



SWIFTS CREEK FUTURE - PROJECT UPDATE

September 2024

From Discovery Workshops held in March (see more here <https://www.swiftscreekfuture.com.au/entrepreneurial-discovery>) three Innovation Working Groups were established. The three groups that have been established are:

- Value Add primary Industry
- Nature based recreation and Tourism
- Education and skills

The IWG's core role is to develop, test, refine and define the relevant proposal(s) for the innovation. Facilitation support is provided by the Swifts Creek District Local Development Strategy (LDS) Project Manager. The IWG is supported by the Leadership Group, who will support networks and decision making and endorse funding applications. The Swifts Creek Future Community Reference Group has played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the project since its inception, they have now transformed into the Leadership Group. Other members of the Leadership Group include representatives from Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and East Gippsland Shire Council. Also supporting decision making and contributing expertise is Associate Professor Max Kelly from Deakin University who has significant knowledge and experience in Agriculture, community development and social sciences.



The working groups are currently working on applications for funding, feasibility studies and further research into data to drive decision making both within the community and the working group. All of the work currently being completed by the working groups will result in the Local Development Strategy for release early 2025. The groups will then be instrumental in establishing the projects driven by the Strategy in 2025-2026.

Project Manager, Alyce Richards, attended the Cassilis Recreation Reserve Spring Community Market on Saturday 7th September, 2024. it was a fantastic day and beautiful weather. Many locals attended and caught up with the latest news from Swifts Creek Future and grabbed themselves a Swifts Creek Future promotional shirt to help spread the word and support for our project. The shirts were designed and developed by a group of young people at the Swifts Creek Community Centre. We have limited sizes from kids to XXL if you're interested in a free shirt to get behind our project and spread the word please contact Alyce 0456 173 361 alycer@egipps.vic.gov.au



Small business voucher Program

East Gippsland Shire Council, in partnership with the Victorian Government, is launching the East Gippsland Business Support Voucher Program, aimed at assisting small businesses achieve growth, sustainability and resilience. This initiative is particularly focused on three towns impacted by the end of native timber harvesting – Nowa Nowa, Swifts Creek and Orbost – although small businesses right across East Gippsland can apply.

"The Business Support Voucher Program is a welcome initiative and will be crucial for economic development and job creation, especially in our transitioning timber towns," East Gippsland Shire Council Mayor Cr Tom Crook said.

"Council is committed to ensuring that all of our towns and regions thrive, so we thank the Victorian Government for this funding boost and their commitment to fostering economic development and creating jobs, particularly in our hard-hit regions."

The East Gippsland Business Support Voucher Program can be used by businesses to access professional services by a local, expert provider that provide aid in areas critical to business success, including:
+ Starting a business + Growing a business + Financial advice + Operational support + Marketing and communications

The program also aims to bolster local economies by helping businesses plan to apply for Forestry Transition Fund grants.



For more information contact East Gippsland Shire Council on (03) 5153 9500