

Gippsland Shire Council

Agrinews July 2026



EVENTS

Growers Networking Nights – Gippsland	14 – 16 July
Gippsland Sheep Producers Day Improving Lamb Performance: Worms, Grazing & Growth	<u>23 July</u>
GRDC National Grower Network Forum	21 July
Sustainable Living Series 2026	June - August
Buying & Rearing Poddy and Orphan Calves	28 July
Sponsoring and Retaining Overseas Employees	29 July
Australian Women in Agriculture National Conference	27 – 29 July
Youth on Purpose Workshop	31 July & 1 Aug
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Preparing for summer at Genoa	5 August
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EGMI Business Networking Night featuring Paris Brooke	13 August
Graeme Siat – Unlocking Soil Potential om Bairnsdale	17 August
Graeme Siat Nutrient Management in Orbost	18 August
Dirt to Dinner - Healthy food starts with healthy soils with Graeme Sait	<u>18 August</u>
Backing Gippsland's Role in the New Energy Conversation	18 – 19 August
Red Meat Conference – Every Decision Counts	25 August
2026 Victorian Landcare Forum	31 Aug – 2 Sept

FUNDING

Victorian Trees on Farms Program Extended	Closes 1 November
Drought funding	
RIC Drought Hardship Loan	
Support for those affected by the January 2026 fires	

COMMUNITY FUNDING

Trees for Bees Community Tree Grants	Closes 20 July
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Discover How Lean Thinking Can Improve Your Business - Free Webinar	
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Monash Circular Business Needs Survey	
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Boost your business skills with free webinars	
North East Producers - What's your favourite North East waterway?	Closes 31 July

INFORMATION

Instant Asset Write Off
 NFF Ag Trade Apprenticeship Survey
 El Niño update – 24 June 2026
 Now is a good time to start monitoring dams
 Drought Trigger plans preparation
 Farmers under pressure - ASAC calls for urgent government action on pest animals
 Wild invaders: working together to protect our land
 Safe Food Victoria up and running
 Changes to business are here
New Businesses - How you lodge a tax return for your business
 Mental health coaching for workers
 Keeping your small business safe
 Australian Defence Export Catalogue 2026
 Launch of AI.gov.au
 Straight to the Source Interview with Remy Davis
 Food & Fibre Gippsland - Join Us, East Gippsland
 Victoria Records Strongest Food and Fibre Export Year on Record
 VegNET Gippsland Update

UPDATES

Council - East Gippsland Livestock Exchange	
ASAC Expression of Interest open for two Vacancies	Closes 10 August
Seafood Market Opportunity Assessment for the East Gippsland	
East Gippsland Grant Finder	
The Emergency Dashboard – Check out the Ag Support section	
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EVENTS



Growers Networking Nights

Three regional events across Gippsland

Join VegNET for an evening of networking, industry discussion and good conversation. Dinner & refreshments provided. RSVP essential.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND	EAST GIPPSLAND	WELLINGTON SHIRE
 Tuesday 14 July 2026	 Wednesday 15 July 2026	 Thursday 16 July 2026
 6:00pm – 8:30pm	 6:00pm – 8:30pm	 6:00pm – 8:30pm
 McCartin's Hotel 4/2 Bair Street, Leongatha	 Farmers Home Hotel 67 Main Road, Lindenow VIC 3865	 Maffco 1 Maffco Lane, Maffra

 **RSVP:** Amanda Gould • 0474 500 380

Growers Networking Nights – Gippsland

14 – 16 July

VegNET and Food & Fibre Gippsland are hosting a series of **Growers Networking Nights** across Gippsland this July, providing vegetable and horticulture producers with an opportunity to connect with fellow growers, discuss current industry challenges, learn about upcoming VegNET initiatives, and help shape future extension activities.

Three events will be at:

- South Gippsland: Tuesday 14 July, McCartin's Hotel, Leongatha
- **East Gippsland: Wednesday 15 July, Farmers Home Hotel, Lindenow**
- Wellington Shire: Thursday 16 July, Maffco, Maffra

All events run from **6:00pm–8:30pm**, with dinner and refreshments provided. Growers are encouraged to bring colleagues or family members involved in their business.

RSVPs are essential and places are limited. Contact **Amanda Gould** on **0474 500 380** to register.



Improving Lamb Performance: Worms, Grazing & Growth

GIPPSLAND SHEEP PRODUCERS DAY

THURS 23RD JULY

8AM TO 12:30PM LUNCH INCLUDED
GIPPSLAND AG CENTRE (BAIRNSDALE AIRPORT)

Gippsland Sheep Producers Day

23 July

Improving Lamb Performance: Worms, Grazing & Growth

Worms costing you production? Wondering how to improve lamb growth and stay ahead of changing market demands?

Join fellow Gippsland sheep producers for a practical morning focused on improving flock performance and profitability through better worm control, grazing management and market-ready lamb production.

Thursday 23 July

8:00 am – 12:30 pm (Lunch included)

Gippsland Agricultural Centre, Bairnsdale Airport

This isn't a day of theory—it's a chance to hear the latest research, practical strategies and local experiences you can apply back on your own farm.

