



Committee for  
**GIPPSLAND**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017







Chairman and Chief Executive Report	4
Board	6
Let's Get Gippsland Moving: Build the Traralgon Bypass	8
Gippsland Jobs and Innovation Showcase	9
Advocacy	10
Member Updates, Policy and Submissions	12
Events and Functions	13
Membership	14
Committee for Gippsland Members	15
Gippsland Community Leadership Program	16



# Chairman and Chief Executive Report



This year the Committee for Gippsland has driven an agenda full of activity and outcomes for our region. In the Committee's seventh full year of operation, we are very proud to report to you that 2017 has seen membership growth, an unprecedented level of membership engagement and real outcomes that enhance our region's liveability and investment reputation.

This year the Committee for Gippsland initiated the preparation for our new Strategic Plan for 2018-2020. Deep consultation with our members took place through workshop sessions around the region, face to face meetings as well as an online survey. The Committee for Gippsland is proud to be launching the new Strategic Plan.

The Committee for Gippsland hosted over 30 member meetings this year, ranging from keynote speeches with government ministers through to captains of industry lunches, smaller roundtable discussions on set topics, through to major events like the Gippsland Jobs and Innovation Showcase. On the policy front, the Committee for Gippsland continues to be proactive and responsive to the feedback we receive from our members.

In March, the Committee for Gippsland was invited to Germany to look at the latest brown coal energy generation technology with the findings presented in a co-authored report with Ian Nethercote, Patrick Gibbons and Mary Aldred. The report provides a starting point for conversations and a blueprint for new low emissions energy generation in the Latrobe Valley. The report's findings and recommendations have steadily gained traction and momentum through the year. Again the Committee for Gippsland has played an active role in the progression of policy discussion within our region.

The Committee for Gippsland exists for our members and we advocate on behalf of them to achieve better outcomes for Gippsland. The outcomes we have helped secure for the Gippsland region would not have been possible without the important contributions our members provide towards our strategic planning, our policy development and our advocacy work. The financial support our members provide through membership fees not only enables the work to be done but also ensures a strong and meaningful voice for Gippsland and importantly, our independence as the leading advocacy group for Gippsland.



The Committee for Gippsland aims to work constructively with our stakeholders and partner organisations across the Gippsland region. One Gippsland is an incredibly important part of our region's advocacy success. We would like to acknowledge Regional Development Australia Gippsland and the Gippsland Local Government Network for their input and engagement with One Gippsland. When we work together as a region we achieve far more for Gippsland.

Members have continued to be kept informed of policy developments and of the Committee's work through our member communications from our team during the year. This is really important in order to facilitate discussion including feedback and input from our members for strategic priorities and policy work, as well as to ensure members are kept up to date with news and opportunities in Gippsland.

The Board and Management congratulate and thank our members for their vision in supporting the Committee for Gippsland and we sincerely thank members for their support in making Gippsland a better place to live, work and invest.

We warmly acknowledge the excellent work that our management team has undertaken this year, particularly Tony Cantwell as Policy and Membership Manager and Jenny Hammett as Program Director of the Gippsland Community Leadership Program. Finally, thanks also to the Committee for Gippsland Board of Directors, who as volunteers, provide credibility, expertise and a significant level of commitment to our region.

**Harry Rijs**  
Chairman  
Committee for Gippsland

**Mary Aldred**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Committee for Gippsland

# Board

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## HARRY RIJS

Chairman

Harry is a non-executive Director with Patties Foods, which is based in Bairnsdale, and are makers of iconic Australian brands including Patties, Four'N Twenty, Herbert Adams and Nannas.

Son of the founders of Patties Foods and a founding member, Harry commenced his career as a pastry cook at Patties in 1972 and over four decades gained broad experience in manufacturing, selling, marketing and distribution.

Harry has served as a Director of Patties since 1989 and Deputy Managing Director from 2005 – 2009.

Harry is a member of Finance, Audit and Risk Sub-Committee and Member of Nominations and Membership Sub-Committee.

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## JON MCNAUGHT

Deputy Chairman

Jon is a Gippsland born and bred mechanical engineer, beginning his career at Australian Paper, Maryvale, before joining GHD in Melbourne in 2002 and is now the Gippsland Manager and Principal Mechanical Engineer of GHD.

Jon has worked on projects across Australia, Asia and the Middle East, including defence facilities, large agricultural ventures, as well as transport and energy developments.

Jon is also a member of the Gippsland Regional Plan Leadership Group.

Jon is a member of Finance, Audit and Risk Sub-Committee.

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## SEAN DIGNUM

Director

Sean is Principal of the advisory firm SDA Strategic and is a strategic communication adviser and issues manager with extensive experience in corporate affairs projects and public education campaigns.

His strategic perspective is informed by extensive experience at the senior level in mainstream media and on diverse boards.

