

JUST TRANSITION



SOUTH GIPPSLAND

COUNCIL MATTERS DIGEST

1st October 2021

Mail-out of ballot packs scheduled for October 5



It's in the mail!

According to the Victorian Electoral Commission's official election timeline, the mail-out of ballot packs is scheduled to occur from October 5 - 7. With voting closing at 6pm Friday October 22, let's hope Australia Post is on time. Cheers to the posties and all frontline workers carrying the burden.

Just a reminder that this is an election by postal vote only.

Making news in this edition - Friday 1st October 2021

You can click on the link to get the full story

Candidates respond to the Just Transition Council Matters Survey. The survey focused on two key matters; support for a Just Transition for South Gippsland and commitment to a participatory, deliberative process as the means of getting there.

Each candidate's response (those who responded) can be found [here](#).

[Ballot Packs Mailed This Week For South Gippsland Election](#) Sentinel-Times 28/9/21

VOTERS enrolled in the South Gippsland Shire Council election should check the mail from this week for their ballot packs for the election.

Closed to community Sentinel-Times 28/9/21

IN OPENING the recent monthly meeting of the South Gippsland Shire Council, livestreamed but in isolation, chief administrator Julie Eisenbise expressed her disappointment that the meetings have not been conducted in public. "And I will express our disappointment, administrators, in the fact that we have desperately wanted to be sitting in a room with a chamber full of residents, that we can converse with, and it's just not been happening, and the fact that it has not happened for such a long period of time has made life quite difficult," Ms Eisenbise said.

\$272,000 wanted for car charging Sentinel-Times 28/9/21

THREE 50kW DC chargers could soon be located in three separate towns across South Gippsland Shire; Leongatha, Korumburra, and Foster, under a \$272,000 '**Charging South Gippsland for Future Transport Project**'. The shire is seeking funding from the Victorian Government's Destination Charging Across Victoria (DCAV) Grant Program but will also add \$130,000 of ratepayers' money plus in-kind support of \$22,000 to get the project moving. Shire administrator Christian Zahra said at the recent council meeting that it was one project that members of the community often asked about.

Health plan for new council Sentinel-Times 28/9/21

THE South Gippsland Shire Council is required to develop a four-year health plan within 12 months of an election. Due to council elections at South Gippsland being held in 2021, an interim one-year Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan - Healthy Communities Plan 2021/22 has been prepared to cover the intervening gap to meet legislated requirements. But it will be the job of the new council to develop a new four-year plan. Priorities of the one-year plan include:

1. Creating healthy lifestyles - focusing on healthy eating and active living, reducing smoking, alcohol and drug-related harm and increasing immunisation rates.
2. Improving mental wellbeing - focusing on supporting mental wellbeing and build-ing a resilient, connected community.

3. Supporting affordable housing - focusing on safe, secure, affordable and sustainable housing in the community.
4. Improving equity - focusing on improving access and inclusion and creating safe and respectful communities.

The plan does not seek to directly address causes of climate change, but seeks to address its impacts on the health and wellbeing of our communities. The one-year plan was adopted at the September 2021 council meeting.

Postal Vote

The election will be conducted entirely by post. Voters who were correctly enrolled for the South Gippsland Shire Council election by 4pm on Friday, August 27 should start to receive their ballot pack from Thursday, October 7, which they must complete and return as soon as possible using the reply-paid envelope provided.

Voters can also hand-deliver their completed ballot material to the election office between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday. The election office is located at 37 Bair Street, Leongatha. Voting closes at 6pm on Friday, October 22. Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately advised voters to vote well ahead of the closing time. "Make sure you post or hand-deliver your completed ballot paper by the deadline," Mr Gately said. "Check your local mail clearance times – it may be earlier than 6 pm, or earlier in the week."

You can research your local candidates ahead of time at vec.vic.gov.au to help you make an informed vote and promptly complete and return your ballot material. Further information on the South Gippsland Shire Council general election is available on-line at vec.vic.gov.au.