What you'll learn

- Current worm and drench resistance challenges facing Gippsland producers.
- Smart drenching strategies to improve worm control and slow resistance.
- How to integrate grazing management into your worm control program.
- Practical use of Barbervax and other tools available to producers.
- The latest GippsLAMB results and what they mean for your business.
- How future market demands are changing, and how growth rates influence profitability and market access.

You'll hear from industry specialists Keren Walker, Amy Rogers, Alison Gunn, Lachlan Jeffers and Alister Micallef, bringing together the latest research with practical on-farm experience.

Whether you're looking to lift lamb growth rates, improve carcass performance, reduce production losses from worms or better position your enterprise for future markets, this event will provide practical information you can put into action.

Places are limited, so register early to avoid missing out **register at** <https://bit.ly/4vurfW2>. If you have any questions, contact Alister Micallef on 0418 576 957.



GRDC National Grower Network Forum

21 July

Join agronomists, advisers and industry representatives for a day of practical insights, networking and discussion at the **GRDC National Grower Network Forum**.

Whether you're a dedicated cereal grower or a livestock producer curious about how cropping stacks up against red meat production, this forum is for you.

Topics include:

- Challenges and opportunities impacting farm profitability

- Defining and maintaining margins in cropping
- Getting the balance right between cropping and livestock
- Latest updates on cereal and pulse diseases
- Crop disease trials and research insights
- Opportunities to influence future GRDC investment in our region

Tuesday 21 July 2026

10:00am – 2:45pm

The Star Hotel, 173 Raymond Street Sale

Free to attend – lunch included

This is your opportunity to hear from leading researchers and industry experts while contributing to the future direction of RD&E investment in Gippsland. **Register today:** <https://bit.ly/4b6hYv0>.

Sustainable Living Series 2026

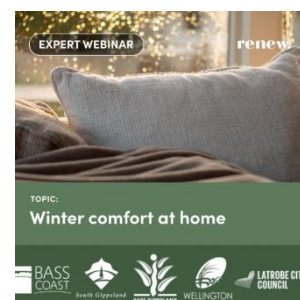
June - August

The ongoing series of free monthly sustainable living webinars in 2026 continues. Independent experts from Renew present on topics including solar, batteries, EVs, renting, energy efficiency, building design and more.

Attend **online** OR join us in the **Bairnsdale library** as part of the Libraries After Dark program.

Webinars are from **7.00 pm to 8.30pm**:

- **Finding a Sustainable Builder, 30 July**
- **Designing for Resilience, 13 August**



To book and see the full webinar list visit <https://thecap.com.au/sustainable-living-series>. Have your questions ready and take advantage of free technical advice.

A 'HOW-TO' WORKSHOP

BUYING & REARING PODDY AND ORPHAN CALVES

what you need to know



Buying & Rearing Poddy and Orphan Calves

28 July

A session with Cindy Lucas, Cindy has 15 years experience providing contract rearing services in North East Victoria. She is now a resident of East Gippsland and offers contract rearing for dairy replacement heifers and/or surplus calves

At this workshop you will learn about:

- practical skills (vaccinating, drenching, etc)
- housing, bedding, and paddock access
- how and what to feed
- weaning decisions
- Pen size & layout
- Identifying sick calves

When: Tuesday 28 July

Time: 10am to 2pm

Where: Bruthen

Register at <https://events.humanitix.com/rearing-and-buying-poddy-and-orphan-calves> for any enquiries contact Emma Orgill on 0400 467 921 or email emma.orgill@fevl.org.au.



SPONSORING AND RETAINING OVERSEAS EMPLOYEES

Sponsoring and Retaining Overseas Employees

29 July

Sponsoring overseas employees can bring many benefits to a farm business. Increasingly, farmers are utilising this option to recruit motivated, reliable people for their team.

Fadi Malek is the **Managing Director of Global Skilled Employment Services** and has detailed knowledge of the DILA. Fadi will cover the practicalities of the process, timelines, approximate costs, visa options, and employer obligations. He will also discuss strategies for retaining and developing overseas employees.

The session will include a Q&A, giving participants the opportunity to ask questions and gain practical information relevant to their own farm and circumstances.

When: 29 July

Time: 6.00pm – 9.00pm

Where: Orbost Football Clubroom



Dinner provided so **booking is essential** at [SPONSORING AND RETAINING OVERSEAS EMPLOYEES - Orbost - 29July2026 | Dairy Australia](#) or by scanning the QR.

For further information contact Jackie Aveling Gipps Dairy Farm Engagement Lead on 0474488750.

Australian Women in Agriculture National Conference

27 – 29 July

The AWiA creates spaces where women in agriculture can step forward, build confidence and strengthen their voice.

The 2026 National Conference brings this to life through:

- keynote speakers sharing real leadership journeys
- panels tackling the big issues facing agriculture

- practical workshops you can take back to your business or role
- genuine networking with women across the industry

When: 27 to 29 July 2026

Where: Orange, NSW



This isn't just an event, it's an opportunity to grow, connect and contribute More information at [AWiA 2026 National Conference — Australian Women in Agriculture](https://www.awia.org.au/2026-national-conference).

