optimism, it is essential that action be taken now, and not delayed for a further 3 years before something actually gets underway.

I believe a higher priority should be given to revitalising Korumburra, starting with the streetscape redevelopment and also believe that Council's investment in this town would have a positive flow on benefit to other areas in the Shire.

I would ask Council to reconsider the funding allocation in their 2018/2019 budget to include the commencement of the redevelopment of the Korumburra Streetscape.

Regards,
Jenni Keerie



Submission 32b - Jennifer Keerie - Footpath to Korumburra Secondary College

As a resident of Korumburra and a parent of students using the walking track along Jumbunna Road to attend the Korumburra Secondary College, I am very concerned about the safety of students and residents using this path.

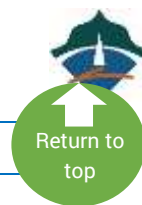
For people walking from Radovick Street to the secondary college, this path is the only option apart from walking on the verge of the road and not only is this inappropriate it is very dangerous. This is a very busy road being a major road to both Wonthaggi and Inverloch from Korumburra and especially at school times.

The path is not 'all weather' and often is water logged or under water in a number of places. The surface of the path is inconsistent, rough and potentially dangerous not only for school students but more particularly for elder members of the community.

I believe considerable improvement of this walking path should be considered as high priority and that funds should be allocated in the 2018/2019 budget to include these works.

I would ask Council to amend the 2018/2019 budget to allocate the required funds for the development of this walking path.

Regards,
Jenni Keerie



Submission 33 - Angie Bowen - Korumburra Revitalisation Project

Chief Executive Officer, South Gippsland Shire

As a resident of the town of Korumburra, I believe a higher priority should be given to the Korumburra town centre which includes the redevelopment of the Korumburra streetscape, this would encourage tourism and local residents to support local.

I would like to put a request to council... to bring forward their plans and budget allocation to 2018/2019 instead of the 2020 / 2021 financial year.

The town would benefit with action now, not in three years time. Also work in with the refurbishment of the Korumburra Station.

If more funding is required there are some great ideas we could implement from other popular tourist destinations.

for example a family funded pathway leading through the town, as in Merimbula.... encourage the bricks to be arty or humorous



set guide lines for maintaining the Korumburra profile, developers can only change the interiors of buildings...no demolishing of beautiful heritage buildings

otherwise Korumburra becomes a town like any other,

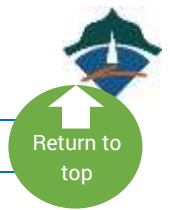
Where is there a theatre such as the Regent in Yarram ? Why don't we have musical stars visiting Korumburra ?

Adds to all our industries...visitors, cafes etc....

promote op shop tours...the op shops in Korumburra are amazing, work in with lunch at the Station, a market throughout the whole of Commercial St, along with live music...

time to stop...Korumburra is a very special town, great people with lots of enthusiasm for an even better town...

I love living here...thank you for reading...cheers Angie Bowen



PeeWee Lewis (Chair)
Korumburra Round Table
c/o Private Bag 4
Leongatha 3953

South Gippsland Shire Council

23.04.2017

To the Chief Executive Officer and Shire Councillors,

The Korumburra Round Table is writing to you in response to the Proposed 2017-18 Budget and 2017-21 Council Plan.

It is pleasing to see \$100,000 set aside for the Korumburra Revitalisation Project to include reviews of the Town Centre Framework Plan, selecting a location for a Community Hub and landscape design for the Railway Land.

However, the actual work to commence the Streetscape itself remains budgeted for the 2020/21 financial year – three years away.

The Korumburra Round Table would like to reiterate, as keenly stated in our live submission to Council on 15 March by Jenni Keerie and Tony Parisi, that as Korumburra is the first town visitors from Melbourne pass through when entering the Shire of South Gippsland, it is vitally important that action is taken *now* to revitalise Korumburra's declining physical amenity.

As a community, Korumburra is feeling very optimistic about its future. The Round Table has found, through lively discussions between the seventeen representatives at our monthly meetings, as well as through consultation on our newly released community directions statement, and through the ongoing dialogue with the community on our Facebook site and town app, that this town is highly engaged and moving ahead in so many areas, with citizens contributing extraordinarily high voluntary hours to make Korumburra a better place.

But we want the Shire behind us *now*, not in three years' time, to keep the momentum going and to make the revitalisation project - which comprises the town centre plan, the hub, and the railway land - a reality.

Some towns ask a lot of councils with nothing to back it up. We feel that Korumburra is asking, but with the runs on the board to justify our submission.

Please reconsider the timing of this vital project for Korumburra, and budget the project in the 2018-19 financial year.

Yours Sincerely,

The Korumburra Round Table.

PeeWee Lewis
Chair – Korumburra Round Table



Submission 34b - **Korumburra Round Table** - Footpath to Korumburra Secondary College



PeeWee Lewis (Chair)
Korumburra Round Table
c/o Private Bag 4
Leongatha 3953

South Gippsland Shire Council

23.04.17

To the Chief Executive Officer and Shire Councillors,

The members of the Korumburra Round Table are unanimous in their desire to see funds directed towards the upgrade of the very poorly maintained walking track along Jumbunna Road that connects the Korumburra Secondary College to the town. This track is utilised not only by the school students, but many residents use it as a walking track for exercise. It has been in desperate need of upgrading for some time. There appears to be no money put aside in the draft budget to address this issue, and we would like you to consider this important matter before the proposed budget is approved.

Regards

The Korumburra Round Table.

PeeWee Lewis
Chair – Korumburra Round Table



Submission 35 - **Giovanna Nobile** - Korumburra Revitalisation Project/Footpath to Korumburra Secondary College

To: *Chief Executive Officer, South Gippsland Shire Council*

As a resident of the Town of Korumburra, I believe higher priority should be given to the Korumburra Town Centre Plan that includes the Korumburra Streetscape and would request the South Gippsland Shire Council bring forward their plans and budget allocation to the 2018/2019 year instead of the 2020/2021 financial year.

Many plans have been developed and much consultation has been had. The time for action is now, not 3 year's time.

From: *Giovanna Nobile*

To: *Chief Executive Officer, South Gippsland Shire Council*

As a resident of the Town of Korumburra and one who uses the walking track along Jumbunna Road to the Korumburra Secondary College, I am very concerned about safety for residents and students using this path and would request the South Gippsland Shire Council to allocation funds in their upcoming budget to commence plans for the redevelopment of this walking track.

From: *Giovanna Nobile*



Submission 36 - **Scott Lawrence** - Korumburra Revitalisation Project/Footpath to Korumburra



To: Chief Executive Officer, South Gippsland Shire Council As a resident of the Town of Korumburra, I believe higher priority should be given to the Korumburra Town Centre Plan that includes the redevelopment of the Korumburra Streetscape and would request the South Gippsland Shire Council bring forward their plans and budget allocation to the 2018/2019 year instead of the 2020/2021 financial year.

Many plans have been developed and much consultation has been had. The time for action is now, not 3 year's time.

To: Chief Executive Officer, South Gippsland Shire Council As a resident of the Town of Korumburra and one who uses the walking track along Jumbunna Road to the Korumburra Secondary College, I am very concerned about safety for residents and students using this path and would request the South Gippsland Shire Council to allocate funds in their upcoming budget to commence plans for the redevelopment of this walking track as an urgent project.

Regards... Scott Lawrence



Submission 37a - **Jane Brocklesby** - Korumburra Revitalisation Project

Chief Executive Officer, South Gippsland Shire Council

As a resident of the district of Korumburra, I am very concerned about safety for residents and students using this path and would request the South Gippsland Shire Council to allocate funds in their upcoming budget to commence plans for the redevelopment of this walking track as an urgent project.

From: Jane Brocklesby



Submission 37b - **Jane Brocklesby** - Footpath to Korumburra Secondary College

To: Chief Executive Officer, South Gippsland Shire Council

As a resident of the district of Korumburra, I believe higher priority should be given to the Korumburra Town Centre Plan that includes the redevelopment of the Korumburra Streetscape and would request the South Gippsland Shire Council bring forward their plans and budget allocation to the 2018/2019 year instead of the 2020/2021 financial year.

Many plans have been developed and much consultation has been had. The time for action is now, not 3 years' time.

From: Jane Brocklesby



Submission 37c - **Jane Brocklesby** - Creative Industry

With the growth of digital technologies and robotics outpacing the manufacturing industries in Australia there is an opportunity for South Gippsland to develop a Creative Industries Cluster.

Given South Gippsland's proximity to Melbourne and its quality of life, more and more creative industries people could be attracted to living and working in the area.

I recommend that in view of State Government's initiative in developing growth in regional Victoria, Council facilitates the development of a Creative Industry strategy and the networking and the growth of a Creative Industry Cluster.

Kind regards,

Jane Brocklesby



Submission 38a - **Tony Parisi** - Branding of South Gippsland

I agree that the current Prom Country brand does not work for most of the shire. We need branding that draws attention to all the unique features that make up South Gippsland.

Kind regards
Tony Parisi



Submission 38b - **Tony Parisi** - Creative Industry

I support a Creative Industry network to help facilitate the growth of a Creative Industry Cluster in South Gippsland.

The development of co-worker spaces for incubation and growth of creative industries small businesses.

I support Facilitating the development of a creative Industry strategy and network; and facilitating the growth of a Creative Industry Cluster.

Kind regards
Tony Parisi



Submission 38c - **Tony Parisi** - Business Diversification

Hi

As a concerned resident in leongatha, in recent times I have observed a decline in businesses in not only Leongatha but also in Korumburra. No doubt this may also be happening in other towns where businesses are finding it increasingly difficult to stay open.

At the same time since moving to Leongatha in 2011 / 2012 I have observed the rise of arts related activity in towns such as Fish Creek and the number of Artists that now call Gippsland home.

Now to the problem as I see it. This in my opinion is, the lack of diversification in the economies of the towns with a reliance on the Dairy, Agricultural sectors still being the main drivers of available income in the economy of South Gippsland.

In my opinion this reliance on these two sectors needs to shift quickly if South Gippsland economy with growing communities is to be sustained.

With a growth in the number of artists now living in South Gippsland, this Cohort has the potential to now become a significant contributor to South Gippsland economy. "Facilitating the developing a Creative Industry strategy and network; and facilitating the growth of a Creative Industry Cluster" will assist in the diversification of South Gippslands economy and create exciting lively communities drawing more visitors and artists from outside South Gippsland to want to come to experiance and live.

Kind regards
Tony Parisi



Submission 39 - **Mark Alsop** - Creative Industry

[Return to top](#)

In reference to the Council's 4 Year Plan, I have read the "Creative Industry Cluster" document and support the recommendation of developing a Creative Industry Strategy and Network: and facilitating the growth of a Creative Industry Cluster as part of the "vision" for the growth and development in the Shire of South Gippsland.

Mark Alsop

Submission 40 - **Georgia Patton** - Creative Industry

[Return to top](#)

I support the creation of a Creative Industry network, facilitating the growth of a Creative Industry Cluster, development of co-worker spaces for incubation and growth of creative industries small businesses.

Thank you,

Georgia Patton



Submission 41 - Cheryl Denman - Rate System

To the Mayor of south Gippsland.

I was advised by the Mayor of South Gippsland that the Council are currently want community feed back re the budget etc. So I am here again to express my concerns about the current rates system that has been hurting so many in the community.

I understand the rate system was changed last rate revue. In the Council hardship policy, the Council "assume" that those with properties over(I think it was) \$250,00 could "afford" to shoulder more of the rate burden. As I am sure that there are few properties in South Gippsland with this low value the rate changes would serve in boosting its revenue. Council would not bring in changes that would not be of benefit.

Here's the problem with your "assumption". Most people have all their money invested in their homes and often with large debts to the banks. Others like myself experience huge devastating life changes and are left in a crippling situation. As my property is zoned rural as well as residential I was hit hard with huge increases in my rates which the Council clearly knows about.

I sincerely ask the council to re think and adjust the rate system so it is fair and just and to not "assume" people with homes over a very low thresh hold of \$250 can afford to carry the rate burden. This is simply "not so"!

I understand council has demands, but perhaps instead of look to its community for its additional revenue you could look at your spending, your budget, your pay rises and other areas of needless outgoings. You have food on the table, I struggle to do that and am trying very hard to generate some extra money to pay my rates. A huge burden inflicted upon me by Councils "assumption".

We all have budgets and I was managing mine really well until your crippling rate rises. I don't go out to dinner or movies, I can't afford it. I have no social life, I can't afford it, I have no where that I can cut back my out goings. Is it ok by Council that the rate charges are putting some in the community of having to seel their homes because they can't afford the ever rising taxes you impose on us? do you sleep well at night with your bellies full?

Please adjust the rates system so it is fair and stop "assuming"!

Sincerely

Cheryl Denman



Submission 42 - **Barry Gilbert** - Rate System

Attention: Chief Executive Officer
South Gippsland Shire

Please find attached my submission to the 2017/18 Council Budget.

I request to be heard at the Open Hearing meeting in the Council Chambers, Leongatha, at 10.45am, Wednesday 17 May 2017.

Yours sincerely,
Barry Gilbert



10 April 2017

Barry Gilbert

Mr Tamlin
Chief Executive Officer
South Gippsland Shire Council
9 Smith Street
LEONGATHA 3953

SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL RE PROPOSED 2017/18 BUDGET

Dear Sir,

I make this submission as a ratepayer in the South Gippsland Shire for nearly 20 years.

The Budget is based on revenue of which 61.2% is raised from rates and charges. The Differential Rating System adopted by the Shire is grossly inequitable for vacant land owners and levied at twice the General Residential rate and nearly twice the rate for Commercial and Industrial land.

The rates are:

General Residential:	0.546771%
Commercial:	0.574110%
Industrial:	0.574110%
Vacant Land:	1.093542%

1



The Vacant Land rate which applies to township and rural farm zones is nothing but a cash grab and a form of blackmail that forces owners to build houses on their land to have their rates reduced to the General Residential rate.

This Vacant Land rate as applied to small farming zone blocks is more inequitable as the owners do not receive any benefits or services from the Shire; even the roads are generally maintained by Vic Roads, nor can tax deductions be made for rates as for farming, commercial and industrial properties.

The Mornington Peninsula Shire is a comparable municipality with a mix of township, commercial, industrial and farmland where vacant land is levied at 20% above the General Rate; this is fairer, more acceptable and equitable.

I add further that Councils and Shires have no right to manipulate the development and economy of their municipalities by penalizing vacant land owners, especially in rural and farming zones. The vacant land rate can have the adverse effect of stalling development of residential development because of financial hardship to the owners.

Please find enclosed the following letters to the Opinions Column of the local Leongatha paper, The Star:

- (1) "Rates unfair" October 20, 2015 by Barry Gilbert.
- (2) "Pay or sell" February 23, 2016 by Ken Irwin.
- (3) "Rates relief plea" February 23, 2016 by Brad Lester.

These letters clearly demonstrate the need for rate relief for vacant land owners.



I believe that the Shire is in breach of the Local Government Charter, Part 1A Local Government Act.

Section 3C (2) states: "In seeking to achieve its primary objective, a council must have regard to the following facilitating objectives":

- (f) to ensure the equitable imposition of rates and charges; and
- (g) to ensure transparency and accountability in council decision making.

I request you as Chief Executive Officer to adjust the proposed Budget and change the "Vacant Land" rate to a maximum 120% of the General Residential rate to provide a fair and equitable levy in accordance with the Local Government Charter. If you do not accede to this request, please advise me why you think the vacant land rate is equitable.

I also request that I be heard in support of my submission at the Open Hearing meeting of Council, Council Chambers, Michael Place, Leongatha on Wednesday 17 May at 10.45 am.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Gilbert



OPINIONS

Letters to the Editor

Rates unfair

AN open letter to South Gippsland Shire Council regarding the vacant land rates.

I write to you as a vacant land owner in the shire and I am sure I represent many other land owners, wishing to show displeasure at the 200 per cent differential vacant land rate you have imposed for 2015-2016.

This is the highest rate you could impose under the Local Government Act 1989 with other property rates being: general, 100 per cent; farm, 70 per cent; commercial, 105 per cent; industrial,

105 per cent; and cultural and recreational land, 50 per cent.

The Local Government Charter, Part 1A Local Government Act, under Section 3C(1). Objectives of a council, states, "The primary objective of a council is to endeavor to achieve the best outcomes for the local community having regard to the long term and cumulative effects and decisions".

Section 3C (2) states, "In seeking to achieve its primary objective, a council must have regard to the following facilitating objectives":

(f) to ensure the equitable imposition of rates and charges; and

(g) to ensure transparency and accountability in council decision making.

Vacant land owners, many in rural farming areas, appear to be taking the burden of your rating strategy imposition although they do not use council facilities and services.

Even the roads in the rural zones are generally maintained by VicRoads at no cost to council.

I believe council has simply cash grabbed from captive ratepayers who may not wish to build a home on their land at this time.

This is really their democratic right and for many building in rural and farming zones, costs will be much higher as there are no council services such as sewerage, stormwater, reticulated water and electricity grids.

Builders and suppliers will also charge extra for deliveries and travel time.

I point this out because I believe you have imposed inequitable rates on vacant land contrary to the Local Government Charter.

I also believe rates raised by councils should be proportionate to the number of residents and that vacant land owners should not be given a penalty rate to encourage them to build, especially in farming zones.

Rural towns will expand naturally when it is economic to do so and what right have councils got to try and manipulate this

process.

**Barry Gilbert,
Nerrena landowner and
Walkerville homeowner.**

Show heart

I'M disgusted at the South Gippsland Shire Council's response to the dumping of a mattress on a vacant block (*The Star*, October 13).

Surely the council could overlook some cases and allow for the friendly works department workers to tow the mattress off their truck as they head back to base after finishing their shift?

**David Norton,
Wonthaggi.**

I can do better

REGARDING your front page story of October 13, "Junk Dump Anger".

Let's face it, a dumped bed is not an earth shattering event.

Your "Junk dump anger" headline was quite prosaic.

Given the significance of the story, may I suggest some better headlines: "Mattress mayhem" or "Dumped bed debacle", even "Incestuous sin".

**Dan Drummond,
Leongatha South.**

Editor's note: thanks for your creative suggestions Mr Drummond. The story was about more than just a dumped bed. It was about how South Gippsland Shire Council's policy not to collect rubbish (illegally disposed on vacant land) was effectively causing victims of crime and therefore

unfair. The victim faced a mattress in top of the car in transport. The policy anyone who rubbish for vacant block

FI
FIRE ignites temporary little about mer fires, is huge of Vic
My exp over 18 yrs dams of Vic of South Gip Society, Inc

I was with Helen and Jo McIndigenous which late Helen McFriends of Inc.

Fire be recognitions 'our best fit they have 1 time they b out.

The Pre and 1 Environment Department verity stat people ref 'water' tray underground
Our sex for our Fir near her's incendiaries

The Star
GREAT SOUTHERN
EDITORIAL

Minds must be put at ease

THE news Mirboo North is not at risk of becoming the site of a black coal mine is cause for relief.

More than 200 people were told Mantle Mining has no intention of building a coal mine in the area, when managing director Ian Kraemer addressed a public meeting at Mirboo North on Sunday.

He told the crowd the company needed to obtain an exploration licence over the town to merely allow it to ascertain the viability of mining black coal in the Latrobe Valley.

The Mirboo North community has been fighting long and hard against the prospect of such a mine, in addition to running a strong community campaign against coal seam gas as well.

While many people remain sceptical of Mantle Mining's claims, the community can be rest assured in knowing Mantle Mining's pledge not to mine is now on the public record.

But the question does remain why Mantle Mining did not declare its intentions earlier, given the considerable angst the prospect of a mine was causing to the community.

This raises cynicism the company could have initially been considering to build a mine if black coal mine reserves were adequate or at least was ensuring the door to this option remained open.

Lack of information and communication throughout the entire coal seam gas process has heightened community alarm to the point where governments and prospective mines know full well the community does not welcome mining.

At the same time, and more importantly, poor lines of communication have caused perhaps undue stress to those people who face coal seam gas on their doorsteps.

Communities need to be kept better informed of the likelihood of coal seam gas and coal mining in their backyards and whether or not it will affect them.

Most people are simply relying on information distributed by anti-coal seam gas lobby groups and while no doubt this information is accurate, the lack of engagement by authorities only adds to levels of suspicion in the community.

Gippsland South M.L.A. Danny O'Brien has commented numerous times South Gippsland is unlikely to have commercially viable reserves of coal seam gas but that is as far as official lines (as official as an Opposition MP can be) of communication have gone.

It's time for the State Government and mining companies to end the anxiety-rising high in our community and tell us, once and for all, if coal seam gas will eventually or not in South Gippsland.

Letters guidelines

VOXPOP

Why do you think ice is such a big i



"It is a social problem in our community. It has a lot to do with young people feeling



"It is too easy for the young ones to get. I can't work out why they would want to put that



"It is daa and kids who highly add

Rates relief plea



By Brad Lester

VACANT landowners are being charged too much for rates in South Gippsland Shire Council, according to Korumburra ratepayer Paul Richardson.