Sean is a former Director of Latrobe Regional Hospital and currently President of Neerim and District Health Service. He has a dairy farm in Neerim South and is an active member of Landcare and environmental advisory committee within Baw Baw Shire.

Sean is Chair of Finance, Audit and Risk Sub-Committee.

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## TONI WAKEFIELD

Director

A lifelong and passionate Gippslander, Toni is the Commercial Services Manager and co-founder of the 2006 Telstra Australian Business of the Year, Safetech Pty Ltd – an award winning business employing more than 100 around the country.

Safetech is the largest Materials Handling Company in Australia.

Toni is nationally recognized for her commitment to raising the profile of small business and her support for education. Toni actively contributes to a range of business and education initiatives, including as a member of the Regional Development Australia Gippsland Committee. Toni is a current Telstra National Business Awards judge and also a past member of the Victorian Small Business Advisory Council.

Toni is Chair of Nominations and Membership Sub-Committee.

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## TIM WEIGHT

Director

With a degree in Agricultural Science from Melbourne University over the years Tim's career has shifted from living and working on the land to being instrumental in its development.

Tim now runs his consulting business Tim Weight Consulting from East Gippsland and has been involved in agricultural systems and economics, regional economic development and property development. Tim is also Executive Director of Strategic Engagement at Federation Training and a board director at East Gippsland Water.

Tim has extensive experience in the management and governance of property development and property investment ventures.

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## PROFESSOR LEIGH SULLIVAN

Director

Professor Leigh Sullivan is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) at Federation University Australia, where he is responsible for the University-wide research portfolio. Prior to commencing at Federation University Australia in early 2016, Professor Sullivan held appointments at Southern Cross University including Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), Deputy Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Development), and Dean, Graduate Studies.

Professor Sullivan has an international reputation for his research in acid sulfate soils and carbon biosequestration. He has obtained over \$17m in competitive funding to support his research activities and has published over 300 articles, books and chapters.

Professor Sullivan has been Deputy Chair of the Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences Panel for the Australian Research Council's College of Experts for the Discovery and Linkage programs and has served on other advisory panel and research evaluation committees for the Australian Research Council.

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## DAVID MAWER

Director

Having held senior management roles internationally within the electricity and gas industries, both in the public and private sectors, David is a former Managing Director of Gippsland Water and is currently Director of The Performance Attitude.

Previously David has been the Managing Director of Westernport Water as well as a former State Manager for BHP Billiton.

David was also a director of the gas market regulator of NSW for four years, as well as a former Director of the Savewater! Alliance.

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## ROHAN HUBBARD

Director

Rohan is a Director at Warren Graham Murphy Solicitors, in Bairnsdale. Rohan has an LLB, and was admitted to practice in 2001.

Areas of specialisation include property law, commercial law – sale and purchase of business, franchising, company and trust advice, business structuring, joint venturing, leasing and business transactions.

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## HEATHER NOONAN

Director

Heather is the Regional Manager for Commonwealth Bank across Gippsland, based in Warragul.

Over the past 25 years Heather has held a diverse range of roles in the Finance Industry across numerous businesses and brands in Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne.

Heather plays a key role in Farm World as the ambassador for Commonwealth Bank who is a strategic partner of this major local event.

Heather is a member of Nominations and Membership Sub-Committee.

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## ROCHELLE WRIGGLESWORTH

Director

Rochelle is a Chartered Accountant and Registered Company Auditor. Rochelle is also a member of the Institute of Company Directors with experience across the private, public and not-for-profit sectors.

After working at PricewaterhouseCoopers and then at Crowe Horwath for many years, Rochelle was the founding Director of DMG Audit and Advisory, part of DMG Financial.

Rochelle is experienced in risk management, internal and external audit, financial management and strategic planning.

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\*Robert Radford from Radfords Meats, and Harry Ballis from Federation University Australia Gippsland Campus retired from the Board in 2016/2017. The Committee for Gippsland thanks both Robert and Harry for their dedication and contribution throughout their term on the Board.



# Let's Get Gippsland Moving: Build the Traralgon Bypass



In August 2017, the Committee for Gippsland released its *Let's Get Gippsland Moving: Build the Traralgon Bypass* project, which demonstrates clear local community support for the road.

Traralgon is the largest remaining town in Gippsland without a bypass. Its completion would provide a major safety and efficiency dividend for the region, which shoulders a 6 million tonne annual freight task, and welcomes around 10 million visitors to the region each year by car or bus. In addition to efficiency dividends, a bypass would also help alleviate peak hour traffic coming through Traralgon at school pick up and drop off times, and enhance safety in the town for pedestrians and cyclists.

The project included a survey of almost 100 Traralgon and broader Gippsland residents, retail traders, business operators and transport industry representatives, with a response of over 80% in favour of a Traralgon Bypass.

