

**21.03 KEY ISSUES**

13/10/2016  
GC31

The key issues for the South Gippsland Shire are:

**21.03-1 Settlement**

28/11/2013  
C68

- The need to recognise that the network of smaller rural towns throughout the Shire provide a valid alternative to the large settlements, particularly where reticulated services are provided
- The need to demarcate settlement boundaries and provide improved design guidance and control over development in coastal settlements, in order to protect settlement and coastal character as the pressure for development in these areas continues to increase
- The need to plan for housing and facilities to cater for anticipated population growth in the north-west of the Shire

**21.03-2 Environmental and landscape values**

28/11/2013  
C68

- The need to conserve the region's biological diversity
- The poor integration of public and private land management to provide a diversity of flora and wildlife refuge areas
- The need to closely regulate industry and farming practices to ensure environmental standards are maintained

**21.03-3 Environmental risks**

13/10/2016  
GC31

- The anticipated impact of climate change on the local environment, and the need to monitor and continue to plan for these impacts in the context of broader climate change policy and new knowledge
- Pressures for development and subdivision along the coast and other environmentally sensitive areas (including potable water supply catchments), and the associated impacts of vegetation clearing, introduction of pest plants and animals, erosion and a decline in water quality
- The incidence of landslip and erosion (particularly within the steep areas of the Strzelecki Ranges), flooding and drainage problems affecting certain areas of the Shire, and the potential risk of fire hazard to population and property in certain areas
- The negative impacts of pest plants and animals on the ecology of the area

**21.03-4 Natural resource management**

28/11/2013  
C68

- The need to protect and promote the importance of a strong agricultural base to the Shire's economy
- The need to preserve rural land for commercial scale agricultural production
- The diversification and restructuring of the agricultural industry through the development of more intensive farming, value-adding opportunities and the decline of traditional forms of agricultural employment

**21.03-5**

15/10/2015  
C77(Part 3)

**Built environment and heritage**

- The need to protect the character and significance of sensitive coastal landscapes, particularly landscapes of State or regional significance where there is a high level of pressure for development
- The total loss or detrimental damage to heritage places through inappropriate alterations or other works

**21.03-6**

28/11/2013  
C68

**Housing**

- The need to raise the awareness of people who choose to live in rural areas that they must expect rural land uses and infrastructure levels as well as a rural amenity and lifestyle, while supporting living opportunities in rural areas throughout the Shire
- The need to provide diversity in housing types to accommodate decreasing household sizes and the ageing population
- The increasing pressure for housing development along the coast
- The need to avoid landscape and servicing issues arising from the development of dwellings in rural areas that are not reasonably connected to agricultural activities

**21.03-7**

28/11/2013  
C68

**Economic development**

- The increasing interest in developing timber plantations on cleared farmland
- The need to provide sufficient industrial land to accommodate and encourage existing and future industrial opportunities based on the clean and green image set by the Shire
- Commercial pressures that may result in the fragmentation of the core commercial areas of the main towns
- The changing roles and functions of some of the small towns and villages and the need to encourage each town to develop its own identity to facilitate economic development
- The steady exodus of youth to larger centres to pursue employment and educational opportunities
- The need to improve education and employment opportunities for young people within the Shire
- The strong contribution of the tourism industry to the State and local economies
- The steady increase in the number of tourists visiting the area
- The significance of the natural and cultural environment and nature based activities for tourism
- The lack of a large tourist accommodation facility in the area, particularly in the vicinity of Wilson's Promontory

**21.03-8**

28/11/2013  
C68

**Transport**

- The need to improve and maintain existing roads in order to support the future needs of the community, promote economic growth and protect the environment
- The lack of public transport opportunities, which restricts movement by residents through and from the Shire and limits the number of visitors to the area who do not have access to a vehicle

- The potential for an increase in truck traffic throughout the municipality as timber harvesting activities increase, and the impact this will have on the road network
- The development of a deep-water port at Barry Beach and the promotion of major economic development opportunities that will benefit from the deep-water port
- The need to upgrade the South Gippsland Highway, Strzelecki Highway and Grand Ridge Road for future tourism benefits to the Shire

**21.03-9**

28/11/2013  
C68

**Infrastructure**

- The need to provide reticulated water and sewerage services and drainage improvements to many of the smaller towns and coastal villages to encourage population growth in the towns
- to improve and maintain existing infrastructure in order to support the future needs of the community, promote economic growth and protect the environment
- to accommodate large population fluctuations in some of the holiday towns and villages, which place different demands on infrastructure and services
- The need to encourage the development of alternative energy sources
- The development of a development contributions policy to guide infrastructure provision

**21.03-10**

05/06/2014  
C80

**Community Services**

- Economic pressures that affect the viability of existing community services
- The need to provide residents with access to services and facilities, including aged care, health, recreation and education, in an efficient and equitable manner
- Catering for the needs of an ageing population

**Reference Documents**

*The South Gippsland Housing and Settlement Strategy, 2013*