Mr Richardson told council as much at last Wednesday's public presentation session.

He told *The Star* he and his wife Frances plan to build a home on their 2.44 acre block but could not afford to do so now, but were still being charged council rates of \$2090 this financial year.

Vacant land owners pay 200 per cent of the residential rate in the shire.

He is calling for rates to be charged on site value alone, not cap-

Financial pressure: Korumburra ratepayer Paul Richardson believes owners of vacant land are paying excessive rates in South Gippsland Shire.

ital improved value, believing that would result in cheaper rates for all ratepayers.

"Council does not take into consideration the income these property owners bring in. They are not rich people," Mr Richardson said.

In the 28 years he has owned the block, Mr Richardson said he has not received kerbside rubbish collection and yet his rates bill was taking its toll.

"This financial year, we are looking at between nine and 10 payments, and we might have to seek to go on the hardship policy because if they keep putting the rates up, how are we going to afford it?" he said.

His block has sheds, gardens and paddocks, and seven sheep he said were "lawnmowers".

"It's not that I don't want to pay the rates. We are happy to pay them if they are affordable," Mr Richardson said.

not said. He has previously served as a councilor with the City of Casey, where he lives at Endeavour Hills, and could run for council there again when the election is held in October this year.

He will not stand for South Gippsland council, given he is not a permanent resident, although he would like to be.

"I love this place and this is the place where I want to die and have my ashes thrown across the winds," Mr Richardson said.

After Mr Richardson addressed council last Wednesday, mayor Cr Bob Newton said a land waste service was available.

Cr Nigel Hitchinson-Brooks said he believed council's valuation staff were accurate in their valuations for rating purposes.

Paul Richardson believes owners of vacant land are paying excessive rates in South Gippsland Shire.

Volunteers call for help

MIRBOO North may be served by a community development worker to advance longstanding projects in the town. Members of the town's peak progress group, Mirboo Country Development Inc, asked South Gippsland

Shire Council to support the appointment of such a worker, by embedding the officer within council's community strengthening department.

The group hopes the role would be funded largely by the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation, and would be a break. Had the officer

been appointed by now, Ms Lyon said the festival could have continued this year.

The officer could also oversee the development of an energy hub in town involving around 1000 solar panels and other projects.

Mirboo Country Development

Godfreys or The Good Guys?

By Taryn Giles

RUMOURS abounded last week in Leongatha indicating Godfreys or The Good Guys were eyeing off the renovated Knight's Garage showroom in Bair Street.

Once Tony Westaway did confirm

of buildings vacant in town at the moment these companies often called the shots in the hope the blocks would be a hot to sell, sure, but at almost any cost.

Mr Westaway also said, despite rumours indicating he had refused to allow companies to paint signs all over the garage facade, this was untrue. Rather the terms of the agreement just had not "folded up".

The high number of shop vacancies





Dear Ray

I am dependent upon local newspaper for information about Council. I have been impressed by the new Council up until viewing proposal for differential rates in 2017/2018. Differential Rating should be used to support implementation of Council Plan.

Are you sure that the differentials as proposed will achieve this?

General Rate. Using \$250000 from the published schedule rates for a residence are \$1366.93. For a vacant residential block with a CIV value of say \$125000 rates will be \$1366.93. Some of these vacant blocks will be held by people trying to enter the housing market even though Council may be trying to discourage land banking. The other point to be considered is that when a residence is constructed then the first \$250000 of CIV will be discounted before any additional revenue accrues for Council.

Industrial/Commercial. Newspaper reports have had a lot to say about vacant shops and how difficult retail is. Also how important it is for Council to support small business and economic development. Like farming commercial and industrial provide employment and are the main drivers of economic development. The 5% surcharge has a small impact upon overall Council revenue but as a goodwill gesture the rating might be the same as proposed for general rate.

Farm Rate. Rates are a major farm cost and most people would agree that welfare of the whole community is very dependent on farming. With dairying is likely to be depressed for some time it should be possible to consider reducing the 70% differential. If you reduce this category then someone else has to pay. My guess is that year on year revenue from General Rates will have increased so that with minor adjustment to the general rate you could provide funding sufficient to reduce the farm differential below 70%. The other obvious source would be to review the Rural Residential Differential.

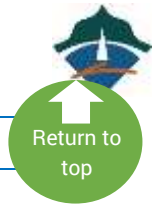
Rural Residential. I assume that this differential applies to small area nonfarm properties outside the various townships. If so then these are really lifestyle residential properties being treated as if they are a protected species. Some of these properties probably meet the definition of Farm Land pursuant to the Valuation of Land Act in which case they would qualify for the farm differential and which in some cases can cause administrative difficulties. Otherwise how could they possibly be eligible for a differential less than that for residential, commercial and industrial properties?

Vacant Land. A 100% surcharge upon vacant land seems to be very inequitable. My view is that no differential should exceed 100%. It probably relates to land banking but gives the appearance of a very blunt tool. It might be possible to mount an argument with respect to some vacant land but not in a blanket form. More important is that if you wish to have local people develop land for urban development then holding charges need to be kept to a minimum not a maximum. A lack of population density is often raised as a problem for rural municipalities so Council has a responsibility to ensure that each township and coastal village has a surplus of suitable land available for development. This is consistent with what the Commonwealth is saying in relation to housing. You need to be removing obstacles not creating them.

That is probably enough from me. Thank you for your time.

Regards

Keith Brydon



Submission 44 - **Steve Finlay** - Rate System

I was not aware I needed a previous submission to speak on for May 17th, thought I could just speak. I called in to the council offices on the 26th to discuss this but no one was available to talk to. Also I am waiting on a response to my email to the council sent on April 10th.

Headings for my submission will be-

Comparison of rates with adjoining councils.

The (2%) rate rise cap.

Issues raised/responses to email from April 10.

I look forward to a booking time for May 17,

Thanks

Steve Finlay



South Gippsland
Shire Council

28 April 2017

Mr Steve Finlay



Dear Steve

Questions Arising from Council Agenda - 22 March 2017
Item 5.1. 2017/2018 PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET (p31-32)

Thank you for your email dated 10 April 2017 and your questions on various projects as part of the proposed 2017/18 Annual Budget.

We have taken time to thoroughly review and provide you with advice on each of the items you raise. If there is anything that requires further explanation or is unclear, please don't hesitate to contact Council.

RSL/Carinos

- 1. \$25,000 preliminary investigation, is this for consultants?**
The budget will be used for any costs associated with legal fees, surveying, and feasibility studies associated with the preliminary investigations.
- 2. \$400,000 relocation costs for 40 staff, is this correct. \$10,000 per person?**
If the land swap with the RSL proceeds, Council will need to relocate staff from 6-12 Smith Street, Leongatha. This may include purchasing portable buildings or fitting out alternative premises. The budget is based on other similar office accommodation moves at Council.
- 3. \$5m Capital expenditure, I assume this is some additional cost, what is it for, could it be accurate?**
If the land swap with the RSL proceeds, this capital expenditure item is for costs associated with construction of a new library / community hub / office relocation. The office relocation is a separate exercise to the budgeted amount of \$400,000 detailed in item 2 above.

9 Smith Street (Private Bag 4) Leongatha 3953 – DX 94026 Leongatha
Telephone: (03) 5662 9200 Facsimile: (03) 5662 3754
Email: council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au Website: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au



Great Southern Rail Trail Project

4. *2017 design and feasibility, is this for consultants?*

The 2017 monies for design and feasibility will predominantly be spent internally however, Council may need to engage consultants to investigate and/or design certain aspects. These include structural assessments of all existing bridges and major culverts, some feature survey work will be required (by a surveyor), geotechnical investigation will need to be undertaken in order to adequately design the new bridges etc.

5. *2019-2021 \$6 million expenditure for construction? Can you explain \$4 million income?*

The \$4m income would be grant funding from either State or Federal governments.

Korumburra Revitalisation Project

6. *\$100,000, is this for consultants?*

The Korumburra Revitalisation Project (KRP) builds on the recommendations of the Town Centre Framework Plan and recently completed Streetscape Master Plan. The KRP will investigate siting options for the location of a proposed Community Hub and identify options for public land holdings in the town centre area including the former rail yards. The funding is required for specialist landscape design consultants (particularly for the railway land), traffic consultants (to investigate traffic movement changes resulting from any new proposed land uses), economic consultants to investigate maximising returns to the local economy and other consultants as determined required as the project proceeds.

Equestrian/Expo Centre

7. *\$90,000, is this for consultants, is this a private undertaking or is it to be a council owned facility, hence the \$1.8 million expenditure?*

The centre will not be owned by Council as it is on Crown land. The monies will be spent on detailed design and construction drawings, which will be undertaken by registered building practitioners (consultants).



SPLASH Construction

8. *What is happening there?*

This is for construction of a hydrotherapy pool and gym/dry program area.

Arts Strategy

9. *\$100,000 Arts and Culture Strategy, how is this to be spent?*

Council has committed to supporting the development of art, culture, and creative industries across South Gippsland. In order to provide support effectively, Council has directed that a comprehensive four year Arts Strategy be developed to realise the outcomes established in the recently adopted [C03 Arts and Culture Policy](#).

Effective implementation of the Arts Strategy will require an increase in resourcing and an ongoing staff commitment from existing teams, in particular Community Strengthening and Economic Development and Tourism. Therefore, an allocation of \$100,000 is proposed to engage an Arts and Events Officer to assist with delivering the actions contained within the Arts Policy and the newly developed South Gippsland Art, Culture, and Creative Industry Strategy 2017-2021.

A small proportion of this budget is to support specific initiatives such as the development of a 'Public Art Register' and to help leverage external resources such as funds allocated by Creative Victoria through the State Government's Creative State Strategy.

The South Gippsland Art, Culture, and Creative Industry Strategy 2017-2021 is being tabled at the 24 May 2017 Ordinary Council Meeting for Council's consideration and adoption. This document will be available in the Council Agenda from 10 May 2017 on [Council's website](#).

Thank you for taking the time to write to Council. If we can assist you further, please contact Council on (03) 5662 9200 or email council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Seabrook
Director Sustainable Communities and Infrastructure

cc. All Councillors



Name: Gus Blaauw

On behalf of the South Gippsland Action Group

Submission

Proposed Budget 2017/18

PAGES 17 to Page 40

2 Services and Service Performance Indicators

The services, major initiatives, initiatives and service performance indicators for each Service Area are described on the following pages:

Page 19

Development Services Management

The Development Services Management unit is accountable for ensuring that Council's objectives for the Development Services Directorate are achieved through the following Departments:

Expenditure \$000 \$ 587

(Revenue \$000) (\$ 0)

Net Cost \$000 \$ 587

Comment 1.

Expenditure, Revenue and Net Costs must explain how these values fit in the overall financial expenditure by relating to the

This must relate to: by type of expenditure, to departments which must relate to the employee establishment in both numbers (Maybe FTE) and also \$ values.

Note: the same applies to all Pages from 17 to 39

Comment 2.

2.6 Reconciliation with Budgeted Operating Result - Page 40



This ‘Reconciliation’ does not reconcile properly with the 3.1 BUDGETED COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT on Page 42. And this must be corrected.

Comment 3.

3.1 BUDGETED COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT on Page 42.

This statement must be presented by detailing the one item lines as currently shown. By many more lines representing expenditure types. Expanding the statement and by providing separate explanations (similar to the notes to the accounts but much better detailed than provided by Council in this area).

This must take precedent over the poorly articulated and also poorly presented \$ values which both detail nothing, provide no substance, and “hang in midair” meaningless and useless.



Name: Gus Blaauw

On behalf of the South Gippsland Action Group

Submission

Proposed Budget 2017/18

PAGES 17 to Page 40

2 Services and Service Performance Indicators

Comment 1

**This Section should have the full organisation chart included as detailed here:
Parts of this structure can be used in other sections which may be reconciled in
full or in part to this total**

Organisational Structure

Councillors

	Number Positions	FTE Positions
Chief Executive Officer	1	
Director 1A	1	
		<u>Department D1</u>
		Position 1
	1	
		Position 2
	1	
		<u>Department D2</u>
		Position 1
	2	
		Position 2
	3	
Manager 1B	1	
		<u>Department D3</u>
		Position 1
	3	
		Position 2
	4	



		<u>Department</u>		
		<u>D4</u>		
		Position 1	2	
		Position 2	5	
	Total		<hr/>	16.4
Director 2A			1	
	Manager 2B		1	
		<u>Department</u>		
		<u>D5</u>		
		Position 1	2	
		Position 2	4	
		Position 3	12	
		Position 4	21	
		Position 5	23	
		<u>Department</u>		
		<u>D6</u>		
		Position 1	2	
		Position 2	12	
		<u>Department</u>		
		<u>D7</u>		
		Position 1	4	
		Position 2	9	
		Position 3	15	
		Position 4	17	
	Total		<hr/>	96.7
Director 3A			1	
	Manager 3B		1	
		<u>Department</u>		
		<u>D8</u>		
		Position 1	3	
		Position 2	15	
		<u>Department</u>		
		<u>D9</u>		
		Position 1	17	
		Position 2	19	
		Position 3	23	
	Total		<hr/>	60.8
Director 4A				
	Manager 4B			



	<u>Department D10</u>		
	Position 1	13	
	Position 2	27	
	<u>Department D11</u>		
	Position 1	11	
	<u>Department D12</u>		
	Position 1	31	
	Position 2	22	
	Total	104	91.8
	<u>Total General</u>	<u>330</u>	<u>265.7</u>

PAGES 17 to Page 40

2 Services and Service Performance Indicators

Comment 2.

This section sets out the structure of the Directorates and their Departments in a confusing and difficult to understand manner.

I would suggest the following structure, in accordance with the above Organisational Structure may be more informative.

Office of the CEO

Department 1X

Director

` Manager

Other - FTE

Expenditure –

Salaries and Wages - Gross

Transfer to Capital

Salaries and Wages - Net

Expenditure - yyyyyyy

Expenditure - yyyyyyy

Expenditure - yyyyyyy

Sub-total



Expenditure - yyyyyyy

Expenditure - yyyyyyy

Sub-total

Expenditure - yyyyyyy

Expenditure - yyyyyyy

Sub-total

Total Department 1W (should also be on the P&L Statement)

ETC ETC

The same structure should be followed for all all departments and the whole of the Council Expenditure as per P& L Statement.

All other required information details can follow these employee and expenditure details for each directorate and their departments.

Total Expenditure at the conclusion. This Expenditure also on the P&L Statement in order to be reconciled with the total.

Department

Department

Directorate 1A

Department

Department

Department

Directorate 1B

Department

Department

Department

Directorate 1C

Department

Department

Department

Department

Directorate 1D

Department

Department

Department

Department



Name: Gus Blauuw

On behalf of the South Gippsland Action Group

Submission No 3

Proposed Budget 2017/18

PAGE 42

3.1 BUDGETED COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT

Comment 1

This Income and Expense statement lacks detail, is actually consolidated, and cannot be regarded as ‘comprehensive’.

This Proposed Budget is not subject to official audits and I assume it therefore lacks a set of detailed explanations such as ‘notes to the accounts’ accompanying the yearly actual statements. However, I am also very critical of these ‘notes to the accounts’ because they should provide much more than is at present. Unfortunately they include variances to budgets.

These variances to budgets are useless, explain very little and if they must be included due to state government legislation, they should be addressed separately.

The current ‘notes to the accounts’ must be much more detailed than is presented currently and must be reconciled to the individual actual \$ amount of the P&L statement.

The Income and Expense statement encapsulates much of the activities of the Council and is therefore a crucial document reflecting much of the need for income (rates, grants) and how that is expended.

Therefore this document in particular, but also others in this section, should be given much more prominence and much more details should be provided than is currently available.

Please note the Budget Income and Expense Statement provided hereby is only a basic example of what may be provided. Obviously, if comprehensive and detailed explanations would be provided separately, this Statement may not be necessary in a detailed format or indeed in a more consolidated form.



BUDGET 2017-18
Comprehensive Income and Expense
Statement

	P&L Forecast <u>2016-17</u>	P&L Proposed <u>2017-18</u>	P&L F'cast <u>2018-19</u>	P&L F'cast <u>2019-20</u>	P&L F'cast <u>2020-21</u>
<u>Income</u>					
Rates & Charges	39,962	40,935	42,031	43,153	44,304
Stat User Fees & Fines	607	618	622	630	650
User Fees	4,042	4,163	4,444	4,612	4,838
Contributions - Cash	462	66	67	68	571
Grants - Operating	12,826	12,149	11,851	14,925	14,239
Grants - Cash	9,915	6,395	1,872	3,763	3,980
Contributions - Non Monetary	379	479	387	395	404
Gain-(Loss) Asset Disposals	104	(329)	(257)	(276)	(397)
<u>Other Income</u>	<u>2,437</u>	<u>2,388</u>	<u>2,374</u>	<u>2,414</u>	<u>2,456</u>
Total Operating Revenue	70,734	66,864	63,391	69,684	71,045
 <u>Expenditure</u>					
<u>Employee Costs</u>					
Wages & Salaries					
Casual Staff					
Provision - Annual Leave					
Provision - LSL					
Provision - Superannuation					
Provision - Work Cover					
<u>Provision - FBT</u>					
Sub-total Employee Costs	25,218	25,766	26,177	26,792	27,453
<u>Transfers to Capital</u>	<u>(1,321)</u>	<u>(1,338)</u>	<u>(1,284)</u>	<u>(1,294)</u>	<u>(1,326)</u>
Total Employee Costs	23,897	24,428	24,893	25,498	26,127
Bad & Doubtful Debts	1	1	1	1	1
Borrowing Costs	142	142	142	59	-
Depreciation	11,209	11,884	12,491	13,113	13,873



Materials & Services

Advertising & Promotions

Consultants

Contractors - Labour Hire

Contractors - General

Great Southern Rail Trail

Insurances

Leases

Levies - State

Leisure Centres - Caravan

Parks

Leisure Centres - Other

Legal Fees

Materials - Clasification A

Materials - Clasification B

Materials - Clasification C

Mobile Equipment -

Registrations

Mobile Equipment - R&M

**Mobile Equipment - Fuel
& Oil**

Motor Vehicles -

Registrations

Motor Vehicles - R&M

**Motor Vehicles - Fuel &
Oil**

Other Equipment - R&M

**Other Equipment - Fuel &
Oil**

Provision - Landfills

Provision -

Provision -

Software Maintenance

Staff Training

Utilities

Waste Management

Total Materials & Services	23,958	21,130	18,532	23,780	22,707
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Other Expenses

Auditors - Internal	70	74	78	85	90
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Auditors - External	40	43	46	49	52
Bank Fees & Charges	256	274	283	294	299
Community & Sporting Grants	991	1,279	1,634	1,426	1,121
Councillor's Allowances	286	288	300	327	340
<u>Library</u>	<u>1,267</u>	<u>1,255</u>	<u>1,345</u>	<u>1,378</u>	<u>1,421</u>
Total Other Expenses	2,910	3,213	3,686	3,559	3,323
Total Operating Expenses	62,117	64,011	63,431	69,569	69,354
Surplus/Deficit for Year	8,617	2,853	(40)	115	1,691
Asset Revaluation	=	<u>25,655</u>	=	<u>27,526</u>	=
Total Comprehensive Result	8,617	28,508	(40)	27,641	1,691

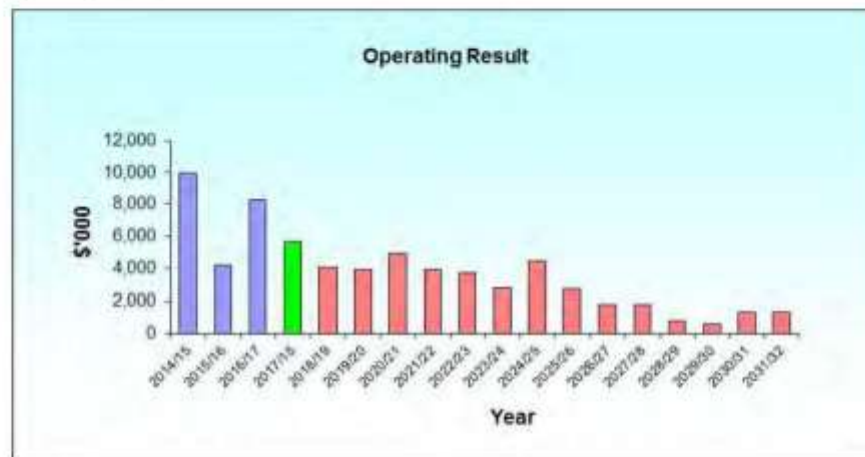


SGAG Budget Submission:

The South Gippsland Action Group has been nobbled in its attempt to make a reasoned submission to the Budget process due to the Council administration avoiding the provision of requested financial data prior to the due date for Budget submissions. Accordingly we reserve the right to address these issues at the May 17 Public Hearings.