Generally, the feedback received in favour of a Traralgon Bypass included:

- Allow more efficient traffic flow of traffic travelling through the area
- Alleviate traffic congestion in and around CBD
- Increased safety in CBD with less traffic for residents to contend with
- Smoother traffic flow in CBD area on long weekends and holiday periods
- With less density of traffic in CBD driving conditions for residents will be less pressured
- Retail businesses would have the capacity to attract more residents with the improved amenity.

A case study of other bypasses was also included where the project examined the benefits of the Pakenham and Koo Wee Rup bypasses that have been built, and surveyed the support for a Shepparton/Goulburn Valley bypass.

A week after the Committee for Gippsland's Traralgon Bypass project was launched, the Victorian Government announced it would commit \$1.4 million for a Traralgon Bypass business case. The Committee for Gippsland welcomes this announcement as an important first step towards a bypass.





# Gippsland Jobs and Innovation Showcase

In 2017 the Committee for Gippsland hosted the inaugural Gippsland Jobs and Innovation Showcase at Federation University Gippsland's Churchill campus.

The showcase was launched by the then Victorian Minister for Industry, Resources and Employment the Hon Wade Noonan, MP and attended by nearly 150 regional business and industry leaders from across Gippsland.

The intention of the Showcase was to promote an understanding and awareness of transformational jobs and innovation opportunities already underway in Gippsland, for example, a third major airport for Victoria to be based in the south-east.

There was a great array of speakers displaying the dynamic and diverse breadth of the Gippsland economy. These speakers included Mr Doug Jackson, executive general manager of Group Operations at AGL and Professor Leigh Sullivan, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation) from Federation University, as well as CEO's and Senior Executives from Patties Foods, Burra Foods, Australian Paper, Phillip Island Nature Park, Cardinia Shire Council, Gippsland Water and GHD.

The Jobs and innovation Showcase successfully presented Gippsland as a premier destination to invest, build a business, employ people and develop world-class innovation.





The Committee for Gippsland continues to be a positive and influential voice in advocating for the Gippsland region, meeting regularly with local, state and federal governments.

Across 2017, The Committee for Gippsland's advocacy has focussed on improving rail services across Gippsland with a \$435 commitment from state and federal governments towards improving the line, \$50 million realignment of the South Gippsland Highway at Koonwarra which brings the total in road funding for projects identified in the Gippsland Freight Infrastructure Master Plan to \$150 million as well as other key projects in the region.

Together with members of the One Gippsland consortium, including the Gippsland Local Government Network and RDA Gippsland Committee, the Committee for Gippsland has effectively advocated to both state and federal governments on a range of projects and funding.



Gippsland on show: State Minister for Resources Wade Noonan launches the Committee for Gippsland Jobs and Innovation Showcase.

## Showcasing Gippsland

By HEIDI KNAAK

THE Committee for Gippsland hosted a Jobs and Innovation Showcase Program on Friday at Federation University on Friday.

"There is a strong sense that everyone knows this is a region in transition, but there is still an optimism supported by the energy, energy of business, industry leaders, Federation University, training partners and local government," Mr Noonan said.

"Everyone is putting their shoulder to the wheel to try and drive this region forward and we want to showcase that."

"The jobs and innovation (and dynamic and diverse) multi-sector is Gippsland's economy."

"The Committee for G wants to reallocate the about Gippsland, both in terms of funding and in terms of showcasing it."



Community presentation: Committee for Gippsland CEO Mary Aldred and her organisation organised the Mt Wilkes address.

## Energy security major issue: AIG chief

By HEIDI KNAAK

ALBERTIAN INDUSTRY Group chief executive Irena Wilke said energy has been a "hot issue" for the region.

"We have spent a lot of time in the past year, we've struggled with energy prices and we've had to make some tough decisions about energy security."

"Energy prices are not simply what governments and regulators set. It's a global market and it's not a price we can control."

"Energy security is a major issue for the region and it's something we need to think about in the long term."

"We need to have a long-term strategy for energy security that takes into account the needs of the region and the state."

# Protectionist policies hurt our regional communities

RECENTLY there's been a populist pivot to protectionism dressed up as half-baked nationalism. Donald Trump has attracted the lion's share of the attention, but you can easily find a plentiful bounty of examples closer to home. Pauline Hanson's political encores provides an easy go-to, but the election of New Zealand's Prime Minister garners a few case studies as well.

People in countries are more often the biggest target for protectionist campaigns, yet the implementation of them hurts us the most.

In agribusiness, manufacturing and resources, you can find plenty of examples of international investment in regional areas because there's simply not sufficient domestic capital to invest.