Youth on Purpose Workshop

31 July & 1 August

Young people aged 12–18 are invited to take part in the upcoming Youth On Purpose weekend program in Bairnsdale – a dynamic and inspiring experience designed to spark self-discovery, build confidence, and foster a sense of belonging.

Led by motivational artist Chico Johnson, this high-impact program blends music, storytelling, film, and creative workshops to help participants explore who they are and how they can make a positive contribution to their community. The program focuses on building self-worth, reducing isolation and anxiety, and empowering young people to live with purpose.

Developed by a team of educators, youth mentors, and artists, these sessions are especially valuable for supporting disengaged or disadvantaged youth while strengthening community connections.

Friday 31 July The Forge Theatre 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Saturday 1 August The Forge Theatre 10:00am – 4:00pm

Register or find out more.

 DATES Friday 31 July 2026 6pm – 9pm Saturday 1 August 2026 10am – 4pm  VENUE The Forge Theatre 80 McKean St. Bairnsdale VIC \$30 BOOKING FEE	BOOK YOUR SPOT SCAN TO BOOK  The course is provided for FREE, but due to limited spaces, a \$30 booking deposit is required. This will then be refunded after you attend.
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Kick start your future with

BE WORK READY -
Jobs on Farms



Be Work Ready – Jobs on Farms Program Returns to Heyfield

4 Aug – 13 Aug

People interested in exploring a career in agriculture are encouraged to register for the upcoming **Be Work Ready – Jobs on Farms** training program, designed to help participants build practical skills, industry knowledge and confidence for employment in the agricultural sector.

Delivered through the **Heyfield Community Resource Centre**, the program is ideal for beginners wanting to learn more about farm-based careers and the opportunities available across the region's thriving agricultural industry.

Over five interactive sessions, participants will have the opportunity to:

- Visit local farms and gain firsthand insight into agricultural workplaces
- Learn practical job-seeking skills, including resume writing and interview preparation
- Hear from industry representatives about career opportunities and employer expectations
- Explore training and education pathways that can support long-term employment in agriculture

The course will run from **9.30am to 2.30pm** on the following dates:

- **Tuesday 4 August & Wednesday 5 August**
- **Tuesday 11 August & Wednesday 12 August**
- **Thursday 13 August**



The cost is **\$20 per person**, with bookings essential.

The program is supported by ACFE (Adult, Community and Further Education) and delivered through the Future of Heyfield Project, which is supported by the Victorian Government's Forestry Transition Program. **For more information or to book your place, contact the Heyfield Community Resource Centre on 5148 2100 or email coordinator@heyfield.net.** There are six places remaining.

MAKING THE MOST OF SPRING

& prepare for summer

With Nicole Frost from Peak Pasture & Livestock

Preparing for summer at Genoa

5 August

This day based in **Genoa** with agronomist Nicole Frost will include a paddock walk and lunch and cover the following topics:

- boosting that winter crop
- silage & hay
- making the most of Spring
- preparing for Summer
- fertiliser use
- summer cropping



When: Wednesday 5 August

Where: Genoa Hall

Time: 10am to 2pm

Register at <https://events.humanitix.com/preparing-for-summer-and-making-the-most-of-spring>. Any questions please contact Emma Orgill on emma.orgill@fevl.org.au or 0400 467 921.

Emergency Preparedness Workshop – Bendoc

11 August

Community members are invited to attend a free Australian Red Cross *EmergencyRedi* workshop in Bendoc at the Neighbourhood House.

When: Tuesday 11 August

Tine: 12pm–2pm

Where: Bendoc Neighbourhood House



The session will provide practical tips to help individuals and households prepare for emergencies, with a light lunch included. Bookings are essential for catering.

To Book or learn more, contact Alli Norfolk at anorfolk@redcross.org.au.

EGMI Business Networking Night featuring Paris Brooke

13 August

You are invited to the Eagle Point Foreshore Hub to hear Parise Brooke from The Wilderness Collective who will share the inspiring blueprint for regional rejuvenation, remote innovation, and community resilience. Based in Mallacoota, this dedicated social enterprise is transforming local challenges into opportunities by establishing a thriving, self-sufficient co-working hub and study space.

Discussions will include micro-business capability programs, and practical digital mentoring designed to unlock sustainable employment and career pathways. Attendees will gain valuable insights into how community-led initiatives can empower regional entrepreneurs and foster lasting economic and social vitality across East Gippsland.

Thursday 13 August 2026

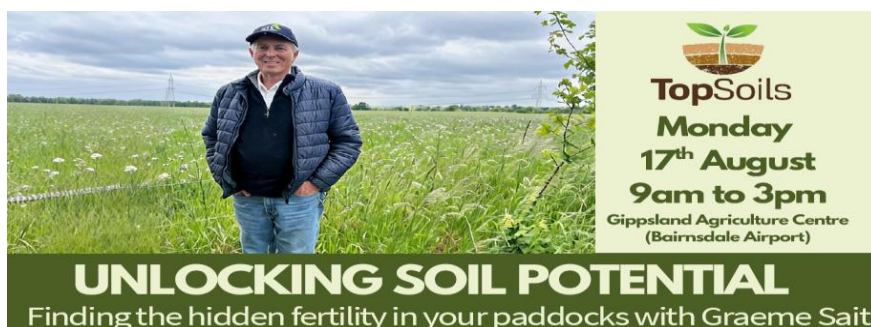
Eagle Point Foreshore Hub

7.30am to 9.00am



wilderness
COLLECTIVE

To get your FREE EGMI Partner code, email info@egmi.com.au.



