

Media Release

The Hon Shaun Leane MLC
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Suburban Development
Minister for Veterans



Friday, 5 November 2021

MUNICIPAL MONITOR APPOINTED TO SOUTH GIPPSLAND COUNCIL

A municipal monitor has been appointed to the South Gippsland Shire Council to help guide good governance and help forge its strong future.

Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane today announced the appointment of Prue Digby, who brings extensive experience in state and local government and prior experience as a municipal monitor to Frankston City Council.

During her 12-month term as municipal monitor, Ms Digby will support the Shire's transition back to elected councillors, encourage good governance and help prevent a recurrence of the behaviours that led to the council's dismissal in June 2019.

The council was dismissed after the Commission of Inquiry found a high level of discord, conflict and tension between the councillors had negatively affected the council's performance, councillors' decision-making, councillor-staff relationships and council's reputation. Three administrators have since been overseeing the functioning of council.

In addition to appointing a monitor, the Andrews Labor Government is also supporting the participation of women in local government in South Gippsland through a \$29,500 grant to expand the Australian Local Government Women's Association mentoring program.

The program pairs newly elected female councillors with experienced mentors from across the state, with five places reserved for women elected to the South Gippsland Shire Council.

PwC is leading the Local Government Culture Project which will support and improve council culture across the state, providing a platform for the sector to identify and take ownership of a positive and inclusive culture that will improve governance and build public trust.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane

"South Gippsland locals deserve the very best from their local council and elected representatives, and I look forward to seeing the return of democracy at South Gippsland Shire under Ms Digby's guidance."

"I thank the Administrators for their work in supporting the local community through a challenging time and I fully expect the newly elected councillors to maintain the standards of good governance that have been put in place."