MARY ALDRED

In Gippsland, we have many examples of international investment. GippsAero, manufacturer of world renowned aircraft, is owned by Indian aerospace giant Mahindra. Burras Foods, going from strength to strength in dairy, is making its next expansion possible through Chinese investment. Australian Paper, the only manufacturer of office copy paper in Australia is owned by

Nippon Paper. Energy Australia's Yallourn Power Station, which supplies more than 20 per cent of Victoria's electricity, is owned by Hong Kong-based CLP Group.

And just last week Alinta Energy, owned by a Hong Kong-based parent company, was confirmed as the successful buyer for the Loy Yang B power station.

What a vote of confidence in us from around the globe.

These are Australian success stories employing Australian people. Backed by an international market economy, because we simply can't fund every achievement alone.

Australia is a net importer of foreign capital. In the 1950s, foreign capital drove the infancy of our manufacturing boom and, about 50 years before that, helped develop Victoria's agricultural

sector. Today, foreign capital helps fund a strong Australian banking system. When our banks market their products overseas, they do so on the coat-tails of Australia as an attractive and secure investment destination. That's not just helping our banks, it's a good thing for the every blue-collar Australian worker whose superannuation fund is a bank shareholder.

In New Zealand, the incoming government has said it wants to close off the country's housing and agricultural market to international buyers.

But consider that, outside of Auckland, the country's housing market needs foreign buyers. Especially so in smaller regional areas.

Then look to New Zealand's plantation timber industry, which gets a large chunk of its capital

from Australia. The impact of changing that industry of international funds would be a terrible outcome for country jobs and communities.

The smaller our economic borders get, the smaller the world of opportunities, understanding and prosperity becomes.

Both the far left and far right have shared custody of economic protectionism.

A couple of weeks ago I was speaking with former senior aides to presidents George Bush Sr and Bill Clinton in Washington. We talked about the recalibration of the United States' strategic leadership in the Asia-Pacific region.

With the rise of China, and threats from North Korea, that strategic presence was incredibly important.

At a more localised level, we need to guard against the move to withdraw in an economic sense as well.

Policies that deter investing in our resources, infrastructure projects and businesses draw investors to other states because of fewer regulatory hurdles and a lower cost base.

They lose us jobs and growth opportunities in the long run.

Of course there needs to be balance and frameworks in any economy. But the smaller the country, state or small regional community, the bigger the cost of economic protectionism.

It's a salient lesson we ignore at the peril of our most vulnerable workers and regional communities.

MARY ALDRED IS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE COMMITTEE FOR GIPPSLAND

# Canberra key to new coal prospect

By PHILIP HOPKINS

WITH the Andrews government looking vulnerable for Victoria's energy future, the discovery of a modern licensed petroleum basin in the Latrobe Valley hinges on the federal government's response to the Australian Energy Market Operator's new report.

Minister for Energy and the Environment Josh Frydenberg told the Senate the government was looking for the most cost-effective energy sources, whether they be clean coal, renewable or storage gas or hydrogen.

"Coal is absolutely critical to Australia's energy security mix today and into the future," he said.

The Turnbull government's approach to energy policy is technology-neutral and non-ideological, we are guided by engineering and economics.

The AEMO report showed that power

reserves had reduced to the extent there was a heightened risk of "significant" blackouts over the next 10 years compared with recent levels. It called for 1000 megawatts of strategic reserves of electricity for Victoria and South Australia.

The risk was greatest in Victoria this summer, the report said, but would progressively increase over the following four summers in consecutive low-water on-line.

However the risk of further blackouts is expected to rise in New South Wales and Victoria after AEMO, the author of the report, released the NSW Liddell power station in 2022.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull is holding talks today with AEMO chief Andrew Vesce on the future of Liddell.

Mr Frydenberg said the government had introduced new legislation this

year to allow the Clean Energy Finance Corporation to invest in carbon capture and storage.

"On the other hand, the Andrews government has tripled the coal royalty in Victoria and put in place new standards governing the development of coal-fired power stations with the so-called Fisher One of Coal Project," he said.

State Minister for Energy and the Environment Lily D'Auriedale told The Energy banks and investment groups had argued they would not finance new coal projects in Australia.

"We are supporting gas and investment in the Latrobe Valley through our \$400 million fund," she said, replying to a query whether the government would support a new brown coal plant in the Valley's projects by 2025.

The Committee for Gippsland earlier this year.

The Committee for Gippsland report said a new brown coal plant based on the old retired Germany technology would cost \$2.5 billion and produce 1000 megawatts of power at a cost of \$100 per megawatt.

The state government last month introduced legislation into parliament that sets renewable energy targets for Victoria of 25 per cent by 2020 and 40 per cent by 2025.

"The renewable energy sector will now have the confidence to invest in responsible energy projects and the jobs that are created in Victoria's future," Mr D'Auriedale said.

The government also announced the removal of a tender to build 135 megawatts of large-scale solar projects in Balmuccia and Wimmerah.