Online candidate discussion: Venus Bay Community Centre, Foster Chamber of Commerce, Leongatha Business Association, Mirboo Country Development Inc., Mirboo North Times, and Korumburra Round Table invite the South Gippsland community to attend candidate forums in your ward.

All forums have moved online due to venue limitations, and they will each begin at 7pm.

The dates for each forum are as follows:

October 5 - Coastal-Promontory Ward;

October 6 - Strzelecki Ward and

October 7 - Tarwin Valley Ward.

LINDSAY LOVE
FOR TARWIN VALLEY
-- South Gippsland Shire Council --

A vote for me will see support for:


- ✓ Promotion of real community engagement so people can own Council decisions;
- ✓ Improved openness, transparency and honesty;
- ✓ Promotion of sustainable development providing opportunities for more business and people to live locally;
- ✓ Developing the case for the Rail Trail Underpass at Roughead Street;
- ✓ Budget allocations for maintaining the road network, Rail Trail, reserves and community buildings;
- ✓ Community development of a new vision for Coal Creek so it is self-sufficient and sustainable;
- ✓ The construction of the Agnes Falls Viewing platform as it has already been levied in the rates;
- ✓ Developing the extension of sewer and/or water supply to our towns;
- ✓ Planning for an integrated Children's Centre and Shire Hub at Nyora;
- ✓ The establishment of a State significant Mountain Biking Hub for the Reserves around Waratah Bay;
- ✓ Investing more resources into promoting the Marina at Port Welshpool and other tourist ideas;
- ✓ Assisting the community with COVID lockdown recovery and re-establishment of community life.

All candidates have been invited to present a short speech, followed by an audience Q&A. Community members have the opportunity to submit questions to individuals or general questions for all candidates.

To attend, go to zoom.us, click join meeting and add the following Zoom meeting ID and passcode. Meeting ID: 931 8058 5693; passcode: r8JkScEmail
SouthGippsland.CandidateForum@gmail.com.

South Gippsland Shire Council postal election

Your council, your vote



South Gippsland
Shire Council

Check the mail for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material will be mailed to enrolled voters from **Tuesday 5 October 2021**.

This is a postal election only.

If you do not receive your ballot pack by **Wednesday 13 October 2021**, please call 1300 202 885 during office hours to arrange a replacement.

How to vote correctly

You must complete your ballot paper correctly for your vote to count. Put the number 1 in the box next to the candidate you most want to see elected, then number ALL the other boxes in order of your choice. You must number EVERY BOX and only use each number once.

How to return your completed ballot paper

Follow the instructions on your ballot paper to complete your vote. To return your completed ballot paper, put it in the ballot paper envelope then use the reply-paid envelope provided or hand-deliver it during office hours to:

37 Bair Street, Leongatha

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for all voters who were on the State roll at 4 pm on **Friday 27 August 2021**.

You may be fined if you do not vote – this includes homeowners and tenants.

You are encouraged to vote, but you will not be fined if you don't vote, if:

- you live outside this local council area OR
- you are enrolled directly with the Council to be on the voters' roll for this election.

Your completed ballot pack must be in the mail or hand-delivered by 6 pm* Friday 22 October

*Local mail clearance times vary. Ballot packs must be mailed before final clearance times in the last week of voting. Don't risk a fine.

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au




vec.vic.gov.au | 1300 202 885


For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service:

• 𐤀𐤃𐤓𐤕 9209 0190 Amharic • 𐤀𐤃𐤓𐤕 9209 0100 Arabic • 𐤀𐤃𐤓𐤕 9209 0191 Bosnian • 𐤀𐤃𐤓𐤕 9209 0101 Cantonese • 𐤀𐤃𐤓𐤕 9209 0102 Croatian • 𐤀𐤃𐤓𐤕 9209 0193 Dari • 𐤀𐤃𐤓𐤕 9209 0119 Dinka • 𐤀𐤃𐤓𐤕 9209 0103 Greek • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • 𐤀𐤃𐤓𐤕 9209 0192 Khmer • 𐤀𐤃𐤓𐤕 9209 0194 Korean • 𐤀𐤃𐤓𐤕 9209 0105 Macedonian • 𐤀𐤃𐤓𐤕 9209 0106 Mandarin • 𐤀𐤃𐤓𐤕 9209 0195 Persian • 𐤀𐤃𐤓𐤕 9209 0196 Russian • Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • 𐤀𐤃𐤓𐤕 9209 0110 Turkish • 𐤀𐤃𐤓𐤕 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Authorised by W. Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