1. Rate Capping and Forwards Financial Position:

Operating result



The above graph taken from page 5 of the Budget clearly shows that the forward trend for Councils financial position under the rate capping regime and this Councils inability to tackle the expenditure issues is heading in the wrong direction.

Council have identified in the Budget documents that Wage Expenditure growth is still substantial even if the employee establishment remains consistent. It also records that the Roads and bridges Construction index is increasing at 2.4% and that all the indices are likely increasing at greater than the Rate cap of 2%. There is also mention that Grants income will be less.

Council have sat on their hands and avoided tackling the hard issues. It appears the Council and Administration are hoping that rate capping will be lifted in a couple of years so that the can continue to be ostriches and ignore the financial constrictions.

The captured quote from Page 9 and 10 show that the Shire will have an **underlying loss** for the coming year of \$1.17M and that the surplus shown in the above graph is actually hiding the worsening picture.



A detailed Long Term Financial Plan for the years 2017/18 to 2031/32 has been developed to assist Council in adopting an annual budget within a longer term prudent financial framework. The key objective of the Plan is to achieve financial sustainability in the medium to long term, whilst still achieving the Council's strategic objectives as specified in the Council Plan. When capital funding (\$6.40m) and donated / granted assets (\$479,000) are backed out of the operating result (\$5.71m

9

surplus) the underlying result (net result not including capital funding sources) for 2017/18 is projected to be a \$1.17m underlying deficit.

The Council Budget presents all sorts of graphs which generally tend to confuse people and hide the real issues. The following line from Page 10 shows that the underlying position for the Budget heads into a medium risk situation – ie. Yellow coloured boxes.

2017/18 Proposed Budget	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	
Financial performance																
Underlying result		1.9%	1.8%	1.8%	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%	1.9%	1.2%	1.2%	1.8%	1.2%	1.9%	2.6%	2.8%	1.9%

The Budget suggests this will be managed by "Productivity Improvements". There are no indications what program is being pursued to achieve these any such improvements or what targets are in place – just airy words with no justification – we are on a whim and prayer that we end in a safe position.

For the following six financial years in the forward plan the underlying result trends into and remains in the green zone (2019/20 excepted). In the later years it trends down into the yellow cautionary zone. Council is managing this issue by allowing any future years' productivity gains to flow through to the bottom line in the later years, so as to strategically begin addressing the downward trend in the forecast underlying operating results.

That is not good budgeting. The administration is trying to make it look better that it is. The Budget limply notes that Council –

has somewhat limited financial capacity to accommodate unforeseen strategic opportunities or unavoidable cost events that may arise in the immediate years.

We note that the Budget avoids the issue of substantial wage increases arising from a new enterprise bargaining agreement and there is no obvious reference to changes in Workers Compensation positions. Those figures are only available by reviewing Quarterly financial statements. The last of those showed a deteriorating performance. We will get a shuffle of the results in the next Budget with words to the effect that these changes were unexpected hence the



Budget position is worse. In actual fact this Council has ignored the tightening financial position and not planned accordingly.

2. The Budget is the Council Plan and the Council Plan is the Budget.

The Budget is clear on this linkage as the following excerpt indicates.

1 Link to Council Plan

This section describes how the Annual Budget links to the achievement of the Council Plan within an overall planning framework. This framework guides the Council in identifying community needs and aspirations over the long term (Key Strategies and Planning Documents and the Long Term Financial Plan), medium term (four year Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan) and short term (Annual Budget) and then holding itself accountable (Quarterly Performance Reports, Annual Report and Local Government Performance Reporting Framework).

However the Budget document carries a whole swag of pages of general waffle but no detail on the proposed works which are included in the costings. Most of the waffle is in the Council plan and does not need repeating. We do need to be able to see the proposed works and business plans that have put costs into the Budget.

- 3 Inequitable Distribution of Spending

Because the listing of plan items is not clearly evident in the Budget it is difficult for residents to assess how the expenditure is distributed. These details need to be more accurately presented in the budget.

Within the Council plan there is provision for a "Leongatha South sports field and change rooms" of several million dollars. These have been described as the Athletics and Soccer fields. We note recent paper reports that Council has committed to funding assistance for oval lighting at Mary Mac College for the soccer club. Does this suggest that for the foreseeable future the current arrangements are adequate for the community. We also note that the land for the Leongatha South proposal has not even been presented to Council for subdivision and there is no title or possibility of acquiring this land. It would therefore seem that Council is way premature with making a Budget allocation for such assets. We believe these can be removed from the Budget.

We also point out that when land immediately north of the Leongatha recreation reserve became available and could have been purchased that this Council declined because it did not fit the Budget aim of "Leongatha South". There was no attempt to review and see if the land then available would have produced a better financial outcome and given sports a home in a much shorter time span. Now these sports are locked into a "never ever" dream. It is possible that Council could still acquire that land adjacent the reserve and the recent sale price at least sets the benchmark for a purchase price. The business case needs to be considered for these options.



4. Service and Performance Indicators

Council refers to these in the Budget but the indicators listed are meaningless and serve no purpose other than as an historic note. Council as noted above has hinted at “productivity improvements” and these performance measures should be directed at achieving some change. The excerpt notes these measures and the fact that they need reporting and hence should be important tools in the Budget.

2 Services and Service Performance Indicators

This section provides a description of the services and initiatives to be funded in the Budget for the 2017-18 year and how these will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives outlined in the Council Plan. It also describes a number of major initiatives, initiatives and service performance outcome indicators for key areas of Council’s operations. Council is required by legislation to identify major initiatives, initiatives and service performance outcome indicators in the Budget and report against them in their Annual Report to support transparency and accountability. The relationship between these accountability requirements in the Council Plan, the Budget and the Annual Report is shown below:

An example of the indicators which are measures of historical data but not really performance indicators is a similar extract from the Budget.

Local Government Service Performance Reporting Indicators - Audited			
Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Libraries (Community Services)	Participation	Active library members (Percentage of the municipal population that are active library members)	[Number of active library members / municipal population] x100
Aquatic Facilities (Sustainable Communities)	Utilisation	Utilisation of aquatic facilities (Number of visits to aquatic facilities per head of municipal population)	[Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population] x100

These indicators will not lead to any improvements in the Shire position. There is indication as to whether we should expect to see more people use the computers or say more people borrow books at the library. The measures do not drive change.

Similarly with the pool data. There is no indication whether the pools made budget or cost more to run or even whether there is an upcoming maintenance issue. The measures are not performance indicators. The excerpt below is a similar situation but applying to the roads area.



Roads (Operations)	Satisfaction	Satisfaction with sealed local roads (Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads)	Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads.
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This is not a useful measure. Obviously if we were to seal all roads people would probably be happy but we would be bankrupt. The measures do not force Council to consider how they operate or to make savings. For instance Council has a works base at Foster and a base at Leongatha. Work crews lose substantial time travelling from these bases to the remote locations so where is the impetus to look at whether we could achieve some works better by engaging local contractors or having alternate bases? Where is the review into how parks and gardens undertake their work and how is the street planting policy determined? When was any effort put into looking at whether a different plant regime could produce savings? All that happens is the Administration run a jobs scheme and there are no key indicators to drive change.

5. Budget Comprehensive Income Statement

Firstly we have difficulty with this heading as the income and expenditure from Council business activities (eg. Caravan parks). If we look at the expected Revenue for Caravan Parks in Appendix B we see total revenue is \$711,000 which is around 1.10% of the total revenue. This seems to represent a significant amount and may be representative of other figures hidden in the Budget with no real exposure or accountability. As discussed at the outset, Council have avoided making the caravan park performance clear to the public.

If we look at the Table 3.1 below, taken from the Budget and we look at the figures presented we can see that the User Fees change by 2.99%, 6.75%, 3.78% and 4.9% over the 4 year period. Similarly Statutory fees change by 1.8%, 0.65%, 1.29% and 3.17% with no explanation for the variation in the difference in percentage change.

We note the Employee expenses vary by around 2% each year which is perhaps in line with the Wage growth indices mentioned in the Budget. However, there is no discussion of an EBA increase on these figures – what is the impact likely to be? We also note that in Other Expenses, the coming year sees around \$360k extra expenditure out of around \$3.2M for this item trend. What is the extra \$360k or 1.12% change in this line item?

We also note that the Budget shows a decreasing surplus over the Budget period. However, we have noted there is actually an underlying deficit. This is recorded in Table 8.1, well away from the figures in the earlier part of the Budget.



3.1 BUDGETED COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT

For the four years ending 30 June 2021

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL	Forecast 2016/17 \$'000	Budget 2017/18 \$'000	Budget 2018/19 \$'000	Budget 2019/20 \$'000	Budget 2020/21 \$'000
INCOME					
Rates and charges	39,962	40,935	42,031	43,153	44,304
Statutory fees and fines	607	618	622	630	660
User fees	4,042	4,153	4,444	4,512	4,838
Grants - Operating	12,826	12,149	11,851	14,925	14,239
Grants - Capital	9,915	6,395	1,872	3,763	3,980
Contributions - monetary	462	66	67	68	571
Contributions - non monetary	379	479	387	395	404
Net gain/ (loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	104	(329)	(257)	(276)	(397)
Fair value adjustment for investment property	0	0	0	0	0
Other income	2,437	2,388	2,374	2,414	2,456
TOTAL INCOME	70,734	66,864	63,391	69,604	71,045
EXPENSES					
Employee costs	23,897	24,428	24,893	25,498	26,127
Materials and services	23,968	21,130	18,632	23,780	22,707
Bad and doubtful debts	1	1	1	1	1
Depreciation and amortisation	11,209	11,004	12,491	13,113	13,873
Borrowing costs	142	142	142	59	0
Other expenses	3,213	3,573	3,230	3,294	3,368
TOTAL EXPENSES	62,420	61,158	59,289	65,745	66,076
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	8,314	5,706	4,102	3,939	4,969

Table 8.1 shows the Shire has an Underlying deficit.

8.1 Budgeted Income Statement

	Reference	Forecast 2016/17 \$'000	Budget 2017/18 \$'000
Total income	8.2	70,734	66,864
Total expenses	8.3	62,420	61,158
Surplus (deficit) for the year		8,314	5,706
		0	
Grants - capital	8.2.6	9,915	6,395
Contributions - non monetary assets	8.2.7	379	479
Capital contributions - other sources	8.2.4	176	0
Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit)	8.1.1	(2,156)	(1,168)

We move to further interrogate the Budget there are other line items which are not explained. See table 9.1 below.

Note that under Receipts there is a change of \$8.78M in the position of the Budget. This is 13.2% of the Budget income. It refers to a further line item in the Budget for explanation.

This is listed under the Table below and Cl 9.1.2 in the Budget does not appear to refer to



the Receipts listed in the table. It actually raises other questions about transparency in the accounts.

9.1 Analysis of Budgeted Statement of Cash Flows

	Reference	Forecast 2016/17 \$'000	Budget 2017/18 \$'000	Fav (Unfav) Variance \$'000
Operating Activities	9.1.1			
Receipts		70,251	66,714	(3,537)
Payments		(50,968)	(49,031)	1,937
Net cash inflow (outflow)		19,283	17,683	(1,600)
Investing Activities	9.1.2			
Receipts		9,930	1,150	(8,780)

9.1.2 Investing Activities (\$5.96m increase)

The \$5.96m increase in net payments for investing activities is due mainly to receiving a \$8.42m transfer 'payment' from other financial assets in 2016/17 as well as \$360,000 less in proceeds from asset sales that is partially offset by actual gross expenditure on capital in 2017/18 being \$2.85m less compared with the previous 2016/17 year.

What is the \$8.42M transfer payment?

Whilst the figures may be all legitimate it is difficult to assess the Council position. Often in Forensic accounting there is the adage of "follow the money". Trying to use this document will leave most in a very opaque situation. We see in the following Clause –

9.1.4 Cash at End of the Year (\$1.45m decrease)

Overall, total cash and investments are forecast to be \$1.45m less than 2016/17. The opening cash position of \$9.04m and contribution of cash from operating activities (\$17.68m) has provided significant funds for financing activities (\$142,000) and for investing activities (\$18.99m). Cash is expected to be \$7.59m as at 30 June 2018, which is less than the previous year (\$9.04m).

that council has \$18.99M for investing activities plus cash at hand expected at the end of the year of \$7.59M. We note from recent Council newspaper reports that the CEO has denied not having money "squirrelled away" when this small line item in a 162 page document is the only reference of the amount of investment money.

6. Caravan Parks

These are run as a Council business centre without recording any receipts or expenditure in the Budget. As they are on Crown Land, any money generated from such activities is supposed to be spent on Crown Land. If we cannot see if any money was made then we cannot see what should be spent.

We note that Council has indicated money from a caravan park reserves fund is being used on the caravan parks but we do not know when this money was generated for the Reserve fund. We note money went into and out of the account with no details attached to this movement of funds.



It would seem a pointless exercise to be running the caravan parks if any funds generated are to be spent back on the Crown land. Similarly, why should ratepayers fund works on Crown land? We should be able to see the Business case for such expenditure.

If this was a private caravan park, then the Committee of Management should publish the receipts and expenditure of the parks. The business figures should be in the public realm. We believe for open and transparent governance, Council should do the same for its management of the caravan parks business. We call upon Council to move a motion to the effect that the Receipts and Expenditure for the caravan parks be published within the Budget documents.

7. SGAG reserves the right to further expand on this submission, at the May 17, 2017 meeting if further data is made available. Otherwise we intend to speak to this report on that date.

Lindsay Love
Secretary

April 23, 2017



Review of Council Plan -2017-2021

This Council has not had time to review where it stands on a great many issues. It has been presented with a template for this plan and has tried to make some changes. It has espoused some good ideas but has not had the time to review the document and actually consider what is being said.

The public expressed a desire for change when they elected 6 new councillors and returned 2 who had displayed some appetite for change. This Council plan does not represent what the people expect in the way of change. It is more of the same with some tinkering at the edge. SGAG have tried to assist Council grapple with the change that is needed. However there is a view that we are anti Council – that is not correct. What we are against is the continuation of the policies that are clearly not satisfying the population. Much of the angst centres upon the Administration and their apparent different take on the world to that of Council. The problem is how to make a change.

The topics below illustrate some of the areas of concern we have and perhaps how things could be changed.

"The cost of living is escalating, so please improve the efficiency of your operations to minimise rate rises, keep rates affordable and reduce them where you can"

1. Growth and Prosperity -

From the elections it would appear that the residents of South Gippsland want and expect changes in the management of the Shire. The Local Government satisfaction survey has this Shire at 43% satisfaction – one of the worst outcomes. You have listed the above message in your current plan BUT have failed to deliver on that item. Your plan has no concession to improving efficiency or minimising rate rises.

Your plan should include some measures that include reference to financial measures and an improvement in this sphere. The administration has presented you with a budget template and you have meekly updated the figures without questioning the basis for those figures or the outcome – more Budget surpluses.

The Government is taking over the management of the HACC service and it has been suggested that there will be a saving of 20 staff when this happens later in the year. These 20 staff equate to \$1,600,000 on the wage bill. The Budget wage bill is forecast to increase to over \$25 million. The HACC wages have been included in this bill so when they are transferred to the government, Council will have a surplus on these wages. This is on top of a predicted surplus of around \$5 million. Why not Budget for a reduced surplus to start with? What do we need with such a surplus when the accumulated reserves are already almost equivalent to a year's rate revenue?



In addition, there has been much angst in the community about the continued Shire management of the caravan parks, especially when no business case has been released to justify that involvement. The community understands that, as the Committee of Management (COM) for these crown lands, Council is required to spend the funds generated back into the Crown lands. The Council is required to send notice to the Government of all Receipts and Expenditure for these caravan parks. We cannot use these caravan parks to raise funds to be spent elsewhere in the Shire, so why load up our administration with a whole layer of people who are not needed – leave the park operations to private investors.

At present the Caravan Park management within the Shire structure is ripe for fraud and financial irregularities – there is no policing of these operations. On top of that we have staff on wages being required to work overtime to staff the Parks.

The past four Budgets have had a list of fees and charges for the caravan parks which have shown widely varying income levels. There is a problem with these budget figures, there is never any actual income levels attached for comparison. We also note that the current year figures have been aggregated so that we cannot compare like with like. It is all aimed at making Shire management of the Parks more difficult to check. It also means there is more scope for fraud if there is no vetting of the figures.

The message above indicates the people of the Shire want Council to be more professional in their financial management work. Step away from the operation of the Parks and just manage them. Do this via a clear and transparent lease – a result where we can look at the Budget and see that we have an identifiable income stream from the parks which will clearly support just one administrative officer who is the COM contact and does the reporting to the Government.

We would like to see Council instigate some financial performance measures into their assessment of all items that go in to the Budget. There should be a session to seek answers of alternate means and costs of doing things that Council is proposing. There should be a process that asks do we need it? Can we do it in another way? Can we share or partner with others to do it? Can the private sector provide the service? Can the Performance Indicators lead to Productivity Increases?

At present there is nothing in the listed strategies which require Council to rigorously evaluate the costs of these programs. Until a further strategy is added which addresses this aspect then Council has failed in its duty and development of the vision.



"Communicate what you are doing – open up and be more transparent about what you've based your decisions on."

2. Communication -

The mood for change in the community expects the Council to undertake this. We applaud the move to have live streaming of the Council meetings. However, the community needs access to proper data in order to be able to assess issues.

The Community would like to see the financial business case for major Council activities – the expected receipts and expenditure and the actual outcome of those activities. We cannot effectively monitor the Council performance if the actual Budget expenditures are not included. At present there is nothing stopping Council saying they will have \$5 million dollars income for Coal Creek – we know this to be a dream but it can be put into the Budget papers and blur the financial position. We do not see the proposed Budget items and the actual Budget results.

The Community would also like to see an independent review of the Administration that looks at what every position does and the skillset required and then what a reasonable remuneration for that level of work would be. We would also like some indication whether work sets can be streamlined and duplication avoided. The assessment should also look at what work can be done by satellite hubs and what services could be reasonably provided by service hubs.

2.8 Explore opportunities to pilot a model for community self-determination to facilitate working in partnership with the community.

At present, many Residents are concerned that their communication and involvement with Council is seen as an annoyance by the Administration. People feel the Administration like to think they can prepare a program and that the Community can accept what is prepared as being the best outcome. With many in the Administration not actually living in the Shire this perceived position is taken as arrogance and being out of touch with the community that employs them.

The other issue is, there is a lack of equity in the expenditure of rate revenue and services provided around the various parts of the Shire. The ratepayers would perceive the above Strategy as offering something new in Shire management. Local communities would have ownership. The Community would have a better grasp of the opportunities and constraints and perhaps be better able to achieve a more agreeable outcome for their community if there was devolved management.



This process needs to have an open and identifiable funding mechanism and a process by which each community can work to satisfy the demands in that community. It may also be a case that the Shire operates more contact centres around the Shire. With modern computer systems people do not all need to be in a central location to provide a service. The Community should be able to control the process with staff from the Administration to assist, advise and be open with all their figures and finances.

At present the Administration is spread over a number of units and these often appear to have interconnected activities – it is often difficult to find the right person to contact. This devolved contact system may enable the Shire to move back to fewer operating departments and a more streamlined administration –perhaps just 3 management units. This would mean that a satellite hub could readily identify the target department for answers. It seems we could go back to a system of Management, Services and Assets as Departments. At present funds get allocated in all sorts of mysterious and wondrous ways and it is difficult to comprehend and assess the Administration performance.

This devolved process will have a major impact on Area 3 of the Council strategies. More of the expenditure will be determined by communities and with less control by the Administration. Grand plans may be harder to justify with this process.

3. Openness and Honesty and Good Governance.



4.4 Enhance customer service experiences through the development of a continuous feedback and improvement customer service system.

This is a major issue for Council. It appears that the Councillors may be thinking of one thing but the Administration is not on the same page. The espoused Strategy is a waste of time unless there is a Performance measure attached to that which also carries consequences.

The previous Plan carried similar sentiments about governance and transparency but the replies from the Administration over this period and continuing under the new Council are woeful. People ask questions and expect a straight answer but instead get a spin response which does not answer the question.



The strategy needs a continuous performance appraisal system for the Shire residents to advise on their satisfaction in dealings with Council. The Administration is employed to work for the Community and at present there is little indication that the Administration acknowledge that the ratepayers pay their wages. It is often not a positive encounter.

We note that this Council does not have a Complaints Policy. The complaints is also tied in with Customer Service and Community Engagement. We would like to suggest that council review the Wollongong City Council policy as a suitable vehicle to adopt and make changes. The current engagement policy put out by Council would appear to be more a "do not" engage vehicle.

4. Financial Transparency

It seems there is much public discourse on the Council finances and Budget arrangements. I think this stems from the fact that there appears to be no financial performance monitoring of Budget items. The Budget uses a "proforma" and just adds new figures with a CPI type adjustment. There appears to be little financial assessment of budget items before they make it into the list – there is no assessment of, or reporting on, how services can be delivered or the scope altered to achieve varying levels of outcome. We are delivered a set of items in a "take it" or "leave it" manner.