It maintained the renewables price will cut the average cost of power by about

\$30 a year for households, \$2000 a year for medium businesses and \$160,000 a year for large enterprises, and also cut greenhouse emissions by a further 10 per cent by 2024-25.

A report by the Australian and government resources has submitted was not transparent and amounted to \$3 billion annually, while a report published by The Australian newspaper found that federal renewable energy subsidies would cost taxpayers more than \$800 million by 2021.

The Minister for Resources, Gary Hawke, speaking in parliament, said power prices had skyrocketed since the Howard government's closure earlier this year.

"I have been inundated with consumer Direct Feedback about the increase in their electricity costs," Mr Hawke said.

# Infrastructure a priority to meet population growth

Infrastructure investment to support growing populations growth in Gippsland must be a priority for future governments, according to the Committee for Gippsland chief executive Mary Aldred.

A policy framework to help guide Victoria's infrastructure is being developed by the Victorian Local Government Association, with Gippsland and South Gippsland as key focus areas and community members in Traralgon and Morwell will be part of the consultation process.

Ms Aldred said she was meeting with the Victorian Local Government Association in Traralgon to discuss the draft population growth plan and discuss infrastructure investment in the region.

"We need to have a long-term strategy for infrastructure investment that takes into account the needs of the region and the state," she said.

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Ms Aldred said the meeting with Mr Noonan was another opportunity to highlight the need for a new West Gippsland Hospital to meet the needs of the region.

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Member for Nairana Gary Blackwood said it was important regional communities were part of the conversation around population growth and infrastructure investment.

"There are a lot of feedback that regional communities and industries had discussed from the development of a state wide population growth plan and infrastructure investment plan and cost of living."

"The growing local economy, communities and business we can build a policy framework designed to guide the growth of the sector, not just an metropolitan centre which can only do so much."

"The development of a state wide population growth plan will highlight opportunities in regional communities, including in Gippsland and Central Gippsland who are uniquely placed to offer opportunities in this area."

Mr Blackwood said the Committee had already highlighted the need for a new West Gippsland Hospital to help meet growing health needs.

"Through this initiative and policy framework, we will be able to highlight other key infrastructure opportunities such as road, rail, schools and community facilities, that will help meet the needs of a growing population in our region," Mr Blackwood said.





Shadow Treasurer Michael O'Brien and Member for Narracan Gary Blackwood speaking with C4G Members Dan Weeks and Christine Holland representing Warragul Linen Service, Gerry Marvin from Bank Australia, Sean Dignum from SDA Strategic in Neerim South, Tim Weight Deputy RDA Chairman from Bairnsdale, Committee for Gippsland Chairman Harry Rijs from Patisies Foods in Bairnsdale, Craig Debnam from Viatek, Dale Bainbridge from Mercure Warragul, and David Wakefield from Safetech Moe.

## O'Brien reaffirms hospital promise

by Keith Anderson

A new West Gippsland Hospital would be funded early in the next term of State parliament if a Liberal government was elected, Shadow treasurer Michael O'Brien told a meeting in Warragul last Wednesday.

Speaking with members of the Committee for Gippsland Mr O'Brien reaffirmed the party's commitment to a new hospital on a greenfield site at Drouin East and stressed it would be an early priority.

The next state election will be held in November next year.

The state government has not yet stated a firm position on whether it will build a new hospital but the Health Department is preparing business cases for both redevelopment on the current site in Warragul and the Drouin East location.

Committee chief executive officer Mary Aldred said the Shadow Treasurer's statement was encouraging as the project had been a top priority of the committee for a number of years.

She said that position was the first matter raised and fully backed by individual committee members from across the region at the meeting hosted by Member for Narracan Gary Blackwood.

They included Regional Development Australia deputy chairman Tim Weight from Bairnsdale, C4G chairman Harry Rijs of Patisies Foods at Bairnsdale, Gerry Marvin from Bank Australia, Dan Weeks and Christine Holland representing the Warragul Linen Service, David Wakefield of Moe, Sean Dignum of Neerim South and Warragul businesspeople Craig Debnam and Dale Bainbridge.

Ms Aldred said the forum was a good avenue

for committee members to put forward views on a range of issues to key decision makers such as the shadow treasurer.

Job creation in the region, secure electricity supplies, protection of prime agricultural land, the impacts on commerce, industry and residents of rising energy costs, road and rail upgrades including a Princes Highway bypass of Traralgon were among other things canvassed with Mr O'Brien.

Ms Aldred said the issue of agricultural land was a complex one, especially in West Gippsland where a balance needed to be found between population growth and the productivity some of the most fertile land in the country.

High on the meeting agenda for several members was the future of the region's timber industry.

They emphasised the importance of Australian Paper to Gippsland as well as smaller timber mills and their ability to access supply.

On Wednesday night Mr O'Brien addressed Liberal Party members and supporters on the state of Victoria's finances.