@electionsvic



Frank's unorthodox pitch to voters SENTINEL-TIMES, 28/9/21

After 10 weeks on the last council, Frank Hirst believes he has what it takes to take on the role again, but he's made an unorthodox pitch to the voters in his Candidates Statement.

FRANK Hirst will donate his entire councillor's allowance, less legitimate expenses, for the full four-year term, if he's elected. And he's keen to see that former council colleague, Andrew McEwen, is also among the successful candidates in Strzelecki. Those views are detailed in his 'Candidates Statement' published on the Victorian Electoral Commission website ahead of the start to voting in the South Gippsland Shire Council elections as early as Tuesday next week, October 5. "It's probably a bit unusual to be endorsing another candidate but I truly believe that if we get a full set of newbies on the council, people without any experience in local government, it will be very much a case of 'Yes Minister'." "You've got to have some people on council who know how a council operates," he said. But that doesn't

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mean he'd always vote with Mr McEwen, he says. "My philosophy and Andrew's are fairly closely aligned but that doesn't mean I'd always vote with him. I'd be fully independent."

But, in another frank admission, he acknowledged that if it came down to a final choice for voters between himself and Mr McEwen, he hopes the latter would get elected. Here in part, is what he had to say: "My 10-week stint on council in 2019, before the entire group was sacked, showed me that, by that stage, we had a competent, committed group. I believe it's vital that part of that experience is returned if council is to be effective moving forward. "Thus, I fully endorse Andrew McEwen in the Strzelecki Ward. Andrew is a visionary yet practical thinker and has amply demonstrated over seven years an extraordinary commitment to our people and communities."Mr Hirst believes he is well suited to being a councillor, with time to devote to the role after "retiring" to the farm and with an agricultural science and farm forestry background.

Here's what the others said.

David Amor: David has made a pitch for support from those who think the shire is wasting money on wages and project overruns. He wants to bring back "transparency, accountability and respect" to council and to develop a stronger partnership with community, business and farmers in council's decision making.

James Forbes: With experience as a councillor, farmer and teacher, including formal qualifications in those areas, Jim Forbes' call for support relies on his experience and community service. He says residential growth should be restricted to areas serviced by reticulated water and sewerage. He backs an expansion in infrastructure, better road maintenance and policies that lead to greater employment opportunities.

Mick Felton: A resident of Nyora since 2009, CFA volunteer and president of the Nyora Hall Committee, Mick Felton, would like the community to vote for a fresh start. Specifically, he's concerned about excessive rates, the fact there's no hard-rubbish collection, he wants better roads and walking tracks, public transport and varied activities for youth among other things.

Andrew McEwen: He says he would like to be involved in creating a council that is open, revitalised, inclusive and can be trusted by the community. He wants to reduce rates, increase satisfaction to 90 per cent, if that's even possible, improve road maintenance and declare a climate change emergency.

Nathan Hersey: With eight years' experience working directly with government, understanding community expectations, setting policies and priorities, and delivering measurable outcomes, along with qualifications in Business Management, Human Resources Management and Arts; Nathan Hersey has packed a lot into 34 years. And that's not taking into account being married for 11 years, and with a two-year-old son. Understanding how councils should work and a positive attitude has him well placed.

Jenni Keerie: Jenni Keerie says the council needs a fresh start and good people, with experience and skills, to step forward. Her focus will be on good leadership, working together and getting the best outcomes for the whole shire. Integrity, honesty, hard work and a responsible, helpful and patient attitude are characteristics she prizes.

