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GLGN Update

Contact us

Website:
www.glgm.com.au

Secretariat:
Jennifer Cromarty
GLGN Secretariat
T: 03 8317 0111
jenniferc@socom.com.au

GLGN:
Cr Scott Rossetti
Mayor,
Wellington Shire Council
Chair, GLGN

T: 0427 052 394
scott.rossetti@wellington.vic.gov.au

GLGN Meeting Schedule for 2014

Friday 16 May
Bass Coast

Friday 20 June
MAV

Friday 25 July
South Gippsland

Friday 22 August
Socom

Friday 19 September
East Gippsland

Friday 24 October
MAV

Gippsland Local Government Network

Greetings from the Chair



As the new Chair of GLGN, I'd like to extend a welcome to all our new members in 2014.

Late last year, I was elected Chair for 2014 and I would like to thank outgoing chair Cr Richard

Ellis and former Mayor of East Gippsland for his dedication to the region for the past two years.

Similar to last year we will continue to focus on transport & freight in 2014 as it is still a key priority.

Our priorities will include the Port of Hastings freight rail link, South Gippsland highway, high priority rail infrastructure upgrades, new rolling stock and operational costs,

the duplication of the Princes Highway including Longwarry intersection upgrade.

I look forward to working collaboratively and achieving many great things for the community in the year ahead.

Kind regards,

*Cr Scott Rossetti
Chair, GLGN
Mayor of Wellington Shire Council*

New faces at GLGN

GLGN would like to welcome our five new members.



**Cr James Fawcett Mayor,
South Gippsland Shire**

Cr Fawcett joined South Gippsland Shire Council in 2008 with an impressive background in driving major community projects to fruition. He was elected Mayor for the 2013-14 term.



**Cr Sharon Gibson, Mayor,
Latrobe City Council**

Cr Sharon Gibson is a West Ward Councillor and she is currently Mayor after serving as Deputy Mayor for three terms.



**Cr Neil Rankine
Mayor, Bass Coast Shire**

Cr Neil Rankine is the Councillor for Hovell Ward, and was elected Mayor of Bass Coast Shire on November 2013. He wants the Bass Coast to remain a friendly, safe, affordable and pleasant place.



**Cr Mark Reeves, Mayor
East Gippsland Shire Council**

Cr Mark Reeves has a passion for youth leadership, physical and outdoor education and health and wellbeing. He was elected Mayor in November 2013.



**John Mitchell, Acting CEO
Latrobe City Council**

John is the Acting Chief Executive Officer at Latrobe City council after long term CEO Paul Buckley accepted the position of the CEO of Bass Coast Shire. John has held positions as Managing Director of Gippsland Water and Chief Executive Officer of the City of Traralgon.

State Budget submission calls for major transport overhaul

GLGN's 2014 – 2015 State Budget submission focused on major public transport, rail freight and road issues including \$500,000 for a Gippsland Rail Freight Corridor Development Study including an assessment of options for connection to the Port of Hastings.

Eight million tonnes of freight could be transported from Gippsland via the new Dandenong to Hasting rail line.

These changes will be an important economic growth enabler for the Gippsland region.

Other key transport priorities included:

- \$286 million for high priority rail infrastructure upgrades and rolling stock, plus \$11 million per annum for operational costs;
 - \$81 million medium-term rail infrastructure upgrades, plus \$6 million per annum for operational costs; and
 - \$40 million to realign the South Gippsland Highway (A440) at a section known as 'Black Spur' south of the town of Koonwarra estimated at \$40 million.
- Funding for the Princes Highway corridor is also a key priority for the following reasons:
- Access control improvements between Nar Nar Goon and Longwarry including Sand Road Interchange
 - Completion of the Traralgon – Sale duplication
 - Commence business case for Traralgon bypass
 - Identify preferred alignments for Sale and Bairnsdale truck alternate routes
 - Safety and truck rest area improvements east of Bairnsdale
 - National Network should be extended from Sale to the Port of Eden.

Minister Mulder and Minister Ryan launch Gippsland Freight Strategy



From L-R Deputy Premier Peter Ryan, Cr Dick Ellis, Minister Terry Mulder



From L-R Cr Scott Rossetti, Cr Dick Ellis, Minister for Ports David Hodgett, Cr Clare Le Serve, Cr Kieran Kennedy, Cr Murray Cooke

At a meeting with Mayors and CEOs from Gippsland's six regional shires and councils at Parliament House last September, Deputy Premier Peter Ryan and Minister for Transport Terry Mulder launched the Gippsland Freight Strategy.

During the meeting, Ministers Ryan and Mulder discussed Gippsland's critical role for Victoria both now and into the future. Minister Ryan said, "The Gippsland region supplies 90 per cent of Victoria's electricity needs.