Graeme Siat – Unlocking Soil Potential in Bairnsdale

17 August

Are you getting the most from your fertiliser investment, or are valuable nutrients already sitting in your soil, locked away and unavailable to your pastures?

Join internationally recognised soil nutrition specialist **Graeme Sait** for a practical, straight-talking workshop on **Monday 17 August** at the Gippsland Agriculture Centre (Bairnsdale Airport).

Graeme will share practical strategies to help you better understand your soils, improve nutrient efficiency and make more profitable fertiliser and soil amendment decisions.

You'll learn how to:

- Understand the difference between the nutrients your soil contains and what your plants can actually access
- Identify nutrient imbalances that may be limiting pasture or crop production
- Unlock nutrients already present in your paddocks
- Improve fertiliser efficiency and reduce unnecessary input costs
- Understand the key mineral ratios that influence plant health and productivity
- Make more informed, profitable soil management decisions

If you're looking to improve pasture performance, reduce fertiliser waste, or gain a better understanding of what your soil test results are really telling you, this is a workshop not to miss.

Date: Monday 17 August 2026

Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Location: Gippsland Agriculture Centre (Bairnsdale Airport)

Register here: Click link <https://bit.ly/4uBB4Ak>, For more information, contact Natalie on **0436 462 559**.



The banner features a composite image. On the left is the 'TopSoils' logo, which includes a stylized green plant growing from a brown soil mound. In the center is a photograph of Graeme Siat, a man wearing a cap and a jacket, standing in a green field. On the right, the text reads: 'Tuesday 18th August', '10.00am - 2.00pm', 'Orbost Football Club', and 'Lochiel Park, Lochiel St Orbost'. Below this image section, a dark blue bar contains the text 'Nutrient Management' in a large white font, with 'Strategies for High-Yield, Lower-Input Farming' in a smaller white font underneath.

Graeme Siat Nutrient Management in Orbost

18 August

Internationally recognised as a pioneer in soil, plant and animal nutrition, Graeme has spent decades helping farmers increase profitability by working with nature. He is the founder of Nutrition Farming, author of the bestselling book *Nutrition Rules*, and has published more than 300 articles on soil health and sustainable agriculture.

It is a great opportunity to listen to someone who is an expert in his field.

You will learn:

- How to increase mineral efficiency and cut down on fertiliser costs.
- Keep your rhizome crops healthy with proactive protection strategies. P
- Put your microbial workforce to work to boost yields and naturally lower pest pressure.

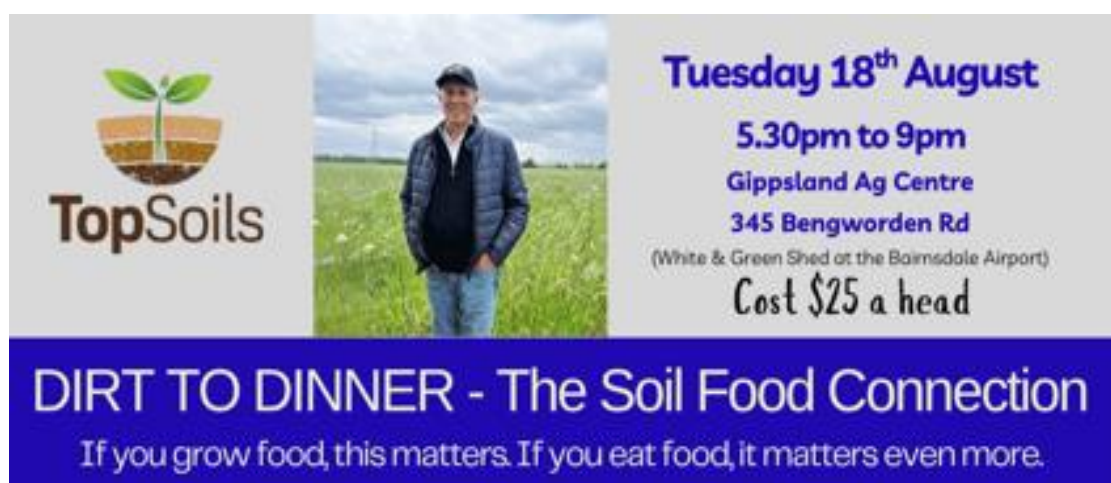
- Understand exactly what your soil and tissue tests are telling you
- Optimise trace mineral management.

Tue 18th August

10 am to 2pm

Start in the Orbost Footy Club at Lochiel Park with lunch, then head out for a paddock walk.

To book <https://events.humanitix.com/grame-sait-is-visiting-east-gippsland> for more info: Contact Josh on 0419 317 509 or facilitator@fevl.org.au. You can also use the above link to book into the days in Maffra & Bairnsdale.