He highlighted a substantial increase in state debt, a \$45 million blow-out over the past three years in "back of office" public sector wages, a \$1 billion increase in the expected cost of the Sky Rail project in Melbourne and likely costs of the metropolitan road plan.

Several developers from the Narracan electorate raised concerns with Mr O'Brien about added costs caused by delays in receiving planning approvals.

Mr Blackwood said the Opposition would look at ways planning approvals could be sped up.

# Bypass gets backing

By HEIDI KRAAK

A SURVEY has revealed more than 80 per cent of Traralgon and broader Gippsland residents, retail traders, business operators and transport industry representatives support the construction of a Traralgon bypass.

The survey formed part of the Committee for Gippsland's Let's Get Gippsland Moving - Build the Traralgon Bypass project, the findings of which were released on Monday.

The project was launched late last month and was followed by a \$1.4 million commitment from state government to develop a business case for a Traralgon bypass.

The Committee for Gippsland survey found of 97 respondents, 79 said they supported a bypass for Traralgon, 16 did not support the bypass and two did not answer the question.

Committee for Gippsland chief executive Mary Aldred said support for the bypass was stronger than anticipated.

"At a local level, we've had some terrific feedback from residents who say they are just sick of the congestion, particularly at school time, business peak hour, getting in and around Traralgon is a real nightmare at different times of the day," Ms Aldred said.

"So, for those reasons, local residents would like to see a Traralgon bypass from a safety and amenity perspective."

She said the research project had also examined the impacts of other bypasses on other regions.

"We've looked at other regions, the Pakenham bypass for example, and the cost benefit there, taking out 11 roundabouts, six continuous sets of traffic lights," Ms Aldred said.

"Likewise in Shepparton, we've been talking to local business in that region and they can all clearly see benefits of building bypasses in their towns."

The report identified a number of concerns put forward by people supportive of the bypass and



Researched and ready: Committee for Gippsland chief executive Mary Aldred, Coffee Corner owner Jim Lamb, BransTrans transport company owner Nola Bransgrove and Traralgon businessman Mark Anwerth.

also those who didn't, including fears about loss of trade to local businesses.

"We definitely asked that question and engaged really strongly with businesses...but yes, there were some respondents that did raise those as concerns and so that is why we fed that through to our set of recommendations," Ms Aldred said.

Other constructive concerns raised by respondents centred around the importance of information about rest stops and driver fatigue on the bypass and the importance of placing signage of the freeway to promote local attractions.

She said the project report made five recommendations which she would send to State Roads Minister Luke Donellan.

"We're a freight-driven region in Gippsland and we need a competitive and efficient freight network, so it is very important that that feedback gets encapsulated in that business case," Ms Aldred said.

Coffee Corner owner Jim Lamb said studies had shown that bigger towns benefit when they are bypassed.

"It's because it is easier to travel within the town," Mr Lamb said.

"A lot of business actually happens within the town, so for service stations and takeaway food, it probably won't have much of an impact."

"We don't expect to have any impact on our sales at all because locals will be able to get there more easily."

Traralgon businessman and resident Mark Anwerth said the bypass was long overdue.

"The congestion in Traralgon from a traffic point of view has been out of control for a number of years," Mr Anwerth said.

"Not only that, it helps with safety aspects and convenience point of view...so if takes some of that congestion out of town, it will be good for everyone to get around."



At the roundtable discussion in Leongatha on Friday afternoon were, from left, Jane Leslie - chair of the West Gippsland Healthcare Group, Dan Wood - CEO of the West Gippsland Healthcare Group, Daniel Mullino - Member for Eastern Victoria Region and Parliamentary Secretary for Treasury and Finance, Tim Weight - Deputy Chair of the RDA Gippsland Committee and C4G Board Member, Clinton Rodda - CEO of Southern Rural Water, Mary Aldred - CEO of the Committee for Gippsland and Sean Dignum - president of Neerim South Hospital, member of Landcare and C4G Board Member. N03201

## MP talks priorities with C4G

THE Committee for Gippsland held a roundtable discussion in Leongatha on Friday with Eastern Victoria Region MP Labor's Daniel Mullino, to discuss announcements in the State Budget and set priorities for next year's budget.

Committee for Gippsland CEO Mary Aldred said there was a high level of interest in local roads and infrastructure funding.

"From both a safety and efficiency perspective, additional investment in roads is always welcome," Ms Aldred said.

Other areas discussed were water, including the Northern Towns Pipeline Commission for South Gippsland which was funded in this year's state budget, and more broadly opportunities for agricultural development across Gippsland in dairy, horticulture and cropping.

Health was another big topic, including regional support for a new West Gippsland Hospital and the continued improvements to health in Bass Coast.

Other discussion topics included local environment initiatives and regional development.

The need for improved public transport in South Gippsland and the cost of the Sky Rail project in Melbourne was also discussed.