"It also provides 32 per cent of Victoria's milk, 25 per cent of its beef and 14 per cent of its fruit and vegetables. One of the key considerations in ensuring these industries continue to thrive is providing a fully functioning freight network," Ryan said.

Minister Mulder said the Coalition Government is very much in step with the Gippsland Freight Strategy and is a strong supporter of Victoria's freight and logistics industry.

"The Coalition Government's freight and logistics plan, Victoria – The Freight State, includes the Gippsland Freight Strategy as a fundamental plan for the region and we will work closely with our regional partners in delivering the best solutions possible," Mulder said.

To download a copy of the Gippsland Freight Strategy visit: www.glgn.com.au or email jennifer@socom.com.au.

Farewell to Bass Coast CEO Allan Bawden



Long term CEO of Bass Coast Shire, Allan Bawden

CEO of Bass Coast Shire Allan Bawden, the Council's first CEO, has retired after 19 years. Allan has represented Bass Coast Shire on GLGN since its inception.

During his time at GLGN Allan has embodied the spirit of the group by working cooperatively on issues and projects of collective interest to Councils in the Gippsland region.

Allan also served as the region's representative on Rural Councils Victoria Executive.

We want to thank Allan formally for his significant contribution to the Gippsland region through his role as a CEO member of GLGN.

We wish him all the best for his future endeavours.

One Gippsland welcomes regional priority funding announcements

Gippsland's peak advocacy campaign group, One Gippsland has welcomed the announcement of state and federal government funding for two of its key priority projects in April.

The announcements include a \$73 million commitment from the state government for the stage 2a redevelopment of Latrobe Regional Hospital and \$1.5 billion committed by the federal government for stage two of Melbourne's East West Link.

One Gippsland spokesperson and GLGN chair Cr Scott Rossetti said the announcements are important achievements due to the fact that both the expansion of Latrobe

Regional Hospital and the delivery of the East West Link have both featured prominently in the One Gippsland campaign over the last twelve to 18 months.

The funding announcements come at a pivotal time as regional leadership groups plan for the future with major reviews of the Gippsland Regional Plan due for completion by the end of the year.

"We'll need to reassess where we are at against each of the eleven priorities identified in the 2010 iteration of the plan, however it's fair to say that today's announcements reinforce the view that

we've made strong progress over the last four to five years".

"The Latrobe Regional hospital board and executive are to be commended on their long-term commitment to making this important development a reality".

"We would also like to acknowledge the state government's commitment to pushing ahead with the East West Link and we know that in both cases, a significant amount of work has been undertaken to get to this point," Cr Rossetti said.

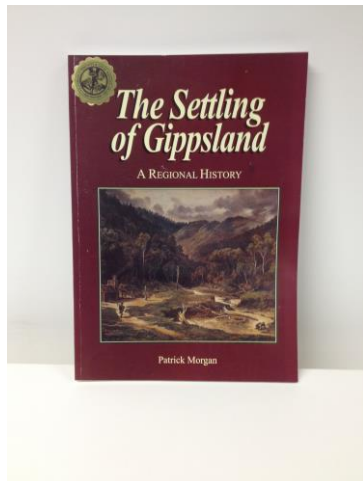


Latrobe Regional Hospital



Latrobe Regional Hospital

Book on Gippsland's rich history a sell-out



Late last year, GLGN supported and funded the reprint of the historical text, "The Settling of Gippsland", first written by Patrick Morgan in 1997.

The resurgence of this book is an important step in keeping the history of Gippsland alive within the community.

When initially published 15 years ago the book enjoyed considerable success and it was introduced

into the curriculum of many Gippsland schools.

Author Patrick Morgan, who has been described as a Gippsland treasure, presented copies of, "The Settling of Gippsland", at the March 2014 GLGN Mayors and CEOs Forum and gave an update on the success of the reprint.

At the time of his update, only 14 copies remained.

Parliamentary Secretaries confirm support for Gippsland priorities at All Councillor Forum



Damian Drum, former Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development (now Minister for Sport)

In late February 2014 more than 30 councillors and CEOs from across the Gippsland region met with Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development, Damian Drum and Parliamentary Secretary for Transport, Garry Blackwood to discuss the regions key transport and freight priorities at the All Councillor Forum.

Mr Drum said local government needs to continually advocate for funding programs that are important to the community and that while the Regional Growth Fund is enshrined in legislation for the next four years, it's still important the Government hears about success stories and good community outcomes.

Parliamentary Secretary for Transport Gary Blackwood said he was actively advocating for projects important to the Gippsland region based on the priorities outlined in GLGN's state budget submission.

In response to a question about the reservations for a potential freight line to the Port of Hastings, Mr Blackwood said he understood the Port of Hastings project was hugely important for Gippsland.

He added that planning for the freight and transport intermodal hub was underway but if there was new activity in the coal industry the Gippsland freight access to the Port of Hastings would be expedited.



Gary Blackwood, Parliamentary Secretary for Transport