In Council Administration there is no opportunity to examine and query the performance of management and seek a better performance standard. For example, we recently queried the Council OH &S issues around recreational drugs as we see there are increasing workers compensation insurance issues. We were not able to gain a direct answer to a serious question (ie. What is the impact of recreational drug use within the workforce and at what cost). This apparent lack of management diligence will have the outcome of increased insurance premiums at the least but possible serious life issues if a Council worker has a serious health issue with drugs.

The Council plan has some performance measures but lacks what most people would expect to be available – a Profit and Loss statement. A profit and loss statement would make it much easier to assess where funds are being directed and to see what trends are occurring. (eg – changes to workers compensation costs or losses in caravan parks) Given that Council is trying to run business enterprises then the least that they can do for the community is to behave in a similar fashion to other businesses and present a profit and loss statement. We also note the performance indicators are not really performance indicators at all – most are just records of activity and useless in guiding or assessing Council activities. These KPI's need to be radically overhauled to be useful budget and operational tools.



In terms of Council management of assets, without a profit and loss statement it is very difficult to gain a picture of the performance of the Council administration. People need to search through quarterly performance reports to gain some basic idea of what is happening. However, such a review still does not include a clear comparison of results from one year to the next. The budget document often gives a statement of activities such as in the fees and charges chart. In this chart there are figures presented as an impact on the budget but there is no mechanism to review whether those revenue figures actually eventuated. The administration could present any figure and no one can even check the outcome. They could be completely fanciful figures. Such obscure figures imported into revenue within the budget can skew the financial performance figures within the broader budget document.

The Council plan does not address the financial management issues and hence is a document which is seriously lacking in its usefulness. Without such an inclusion the Administration can continue to ignore the desires of the Councillors. The Councillors needs to give themselves some tools to control the Administration and impose some rigour in the assessment of the Shire financial performance and Shire operations.

5. Complaints Procedure/Customer Service/ Community Engagement

This heading covers a common thread for the Council engagement with the community. At present the Council policy for engagement reads like a document to discourage engagement. It perhaps expresses an underlying thought process within the administration that they do not like to have this constraint. There have been more issues reinforcing this theme within the last month in terms of the proposed policy for Public presentations to the Council. Similarly there have been cases of an Administration shutting down free speech at Council meetings.

At present Council have no complaints handling policy. The Ombudsman office guidelines give some guidance on these issues. Such a policy may limit the need to refer disputes to the Ombudsman. A complaints policy also needs to be tied in to the Customer Service Policy. All this in turn reflects on how Council engages with the people who actually employ them.

We think Council should review its directions in this area. Council should perhaps take the Wollongong City council policy as a starting point. If one reads the South Gippsland policy and then the Wollongong policy it is "chalk" and "cheese". Our policy could not be further from engaging with the public.

It is symptomatic of the Council Plan. It offers words of hope but the delivery is a failure. The document holds no accounting measures on key performance indicators. There is no



pressure for the Administration to change. The end result is that the annual performance survey will continue to see this Shire with a miserable result.

6. Forward Plan Items

We note that Council has a range of Budget items in the forward plan. One such item is that of a "Leongatha South" sports ground and change rooms. We believe this item refers to land in the Paterson family ownership. This would appear to be land which is not yet presented for subdivision and even an available land title. We query whether Council should be planning for such situations when they have no control over the potential delivery. It would seem cruel to sports such as Little Athletics and Soccer to suggest to them that is a future home when it is all "pie in the sky". The other issue is that Council can be "blind-sided" to better opportunities when they present. It prevents Council from undertaking a reasonable due diligence investigation of other options.

7. Public Engagement

The current scheduling of releasing topics to the Public is symptomatic of an Administration not really engaging with the Public. In the first part of this year and currently under review there have been the following:-

- Waste management strategy;
- Budget;
- Council plan;
- Visitor information centres;
- Policy for Public submissions to Council;
- Active ageing document;
- Leongatha Rail yards review;
- Korumburra rail Yards review; to name some.

We query how Council and the community can connect with these issues and have some realistic input into the Shire governance. The end result is the Administration claim they have had consultation when there really has been no time and the available data has been questioned and no real answers provided to correct or elaborate on the data set. It really is left to retired people who may have the time available to police the Administration.

Lindsay Love
Secretary
SGAG
April 23 Version



Attn: Chief Executive Officer, South Gippsland Shire Council.

**SOUTH GIPPSLAND ARCHITECTS SUBMISSION
TO THE SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCILS STRATEGY 2017-22 PLAN**

The Shires plan has four main focuses;

- Economic, population and prosperity growth.
- Building community, arts, culture and recreational outcomes.
- Improvement of built assets and valuing of the natural environment.
- Enhancement of organisational development and good governance.

We believe that as trustees of the property and place assets of the community, it is logical for council to also identify good design outcomes as a complementary strategy that will ensure that investment is supported by solutions that make an enduring contribution to the Shire and protect the Shire's key attributes and its natural beauty as it grows.

With Victoria growing to a population in excess of 10 million by 2050, population and development pressure will result in inevitable substantial change to our towns and landscapes. It is important that this change is well managed, that the new built form and development makes a positive contribution to our community both in how it looks and operates but also in the value it provides over time. As has been demonstrated elsewhere where growth and change is occurring, the shires skill set needs to evolve and complement existing skills with a broader range of professional abilities in the development of its own projects and the assessment of projects proposed by the private sector particularly where they effect the long term common good

The importance of timely independent and multidisciplinary Design Review

The management of a major Estates and Buildings portfolio and urban settlements of the magnitude and significance of the Shire in the context of rapidly changing scale of Melbourne, a growing Sea Change retirement population and an equally complex and changing climate and rural economic framework, requires the availability of integrating multidisciplinary design thinking that reconciles broader Shire business and goals with the specific opportunities, constraints and development specific goals of projects.

Bad decisions can be irrevocably damaging.

Our towns and coastlines are littered with examples of the poor building in a prominent location and of buildings that with a little more thought might have been able to deliver much more for communities.

Around the world institutions and governments have realised the value of timely and well constituted design review. Design quality is raised by passing projects through a design review process.

Design concerns with the built environment

As a group of architects in South Gippsland we believe that the standard of design and ongoing contribution to the community of built outcomes could be significantly improved often without significant additional cost.

This includes buildings, infrastructure and placemaking projects.

Council's position

Council does not currently have any way of reviewing or assessing the design appropriateness or quality of individual projects nor the in-house resource to develop briefs to ensure the right skills and insights are necessarily assessed in determining the appropriate teams for projects. No Funding is currently allocated to these tasks.



Proposal

Establishment of an independent Design Review Panel (DRP) to assist Council with assessing design solutions with regard to,

- establishing an appropriate project brief and consultant assessment criteria that includes demonstrated design skill.
- Early engagement with design teams to ensure project issues, opportunities and appropriate precedents inform design responses.
- appropriateness of design solution with regard to context
- resilience
- innovation, delight, community benefit.

This DRP is consistent with Council's 'vision' for the future growth and development of the Shire

Cost effective funding could be provided on a sessional basis.

The DRP could initially focus on council projects and gradually be applied to projects of significance or impact as an adjunct to the statutory planning process.

Examples

Other councils, Universities and the Victorian Government and its departments engaged in capital works have or have access to design review panels and processes many of which could be referenced. Signatories to this letter have experience in Design Review Panels and their processes.

At councils such as Mornington Peninsula Council a Design Review Panel was set up as an advisory panel to assist councilors and their planning department in the review and issue of Planning Permits at the National Golf Club at Cape Schanck and subsequently other projects of an ongoing basis. The issue of the Permit rests with the Council, though the Panel may recommend conditions to the permit.

A DRP usually works best with a small panel of people with complimentary expertise in planning, urban design, architecture and local knowledge.

Benefit

A DRP well applied can lead to the best possible project outcomes and value for money, providing long term benefit to the shire, it's ratepayers and economic development and to the built and natural environment.

We urge the shire to commit to the following:-

To adopt a strategy to enhance the quality of design and contribution of new Buildings, Placemaking and infrastructure to the Community Life, sustainability and economic development of the South Gippsland Region.

To implement a Design Review Panel consisting of a cross disciplinary pool of appropriately skilled Planning, Urban Design, Architecture and Local Community expertise to compliment in-house skills. The DRP will initially be called upon to review draft project briefs, engage in pre-application design review of Local Government projects and review of key local projects for which development approval has been sought.

The signatories to this document appear on the next page.



Peter Slifirski Architect FRAIA

Mark Alsop Architect

Rob McGauran

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF ARCHITECTURE PRACTICE MONASH UNIVERSITY
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF ARCHITECTURE (URBAN DESIGN) MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY

Michael Chang Architect

Bridget Crowe Architect

Paul Katsleris Architect VGAO



Submission to South Gippsland Shire's Draft Council Four Year Plan

Recommended Additional Strategy under the goal "Strengthen Economic Growth & Prosperity"

- ***That Council facilitate the development of an integrated transport strategy for SW Gippsland***
- ***That council identifies this Plan as a priority project for Council and SW Gippsland***
- ***That council jointly approach Casey, Carinda, Baw Baw and Bass Coast shires for support and other community and business associations.***
- ***That Council maintains the return of the rail as a priority project***

Background

The vision is to have a contemporary low carbon transport system that facilitates the growth and sustainable development of South Gippsland. Council's draft plan identifies the need for a sustainable growth strategy for the shire which we wholeheartedly support. Transport accessibility is crucial for competitive advantage for attracting new resident, for tourists and for delivering produce efficiently to the market.

The current road works on the Monash are harbingers of what is coming. With 502,373 new residents in the next 20 years in South West Gippsland the Monash will become bottlenecked continuously during the day. Already the road works have added half an hour to the trip. The reality is that the Burnley Tunnel irrespective of the widening of part of the Monash will create a bottleneck with some 73% increase in people using the road.

There is an absence of an integrated transport plan for SW Gippsland. Without such a plan any growth strategy is doomed to fail. In reality if you don't have a researched proposal you won't get into Gippsland Regional Plan. If you are not in the Gippsland Regional Plan you won't get funding from State or Federal Governments. We need an economic assessment as no Treasury will allow funding of major infrastructure projects. The Local Government Act and the Transport Act provide for the development of integrated transport plans. Typically they explore demand for people and freight and



the best solutions for road, rail and bus. They develop economic case for the best investment. Typically they cost \$2-300k.

There are close to 500,000 trucks using the South Gippsland highway each year. South Gippsland Highway is inadequate. The bus system is already reaching capacity and South Gippsland is poorly serviced by buses. Major freeway and arterial roads are reaching or will reach capacity. Access to Melbourne is vital for people and produce.

South West Gippsland needs an integrated transport plan

Such a plan will:

- Ensure its ongoing sustainable development and future prosperity.
- Analyse the impact of deteriorating road conditions and congestion on the Monash Freeway
- To have an analysis of the *dynamics of supply and demand* for freight, tourist and people movements into and out of South West Gippsland
- To develop a viable plan for local and regional bus system to service the shire and to Melbourne
- To undertake a *preliminary cost benefit analysis* of how rail logistics would add to the competitiveness

Council would need all council contribute 30% (Baw Baw, Bass Coast, Casey, Cardinia, South Gippsland) \$20-30K

An integrated transport plan would provide us with:

- *A plan to deal with the 500,000+ population increase*
- *A plan to address congestion for freight and people into Melbourne*
- *An integrated plan for local buses*
- *Cost benefit study of rail and highway upgrades*
- *A plan to support growth and allow rate reductions through time (The Whelan Report)*
- *The arguments to support funding requests to state and commonwealth governments*
- *It's a crucial investment in our sustainable prosperity*

The return of the rail

Our Facebook sites already has 2500 members and we are aiming to promote this to 5000 over the next two years. There is a growing groundswell of people seeing the



importance of the return of the rail. Despite failure of the two earlier previous commitments, the explosive ongoing population and freight growth along the rail corridor now brings a new urgency. The capacity of the La Trobe Valley rail system is being addressed. There is growing pressure to extend the Cranbourne line to Clyde. Population is exploding at Lang Lang and Koo Wee Rup particularly. The Monash cannot meet the 74% growth in demand. There is global realisation that freeways alone are not the answer. Elections are won and lost in Victoria on public transport and transport accessibility. Potential development at Port Anthony would strengthen the economic case.

The reality is wherever passenger services have been reopened in conjunction with freight the population of the towns on the line have boomed creating both economic and social benefit to people and communities. It is realistic to see rail on the horizon in the next 5-10 years. Globally logistic and people movement is returning to rail. Australia is a laggard in this process but is beginning to turn around its transport priorities.

The return of the rail would drive sustainable development of the shire like nothing else.

Conclusion

Do nothing approaches will doom us to deteriorating access from and to Melbourne. The immensity of the increase traffic forecasts for the Monash will in effect displace South Gippsland from being between one and a half hours and two hours to two to three hours from Melbourne. The evidence is clear that people will travel 1.5-2 hrs, but 2 hours is a serious barrier for tourists, businesses and new resident maintaining a connection to Melbourne.

A growth strategy must be underpinned by both contemporary community infrastructure and good transport system. Good planning is underpinned by good transport planning. Exclusive reliance on deteriorating roads has become untenable and we can plan for something better.

Deputy Chair

Brian Hess



Submission to the Shire

It strikes me as bizarre that the first item in the document meant to stimulate discussion on strategies suggests a need to develop a vision for future growth and development in the Shire. I would have thought that a more far-seeing document would talk about sustainability and resilience as the first priority.

While we all need to make a living and support our families, what are we doing about the health of our communities? We put business first, as if business can make healthy communities: that is putting the cart before the horse. If our communities are healthy, the businesses will be also.

South Gippsland is a small community made up of small communities and farmland, some of it of good quality. We must protect that resource, of course. If possible we ought to try to enhance it by bringing experts and farmers together as we have been doing.

We must also be aware that it is likely that in the next five decades two of our communities will be lost to the rising seas.

The planet, the nation and the state are in a period of transition, and yet too many in South Gippsland are still locked in a 20th century paradigm: grow the economy, convert natural capital into a degraded environment. This will take more than **reducing the Shire's carbon footprint**, although I conceded even that modest goal is a positive beginning.

We have no long term vision of what South Gippsland will look like in a sustainable world, a planet which is considerably warmer than today. And yet we are a coastal area and we will have to live with much more severe storms which can destroy our infrastructure. This is a new world we are entering and it is time for our elected leaders to look beyond the term of their time in office and begin to plan for that new world.

We cannot wait for the state and federal policies to become more enlightened for that might still take years, given as they are to viewing the regions as the source of their wealth.

There is little point in attracting investment if that investment destroys our natural capital. We must be more discerning than to simply swoon when someone offers us a



suitcase of money. We do not want to go down the road of Drouin, for example, and turn our valuable land into subdivisions.

Somehow, there must be a shift of responsibilities so that regions have more control over development and that means taking it away from the developers and VCAT, with its white cane and rubber stamp. There will be resistance from the vested interests in the city to this suggestion, so be prepared.

And we must be prepared to lobby. Latrobe City at the moment, has posted large demands on its council offices, visible for all to see as the trains come into Morwell. The council has outlined what it believes the shire will need now and in the future, and these short, sharp messages are the beginning of a lobbying campaign, or if you like, it is a planting of seeds.

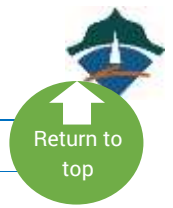
The South Gippsland document talks about upgrading rail trails, yes, this is a good idea. And the rail trails can be next to a restored rail link (freight and passenger) between Foster and the city, an electric rail. Clearly this isn't going to happen overnight, but is it not time to plant the seeds?

We also need to plant the seeds for resilience: in this regard, in the coming world, we will need much better medical and emergency capabilities. In the event of a severe heat wave, for example, do we have the capability and capacity to respond? More seeds need to be planted. Might we not need better medical resources in the communities: it will not always be the case that someone in Fish Creek, for example, will be able to get to the hospital in Leongatha – storms, bushfires and floods might close the roads. We need resilience and we need to begin thinking about this.

There are no specialist research facilities at all monitoring the Southern Ocean in Victoria. This is but one example of what is possible. There are needs that are crying out, needs which, when met, will help us be prepared and which will provide jobs for our people.

Last year, it struck me as bizarre that the 600 pages of the Trans Pacific Partnership document contained not a single reference to climate change. Nor does the shire's little planning prod. I'm asking the shire to look 50 years down the road for a good reason, but no one should be under the misapprehension that future is far, far away. It is upon us.

David Arnault



www.gippsport.com.au
PO Box 63
Newborough 3825
(03) 5135 8335
info@gippsport.com.au

26 April 2017

Mr Tim Tamlin
Chief Executive Officer
South Gippsland Shire Council
Private Bag 4, Leongatha 3953
Email- submission@southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Dear Tim

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL- FEEDBACK ON THE DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN - SUBMISSION

GippSport would like to provide a submission on the South Gippsland Council Draft Plan 2017-2021. We are urging the Council to take into account the importance of sport and recreation in the South Gippsland community.

GippSport is an active member of the South Gippsland Shire Access and Inclusion Committee. We have attended a meeting of this group to review the Draft Plan and have contributed feedback to be provided in writing to highlight the issues around the implementation of the NDIS, general disability access priorities and the need to engage with the community in a variety of ways.

In addition, GippSport is funded by VicHealth to implement social sport activities in workplaces in organizations including South Gippsland Shire as a way to improve community health and wellbeing. A key priority for Council within the plan could be to increase employee physical activity through workplace sport opportunities that GippSport can facilitate.

Currently there are around 200 sporting clubs operating in South Gippsland that are managed by volunteer committees. GippSport has face to face contact with around 50 of these clubs each year through workshops, one to one support, assistance with funding submissions and direct programs. We already work in partnership with Council staff to offer effective support, professional advice and resources to ensure that community sport continues in the future throughout South Gippsland.

We are asking the South Gippsland Council to take into consideration the work that GippSport does and include this in the Plan. This has occurred in a number of Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plans across the Gippsland Region. GippSport is happy to provide examples of the references made to sport and recreation in Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plans.

GippSport is urging the South Gippsland Council to recognize the Sport and Recreation outcomes which lead to:

- Improved health and wellbeing of the South Gippsland community
- A stronger and more connected South Gippsland community
- Economic growth and jobs
- Enhanced liveability

Proudly supported by Latrobe City Council, Wellington Shire Council, Good Sports and our major funding bodies:



Regional sport program





www.gippsport.com.au
PO Box 63
Newborough 3825
(03) 5135 8335
info@gippsport.com.au

Should you require any more information from GippsSport please contact Michelle Harris
or michelle@gippsport.com.au.

Yours sincerely

Barry Switzer | Executive Officer
GippsSport

Proudly supported by Latrobe City Council, Wellington Shire Council, Good Sports and our major funding bodies:



Regional sport program





Mr. Tim Tamlin
Chief Executive Officer
South Gippsland Shire Council
9 Smith Street (Private Bag 4)
Leongatha VIC 3953

23 April, 2017

Dear Mr. Tamlin,

Section 223 Submission to the Proposed 2017-21 Council Plan and Proposed 2017/18 Annual Budget: Waratah Way Shared Trail Proposal

I write to you on behalf of the Sandy Point Community Group Inc. in making a submission to the South Gippsland Shire Council Proposed 2017-21 Council Plan and the Proposed 2017/18 Budget in relation to the proposed Waratah Way Shared Trail between Sandy Point and Waratah Bay.

Firstly, may we commend council's stated vision in its Council Plan that strives for a shire that "...will be a place where our quality of life and sense of community is balanced by sustainable and sensitive development, population and economic growth."

Specifically, we support the emphasis being placed on tourism growth within the shire that is "consistent with the vision" and the acknowledgement of the important role that both existing and new trails (will) play as a key component in the visitor economy. The development of new trails is essential for visitor growth and spend in our local townships, with the additional benefit of social connectedness and healthier lifestyles for the shire's residents. In a region with a wealth of nature and heritage based attractions, trails are the critical piece of infrastructure that enable our enjoyment and preservation of these features. Hence we specifically support Strategies 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 1.7, 1.8 and 1.9.

In terms of building strong partnerships, we endorse council's strategy 2.1 to "...support community groups to achieve projects they have ownership of and want to progress." This is clearly the case with the Waratah Way Shared Trail and the communities of Sandy Point and Waratah Bay. These communities have consistently demonstrated their strong desire for this trail project to succeed and with increasing momentum. We also support 2.3 as instrumental in achieving 2.1.

A review of the shire's Recreation Strategy (2.5) and the update of the 2010 Paths and Trails Strategy (2.6) to appraise current recreational trail opportunities are both timely, the latter now well overdue.

At the council meeting of the 25th March, 2015, council adopted the Officer's Recommendation to include the investigation of the Waratah Way Shared Trail in its 2015/16 review of the 2010 Paths & Trails Strategy. This review is now scheduled for 2017/18 at which point this trail should be included as per that decision.