Dirt to Dinner - Healthy food starts with healthy soils with Graeme Sait 18 Aug

International renowned soil educator and nutritious food advocate, Graeme Sait is visiting East Gippsland this August 2026 and will be holding several events.

Join the conversation with Graham Sait, one of Australia's leading soil educators and facilitators, as we explore the powerful connection between soil health, food quality, farm productivity, and human wellbeing.

Sit with local farmers who are passionate about producing quality food and learn how the soils of our region underpin everything we eat.

Just 10 cm of topsoil stands between humanity and starvation. It is one of our most valuable natural assets, yet few people truly understand its importance.

When: 18th August

Time: 5.30pm to 9.00pm

Where: Gippsland Ag Centre – 345 Bengworden Rd

Catered by The Long Paddock Lindenow

Cost: \$25 a person

Join in for an inspiring evening of conversation by **booking at:** <https://events.humanitix.com/grame-sait-is-visiting-east-gippsland>



Backing Gippsland's Role in the New Energy Conversation 18 – 19 August

Food & Fibre Gippsland is proud to be a Silver Sponsor of the Gippsland New Energy Conference (GNEC) 2026.

The event will bring together more than 150 speakers across 80 sessions, exploring renewable energy, offshore wind, workforce development, community engagement, agricultural sustainability and regional economic transition. Highlights for the agriculture sector include:

- Ag-focused speakers sharing insights relevant to Gippsland's food and fibre industries
- A **Gippsland Trusted** catering and tourism showcase featuring local producers
- A **Gippsland agriculture bus tour** on **Thursday 20 August**
- The **Energy Exchange**, providing a space for discussion, collaboration and sharing ideas, projects and case studies

When: 18–19 August 2026

Where: Gippsland Performing Arts Centre Precinct, Traralgon

Bus Tour: 20 August 2026

Registrations are now open. Free tickets are available for community members, educators, students (16–25 years) and small businesses. **To view the full program and register, visit www.gnec.com.au.**

Red Meat Conference – Every Decision Counts

25 August

Don't miss your opportunity to be part of one of Victoria's premier red meat industry events.

This year's theme, "**Every Decision Counts**," will focus on the decisions producers make every day that influence the productivity, profitability and long-term sustainability of their businesses.

Covering red meat markets, business management, containment feeding, virtual fencing, producing weighty weaners, understanding the boom-and-bust sheep cycle, and a producer's paddock-to-plate journey, the conference will provide practical insights and take-home messages to help producers make informed decisions, navigate current challenges and capitalise on future opportunities.



Date: Tuesday, 25 August 2026

Venue: Sale Baptist Church, 283 Princes Highway, Sale VIC 3850

Registration: 8:15am – 8:50am

Featured Speakers: Simon Quilty, Robert Herrmann, Frank Archer, Meridie Jackson, Jess Revell, Tom Cosentino, Chelsea Hair and a Virtual Farm Tour of Blackwood Piggery with Rob Bayley.

Tickets on Sale Now, Secure your ticket today via TryBooking <https://www.trybooking.com/DNHTN>

2026 Victorian Landcare Forum

31 Aug – 2 Sept

This event brings together landcarers, industry professionals, researchers and key stakeholders who are working to support healthy landscapes, thriving ecosystems and sustainable agricultural practices, while strengthening the resilience and wellbeing of local communities.

The Forum provides valuable opportunities for knowledge sharing, collaboration and learning through a combination of formal presentations, workshops and informal networking.

This year, the conference component of the Forum will be delivered over two days and will feature a mix of keynote presentations and concurrent sessions, allowing participants to tailor their experience to their interests and areas of focus.

Monday 31 August to Wednesday 2 September
Cardinia Cultural Centre, Pakenham



Supported by Natural Resources Conservation Trust, you can check out the draft program on our website: <https://www.landcarevictoria.org.au/2026forum>.

FUNDING

Victorian Trees on Farms Program Extended to 1 November

The Victorian Trees on Farms Program has been extended, with Round 1 applications now open until 1 November 2026. The program supports rural landowners to integrate trees into farming enterprises to improve productivity, resilience and environmental outcomes. Eligible landowners can apply for grants of up to **\$80,000 for farm forestry plantings** and **\$40,000 for environmental plantings**, with projects designed to deliver benefits such as timber production, carbon sequestration, enhanced biodiversity, improved soil health and reduced erosion.

The Professional Service Provider Register Expression of Interest has also been extended to 1 November 2026.