Letters to the Editor

Work for the benefit of the whole shire

I acknowledge an article (Letters, page 20) in the South Gippsland Sentinel-Times of September 21, 2021, by Ilse Arndt of Meeniyah, in which she notes the intolerance expressed by South Gippsland Council nominee, Mr Andrew McEwen, towards a portion of shire rate-payers, as expressed in articles (Letters, page 23) of the same newspaper the previous week. Mr McEwen initially identifies the following qualities as desirable traits for any local council to exhibit:• Trust and respect;• A capacity to engage all local stakeholders;• Be willing to operate collegially, civilly and with mutual respect;• And to work for the benefit of the whole shire and not just special interest groups. Unfortunately, Mr McEwen, in a second expansive article on climate change, then demeans a number of the residents in the South Gippsland Shire and Strzelecki Ward in particular, who may not totally share his view, as a vociferous minority who don't believe "the science", but rather a mythical conspiracy in their "post truth" world. He goes on to further offend these residents and ratepayers as climate denial laggards and blind Freddie's living in a parallel universe of fake news. Hardly an epic introduction of his candidature to the electorate! For the record, there is no such thing as "the science". Science is inherently an error ridden process that advances through the detection and correction of error, observing, testing, researching and debating data. Climate change is a natural phenomenon that has occurred over millions of years and there is no reason to believe that this process is not ongoing. Everything should be viewed in the context of what has occurred in the past.

David Vance, Inverloch.

Not in my backyard

With a local election about to begin, we need to know which of our candidates support Just Transition South Gippsland whose aim is to "declare a climate emergency". The end result of this propaganda spells disaster for our farming community who are already considered some of the most efficient farmers in the developed world. Without these hard-working, high risk-taking land managers, South Gippsland would soon become a weed-infested, vermin-overrun inhospitable wilderness with little to attract tourists. JTSG is fielding several candidates in the South Gippsland Shire Council elections. Be aware and beware of this agenda with a real possibility to again divide the new council on ideological grounds, similar to the Bald Hills Wind Farm fiasco currently before the Supreme Court. Wasn't that a major source of conflict between many councillors and council bureaucrats in the last council? In your deliberations, remind yourself of the in-avoidable loss of freedom to say NIMBY (not in my backyard) when it comes to those thumping wind towers. Do you want the SGS Council embroiled in these issues again? Vote for common sense candidates.

Otto Ippel, Koorooman.

A reminder, if you have any insightful articles, editorials, letters, social media posts that have been missed, please send them to [Council Matters](#) for inclusion in the next Digest. We will circulate the Digest weekly for the moment.

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SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2021 ELECTION TIMELINE

Council primary enrolment data	JUL 12	MON	(Date fixed by VEC)
Public notice of Close of Roll Date (Published during this period)	AUG 7	SAT	
	AUG 13	FRI	
Close of Roll	AUG 27	FRI	4.00 pm (57 days before Election Day)
Publication of Election Notice (Published during this period)	AUG 30	MON	
	SEP 4	SAT	
Opening of election office	SEP 15	WED	
Certification of voters' roll Opening of nominations	SEP 16	THU	
Nomination Day	SEP 21	TUE	Nominations close at 12 noon Ballot draw to follow
Lodgement of candidate statements, photographs and questionnaires	SEP 22	WED	Candidate statements, photos and questionnaires close at 12 noon
	SEP 24	FRI	
Mail-out of ballot packs/ Uncontested ward leaflets	OCT 5	TUE	
	OCT 6	WED	
	OCT 7	THU	
CLOSE OF VOTING	OCT 22	FRI	Voting closes at 6.00 pm
Election Day	OCT 23	SAT	
Postal vote receipt period	OCT 25	MON	
	OCT 29	FRI	Postal vote receipt closes at 12 noon
	NOV 2	TUE	Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday

All elections to be declared by Friday 5 November.

*AFL Grand Final public holiday – TBD

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