Under "Improve South Gippsland's Built Assets and Value our Natural Environment", we particularly agree with (3.3) promoting a safe and healthy community and (3.6) "Advocate to Parks Victoria, DELWP and relevant stakeholders to improve access, parking, safety and user-friendliness of beaches". The latter is particularly pertinent to communities like Sandy Point and Waratah Bay which experience an enormous swell of visitors from November to April. To facilitate and enrich their enjoyment of our beach environs while preserving its natural values, suitable infrastructure like the Waratah Way Shared Trail would be beneficial. This trail is a wonderful opportunity to both enable a safe and healthy community while demonstrating a pro-active and cooperative approach between council and DELWP in the management of our foreshore area.

This is a project of high value to the communities of Sandy Point and Waratah Bay and one which will be much appreciated by the broader South Gippsland Community and visitors to the region. It is a worthy regional project for State funding, but to achieve this we need council to continue to assist us in developing the proposal and to ultimately advocate on our behalf.

Council previously allocated up to \$20,000 in its 2015/16 Budget in response to a Section 223 Submission seeking funding from the council by the Sandy Point Community Group. This funding was very much appreciated and was put to good purpose by council with its employment of Ethos NRM to undertake a preliminary study of potential impacts, risks, costs and required further assessments/studies/permits of 2 trail options, completed in April 2016.

Since then this trail proposal has proven highly popular in the council's 'OurSay' Forum of August 2016, finishing second in the most voted and most commented projects with 258 votes and 19 comments provided. I note that the only project that received more votes was the proposal to construct an equestrian facility at Stony Creek which is now included in the 2017/18 budget to receive \$90,000 to develop the business case.

The Sandy Point Community Group Inc. are seeking a commitment from council for funding to be made available in the 2017/18 Budget to pursue the further studies, permits and approvals as identified in the Ethos NRM Report. This would capitalize on the work that has already been completed and council's expenditure to date on this project.

We believe that in doing so, the updated Paths and Trails Strategy would be better informed when the trail is included in the 2017/18 review. It would also assist progressing the proposal to a stage where external funding opportunities can be identified and pursued. The Waratah Way Shared Trail could be an ideal 'investment-ready' project that we know is highly valued by the community and fits with much strategic policy in council.

We acknowledge the constrained budgetary climate and demands on council's resources and sincerely appreciate that council has to date, enthusiastically embraced this valuable community project which has been worked towards for many years.

At this time, we are seeking:

1/ Council's ongoing endorsement and support to further investigate and develop an implementation strategy for this trail proposal.

2.



- 2/ That Council honors the decision of its meeting of the 25th March, 2015 where it adopted the Officer's Recommendation to include the investigation of the 'Waratah Way' Off-road Shared Trail (formerly WASP) in its 2015/16 review of the Paths & Trails Strategy. This review is now scheduled for the 2017/18 Financial Year at which point the proposed trail should be included as per the earlier decision.
- 3/ The establishment of pro-active partnerships with the relevant stakeholders to work through a planning and implementation process.
- 4/ That council work with the SPCG Inc. to help identify and secure funding sources both within council's own Capital Works Budget and from external origins.
- 5/ That council make available some funds and/or staffing support in the 2017/18 Budget to pursue further studies, permits and approvals as identified in the Ethos NRM Report and to develop an implementation strategy given these.

This submission is to be read in conjunction with the 'Waratah Way Shared Trail Supplementary Background Information and Rationale' Resource Document which is also attached.

I wish to speak to this submission at the council hearing on the 17th May. Given that I am addressing both the Council Plan and the Annual Budget, I would appreciate as much time as is reasonably available.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Kind regards,

Cath Giles

Project Officer
Waratah Way Shared Trail, SPCG Inc.



'WARATAH WAY' SHARED TRAIL

Supplementary Background Information and Rationale

23 April, 2017

- This proposed 4.5km trail is an off-road, shared trail for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.
- The trail is not a new concept in council with formal correspondence beginning in 2011 and the first presentation made to council in December 2012.
- 3km of the former fire access track is under the management of the Sandy Point Foreshore Committee and 1.5km under the management of SGS Council.

The trail concept has been validated in the:

(1) Sandy Point Recreation Strategy - June 2012

P14 - The top 3 responses for facilities in Sandy Point: more walking, cycling and horse riding tracks.

P28 - The WASP Trail is a very high priority project for the community (action within 12 months).

(2) Sandy Point Community Plan (Community Directions Statement) July, 2014

The Waratah Way Shared Trail is a project supported by the community in this plan.

(3) Sandy Point & Waratah Bay Petition January, 2015 with 1,065 signatures gathered and hundreds of conversations had over that month.

(4) Council's own strategies recognize the benefits of trails such as these:

The **Open Space Strategy 2007**, **Recreation Strategy 2007 & Paths & Trails Strategy 2010** place off-road trails as a major priority, recognizing the benefits of safe recreation, accessibility, family and community health, physical and mental wellbeing, community strengthening and connectivity, appreciation of the natural environment and economic benefits.

"Walking and cycling are the core leisure activities undertaken by the population for fitness and pleasure..... bicycle paths and walking trails were the facilities seen as the greatest priority for development.." P17 Recreation Strategy 2007

"Support the development of local trails by the community: Continue to assist local groups establish the feasibility of trails in each locality and construct and manage those of a high priority." P19 Recreation Strategy 2007

Council's **Economic Development and Tourism Strategy** lists trails as a key tourism asset for South Gippsland and recognizes trails as a key component in developing Heritage, Arts, Culture and Sporting attractions and tourism product in the region (P.10). The strategy also acknowledges "An increasing trend to nature based tourism" (P.13) which is a natural fit with trails.



Several of the Strategic Tourism Principles are pertinent:

- “Develop our strengths in Nature based, Historical, Cultural (and sporting) tourism products.”
- “Promote cycling and walking activities that leverage off the major investment in rail trails.” P.16

(5) At the council meeting of the 25th March, 2015, council adopted the Officer’s Recommendation to include the investigation of this trail in its 2015/16 review of the Paths & Trails Strategy. This review is now scheduled for 2017/18 at which point the proposed trail should be included as per council’s earlier decision.

(6) Council subsequently allocated up to \$20,000 in its 2015/16 Budget in response to a Section 223 Submission seeking funding from the council by the Sandy Point Community Group. This funding was very much appreciated and was put to good purpose by council with its employment of Ethos NRM to undertake a preliminary study of potential impacts, risks, costs, and required further assessments/studies/permits of 2 trail options. This report is titled, ‘Preliminary Geomorphological and Ecological Investigation: Sandy Point to Waratah Bay Shared Path’ and was completed in April 2016.

(7) SGSC ‘Our Say’ Forum/Survey – August 2016

In the South Gippsland Shire Council OurSay online forum, the Waratah Way Shared Trail came in second with 258 votes and 19 comments made, making it one of the most commented and most voted for projects of 71 proposals.

The proposed idea was:

“Please progress the 4.5km ‘Waratah Way Shared Trail’ for walkers, cyclists and horse riders that would connect Sandy Point and Waratah Bay via the back (farmland side) of the Foreshore Reserve, partially accessing the disused fire access track. The Waratah Way Shared Trail has strong, demonstrated, wide community support over many years and is overdue for inclusion in council’s review of its Paths and Trails Strategy. This proposed trail would be a real asset for not only the local residents of the two townships, but residents of South Gippsland generally and visitors to the coast, providing an opportunity to enjoy a beautiful coastal /rural trail setting, safely and peacefully away from road traffic.”

Council’s response at the close of the OurSay Forum was to tell us: “... All of your ideas and comments will be collated and presented to the new Council in December. We will contact you all in the new year once we have a better understanding of how the new Council will want to liaise with you further about these ideas.”

However, no contact was forthcoming.

(8) SGSC Proposed 2017 – 2021 Council Plan

We commend council’s stated vision in its proposed Council Plan that strives for a shire that “...will be a place where our quality of life and sense of community is balanced by sustainable and sensitive development, population and economic growth.”

.2.



Specifically, we support the emphasis being placed on tourism growth within the shire that is “consistent with the vision” and the acknowledgement of the important role that both existing and new trails (will) play as a key component in the visitor economy. The development of new trails is essential for visitor growth and spend in our local townships, with the additional benefit of social connectedness and healthier lifestyles for the shire’s residents. In a shire with a wealth of nature and heritage based attractions, trails are the critical piece of infrastructure that enables our enjoyment and preservation of these features.

The Waratah Way project addresses many of the aspirations of this document as it meets the desire to balance sensible development that enhances community life while achieving important economic objectives.

FACTS:

- Overwhelming community support
- Council has an obligation as one of the two responsible foreshore land managers to engage with this enduring and valued project of the communities of Sandy Point and Waratah Bay.
- Significant seasonal population increases throughout the Summer creates high demand for informal recreational infrastructure like trails in coastal towns.
- Trails help to put places on the map, bringing tourism dollars & investment and can help to revitalize rural communities through increased visitation.
- Increasing safety issues with many summer visitors walking and cycling on busy 80-100kmph roads leading to dangerous user conflict.
- Permanent coastal populations are a mix of young families, working professionals and retirees who embrace walking and cycling for fitness and pleasure.
- The beach is not user-friendly when the tide is in, when there are strong winds and especially with high tides.
- Rapidly growing cycling culture – this trail on the doorstep of both towns would be hugely popular.
- The community health benefits of trails, physical, mental and social are well recognized.
- Trails improve and enhance our quality of life and the local amenity of our towns and neighbourhoods.
- Trails can engender not only an appreciation of the outdoors and natural places, but also a sense of place and local identity in small, rural townships.
- Trails are the primary means by which people can experience and enjoy the region’s incredible natural and heritage features.



The Roy Henderson Trail to Shallow Inlet (built in 2010) is a perfect example of a trail that has been fully embraced and is enjoyed daily by many in the community and visitors alike.

PARTICULAR BENEFITS OF THE WARATAH WAY SHARED TRAIL:

- Connecting the two coastal 'hamlets' of Sandy Point & Waratah Bay via a safe, off-road link that would enable children to walk and ride independently between the townships and provide sustainable transport options / choices for residents and visitors.
- Community safety removing individuals and families off the roads.
- Perfectly meets the criteria of the Open Space and Recreation Strategies to secure and develop trail routes in each locality utilizing existing reserves and foreshores and to establish the feasibility, construct and manage those of a high priority. (P19 Recreation Strategy 2007)
- Waratah Beach Camp cycling, walking and environmental programs – no current safe access to a suitable area for these.
- Environmental monitoring and ease of access and observation for proactive management of the foreshore.
- The creation of an interpretive natural history and living heritage trail that celebrates the area's rich features, indigenous stories, historic endeavours and achievements and early pastoral settlement.
- The potential (very) long term opportunity to link a coastal trail all the way West to Phillip Island via Walkerville North/South, Cape Liptrap, Tarwin Lower, Venus Bay, Inverloch, Cape Paterson, Harmers Haven, Wonthaggi and Kilcunda to rival the Great Ocean Walk on Victoria's West Coast, utilizing existing coastal parks and reserves, trails and rail trails. Further, such an iconic trail could head East to Wilsons Promontory via Yanakie and by using the Great Southern Rail Trail, link to Fish Creek, Foster, Port Franklin, Toora, Welshpool, Port Welshpool, Port Albert and Yarram. This would be a destination trail of National and International significance!
- An enduring legacy for many to enjoy forever.

WHY THE BEACH IS NOT AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE TRAIL:

- Bikes and sand do not mix
- Soft sand at high tide is very difficult to walk or ride on
- Accessibility issues for people who have impaired mobility
- The wind is often very strong and makes the beach unusable



- High tide events mean that there is often little beach to walk on
- Having to time one's recreation with the tide times

ESTIMATED COST:

According to the NRM Report, Option 1 which utilizes the existing alignment of the former fire access track (on both Crown Land and private property) would cost a total of \$525,540 which includes a contingency of 30% (\$89,000) for unforeseeable costs.

Option 2 (entirely on Crown Land) is estimated to cost \$752,254 with a 30% contingency of \$126,500.

Anticipated funding sources: SGSC Capital Works, State Government, external grants, other community fund-raising.

Estimated Maintenance costs for Option 1: \$5,800 + GST
" " " " Option 2: \$8,200 + GST

PARTNERSHIPS:

South Gippsland Shire Council
Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning
Sandy Point Community Group Inc.
Sandy Point Foreshore Committee of Management
Waratah Bay Community Association Inc.
Waratah Beach Camp

SEEKING:

- 1/ Council's ongoing endorsement and support to further investigate and develop an implementation strategy for this trail proposal.
- 2/ That Council honors the decision of its meeting of the 25th March, 2015 where it adopted the Officer's Recommendation to include the investigation of the 'Waratah Way' Off-road Shared Trail (formerly WASP) in its 2015/16 review of the Paths & Trails Strategy. This review is now scheduled for the 2017/18 Financial Year at which point the proposed trail should be included as per the earlier decision.
- 3/ The establishment of pro-active partnerships with the relevant stakeholders to work through a planning and implementation process.
- 4/ That council work with the SPCG Inc. to help identify and secure funding sources both within council's own Capital Works Budget and from external origins.
- 5/ That council make available some funds and/or staffing support in the 2017/18 Budget to pursue further studies, permits and approvals as identified in the Ethos NRM Report and to develop an implementation strategy given these.



The community is passionate about and committed to seeing this project go ahead; it has not wavered in its enthusiasm over the past 6 years, indeed it is more emphatic than ever that this trail should succeed.

Additional Supporting Documents which can be made available on request:

- Sandy Point Community Group Inc. Petition - Letter of Acknowledgement from South Gippsland Shire Council – 19 Feb 2015
- Comments from the Change.Org Online Petition – Feb 2015
- DELWP Letters of support 16/2/15 and 20/8/15
- Sandy Point Foreshore Committee – Letter of Support
- Waratah Beach Camp Letter of Support
- Waratah Way community 'Statements of Support' – Dec 2015 – Jan 2016
- Comments from the SGSC 'OurSay' Forum – August 2016

Submission 52 - **Doug James** - Sandy Point Camping Ground



To whom it may concern,

My name is Doug James and I have recently moved to the Walkerville area with my wife and 2 young children in the interest of a great employment opportunity and great lifestyle change for my family.

We recently had some family and friends come to visit us and the region and we all noted that Sandy Point didn't have a very active caravan or camping ground.

It was also noted by all that the Waratah and Walkerville grounds were extremely full over the busy period.

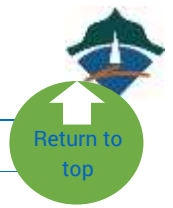
After discussions with some locals at Sandy Point it was mentioned on several occasions that the current caravan park may well be up for sale/sold.

We couldn't help but think a new caravan/camping ground could be a huge asset to the area.

As we have settled in the area nicely and are in love with the region I thought I would send this email and let you know my thoughts as we would love nothing more than to see the area thrive.

Thank you so much for taking time out of your undoubtedly busy schedule to read my email.

Kind Regards
Doug James



SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL – COUNCIL PLAN AND 2017/2018 BUDGET

Wilma Western

7 April 2017

Language

It is refreshing to read a Council Plan that is pretty much in plain English , generally avoiding bureaucratic jargon. (However I do wonder how one measures “vibrancy” in an industrial estate , for example). A quibble - “our quality of life and sense of community “ should be followed by a plural verb - “are” not “is”. The incorrect use of the singular is admittedly a pretty common error .

Transparency and openness

It is pleasing to see in both the “Vision Statement” and Strategic Objective 4 re “Governance” an emphasis on the importance of openness/transparency in decision-making. Specifically , there is an aim to “increase transparency through more items being held in Open Council”. This should mean an end to the automatic declarations of confidentiality re the topics and recommendations discussed in the Planning and Economic Development and Tourism Committees. In particular , Council should cease the habitual use of the “catch-all section “ 89(2) (h)of the Victorian Local Government Act .This allows confidentiality of “any other matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person”.

The Ombudsman's report on transparency in Victorian Local Government states that closing a meeting to avoid embarrassment or reputational damage is not an appropriate use of section 89(2) (h) because it places the interests of the council before the interests of the community.

At the moment records of recent Planning Committee or the Economic Development and Tourism Steering Committee meetings are not made public, except where the CEO decides that a particular item will be placed on the Agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of Council. Is it any wonder that many residents believe the bureaucracy is overly powerful?

And why was the motion to declare confidential business conducted at the December Planning Committee meeting as well as the business of the Economic Development and Tourism Steering Committee included in the February 2017 Agenda? Was it to nullify or extend the sunset clause that South Gippsland Council has in place on declarations of confidentiality? The existence of a sunset clause was recorded in the Ombudsman's report.

In response to a question I asked in the February meeting of Council I received an assurance that the Memorandum of Understanding that Council empowered the CEO to enter into with the RSL Leongatha and the RSL's Victorian hierarchy will hopefully become public via Council's website . This is as long as Council is not prevented from being transparent in this way because of “commercial in confidence matters from the RSL's perspective”. Trouble is “commercial in confidence” can also be a catch-all . The community needs to be reassured that the Council will press for this MOU to become public , especially as staff seem to be either unsure or reluctant to say how much legal force the MOU would have. According to the February Agenda , a Memorandum of Understanding does not have legal force ; but when asked this directly by another person at the February meeting the CEO took it “on Notice”. My information is that once a MOU is signed by both parties it certainly does have legal force....However if the MOU is just to decide “what is to be investigated by each party and a timeframe for completion” of the investigations why the worry about “commercial in confidence” ?

According to the reply I received from CEO Tamlin, the MOU investigations are to be completed



prior to the next phase of contract documentation of the proposed "land swap" (actually land and buildings of differing value) . The "next phase" will include public notices as required by the Local Government Act, the letter states. Minutes of the March 2017 Council give the answers to questions re the MOU as well as issues re permits for more poker machines.

Community Engagement

The Plan includes strong assurances that this Council values community engagement, constructive criticism and working in partnership with community organisations. In the past " Our Say" has been trotted out as the latest greatest method of community engagement. Results were even quoted as evidence that a significant majority of ratepayers were not unduly focussed on high annual rate increases or myopically focussed on "roads and rubbish" as definition of Council 's role , implying that these "findings" were just as valid as those of the annual Local Government survey.

Predictably , groups already mobilised in support of particular issues – for example the future of the Foster Pool , the maintenance and management of the Mirboo North pool , and a future Equestrian Centre took to "Our Say" with gusto. However these groups were already highly engaged via deputations to Council meetings, public presentations and petitions. In 2014 or 2015 "Our Say" was used to get rankings in importance of various Council activities .The results from a self-selected and pretty small response were touted as a valid sampling of community opinion. ...with a more favourable outcome for Council than the randomly-selected respondents to the annual Local Government survey. Agenda reports even misinterpreted the significance of the responses from this non-random sample . The Council newsletter was more accurate, though still promoting "Our Say" as a great innovation.

Council's decision to stream ordinary Council meetings via YouTube is a worthwhile initiative. Hopefully more residents and non-resident ratepayers will tune in when convenient to them. Ironically several public companies have withdrawn advertising with YouTube because their ads had been placed to extremist, racist or other undesirable material.

I appreciate this new council's good intentions and hope their endeavours to achieve greater openness and community engagement are fulfilled.

Many of the implementation sections in the plan are really business as usual ,dressed up with words like "review" . Only a few new commitments are flagged . There is Leongatha's Bair Street makeover , which many in the community assumed was already funded and ready to go once the consultation over the streetscape was finalised and the by-pass finished. Now it seems we have to wait and see if a government grant is forthcoming. Perhaps this is pretty likely , but there doesn't seem to be a clear time-frame. And those empty shops are still less than "vibrant". A short-term pop-up with Tibetan clothes ,bags etc didn't stay long.

The other big initiative is a possible extension of the Rail Trail to Korumburra. Again all that is definite is funding for investigation. I am somewhat sceptical about the claimed economic stimulus from rail-trail usage ...as one person worked out , according to one set of figures quoted about the economic impact of the existing trail , there would have to be a hundred users per day popping in for a coffee or lunch in one of the towns to generate the claimed pay-off. Walkers of dogs and pram pushers are unlikely to be among the spenders , though of course they contribute to community health and well-being.

Major initiatives by South Gippsland Council tend to get stretched out over several years . Each



Plan and Budget portrays the Council as taking significant action to add to community facilities, even if it's the same major initiatives several years running. However it's good to see the lists of road work and other infrastructure maintenance on the regular Council notices in the local papers.

Influences on the budget and general economic development – population and transport.

Council expects a steady increase in the Shire's population. Linked with this is the statement that travel times to Melbourne have significantly reduced, thanks to East Link and the KooWeeRup bypass. Actually this very much depends on timing, as congestion around Pakenham and on the Monash can be severe at peak times, or on some weekends. Just how much extra traffic can be safely accommodated between KooWeeRup and Pakenham? If commuter population increase is envisaged, road travel times would not seem to be all that favourable. Public transport by coach has improved but can't compete with the rail services between Drouin-Warragul or even the Latrobe Valley and Melbourne, so South Gippsland Shire's commuter population increase is unlikely to be all that great.