The extension provides additional time for consultants and advisers with expertise in areas such as tree growing, plantation design, farm forestry and environmental plantings to apply for inclusion on the register. Eligible service providers are encouraged to review the EOI requirements and submit an application to be considered. For further information, including eligibility criteria, visit the Trees on Farms [Expression of Interest Guidance Note | Victorian Trees on Farms Program | Trees on farms | Plantations and farm forestry | Crops and horticulture | Agriculture Victoria](#)

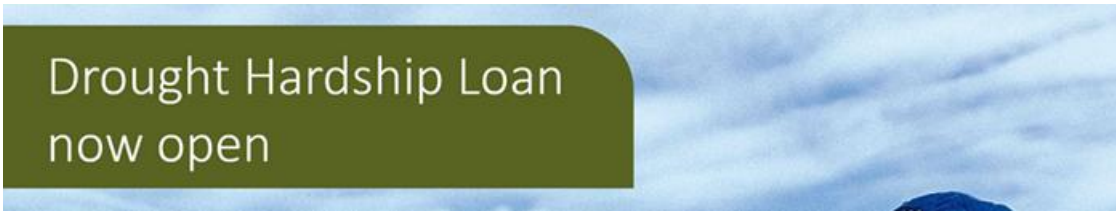
Drought funding

Australian Government drought support information can be found **here**: drought.gov.au

Farm Drought Support \$5,000 offers grants for on-farm infrastructure upgrades and improvements such as grain feeders, troughs, pasture restoration, stock containment areas, and more. This is a co-contribution grant. [Farm Drought Support Grants | Grants and financial support | Drought support | Farm management | Agriculture Victoria](#).

One-on-one farm advisory service provides an opportunity for a second consultation for farmers to build capacity to manage drought conditions now and into the future. You get to choose your preferred consultant depending on what you need from a list of specialists from across the state. [Farm advisory service | Drought support | Farm management | Agriculture Victoria](#)

Groups events are being rolled out check upcoming events near you at agriculture.vic.gov.au/events and find out more at [Farmer Group Technical Events](#).

A banner with a blue sky background and a green rounded rectangle on the left containing the text "Drought Hardship Loan now open".

Drought Hardship Loan now open

RIC Drought Hardship Loan

The Australian Government has introduced the RIC Drought Hardship Loan to support farm businesses experiencing severe and prolonged drought.

The loan provides up to \$250,000 over 5 years, at the RIC's concessional interest rate (currently 5.18%), with a 2-year repayment holiday, to help farmers manage essential operating costs and improve cash flow during extended dry conditions.

It is available to eligible farm businesses that have managed through at least 24 months of drought and expect further impacts ahead. The loan complements other drought support and can be accessed alongside state programs.

Australian Government drought support information can be found here: drought.gov.au

RIC [Regional Investment Corporation - Australian Government](https://www.ric.gov.au/)

A banner with a background image of a dry, brown landscape with a tree trunk. It features two green text boxes. The top box says "Financial assistance is available" and the bottom box says "To help fire-affected farmers in recovery".

Financial assistance is available

To help fire-affected farmers in recovery

Support for those affected by the January 2026 fires

Farmers impacted by the January 2026 bushfires may be eligible for financial support for recovery.

- Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Grants of up to \$75,000 to assist with clean-up and reinstating enterprises.
- Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Concessional Loans of up to \$250,000 for those who have suffered major asset damage or loss of income.

In addition, Agriculture Victoria continues to support farmers impacted through technical information and events to support farm business recovery on topics such as grazing, cropping and pasture management, irrigation and horticulture system rehabilitation, soil erosion management and much more.

Applications for funding and support can be made at ruralfinance.com.au/grants, [Bushfires | Emergency management | Farm management | Agriculture Victoria](#).

COMMUNITY FUNDING



Trees for Bees Community Tree Grants

Closes 20 July

This year, 40 grants of \$500 are available for not-for-profit organisations, school groups, Landcare groups, community organisations and sustainability groups for bee-friendly planting proposals.

Since launching in 2023, the program has supported the planting of about 9,500 trees and shrubs, engaging more than 12,600 people in local action for pollinators.

Applicants will be judged on three criteria:

- **Pollinator Impact:** How the planting will benefit bees and other pollinators.
- **Area covered:** The size of the planting and the details of the area (was it previously an unused site, does it extend existing pollinator-friendly garden).
- **Community reach:** How many people are involved in the planting, how many people will learn more about the importance of planting for pollinators as a result of the grant.

If your community has an idea to create habitat and support bees, now is the time to apply. [Trees for Bees Community Tree Grants – The Wheen Bee Foundation](#). Applications close 20 July 2026, 5pm AEST.

SURVEYS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Discover How Lean Thinking Can Improve Your Business - Free Moshie Webinar

Looking to improve efficiency, reduce waste and boost profitability? Moshie Australia's free **Introduction to Lean Webinar** provides practical insights into Lean Management and Continuous Improvement, helping businesses streamline operations and make better decisions.

Participants will also learn about available funding opportunities and the 2026 Moshie Lean Leaders® Program—a 20-week business improvement course designed to deliver measurable business benefits. Suitable for business owners, farm managers and team leaders, with applications now open for the mid-year 2026 program.

Industry success story: Through the 2026 Lean Leaders Program, Tim Johnston of Peninsula Fresh Organics applied Lean Thinking to packing and dispatch operations, creating a semi-automated Excel tool in just eight hours that is expected to save the business more than **\$39,000 annually**.

Apply by calling Josh Kyne on 0451 283 715 or email josh@moshie.biz.