Mr Mullino thanked the Committee for Gippsland for organising the forum.

"The roundtable was a very productive discussion that focused on key initiatives funded in last year's budget - such as regional rail and roads - and pointed to key priorities moving forward."

A wide range of stakeholders including representatives from industry, health, education, transport, water and local government."

Ms Aldred said the Committee for Gippsland will be working with members and stakeholders through August to prepare a new Strategic Plan, and also resource preparation for the submission to next year's budget. The Committee for Gippsland would welcome input and ideas from the community via [info@gipps.com.au](mailto:info@gipps.com.au).



Captive audience: Michael Truill delivers his address about his move from banking to a career in social justice.

## Leadership talk

A FORMER Marwell student who went on to study at Harvard has shared his story at last week's Gippsland Community Leadership Program's annual leadership address.

Michael Truill went on to a career at the Magaree Group before becoming the chief executive of Social Ventures Australia.

Mr Truill used the address to share the story of how he went from banking to philanthropy, program director Amy Hammett said.

"Michael's story starts with the lessons he learnt growing up in Gippsland and driving away with his mates in Morwell," Ms Hammett said.

"It's a powerful story about the importance of family and relationships throughout life."

"As the founding CEO of Social Ventures Australia, Michael has had a profound impact on the not-for-profit sector through the work he has done to encourage a focus on measuring the impact of service delivery on the lives of individuals as well as the development of the social impact investment model."

Participants in the Gippsland Community Leadership Program gain a greater understanding of the Gippsland region, the industries and communities while continuing to grow their leadership skills throughout the year.

The program, which is celebrating its 21st year, is managed by the Committee for Gippsland.

In insightful address: South Gippsland Shire councillor Ray Argento West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority chief executive Martin Fisher, Michael Truill, Bass River Shire Cr Jessica O'Donnell and Committee for Gippsland chief executive Mary Aldred.



# Member Updates, Policy and Submissions

Member communications and policy submissions are central to the Committee for Gippsland engagement with members across the region and improving Gippsland's connection with state and federal governments.

Earlier in 2017, the Committee for Gippsland and Regional Development Australia Gippsland Committee prepared a joint submission to the Senate Finance and Administration Committee inquiry into the location of Corporate Commonwealth Entities.

This submission highlighted the opportunities and advantages of relocating Commonwealth agencies to the Gippsland region capitalising on the defence and engineering capability of Gippsland through to the proven track record of decentralisation of the ASIC Registry relocation to Traralgon in the 1990s.

The Committee for Gippsland is regularly sought to make submissions to state and federal inquiries and policy papers, and is supported by member input and regional bodies including Gippsland Local Government Network, Regional Partnerships and the RDA Gippsland Committee.

Engagement with Committee for Gippsland members provides vital industry knowledge, experience and support to the work undertaken by the Committee for Gippsland.

During 2017, Committee for Gippsland submissions have included:

- Inquiry into Regional Development and Decentralisation
- Victoria's Population Policy Taskforce
- Submission to the 2017-2018 Victorian State Budget Preparation process.
- Submission to the 2017/2018 Commonwealth Budget Preparation process.
- Senate Finance and Administration Committee inquiry into The operation, effectiveness, and consequences of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Location of Corporate Commonwealth Entities) Order 2016
- Submission to VicForest FSC consultation

The Committee for Gippsland engages with members on a regular basis and has prepared the following member updates, amongst others:

- Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Package information sessions.
- Let's Get Gippsland Moving: Build the Traralgon Bypass
- One Gippsland delegation to Canberra.
- Digital Connectivity in Gippsland
- Federal Government announcement on CCS





# Events and Functions

In 2017 the Committee for Gippsland hosted the inaugural Jobs and Innovation Showcase at Federation University, Churchill.

Opened by the Victorian Minister for Industry, Employment and Resources, the Hon Wade Noonan, MP, the showcase attracted around 150 registered guests from across Gippsland. The Showcase was a huge success highlighting the many projects currently planned or underway in Gippsland and the opportunities for innovation across Gippsland industries and businesses.

The Committee for Gippsland has held over 30 member events across the region, including amongst others:

- Member briefing with Victoria's Red Tape Commissioner, Matthew Butlin
- Member round table sessions with Federation Training
- Population Policy Taskforce Forum with Tim Smith, MP
- Member briefing with RWE on German energy technology
- Captains of Industry breakfast in Bairnsdale with Ritchies IGA Supermarkets CEO, Fred Harrison
- Gippsland Community Leadership Program Annual Leadership Address with Social Ventures Australia's Michael Traill AM
- Gippsland Jobs and Innovation Showcase
- Captains of Industry lunch with Australian Industry Group CEO, Innes Willox
- Member briefing on the Victorian State Budget with Parliamentary Secretary for Finance and Treasury, Daniel Mulino, MP
- Member round table with Shadow Treasurer, Hon Michael O'Brien, MP
- Member briefing on Securing Jobs, Energy and Australia's Export Advantage with Patrick Gibbons, Ian Nethercote, Mary Aldred and Hon Martin Ferguson
- Round table discussion with Shadow Minister for Skills, Training and Apprenticeships and Young Victorians, Steph Ryan, MP
- Strategic plan member consultation sessions across Gippsland
- Member round table with CEO of V/Line, James Pinder
- Round table briefing with Victorian Minister for Roads and Ports, Hon Luke Donnellan, MP
- Member tour of Patties Bakery in Bairnsdale
- Round table briefing on the Victorian Freight Plan with Transport for Victoria
- Member briefings with Victorian Gender and Sexuality Commissioner, Ro Allen



# Membership

While the Committee for Gippsland membership has continued to grow the membership is regularly engaged to provide feedback, input and contribute to policy submissions made by the Committee for Gippsland.

Committee for Gippsland functions are regularly well attended with members and member guests attending a variety of member briefings, round tables and the many other Committee for Gippsland functions.





# Committee for Gippsland Membership

## FOUNDATION MEMBERS



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 Markfi Gates

Midstate Credit Collect  
 Mount Baw Baw Alpine Resort  
 Murray Goulburn  
 National Australia Bank  
 Naturally Australian Tea Tree Oil  
 Paradise Consulting (Vic)  
 Patties Foods  
 Phillip Island Nature Park  
 Quantum Support Services  
 Radfords Meats  
 RGM Financial Group  
 Ritchies Stores  
 Ropan Financial Services  
 RubberTough Industries  
 Safetech  
 Sage Technology  
 Scopus PD  
 SDA Strategic  
 Southern Rural Water  
 Telstra Country Wide Gippsland  
 The Performance Attitude  
 Tim Weight Consulting  
 TRFM / Gold 1242  
 Valley Motor Group  
 Viatek  
 Victorian Livestock Exchange  
 VIPlus Dairy  
 Warragul Linen Service  
 Warren Graham and Murphy  
 Workways

# Gippsland Community Leadership Program



Established in 1996, the Gippsland Community Leadership Program (GCLP) is one of Australia's longest running and most prestigious regional community leadership programs providing a unique platform for the development and growth of existing and emerging leaders within the Gippsland region.

GCLP participants study leadership through the lens of their region exploring its history, its culture and the leadership possibilities and challenges that exist for Gippsland today and in its future.

Selected from across Gippsland the participants reflect the diversity of the region. Experience, age and background are all considered along with skills, knowledge and geographical locations, ensuring the 25-30 participants create a dynamic group of individuals with much to share.

GCLP enhances leadership understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing individuals and communities within Gippsland while providing a practical group project component that enables genuine collaboration and measurable impact benefit across the region. The classroom is Gippsland, the methodology is observational, theoretical, reflective and experiential.

The growing network of GCLP alumni enhances the strategic links that participants are able to build throughout their 10 month experience.

This year the Victorian Government commissioned Social Ventures Australia to review Victoria's 10 regional community leadership programs of which GCLP was the first. Writing in the SVA Quarterly, Dan Code, the lead reviewer made the following observation:

*Good community leaders have a deep understanding of community issues, leadership skills to bring community members together, broad networks to draw on for input and support and the self-confidence to engage and lead discussions. These leaders help build a community's capacity to contribute to its own development; they provide important input during the development of solutions, help galvanise community support and shepherd through their effective implementation.*

GCLP with a graduate pool exceeding 550, has been instrumental in developing leaders whose influence has spread well beyond their local community. GCLP alumni are evident on local boards, local councils, senior business and industry roles, and senior public service roles and in the sphere of federal and state politics.



# Celebrating GCLP 2017





# Gippsland Community Leadership Program 2017



Fiona Assender  
 Bryan Cake  
 Amy Dynes  
 Tiana Felmingham  
 James Griffiths  
 Anthony Goode  
 Ainsley James  
 Sallie Jones  
 Arfa Khan  
 Den Lim  
 Sasee Manodeepan  
 Kim McFarlane  
 Erika McInerney

Jeeralang Junction  
 Moe  
 Wonthaggi  
 Bairnsdale  
 Sale  
 Maffra  
 Trafalgar  
 Warragul  
 Trafalgar  
 Churchill  
 Warragul  
 Brandy Creek  
 Warragul

Vanessa McLeod  
 Sam McPherson  
 Ross McWhirter  
 Leah Mether  
 Sally Neenan  
 Brendan Pfanner  
 Sally Schimleck  
 Angela Sgarbossa  
 Stuart Shattock  
 Matt Synan  
 Ben Vagg  
 Shilo Wilson  
 Page Williams

Bairnsdale  
 Bairnsdale  
 Sale  
 Willow Grove  
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