On the other hand the proportion of our population in the 50's and 60's is fairly high in comparison with regional Victoria. Favourable house prices, good health services and a range of community organisations (Probus, Service Clubs, golf, bowls, art, craft, heritage vehicle, horticulture, gardening, music and drama groups) may be attracting retirees to townships. Tree- and sea changers are also attracted by the shire's natural beauty. In any case, assessing the availability of residential and commercial land is a standard responsibility of local government.

The Budget – general comments

The graphs show large past surpluses and a healthy 5.7 million surplus foreshadowed for 2017/2018. This is despite the rate-capping that prompted predictions of doom and gloom from managers who in the past had achieved rate increases well above CPI. Past surpluses were squirreled away into reserves, some of which were earmarked for the now-discontinued Municipal Precinct project.

Prudent money management seems to be one of the achievements of South Gippsland Shire Council staff. However budget figures are far less detailed than used to be the case. Sceptics are inclined to see all that green as more PR than solid information.

The Council decision a couple of years ago to take over management of crown land caravan parks, accompanied as it was with orders to people holding annual sites to remove or upgrade caravans/annexes that did not meet strict guidelines created community hostility. There was scepticism about the claim that the parks could become money-spinners for the Shire. Capital expenditure is still being committed to building upgrades. No detailed reporting of progress is being made public. The new council would gain brownie points with the general public if they requested a detailed progress report to be part of an agenda for an open Council meeting, not just on capital improvements, but also on operating costs and income. Such information should be available to ratepayers after a couple of years' operation under Council auspices.

The "Land Swap"

The proposed "land swap" with the RSL was formally discussed with Councillors on January 25 2017 according to the Assembly of Councillors report in the March Agenda and Minutes. This was perhaps a week before the idea was promoted to the Chamber of Commerce and made headlines in



the local paper.

The February 2017 Agenda reported that the existing library's lease, the initial term of which expires on 13 June 2017 and which costs just under \$100,000 per year, has been extended for five years until 12 June 2022. Was this decision taken because the "Municipal Precinct" development planned to include a "community hub come library" was still on the books? Or was the extension of the lease decided because capital expenditure on a "community hub" on the present RSL site is not scheduled until 2021, on the assumption the "land swap" goes ahead?

Whatever the reason for the lease extension, it's clear that no decision-makers wanted to explore another option, which was to locate the Leongatha library in an available shop in the shopping centre. The approaching end of the initial 20-year lease of the present library building can't have been a surprise to staff.

When he was CEO of the Regional Library, the late John Murrell wrote to council describing the successful relocation of the Wonthaggi library to the previous Target shop. Mr Murrell offered his assistance in researching a similar option for Leongatha. However the previous Council, once committed to promoting and accumulating funds for the "Municipal Precinct" project advocated that project to the community as the site for a new library/ community hub. Mr Murrell later wrote supporting that idea.

Once again a new development to rehouse staff and create a library-community hub is being pursued, with a schedule of costs attached to the long-term budget. Glowing endorsements of the RSL's aspirations were made by councillors voting to empower the CEO to do the necessary research AND to enter into a "Memorandum of Understanding". Unfortunately in the initial "debate" no councillor made the important point that any agreement eventually entered into with the RSL must protect the Shire's interests as well as facilitating the RSL's plans.

It is very important that if council does agree to the "land swap" the Shire's interests are well-protected. Valuations of both properties would be made at the same date and a contract would be signed before any works or relocations could start. The forward scheduling of relocation, rental and capital costs if the RSL proposal goes ahead indicate that the RSL would continue to operate their present gaming and restaurant businesses on the site they are proposing to sell to the Shire while the first stages of the new complex are being constructed. So either rental or some financial adjustment to compensate the Shire would need to be part of a contract.

According to the grapevine, if the RSL's ambitions are to be fulfilled, they'd hope to get plenty of dollars from the Shire as well as the Carino's building. Some envisage not a mere "swap" but a swap plus significant dollars. What would be the fair cost of renting back a significant proportion of the present RSL site concurrently with the construction of the first stages of the proposed new RSL complex?

As already argued, it is essential for any "land swap" agreement to be transparent, with benefits to the Shire clearly outlined as well as assumed benefits to other town businesses and a better planning outcome than would result from building a flash new complex on the town outskirts.

I believe I have raised important issues in this submission and spent considerable time on it. I hope Councillors and staff consider the points made seriously. Dismissive comment such as "no action to be taken", previously a standard response, does not encourage serious "community engagement".

Wilma Western



SUBMISSION ON THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET PAPERS

- The Council is to be supported in its decision to publish a draft Vision statement, for calling for submissions on the draft budget plans, its plans for growth, the plans for streaming Council proceedings, and for planning for community hubs across South Gippsland.
- Support is also given for the Council's promoting agricultural diversity including the increasing range of specialty food production including horticulture, cheese, meat, eggs, wine production and brewing
- **Korumburra Revitalisation Project**
This should be one of the highest priority programs. This includes the review of Town Centre Framework Plan, selecting a location for the Community Hub, and getting on with landscape design for the Railway Land (see below). For too long this has been seen as a program destined for the longer term. Indeed it would appear that in past budget plans the Streetscape program was scheduled for 2022. This timetable is quite wrong and if it is maintained would symbolise the Council's attitude to the priority that Korumburra takes in the ordering of its affairs. Korumburra citizens and those in nearby communities have seen large scale projects in the eastern part of the shire take precedence. In this regard mention is made of the Leongatha Recreational Precinct including Splash, the Long Jetty, the Rail Trail extensions and the Marina.
- **Korumburra Railway Station Precinct**
Council's involvement in planning for the development of the **Korumburra Railway Station Precinct** is supported. There is a need for a long term strategy to make the Railway precinct an economically important part of Korumburra's future. This precinct has the capacity to be an important commercial hub as well as a tourist drawcard. In that connection Council should facilitate the:
 - a. Immediate planning of the corridor between the railway line and the shopping strip,
 - b. improving the roadway alongside the railway land to Bridge Street, particularly behind the garage,
 - c. making the access from Commercial Street through the Post office car park one way,
 - d. beautifying this area with tree planting and green edges,
 - e. increasing the parking capacity of the area in order to cater for public events which will come to the Railway precinct once it has been developed,
 - f. making the rail trail from Korumburra to Leongatha a top priority. This is given the proven capacity of such facilities to draw tourists, and so increase the economic prospect of all commercial activities in the Railway buildings and along Commercial Street
- **Coal Creek Heritage Park.**
Mention has been made in recent newspaper articles that Coal Creek is to be subjected to another review! When is this process of review ever going to stop and the Council start seeing this Heritage Park as one of the Council's most significant assets and not as a negative? When the Council takes its threats off the Park and gives it the licence to genuinely plan for the long term future then it will become of truly significant value to the Shire: economically, culturally, socially and environmentally. Korumburra is of course the first major town tourists and other passers-by meet in South Gippsland. It represents a potentially wonderful opportunity to greet tourists and others



to South Gippsland, with its parking area, refreshment stop, Tourist Information Centre and a Heritage Village unsurpassed in the Gippsland region, and all in a beautiful a tree-lined environment. There are opportunities galore for development; - a unique school camp experience, sites for festivals of all sorts, a site which tells the unique and amazing story of recent European history, an opportunity to tell the story of the long indigenous local history, and, just as is happening in the Wonthaggi Coal Mine Park to explore how new energy technologies can transform the local economy.

To abandon all that the local Korumburra community has built up over many years and truly value would represent devastating vandalism to the area and represent a very serious mistake and damage to the Council's budget. Volunteer groups are still contributing to the Village, continuing a history of the local Korumburra community contributions over many decades. It has been estimated that to remove the Park and return it to bush land would cost at least \$3million per year till clean-up is completed and then over \$60,000 annual costs for maintenance in staff caring for the land and other costs. And imagine what it would do to the Korumburra and other nearby economies. There would be significant loss in terms of employment and also affect a number of small businesses that depend on the existence of the Park. It would also badly damage the image and prestige of the Council with local residents.

- **Food safety and registration costs.**

It is no wonder local businesses are being forced to give up their developing businesses due to the high costs of the Council establishment fees and annual renewal fees. We have had research undertaken by a local food group which has revealed that SGSC fees are much higher than most other of surrounding councils.

The 2015 figures were: Establishment inspection fees: 3 Councils \$0, One \$328, SGSC \$101
Annual fees: Average of four others \$212, SGSC \$431. Clearly SGSC, having an annual fee more than double the others will be having a deterrent effect on start-ups and these businesses may very well go on to become very profitable, pumping value into the economy and building local employment. Council is asked to substantially reduce these fees for the next financial year.

- **Electric charging stations.**

On four occasions letters have been forwarded to Council urging that policies and actions be developed regarding the new electric vehicle movement and the potential effect on visitation to our area and businesses interested in investing in this area. Bass Coast SC has been able to point to at least five charging stations in their area. On the other hand the SGSC has offered a very weak response to these letters and no serious attempt to look at how this area of investment could be developed. It has clearly an economic benefit as well as Council taking on policies and practices which produce an environmental benefit.

- **Place Branding for the whole of South Gippsland**

The current brand of South Gippsland is divisive and counterproductive. Few of our tourists, let alone our consumers of our high quality of food are aware of where South Gippsland is. It is good that Council is seeking to develop an integrated brand approach, but it is imperative that an overall place branding be then also related to the distinctive districts of South Gippsland. The Prom Country branding has failed to cut through in people's imagination. People want to relate food to its local producers, and a region's branding has to promote an overall impression that resonates and describes the whole district not just one geographical feature in it.

Gil and Meredith Freeman
Residents Kardella



VINCENT A MORFUNI Q.C.

APRIL 20, 2017

Chief Executive Officer, South Gippsland Shire Council
By EMAIL: SUBMISSIONS@GIPPSLAND.VIC.GOV.AU

Dear Sir,

RE: DRAFT BUDGET.

Thank you for the opportunity to make submissions on the draft budget.

RATING POLICY

I note with relief that the proposed expenditure on the municipal office project has been removed. However, rather than using the opportunity presented by the removal of this expenditure to lower rates, the funding has simply been re allocated to other areas, with the consequence that there has not been a reduction of rates.

This is a continuation of past policy where rate increases of some 6% each year were justified on the basis that debt had to be repaid. Council collected 6% plus rates each year to pay off large debt. When debt was paid off around 2012 Council kept the rates at 6% when it could have reduced them to 2%. The effect is that council accumulated 4% each year for the last 4 years of unrequired rate revenue. Council plan to spend this amount instead of returning it to ratepayers by way of rate reductions.

Council should seek to implement a strategy that results in rates being reduced in the future rather than simply relying on past unjustified rate increases to fund expenditure. Unless such a strategy is implemented, now that rate capping is operative, the result will be that council will increase the cost of services, to maintain the level of expenditure.



My concerns in relation to the budget include the following:

In my view the draft budget discloses that there is still too much "fat" in some areas.

ADMINISTRATION COSTS

The draft budget discloses that the cost of administration is some \$25M out of a total income of some \$60M. Thus approximately 41% of income is spent on administration costs.

Having regard to the size of the shire—some 37000 ratepayers this is not only excessive but unsustainable.

The cause, in my view is that the administration is "top heavy".

Council should seek to reduce the cost of administration by undertaking a review of all positions to ascertain what savings could be achieved by rationalizing the administrative structure. It should seek to make a 20% reduction in the cost of administration. That saving should be used to reduce rates. There may be areas of duplication: compare the allocation for Corporate and community services management with Finance risk and procurement departments. The brief for the former appears to include the functions of the latter, yet there are separate costings.

Over \$3M is spent on innovation and council business as part of the administration. Yet there is a separate allocation for a media unit. The reduction of this unit to one person would result in significant savings.

The budget provides for \$1.3M to be spent on Economic tourism and customer services department. It is not clear what gains have been achieved through this expenditure. The Sandy Point caravan park is apparently seeking rezoning to residential. Council should investigate the feasibility of the local community running the caravan park as a means of generating income.

WASTE MANAGEMENT FEES

As a rate payer in Venus Bay, I believe that the present cost of waste collection in Venus Bay is excessive. The majority of ratepayers in Venus Bay do not live there permanently. Accordingly they do not use or need the service for the greater part of the year. The budget proposes an increase of 1.30% in respect of waste service charge H and 1.31% in respect of waste service charge G. This is on top of the already excessive rates paid.

Ratepayers should be given the option of choosing whether they want waste collection or not. Alternatively they should only have to pay for the time that they actually use the service. The budget should be amended to reflect this change.



RISK MANAGEMENT

It is well known that Venus Bay is very vulnerable in the event of a bushfire. There is only one road in or out of the town. Reports into bushfires have identified it as an area that is at risk. I believe council is aware of this risk but it has not taken any steps to mitigate it. It should seek to formulate an exit strategy in the event of a bush fire. An escape route should be identified and made known to the community. Accordingly the budget should provide for undertaking of such an initiative.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

I believe that capital expenditure is still Leongatha centric. Nearly \$5M is allocated for the Baird St Streetscape. That seems to me a large amount of money to be spent on beautifying one street for an unsubstantiated return, especially as the total to be spent on capital works is approximately \$20M. So 25% of the total capital works budget is being spent on one St. in Leongatha. In comparison Venus Bay gets a replacement playground.

Council should undertake a study to see how the facilities for tourists can be improved in those towns within the shire that attract tourism in order to increase the number of tourists visiting the shire. To my knowledge, Leongatha is not one of them.

Some of the \$5M to be spent on Baird St. may have been better spent on improving rural roads. Council should investigate the need and cost of rural road improvement.

Yours faithfully,
Vincent Morfoni
Vincent Morfoni



Submission 56 - **Bill Gurnett** - Various Topics

Comments

Section 1.7 – I believe reference to Rail trail development should not specify Korumburra. This disadvantages the possible development to Yarram and Port Albert were an existing trail can be linked in to. SGSC should be making a positive statement to encourage Wellington Shire to get on board with their section of the trail . The existing statement will not encourage this.

Section 2.1 – Should refer to allowing communities to have greater input into Green Space development dollars from subdivision. This then could be used to help fund 2.1 projects. More control should be offered to local communities for such projects.

Section 2.6 – Review of Paths and Trail strategy need to reflect the importance of the rail trail and the development of an integrated network of access tracks. Areas like Foster that have some existing link tracks should be seen as a pilot for such development projects.

Thanks

Bill Gurnett



Meeniyah Progress Association Submission to Council Comments on Council's Draft Four Year Council Plan

Strengthen Economic Growth & Prosperity

- 1.9** Progress the development of a business case to support the establishment of a multipurpose undercover 'Equestrian / Expo Centre' at Stony Creek.

Comment

It builds on our tourist attraction facilities, will create direct and indirect jobs and we understand has a very short payback period for the community benefit.

Build Strong Partnerships, Strengthen Arts & Culture & Deliver Equitable Outcomes

- 2.2** Update and continue to implement the Blueprint for Social Community Infrastructure – with consideration of a policy position on Community Hubs – so that services and the infrastructure to support them are planned, ready for business and population growth.

Comment

Currently 9 towns in the shire have community hubs/neighbourhood houses. They are important facilities that provide space for delivery of professional services locally and provide a range of services. They are a very important mechanism for building social networks and social connection locally. Given Council's commitment to community strengthening it needs to develop a consistent policy on such facilities.

- 2.3** Develop and implement a Community Strengthening and Engagement Strategy.

Comment

This is strongly supported. However there is some concern that there are insufficient resources in the Community Strengthening unit to properly engage and work with communities. It is one thing to state the desire for community strengthening as a goal, but it is another to ensure sufficient staff resources to do the job properly.

- 2.8** Investigate opportunities to consider a model for community self-determination to facilitate working in partnership with the community.

Comment

Local community self-determination are well worth exploring as a way of engaging people and giving them the right to some form of local self determination on local issues. Local communities have the ability to marshal local resources and get small jobs done much cheaper and more effectively than council. We urge council to also consider establishing a small towns capital works community budgeting program, which gives small grants to towns for them to determine local priorities. We understand that major facilities by their nature are located in main towns, but small towns and hamlets miss out. We all pay rates and we should all be treated with appropriate equity.



Additional Strategy

That Council develops and implements a Small Town Capital Works Community Budgeting Program.

2.9 *Determine and implement the arrangements for the future Home and Community Care Service provision.*

Comment

HACC service plays a crucial role for disabled and older citizens. It is essential that council works hard to find a solution of how to continue to ensure that such services are delivered locally. The national changes should not be seen as an opportunity to reduce council's commitment to age care services. Council spends a large amount of money in excess of \$2m on sports and recreation and limited money directly on aged and disabled services. Council is an aging area and such services are essential and should continue to be supported financially by council.

Improve South Gippsland's Built Assets & Value our Natural Environment Strategies

3.1 *Improve management of roads and roadsides through enhanced operational practices, increased funding and continued advocacy to VicRoads.*

Comment

Maintenance of unmade roads needs to be improved. Council should consult with the community about how such roads are maintained. Council has allowed a steady deterioration in maintenance of unmade roads for a long time. We now need an increase in resources to upgrade their condition.

3.8 *Implement the Footpath Extension Program.*

Comment

There is a deficit in footpaths in all towns. We need a program that gives priority to ensuring that all main streets have completed footpaths. Priority after this should go to ensure that there are footpaths to all schools and important facilities. The seal in the Meeniyah main street needs extension and completion.

Additional Strategy

That council develop a policy and strategy to deal with calming traffic on local roads where there is a strong need.

Comment

Through traffic on local roads needs to be addressed. We have a serious problem on Royston Street, Meeniyah where traffic to and from Dumbalk-cuts through a local street and also in Geale Street with the primary school. Non locals are directed by GPS onto Geale Street and it is used as a short cut with cars travelling excessive speeds near primary school. We understand there are similar problems in other towns including Fish Creek.



Input into consultation of Council draft four year plan 2017-21

Branding the south Gippsland as a place for produce, tourists and new residents

There are a number of major agricultural projects I am associated with currently. Central to their value proposition is the place branding of the district as South Gippsland. We need to revert back to what we were known as, as South or Southern Gippsland, which gives a clear place identifier. Sub brands can coexist but must be ancillary to a place identifier to the overall place. We are in the process of developing major South Gippsland branded food companies and products. Council needs to implement the branding of South Gippsland, as a matter of urgency with ancillary local district brands. Tourist branding should not be the dominant consideration in the overall branding strategy.

Urgent review of planning and enforcement processes

There is a growing body of anecdotal and personal experience about what might be called heavy handed regulatory enforcement by some shire officers. Council has had abysmal levels of community satisfaction for some time now. While there are a number of factors in play here, inconsistency and heavy handed planning and enforcement is a major issue for many people.

It is a common and regular source of local discussion and comment about a lack of empathy and heavy handed tactics on the part of some officers. Some if true are appalling. Council has an enforcement policy, which the last council adopted that places priority on education and a conciliatory approach unless there is serious danger. To be clear this is not all staff, but clearly some are heavy handed. Obviously not all of this case is necessarily accurate and some may be one sided interpretations. The fact remains that there is a consistent and regular pattern of these local instances and a large majority of people share these concerns.

This if the conversations are to be believed and my own experience this policy is being breached in the implementation. No one is arguing that if standards are being breached that they should not be remedied, but there are ways and ways of doing this. Clearly some regulatory and enforcement staff are overzealous, at times callous and putting councils reputation at risk. People have complained but they have been brushed off and the real issues not really addressed.

This is not an isolated view but a commonly held view. If council wishes to address this concern and raise its poor reputation and low community satisfaction scores it has to be addressed.

In my opinion an independent review needs to take place where opportunity is given in a safe environment (free from recrimination) for people to express their concerns. An independent review can then make an unbiased report to council on. Whether there is an issue? If so, what is its nature? And finally how to address it?



Proposal

That an independent review including calling for submissions be made about the council's implementation of its regulatory, planning and enforcement policies in order to assess with there is a failure in policy implementation and if so what actions are required.

Yours faithfully,

John Anthony



Submission 59 - Meg Knight - Various Topics

Mr T Tamlin
Chief Executive Officer
South Gippsland Shire
Leongatha 3953

Dear Tim

Set out below is my submission on the Council Budget 17/18.

Submitter: Megan Knight

I would like to be heard on this submission.

1. EMPLOYEE COSTS

\$24.428M for 264.53 full time equivalent staff members. I note that despite highly publicised restructuring initiatives there is an increase in FTE and an increase of 2.2% in costs. There is no mention whether a new EBA has been negotiated or when this is to occur. I could not find details of how much is paid to contract staff, consultants etc. What productivity savings were achieved under the restructuring initiative ?

2. FUTURE FUNDING OF DEFINED BENEFIT SUPERANNUATION

I note the comment that it is expected that there will be more frequent calls on Council to fund defined benefits superannuation liabilities but I could not find anything which elaborated on actions being taken to meet this expected call and provisioning for the calls.