Hort Innovation Farm Gate Panel EOI

Closes 17 July

Hort Innovation in partnership with AUSVEG is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from suitably qualified growers and other key vegetable industry stakeholders from around Australia for the **Vegetable Industry Pre Farm Gate Advisory Panel** and the **Vegetable Industry Post Farm Gate Panel**.

The Pre-Farm Gate Advisory Panel provides strategic investment advice to Hort Innovation in relation to industry supply, production and sustainability programs funded from the Vegetable R&D statutory levy. Focusing on improving industry productivity (inputs/outputs) to maintain local and international competitiveness and viability of supply.

The Post-Farm Gate Advisory Panel provide strategic investment advice to Hort Innovation in relation to industry demand creation programs funded from the Vegetable R&D statutory levy. Focusing on demand creation to improve consumer knowledge, attitudes and purchase intent to drive volume growth for the Vegetable industry.

Both panels will be guided by the strategic priorities set out in the [Vegetable Strategic Investment Plan 2022-2026](#). More information: [Shape the future of the vegetable industry | AUSVEG](#).

If you would like to help shape the future of the Australian Vegetable industry, apply by using the **Expressions of Interest form** [Advisory Panel - Expression of Interest form](#)



Applications close **Friday 17 July 2026** and will be assessed and shortlisted by a selection panel. Who may interview shortlisted candidates. The selection panel will recommend the final panel composition to the Hort Innovation Executive and AUSVEG Board.

For more information contact Mark Spees Industry Services Manager Hort Innovation 0439 574 173 or email mark.spees@horticulture.com.au.

Monash Circular Business Needs Survey

What does your business need to succeed in Australia's circular economy transition? The Sustainability Transitions Lab at Monash Business School is working with industry to develop practical, business-ready tools that turn circular economy ambition into real-world action and we need **your input at [Monash Business School: Circular Business Needs Project](#)** to better understand:

- Your current knowledge of the circular economy.
- Familiarity with the Australian Circular Economy Framework.
- The specific tools and support your organisation needs to accelerate circular business models.

RACE Gippsland are looking for farmers to host school students

RACE Victoria are calling out for farms, agribusinesses and agricultural professionals to host student excursions and share what makes our industry great. And promote agriculture careers.

Visits can run for 1-1.5 hours and can be tailored to suit your schedule.

- ✓ Planning covered
- ✓ Transport covered
- ✓ Insurance covered

All they are seeking is time, expertise and willingness to share your story. If you are interested in getting involved or finding out more? They would love to hear from you. Please contact the team at ageducation@cqu.edu.au.

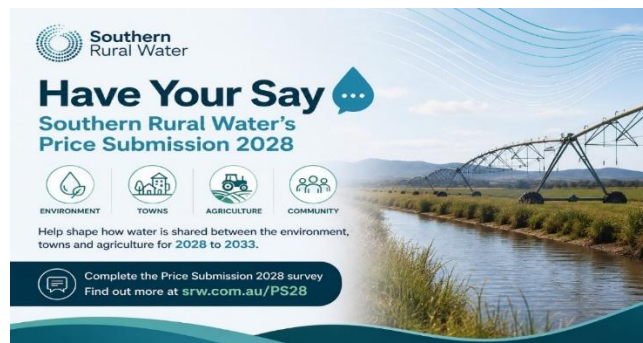
CSIRO – My Climate View

The CSIRO is running a **short (5-minute) survey** open to all growers and producers, regardless of enterprise type or size. Insights from the survey will help shape how climate information is developed and delivered - ensuring it is practical, relevant, and supports farmers to better manage climate variability and risk. CSIRO has indicated they will share survey results once available. [My Climate View survey of farmers.](#)



CSIRO

Government agency



Have Your Say: Southern Rural Water's Price Submission 2028

Southern Rural Water (SRW) is starting work on its next Price Submission - a plan that will guide how water services are delivered across our region from 2028 to 2033, submitted to the Essential Services Commission for independent approval.

SRW manages three irrigation districts and regulates groundwater and river water usage across southern Victoria, with water use directly supporting Gippsland's food and fibre production. As they shape this next plan, SRW wants to hear from customers and communities about priorities - including how water is shared between the environment, towns and agriculture.

Food & Fibre Gippsland encourages members and the broader Gippsland farming community to have your say. See [Price Submission 2028 | Southern Rural Water](#) or visit the Your say page at [Have your say | Southern Rural Water](#).

Snowy Deed Review – Draft Report Open for Public Comment

Closes 4 Aug

The **Draft Independent Review Panel Report** for the review of the **Snowy Water Inquiry Outcomes Implementation Deed (Snowy Deed)** is now available for public comment.

Community members, stakeholders and interested organisations are encouraged to review the report and provide feedback through the **Have Your Say** process, which is open until **5.00 pm on 4 August 2026**.

The review is examining the effectiveness of the Snowy Deed in delivering environmental outcomes for the Snowy and Murray river systems. Feedback from the community will help inform the final recommendations.

- For more information and to access the draft report, visit the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water website watertrustaustralia.org.au
- [Draft Report: Independent Review of the Snowy Water Inquiry Outcomes Implementation Deed - Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water](#)

For enquiries regarding stakeholder engagement activities, contact **Watertrust Australia: Peter Horne**: 0480 446 530, **email**: umr@watertrustaustralia.org.au.