3. FREE RV CAMPING

There is no mention of a review of Council policy in relation to free RV camping - an oxymoron if ever there was one. I note that \$184,000 has been provided for in the budget for new toilets at Franklin River but I cannot find details of the costs of rubbish removal and other maintenance of this free camping area - would a rough guess of \$250,000 p.a be too out of line ? As I understood the original policy it was for "self contained RV vehicles" - yet it is clear to even casual observers that many campers are relying on Council provided facilities - the only person who gets it free is the camper - we the ratepayers are paying for their holiday.

4. CARAVAN PARKS

The 16/17 budget had annual income for the 2 parks of \$801,607 against operating expenditure of \$950,773 PLUS capital expenditure of \$488,755 PLUS legal costs of \$41,193 (legal costs of \$103,628 incurred in 15/16 also)

For 17/18 income of \$711,396 is budgeted for against expenditure of \$988,250 plus capital expenditure of \$194,409

Clearly income comes nowhere near expenditure - Council could of course overcome the problem by blithely increasing income but surely the time has come for Council to consider the future of its running of commercial ventures such as caravan parks - despite all the glowing reports of how Council was going to make huge profits which would completely cover the costs of operating and capital expenditure at the parks (and the original purchase of assets) - NOT ONCE has a profit been made. I call on Council to make a decision to re lease the parks to private lessees which would at least guarantee some income. Council's role should be to supervise the lessee to ensure that all conditions are being met. I also call on



Council to not even think about taking over Waratah Bay Caravan Park - despite spending \$20,000 on consultants reports to explore this option. Government at whatever level (Federal, State or local) should only become involved in commercial activities which private enterprise cannot do. Ratepayers have met a heavy financial burden in relation to the running of these two parks since September 2014.

5. COAL CREEK

I have noted that Council incurs losses of at least \$500,000 EACH year - some years it is substantially more. I understand that Council has to run some tourism ventures at a loss but I query the figures in previous Council reports which says that Coal Creek generates \$2.4 million dollars each year for Korumburra. I also query visitor figures for Coal Creek which include amongst others - the visitors to the monthly market, the play group visitors in and out, the Men's Shed visitors in and out, conference and meeting delegates in and out. I call on Council to accurately count the true number of visitors who have solely stopped to visit the attraction. Please do not pay for any more expensive consultant reports - do not try and run school camps (Council wants to run a commercial venture in which it has no experience on land it does not even own !) Ways in which expenditure could be reduced include closing the visitor centre, only opening Coal Creek on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. No food outlets in which Council is involved. No further capital expenditure - only maintenance - further development should be left to "Friends Of". I note a newspaper report (which of course may not be accurate) that there is asbestos in some buildings - will this involve a further drain on Council finance and has it been provided for in the budget ?

6. MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

\$382,000 allowed for media and communications - we ratepayers know when Council is doing a good job - we do not need "spin" stories in the media or glossy pamphlets to tell us what Council is doing. This amount of money is an awful lot of PR people and brochures and websites maintenance !

7. LEGAL SETTLEMENT IN WHICH CR RICH HAD A DIRECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST

I note that Council has reached a legal settlement (see Council Agenda 26/4/17) which was deemed confidential and I query whether if the settlement is monetary whether it is reflected in the 16/17 or 17/18 budget. I have made an FOI request for the amount (if any) of any settlement and legal costs incurred by Council.

I accept that Council is keeping within the rate capping imposed by the Minister but note that with the previous high rate increases - the 2.5% rise last year and this year 2% increase - have been calculated coming off a high rate base. Budgeting has two aspects - money coming in but most importantly the way money is spent.



SUBMISSION ON THE 2017/18 SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE BUDGET and COUNCIL PLAN

David Lewis, Ratepayer.
26/4/17

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

1. The municipal precinct, library and community hub project has been removed from the budget. The resulting financial capacity (\$9 to 10 million) could have been allocated to rate reductions but instead has been allocated to new expenditure. (See page 76 of the budget).
2. The most concerning new allocation is to the RSL/Carinos Land Hub investigation at a total of approx. \$5.5 million.
3. No mention of the scale of these costs to ratepayers was made at the time Council decided to start investigating the land swap, and it is problematic whether there would be significant ratepayer support for this level of expenditure.
4. Is this land swap being used to reintroduce and fund parts of the previous municipal precinct/community hub project? Until there is evidence of need and significant community support it is inappropriate to include this large cost to ratepayers in the budget.
5. It would be far better for ratepayers if spare financial capacity was not allocated to multi million dollar new projects prior to the public being informed of hard evidence of need for the project. In the meantime spare financial capacity should be applied to rate reductions.

SERVICES EXPENDITURE

1. Ratepayers are hampered from making evidence based comments on the desirability of funding the many services provided by the Council. This is because there is no complete listing of Council services, or their individual costs, provided in the budget.
2. Of most concern are those services that are arguably not part of a Council's core functions. An example is the various services provided under the Sustainability and Community Strengthening budgets. While some of these services and costs may be unavoidable, others may not be justified by the benefits provided to ratepayers, or could be delivered by a modest increase in funding to volunteers.



3. There is a problem with the imprecise and very broad nature of the Strategies in the Council plan. This means just about any bright idea from within the Council can potentially receive budget funding
4. The Council Plan and Budget concentrate on how to spend ratepayer's money. There is scant attention as to how money could be saved.
5. It would be far better to target services by evidence of benefit and unprompted public demand. If demand is prompted, for example by means of Council publicity or Council called public meetings, then the potential costs that ratepayers would have to bear should be provided at that time.

OVERHEADS AND OFFICE STAFF COSTS

1. Numerous companies, the States and the Federal Governments periodically reduce office staff numbers.

It is beyond belief that cuts in Council office staff costs and overheads are impossible given that the Council has not reduced year on year staff costs once in well over 10 years.



Submission 61 - Ralph Gallagher - Various Topics

To:	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of South Gippsland
By:	Ralph Gallagher
Date:	Wednesday, 26 April 2017
Please note that I would appreciate the opportunity to speak to the content of this submission at the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 17 May.	

1. Preamble

I put a submission regarding the Shire's budget and the associated processes to Council last year. I also had the opportunity to reinforce the context of that submission at a Council meeting.

To date I have not received a response (as promised by the then Mayor) to the submission. Four events are worth noting but do not represent a response.

- ❖ The (then) Mayor changed the mode of publication of his weekly "Message".
- ❖ I was challenged by a Councillor regarding my claim that funds were being set aside for a putative Shire precinct; he later admitted that his challenge was astray.
- ❖ I had an informal conversation with the Deputy Mayor about a draft response that had been prepared for her by a member of the Shire staff. The draft included irrelevant material, apparently incorrect information and was unsigned and was perhaps most notable for the inclusion of the dismissive instruction "To understand the motivation of the Councillors who put forward the Notice of Motion I suggest you speak to them directly".
- ❖ I spoke to a Council meeting in December and expected my note about the nil response to have been passed to Councillors together with my initial submission. It was not. An undertaking to Councillors by a staff member to circulate the material after the meeting was not followed up. Nor was I told of this until some weeks later when I sought confirmation of the action promised.

2. My Purpose

I offer the following comments to Council for consideration and look forward to the May 17 session and the opportunity to suggest processes that could alleviate some of the generally held concern about the budget process and the integral rating strategy.



3. Budget

One of the outstanding features of this process is its enshrined secrecy of the content. The insistence on maintaining “Confidentiality” makes it well nigh impossible for concerned ratepayers (or anyone else for that matter) to argue for or against any element of the final presentation.

For example, the opening of free space to itinerant campers at the same time as the Council seeks to operate caravan parks profitably seems a tad conflicting. What are the costs? The benefits? The impact on the owned caravan parks? And there is discomfort for the residents of South Gippsland who wish to use free space for their recreation when that space is a traffic hazard. The Franklin Reserve is a significant example.

The setting of rates is another example where Council hasn’t (to my knowledge) released the detail of the alleged equitable rating system.

The report to Council of the 2015 Budget Workshop held at Coal Creek was declared confidential, not available to participants. No explanation, just refusal. It is difficult to appreciate this decision given that the report was supposedly advising Councillors of what participants had said.

There is no evidence available to ratepayers on Council’s assessment of works/projects that would assist an evaluation of any decision to proceed.

4. Participatory Budgeting Jury

This scheme lacked credibility and many would criticise a process that has made a substantial corpus of ratepayer funds available to support other than direct Shire entities. My questions of 2016 remain.

- ❖ Why \$400,000, how was this determined?
- ❖ What criteria were to be employed in determining the make-up of each group?
- ❖ What basis was used to identify the towns to be included?
- ❖ What was going to happen if the proposed expenditure was contrary to Council’s plans?

Furthermore given references to the similar action taken by the City of Melbourne as a basis for such a strategy, the question might reasonably be put – what are the key similarities that are pertinent?

What is the future of this initiative? Is there a report on the 2016/2017 experience?

5. Rates

Council has been at pains in recent years to stress the re-balancing of its strategy. A Council report declares *“The Rating Strategy 2013-2018 adopted by Council in June 2013 introduced a two year transition to implement changes that re-balanced inequities from the previous Rating Strategy. As a result of the final changes being introduced this year around 2,470 residential rate payers experienced a rate reduction, around 2,800 residential rate payers received a lower rate increase than the average 4.9% and 1,080 rate payers experienced a rate increase over the average 4.9%.*

These comparisons indicate how Council has reduced the rate burden on lower valued residential properties, while higher valued residential properties have increased.”



It is not clear what the numbers show. What were the inequities? The categories of variously-affected ratepayers are not necessarily mutually exclusive. The concluding sentence is short on clarity.

In my previous submission I reflected on the details of the rating data for a particular residential property as an instance of the increase in the rate impost that seemed to be excessive. The data supplied by Council staff was apparently incorrect. The correct data show that over the period 2004/05 – 2016-17 the rates imposed moved upwards by 112%; the capital improved value of the property moved by 43%. A mismatch of considerable size.

Argument that such imposts are part of the Council's pursuit of an equitable rating strategy overlooks the invalidity of the use of the CIV as the sole determinant used.

6. Surpluses and Reserves

Some weeks ago Councillors noted with applause the advice that the revised budget surplus was likely to be some \$8+m. That is some \$3+m. more than the budget estimate. How is this estimate of the new surplus determined? Have projects been cancelled? Overbudgeted? No explanation was offered.

Elsewhere in the budget document, the text suggests that this surplus (whatever the quantum) shouldn't be treated as the real position. There is an underlying sum that excludes certain income. So there is a quandary to be settled. Which one to use? Why announce the \$8+m?

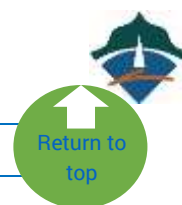
The budget also refers to the need to build reserves to cover such items as unfunded superannuation liabilities that may arise. These should of course be covered by borrowings, better matching the timing of such costs arising and the consequential implications for ratepayers. A practice followed previously.

An examination of "Reserves" is needed. How many reserve provisions are there? What is the purpose of each? How inviolate are these reserves?

7. Conclusion

This submission identifies a few examples of concerns about the current processes that arise as I read the budget document and various reported proceedings of Council. Other members of the Shire community will also address specific concerns and while the prospect of repetition may be off-putting, Councillors should be prepared to consider seriously the prospect of change to existing ways.

Ralph Gallagher



General Comments

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – FOCUS ON ORGANISATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND BEST PRACTICE

- *A strategy to reduce rates through time*
Councils around 35,000 people normally have significantly lower rates than smaller councils. Council has committed to a growth strategy which is clearly a part of a way of reducing rates through time. This needs to be supplemented by developing a shared service strategy and capitalising on digital disruption that is dramatically lowering cost in industry after industry. Council also needs to set real productivity targets and flatten its structure into high performance teams. Council's management structure is bloated in comparison to similar councils and in practice creates a more bureaucratic and less productive environment. Council also needs to upgrade its caravan parks and tender them out.

An overall strategy for reducing rates through time need to be developed as the ultimate goal.

- *Council explore a Distributed Council model for serving the Shire*
Clearly the last election was driven by many voters disenchanted in a \$32m capital works in Leongatha. In a digital era the world is shifting to distributed organisation of services and facilities, Council has a real opportunity to use its network of libraries, future community hubs and digitalised approach to services to deliver localise customer service. This would also create more confidence in the Community by demonstrating Council has a contemporary understanding of institutional structures, management initiatives and digital innovation and process.

Specifically the digital disruption upon us, allowing us to do far more for less obviating the need for expensive just centralised accommodation. Employment with digital disruption will decline not continue to grow as in the past. If Council genuinely wants to engage more with the Community Council needs a physical presence in Korumburra, Mirboo North, and Foster and in the long run in Nyora. This will not necessarily cost more money as community hubs are progressively developed and digital disruption occurs in council's service delivery.

- Development and implementation of a master plan to develop shared services

The alternative to Council amalgamations, which have previously proven to fail to deliver cost efficiencies, is to pursue a shared service approach. A shared service approach is a proven efficiency without impacting negatively on any customer service. My experience of managing the introduction and establishment of a shared service approach in a very large tertiary institution (14 campus sites) was that it not only saved on significant costs but it significantly increased customer services as evidenced through enormous improvements in customer feedback and formal evaluations. A shared service approach is enhanced and strengthened by a contemporary digital strategy for both customers and council administration. While Council has undertaken some, it needs to have a strategic approach that is transparent and accountable to the Community.

There are major opportunities for significant cost saving in cloud computing shared service, in corporate services and in professional support services. Council rates are high and can be



addressed by a more professional and strategic business like approach. Such a Strategy is part of this approach.

- *Reporting on where discretionary capital works funds & grants go*
A major issue at the last election was a pervasive sense of much of the Shire that there was not a fair and equitable distribution of where capital works funds and grants go. Transparent information from Council, (which should be enshrined in its governance processes) including applications, decision making and reporting for the area of capital works funds and grants needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. It is not entirely clear if Council is in breach of the principle enshrined in the local government act that equity of the distribution of funds is taken into account through time and Council decision making.
- Reviewing business processes, systems & benchmarking best practice by addressing cultural alignment & innovation capability and developing proper outcomes measures for KPI for senior staff and for Council Plan. Current management practice does not reflect state of art contemporary practice of people management and structures.

Continuous improvement systems are used by best practice modern organisations to drive productivity and efficiency. Increasingly cultural alignment is seen as the new frontier of productivity. Council needs to have processes and systems to measure cultural alignment and innovation. These have to be supported by realistic performance indicators that set real outcomes and not just throughput ones.

Most of the indicators in the previous Council Plan were meaningless and did not set proper outcome measures. They would not be of any use in terms of staff management, career development and performance and could not be used in a staff development and performance program, even at any level. Staff and management need to have clearly articulated outcomes that they work to achieve and that their success can be measured. The Council Plan articulates the agenda for Council, what it wants to achieve. It needs to clearly articulate measureable performance indicators which can be measured. This is essential for both the Council and the management associated with the successful delivery of the Council Plan.

Gabrielle Gloury
26/04/17



To The CEO and Councillors

Please find below, my comments principally on the Council Plan but also containing matters concerning the draft Council Budget.

The Vision as stated is somewhat poorly worded in my view. It says: "South Gippsland Shire will be a place where our quality of life and sense of community is balanced by sustainable and sensitive development, **population and economic growth.**" I suggest the latter part of this sentence be reworded to say, more clearly:...and growth of our population, economy and community well being.

The Council plan contains four Objectives termed "Objective Overview." I basically support the objectives as stated:

Objective Overview 1: Strengthen Economic Growth and Prosperity

Objective Overview 2: Build strong partnerships, strengthen arts and culture and deliver equitable outcomes

Objective Overview 3: Improve South Gippsland's built assets and value our natural environment

Objective Overview 4: Enhance organizational development and implement governance best practice.

The use of the term "Objective Overview" is however a bit fussy and the term "Objective" should, simply, be used.

In the pages that follow, I have provided specific comments on three of these objectives, their supporting strategies and some of the proposed strategic indicators to monitor progress.

In relation to the draft Council Budget, I have considerable concern about the increase in statutory fees and charges, especially those for Environmental Health and request that these fees and charges be further reviewed with a view to significant reductions and re-alignment with the Shire's Economic Development and Tourism Strategy. I also request that Councillors compare the statutory fees and charges proposed to be set by other municipalities in the region and the Victorian State average before finalising a new fee structure for the Shire.

Yours faithfully

Rosemary Cousin



Comments on the draft South Gippsland Shire Council Plan and Draft Budget

OBJECTIVE OVERVIEW 1 sets out a commendable list of desired outcomes, yet the only strategic indicator to monitor progress – that is, indicators by which we are all able to measure success or otherwise, is that there is “at least one delegation per year to advocate for the Shire’s requirements..” The stated measure is at best procedural. This indicator has no focus, as it does not say who is to take this action [eg the Shire, business or community leaders], or who the target audience is for the ‘delegation/s.’ Even more concerning is the underlying implication that fulfilment of any of the desired outcomes is to be achieved by someone else – presumably outside of the Shire. This measure could be fully achieved simply by having a cup of tea with a visiting State or Federal minister. The Shire and community leaders has far more responsibility than that and should not be let off so easily.

An advocacy strategy can be a powerful tool. This performance measure is far from such an advocacy strategy. A more meaningful set of measures by which we may monitor progress in relation to the first Objective, might be drawn from facts about our Shire now: levels and sectors of high employment and unemployment, skill deficits, sectors in growth and decline and key community welfare attributes such as number of families and individuals requiring Shire and community assistance.

To make real progress towards achievement of the Shire’s Council plan, I recommend the Shire develop an Advocacy Strategy that draws from the top priorities across all four Objectives, achievable actions and stretch goals. There is much literature about the power and benefits of an Advocacy Strategy that the community consistently puts forward.

The Shire’s Economic Development and Tourism Strategy is listed as one of the strategies to achieve Objective 1, yet this document itself needs considerable improvement. For example as a principle foundation of the Shire’s economy is food production, the Shire’s public face of its ‘food trail’ is woeful at present. Following the advocacy theme, a key strategy should see the Shire work with Tourism Victoria and other shires in the region to lift the electronic media, internet and advertising profile of the food and natural assets of the Shire and region; promoting small, medium and large food producers, boutique and mainstream, and highlighting the obstacles and opportunities they face to be successful.

OBJECTIVE OVERVIEW 3

Strategy 3.3 looks at the important subject of municipal public health and other programs that meet the Shire’s statutory obligations. The way in which the Shire’s ‘statutory obligations’ are met, the way that statutory services are delivered by the Shire, can range from ‘crippling’ to ‘enabling’ in their impact upon the overall economy, businesses and community welfare in the Shire. Continuing my theme of Advocacy, I make a positive recommendation for both the Council Plan and Council Budget, that helps to delivery all four Council Plan Objectives.

Many community groups and the Shire have kitchen facilities which are at or near commercial standard. Yet they stand idle for days, weeks, sometimes months on end. These groups often need to raise funds to survive, or do special things. Returning to the core element of the Shire’s economic and tourism development strategy - promoting local food production, there



are many nascent and small quality food producers who cannot afford to build their own kitchen facilities, and would be satisfied renting a community kitchen while they grow their business and skills. But the Environmental Health costs charged by the Shire for business registration and kitchen usage is unfair and restrictive. In addition to inspections and certificate renewal costs charged to each community group, any business renting the kitchen is charged as if the kitchen was their own kitchen facility. The Shire double dips in its fees and charges. A more proactive approach Council could take is to offer to community groups who have kitchens. A simplified and greatly reduced licence fee for the community group and the facility user could be offered by the Shire.

Strategy 3.6 closely approximates an element of an Advocacy Strategy, but why only focus on beaches. What of access to and user-friendliness of waterfalls, parks and picnic places in natural bushland settings that abound across the Shire? Advocating with the State Government for new parks, and for improved planning controls that better manage public lands, natural bush areas and wildlife much better than is now achieved?

Overall, strategies set out to Value our Natural Assets are absent from this document and a more thorough consideration of this part of Objective 3 should be included in the Council Plan.

The Successful Outcomes listed for **OBJECTIVE OVERVIEW 4: governance**, are surprisingly quiet on the question of appropriate and timely responses to customer and community complaints. This would have to be one of the weakest areas of Council's public performance. Often and unfairly, junior officers are left to take customer complaints, while far less often are senior officers involved in actual problem resolution.

Affecting Objective 3 in particular, the Council Plan should be monitored with a view to improving Council performance in relation to, the length of time taken to issue or amend planning permits, or obtain a refusal; and similarly, time taken to gain environmental health approvals; as well as the costs associated with all statutory applications, inspections and approvals and renewals - all these costs add up.

A proactive and positive style of service delivery, a positive focus on customer service and public and staff satisfaction, are specifically matters that must be addressed in relation to Objective 4: governance. They form a core part of Council's style of management and highlight key characteristics of a positive and supportive corporate culture.

I would be happy to elaborate on the above comments at the Council meeting on 17th May if at all possible.

Yours faithfully

Rosemary Cousin



26/ 4/17

Mr Tim Tamlin
Chief Executive Officer
South Gippsland Shire Council
Via: submissions@southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Tamlin and Councillors,
Submission regarding South Gippsland Shire Council's Council Plan 2017-2021 from Energy Innovation Co-operative Ltd.

The Energy Innovation Co-operative Ltd ("The Co-op") congratulates the Council on the broad vision, high level objectives and strategies outlined in the Plan.

We would welcome the opportunity to work more closely with Council to assist in the achievement of those objectives and in refining and operationalising the listed strategies.

The response below highlights some points which we would welcome the opportunity to follow up on in more detail, in later consultations.

Strategy 1.1 Develop a vision for growth and development of the Shire in partnership with the community.

The Co-op would like to see the wording and focus of that vision to be on 'sustainable' growth and development of the Shire in partnership with the community"

- 1) This is consistent with the overall objective 1 as listed.
- 2) The environmental values of the Shire are its main attractors, for visitors, for new residents, for new and innovative businesses. We need to work to ensure those environmental values are further increased as an integral part of any growth and development.
- 3) A focus on sustainability has positive impacts on the long term financial position of the budget as well as on building positive relationships with the community and encouraging further innovation and new industries (eg renewable energy and energy efficiency in buildings, businesses and households, and in eco-tourism).



Strategy 1.2. Develop a strategy to grow the Shire, attract investment and promote tourism consistent with the 'vision'

Strategy 1.5. Review and implement the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy to provide direction to support our businesses to grow, generate employment, pursue economic development and the attraction of visitors.

- 1) See above points on 'sustainable' growth
- 2) The Co-op would submit that one of the elements in taking effective action to achieve these strategies should be for the Shire to adopt a policy of 'locals first' seeking to employ local groups, local businesses and local residents wherever possible for Council-led contracts, and particularly where that action offers 'value for money' for ratepayers.
 - a) We are aware of numbers of Council contracts which have been offered to Melbourne based organisations, when there are numbers of local organisations or contractors who were qualified, and many would say more suited to do the tasks in a cost and outcomes- effective way. Those Melbourne-based contracts tend to be expensive compared to local contracts which have better background on Shire and community assets and needs.
 - b) Councils do generate employment. They have funds to expend to achieve Council goals. They need to make plans and undertake projects and sometimes it is practical and cost effective to contract out that work rather than have it done in-house.
 - c) A policy of seeking appropriate local contractors first, whether they be individuals, businesses or community organisations such as the Energy Innovation Co-operative or Grow Lightly for example, will:
 - i) build a more effective local multiplier effect for Council funds
 - ii) build the attractiveness of the Shire to qualified and innovative residents and ratepayers seeking to earn a living within the region
 - iii) build the capacity of local community organisations in managing contracted tasks in partnership with Council
 - iv) help achieve the 'in partnership with the local community' aspects of the vision above (strategy 1.1.)

Strategy 1.7: Investigate feasibility of further extensions and upgrades to the Rail Trails, particularly between Leongatha and Korumburra and explore opportunities to develop nationally significant trails.

- 1) We agree that rail trails are an incredibly valuable resource for the community, as tourist attractors, as supporting healthy lifestyles for residents and visitors, and as energy efficient off-road safe transport routes, particularly suitable for young people without access to motorised private transport. These other assets have a \$ for the Shire beyond visitors.
- 2) We support the notion of planning beyond just extending the trails to between Korumburra and Leongatha. There could be extensions of Rail Trails/ bike paths to connect with other trails/ paths in Bass Coast and across South Gippsland and beyond, to make circuits and destinations (including Wilsons' Prom), to facilitate alternatives to motorised vehicle transport. Part of the economic development strategy would be to facilitate eco-tourism developments along those trails.

Strategy 2.1: Where appropriate support community groups to achieve projects they have ownership of and want to progress.

Energy Innovation Co-op Ltd. www.eico-op.com.au PO Box 111 Inverloch 3996 info@eico-op.com.au



- 1) See above comments (1.2 & 1.5) on 'locals first' for Council contracts, particularly regarding opportunities for local groups.
 - a) Building the capacity of local groups by contracting them to achieve Council designated projects, will aid those same community groups to achieve the projects they want to achieve for their own purposes and goals
- 2) For the first time since the Co-op's establishment in 2009, Council provided in 2016-17 some limited funds to assist the Co-op in running community workshops on renewable energy and energy efficiency. These workshops/ presentations/ visits are a core activity for the Co-op, and achieve Council objectives at the same time, more cost effectively than 'in-house' because of the volunteer effort and community linkages.

The Co-op appreciates that funding support, as was expressed in our recent presentation to Shire Councillors. Amounts provided for such activities however, need to be enough to ensure they cover reasonable costs entailed in the activities. To do otherwise is probably not sustainable over the long term.

Strategy 3.4 Facilitate community and business renewable energy programs and sustainable practices to reduce the Shire's carbon footprint.

- 1) The Energy innovation Co-operative Ltd has since 2010 developed a sound organisational structure, capacity, expertise, business development framework, plans, linkages with businesses and community organisations across South Gippsland, Bass Coast and beyond. We are linked into and working with networks of similar organisations across Victoria and Australia.

We are very happy to work with the Shire to facilitate community and business renewable energy programs and sustainable practices to reduce the Shire's carbon footprint.
- 2) We believe that setting targets is an essential part of achieving goals. Other shires across the country are setting intermediate carbon emissions reduction goals, with eventual zero net emissions targets at some later stage. If South Gippsland Shire works with the community to set a target, all of us working together can achieve those targets.

Strategy 3.5: Undertake a review of the Council's Building Portfolio to ensure it meets community needs.

- 1) The Energy innovation Co-operative would like to see the words " in the most environmentally and financially sustainable way." added to strategy 3.5

We support the acceptance of the financial challenges faced by the Shire. Our organisation, its capacity, its expertise, its ideas and planning, can help the Shire run in a way which is more environmentally and more financially sustainable.

Susan Davies
Secretary Energy Innovation Co-operative Ltd.

Peter Wonfor
Deputy Chair, Energy Innovation Co-operative Ltd.



To the CEO,
South Gippsland Shire Council

I would like to make a few brief points regarding the Shire Council's Proposed 2017-2021 Council Plan. I will list them in order of the four stated draft objectives:

Objective 1

I generally support this objective, but want to stress the salience of climate change and sustainability as issues that must be central to Council's considerations. Council should develop a climate change policy that displays high awareness of the challenges, changes and opportunities that will emerge through climate change, a policy that constantly assesses its impact on the regional economy and the profound changes it will impose on local agriculture and food production. Where applicable, all Council policies should reflect climate change implications and display Council's strategic responses.

Re 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4: South Gippsland has a rich and varied character that should be maintained and developed. Not all towns are the same, and some are particularly distinctive and can play a key part in the Shire's growth strategy. As a resident of Fish Creek, I'm somewhat concerned about the lack of sewerage in the town. It has been a relatively minor, but nevertheless, contributing factor to the recent loss of a key local business in the town, one that had become a destination business. Its loss has reduced the number of people bringing spending money into the town economy, and it's had flow-on effects to other businesses. Beyond the potential health issues, and they are important, Fish Creek's potential as a destination town is constrained by the lack of opportunity to develop new businesses that will attract visitors and, potentially, new residents. When sewerage does come to Fish Creek there will be new opportunities associated with existing property in and around the town. More land should become available for subdivision and development, potentially expanding Council's rating base. I know this is a complex issue, and there's a lot that can be said about it, but it is important to the town and to the Shire and should be regarded as a priority.

Re 1.8: It would seem to make sense that the Branding Strategy should reflect South Gippsland as an entity and as a destination. The "mother brand" should be the place: South Gippsland. Sub-regional brands can still exist, but many are not in the public mind, or experience, and don't necessarily mean a great deal, particularly in relation to the whole of South Gippsland, e.g., Prom Country reflects only a portion of South Gippsland. Increasingly, branding will be experienced primarily in the digital space, so sub-brands can be easily deployed as appropriate. The "place brand" is key, and it should be South Gippsland.

Objective 2

Community hubs should be extended to all South Gippsland towns, reflective of and relevant to population size. They present an opportunity for devolution and decentralisation of Council's operations and activities to better engage and empower the community in the development and management of towns and assets, and to reduce costs. This is becoming



increasingly achievable as the NBN becomes more ubiquitous within the Shire, greatly reducing the need for centralised operations. So, rather than Council undertake “consideration of a policy position” on community hubs, I would like to see Council “commit to a policy”.

I strongly support 2.3, 2.4 and 2.8 as keys to future community strength and engagement.

Objective 3

Strongly support 3.4.

Objective 4

Strongly support 4.1 and 4.3, as both foster engagement and participation and open opportunities. A digital strategy is key in our rapidly digitising world. It will assist in engaging and empowering councillors and residents. The Shire’s digital platform should receive inputs from a wide variety of sources, including individuals and communities, allowing people to congregate and participate at a variety of levels in the development of the Shire and their communities.

Thanks and regards,

Tony Walker



South Gippsland Shire Council Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Council Plan 2017-2021 Submission

The Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee (AIAC) is a Committee which provides advice to South Gippsland Shire Council on disability, access and inclusion matters. The AIAC is comprised community members with disability, their families or supporters and service provider/organisational representatives. Cr Lorraine Brunt is the Councillor representative on the AIAC.

The AIAC met on 30 March and 21 April 2017 to consider the Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 and to draft a submission on same. The committee had been specifically requested by June Ernst, Coordinator Corporate Planning & Council Business, to consider and provide appropriate wording in relation to the Objective Overview for Objective 2 (page 12 of the Draft Plan).

The submission from the AIAC is as follows:

Council's commitment to the community

This was seen by the AIAC as a positive statement and commitment, especially in relation to reference to diversity and respect for all.

Objective 1: Strengthen Economic Growth & Prosperity

The committee discussed what achieving this objective would look like, including:

- More businesses become successful and stay, employment will also increase
- Healthy population growth would allow for growth and diversity in service provision
- Business vibrancy: cafes being on a rotating system to open on weekends (Saturday after lunch and Sunday).

Additional strategies:

1.10 Enhanced relationships between business associations (Chambers of Commerce etc) with each other and Council

1.11 Enhanced awareness of business owners and operators about Good Access is Good Business principles and practices (implementation of the Good Access is Good Business program and the Gippsland Accessible Tourism Plan 2016-2019)

1.12 Support and promote initiatives which build community spirit and identity

Possible Strategic Indicators:

- Increasing numbers of businesses operating (including increase in occupied shops in CBDs); longevity of businesses operating
- Healthy and sustainable population growth in towns
- More local money spent in local shops, especially supermarkets (*this information was referenced in a study related to the Korumburra Masterplan)
- Increased visitor numbers and dollars spent per visitor
- Evidence of a collaborative approach to business flexibility to allow for greater spread of opening hours to promote business activity over weekends



- Simple and transparent processes to encourage local businesses to competitively tender for suitable Council contracts
- Existence of initiatives which build community spirit and identity, eg. community festivals

Objective 2: Build Strong Partnerships, Strengthen Arts & Culture & Deliver Equitable Outcomes

The committee discussed the issue (as requested by June Ernst) of appropriate wording in relation to the description of provision of Council services and came up with: ***“Communities are supported by services for people who are elderly, who have a disability and for families, youth and children”.***

Clarification of strategies:

2.2 Consider altering the wording of this strategy to reflect that infrastructure developments will apply an “access and inclusion” lens in their planning, development and implementation

2.3 Community Strengthening / Engagement strategies will need to include reference to:

- Accessible venues
- Provision of information in Plain English and accessible/alternative formats

2.8: This strategy is difficult to understand and needs to be simplified to be understood. (This was in the context of the Council needing to lead the way with decision-making in relation to some of the “hard decisions” and keeping the community engaged/informed).

Additional strategies:

2.11 Council will continue to advocate for those affected by changes to policy and service delivery. (This was in the context of changing funding/service delivery models related to my aged care and National Disability Insurance Scheme).

2.12 Continue to actively support Council’s Advisory Committees

Possible Strategic Indicators:

- An increase in community groups supported by Council
- An increase in the number of people participating in groups and committees supported by Council
- An increased participation in community events
- An increase of community groups applying for grants
- Clear and transparent processes for Council to engage with community on issues the community care about, eg Capital works plan process – how does a member of the community flag works in this process?
- An increase in the number of people attending community consultations
 - Improved access to parks, recreation activities for people of all ages and abilities
 - Increased uptake of fitness/wellness activities, eg gym memberships
 - Increased ability for people to remain well and “age in place”
 - Increased number of people volunteering (census data)
 - Enhanced operation of Advisory Committees
 - Participation of Community Strengthening staff at community engagement forums. (This was in relation to the fear that in a rate-capping environment there will be a reduction of “grass roots” staff in



this area. A face to face presence in this space to facilitate access, inclusion and effective engagement is seen as important by the AIAC).

Objective 3: Improve South Gippsland's Built Assets & Value our Natural Environment

We discussed the following: Positive feedback from community around works and meetings, development of community reference groups around major projects for example: Leongatha bypass reference group.

Clarification of strategies:

3.8 Implement Footpath Extension Program: this program will need to meet accessibility and safety standards, eg installation of Tactile Ground Surface Indicators (TGSIs), in line with appropriate Australian Standards

Additional strategies:

3.9 Consider/review the accessibility of public toilet facilities in areas of high community/visitor use.

3.10 Undertake a review of disabled car parking for sufficiency, suitability and compliance with Australian Standards.

Possible Strategic Indicators:

- The uptake of renewable energy programs by community businesses
- An increase in positive feedback from the community around works programs
- Development of community reference groups around major works projects – eg Leongatha Bypass community reference group (groups are time limited, relevant to the project and not ongoing)

Objective 4: Enhance Organisational Development & Implement Governance Best Practice

This was discussed in the context of the organisation becoming a leader in relation to employment of people with disability, recognising the value of the contribution of diversity in the workplace.

Additional strategies:

4.6 Investigate an approach to employing more people with (disclosed) disability

4.7 Implementation of the Staff Health & Wellbeing Policy

Possible Strategic Indicators:

- Increased numbers of people with (i.e. disclosing) disability are employed at SGSC
- Decreased incidence of sick leave and WorkCover claims
- Increased staff retention
- Improved feedback from staff in organisational self-assessment processes

Other issues

A Committee member noted the fact that the plan hasn't been developed in other languages. Another spoke about putting the plan in Plain English so that anybody can understand it. The possibility of translating the plan into other languages in the future was spoken about: the need for translations would have to be established.



LochVillage

PO Box 39, Loch Vic. 3945
correspondencelcda@gmail.com
secretarylcda@gmail.com
Reg No: A0037749K
ABN: 68 373 195 626
www.lochvillage.com
For accounts: LochCDA@gmail.com

President
Keith Tonkin

Treasurer
Lynne McGroth

Correspondence Sec
Lyn Langdon

Minutes Sec
Christine Barton

South Gippsland Shire Council
Private Bag 4
Leongatha Vic 3953

26th April 2017

Submission re:
Proposed Annual Budget 2017/2018
Council Plan 2017-2021

LOCH STREETSCAPE
RAIL TRAILS WEST OF KORUMBURRA



LOCH is a little town with a big heart.

It has:

- a vision to preserve the village atmosphere, and retain the distinctive garden village character heritage architecture.
- a caring community with potential for increase in its already strong interest in the arts, culture and tourism.
- a good working relationship with Shire Councillors and staff.
- many, many volunteers
- a high occupancy with a small local community which pulls well above its weight.

LOCH is:

- the entrance to the Shire of South Gippsland attracting 1,000's of visitors annually
- the tourist information stop, providing information to tourists on where to visit, eat, stay and shop in the shire.

LOCH has:

2 active churches
a recreation reserve with camping area
a river, suspension bridge
a restored and well managed railway station
Sunnyside Park
2 public toilets
Loch Public Hall
a Police station
Bowling Club
CFA/Road Rescue Service
Loch Primary School
Loch Pre-School
16 community groups
Bi-monthly Newspaper "The Loch Express"
V-Line Bus Service
Loch Community Development Assoc
Loch Village Website



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Facebook and Twitter
Loch Community Directions December 2010/Loch Urban Design Framework 2004

EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS, FESTIVALS AND BUSINESSES attract 1,000's of visitors annually

Food & Wine (10th year)
Antiques
Garden (10th year)
Art
Craft & Quilt
Pop-up Antiques and Grand Parade
Woodworking
CWA Bass District
Anzac Day/Remembrance Days
Loch Rock
Anzac Eve Lantern Walk
"Postcards of Loch"
"Fabulous Forties"
Opera
"Hills are Alive"

BUSINESSES INCLUDE:

Carringtons
Carriages of Loch
Olive at Loch
Victoria Street Gallery
Rustic Cacao (Cookery Classes starting soon)
Loch Brewery/Distillery - major drawcard - supplying to Victoria, NSW and internationally
"Yakkity Yak" and "Tribal Threads" - unique attractions in their own right
"Collective Spaces"
"The Small Forest"
Winery (local meeting place - social hub of the town)
Service Station
Additional 4 businesses in planning stage

In the district:
A number of B & B's
Tamsin's Table - lunch experiences
Bellview Hill - cooking classes

THE FACILITIES, BUSINESSES AND ATTRACTIONS BRING:

Car Clubs
Cyclists (major cycling event starting and finishing in Loch)
Motorbike Clubs
Monthly markets

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Cricket and football team

LOCH URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK 2004
LOCH COMMUNITY DIRECTIONS DECEMBER 2010

PROJECTS COMPLETED:

Sunnyside Park Toilets
Former Police Lock-up in Sunnyside Park
Avenue of Honour
Recreation Reserve - "Ray Humphrys" Pavilion (sound shell) - improved parking
Community Storage Shed
Strezlecki Lions Railway Park enhancement
Vic Roads/Shire/LCDA sign enhancement to attract visitors
Enhanced tourism focus of festivals
Visitor Information Board
Advertising of Loch on 10 information boards across the Shire
Town Map developed for visitors "way finding"
Sewerage project - completed 2016
Loch Railway Station maintenance

PROJECTS UNDERWAY:

- STREETScape
 - feasibility study completed
 - community and business engagement
 - sewerage completed and therefore the streetscape is READY FOR COMMENCEMENT
- LOCH LAP
 - feasibility study completed
 - recommendation for surface
- PUBLIC SCULPTURE
(Loch Arts Council) in planning stage

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE ANNUAL BUDGET 2017/18 AND THE COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021

IT IS NOTED UNDER THE PROPOSED BUDGET, that the "LOCH STREETScape"
is to be financed in 2019/20.

The STREETScape IS NEEDED NOW to facilitate the completion of the following urgent projects:

1. Footpath on the north side of Victoria Road, from Sunnyside Park to Smith Street
2. Footpath on the north side of Victoria Road from Post Boxes to Catholic Church
3. Footpath on the south side of Victoria Road from Mary Street to Smith Street
4. Angle parking on both sides of Victoria Road - to relieve pressure of parking in adjacent

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- residential streets
5. Reduction of speed limit in CBD
 6. To establish at law a framework of building codes to reflect the community wishes as expressed in the Loch Community Directions 2010

Under MAJOR INITIATIVES IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET, it is noted:

"Investigate feasibility of further extensions and upgrades to Rail Trails, particularly LEONGATHA AND KORUMBURRA." WHAT ABOUT LOCH AND NYORA?

Isn't the philosophy of the current Council "Linking communities, attracting tourists and new businesses, creating a healthy climate and caring for the environment and community" ?

And so, in SUMMARY,

The LOCH community has contributed immensely.

Since 2004 there has been a proposed STREETScape.

BUT the town seems to have been forgotten by the South Gippsland Shire.

The RAIL TRAIL should start from Nyora to complete the rail trail WEST TO EAST the complete the full length of the Shire.

The Street Scape is needed NOW to facilitate PATHS, ANGLE PARKING and REDUCED SPEED IN CBD. These assets are necessary to improve safety for locals and visitors.

Compiled by: Howard Booth and Tricia Fleming on behalf of Loch Community Development Association Inc

Supporting signatures attached



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Submission to South Gippsland Shire Council
26th April 2017

Name	Address	Signature
Theresa Hudson SP		
Helen Bush		
Ray Lucas		
Steven Hickmott		
Maree Crawford		
Reynold Dilger		
Heather Green		
Kathryn Potence		
Fony Woods		
Peter Green		
Shirley Janta		
GERALD TURTON		
Simon Sellward		
SARAH OXLEY		
Pianne Jones		
PAUL JONES		
LEW POTTER		
LIZ HICKEY		

WOODSLEY Page 1 of 3



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Christine Barton

Christine Walker	C Walker
Mark Walker	M Walker
Ashlee Kuyar	ashlee kuyar
Jane Taylor	J Taylor
Mark Heath	M Heath
Robert Hicks	R Hicks
Joan Hicks	J Hicks
Tricia Fleming	Tricia Fleming
John Fleming	John Fleming
Vic Ferrante	Vic Ferrante
Teresa Ferrante	Teresa Ferrante
Kenneth Taylor	Kenneth Taylor
David Taylor	David Taylor
Judith Kerr	Judith Kerr
Ernie Mitchell	Ernie Mitchell
Rob Mitchell	Rob Mitchell