Thailand-Australia Venture Exchange Program - AusIndustry

APPLICATIONS OPEN

The Thailand–Australia Venture Exchange Program (VEP) supports small-to-medium enterprises through a 12-week program connecting participants with agri-food systems in new markets. The program builds industry connections and strengthens market readiness across both countries.

VEP provides support through:

- coaching
- mentoring
- market familiarisation visits
- events.

Participants are supported to:

- explore reciprocal market opportunities
- develop go-to-market strategies
- build partnerships across the value chain.

Find out more at [Thailand-Australia Venture Exchange Program CSIRO](#)



Image sourced from CSIRO website

Boost your business skills with free webinars

Looking to upskill or grow your business? Business Victoria is offering a series of free online webinars, designed to help you start, improve and expand your business knowledge.

These webinars are a great way to gain practical advice, learn from experts and build skills to support your business growth. Upcoming sessions include:

- Advanced strategies to take your business online
- Maximising your marketing
- Starting your small business

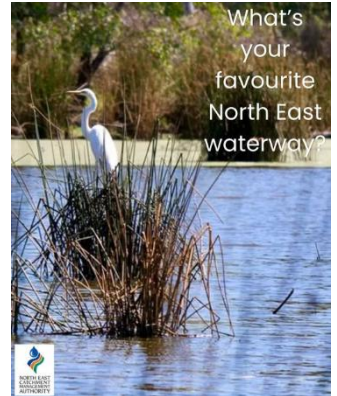
Register at [Courses & webinars | Business Victoria](#)

North East Producers - What's your favourite North East waterway? Closes 31 July

North East CMA is running a competition asking the public to nominate their favourite North East waterway as part of the renewal of the [#NorthEastRegionalWaterwayStrategy](#).

Portray through an original photo, your connection to the environment of the region. Celebrate the North East's amazing natural environment through your image and story explaining why the place is special for you. Is this a site you visit often, has personal or family connection or you just want people to know about?

They will select up to six of the best images and short stories to receive a prize voucher to a local nursery or agricultural shop. Entries close 31 July 2026 and should be sent to info@necma.vic.gov.au



INFORMATION

Instant Asset Write Off

On 12 May 2026, as part of the 2026–27 Budget, the Government announced it will permanently increase the instant asset write-off for small businesses to \$20,000 from 1 July 2026 to help improve cashflow and reduce compliance costs.

This measure is not yet law.

Under the measure, from 1 July 2026, small businesses with an aggregated turnover of less than \$10 million, can deduct:

- the full cost of eligible depreciating assets costing less than \$20,000 that are first used or installed ready for use in an income year; and
- an amount included in the second element of an eligible depreciating asset's cost that they have incurred in an income year, if they claimed an immediate deduction for the asset under the simplified depreciation rules in a prior income year where the amount is:
 - the first amount of second element cost incurred after the end of the income year in which the asset was written off; and
 - less than \$20,000.

The \$20,000 limit under the measure applies on a per asset basis, so small businesses can instantly write off multiple assets.

Assets valued at \$20,000 or more can continue to be placed into the small business simplified depreciation pool and depreciated at 15% in the first income year and 30% each income year after that. In addition, pool balances under \$20,000 at the end of the income year can be written off. [\\$20,000 Instant Asset Write-off | Australian Taxation Office](#).

Producers are encouraged to check with a licensed accountant or tax adviser about how the measure applies to their individual circumstances before making any purchasing decisions.

NFF Ag Trade Apprenticeship Survey

The National Farmers' Federation, in partnership with [Skills Insight](#), has explored the feasibility of introducing an [Ag Trade Apprenticeship Feasibility Report](#) to help address workforce shortages and attract new entrants to the industry.

Research found strong support from employers, unions and training providers, with potential benefits including improved career pathways, increased professionalism, enhanced workplace safety and a stronger pipeline of skilled workers. While some concerns were raised about impacts on existing training programs, the report concluded that, with appropriate design and support, an agricultural apprenticeship could play an important role in building the future agricultural workforce.

Improving the visibility of an on-farm career pathway and enhancing the attractiveness of a career in agriculture is considered crucial in addressing the current workforce challenges faced by this industry, particularly when it comes to attracting new entrants. A short survey has been developed for to hear from you please contact Project Manager Louise Hegarty if you have any questions lhegarty@nff.org.au or (02) 6269 5622. [Agricultural Trade Pathway - National Farmers' Federation](#).

El Niño update – 24 June 2026

Dale Grey, Seasonal Risk Agronomist, Agriculture Victoria

The Bureau of Meteorology has confirmed that an El Niño event is underway. This does not mean rainfall will stop, but it does increase the likelihood of below average rainfall over the coming months.

Current ocean and pressure patterns are consistent with El Niño, although cloud and wind conditions are not yet fully aligned. At present, pressure patterns have supported rainfall across much of Victoria. A shift towards higher pressure systems that block rainfall would indicate a stronger El Niño influence.

Recent rainfall has been positive but does not yet secure spring pasture or hay production across most grazing areas. In northern cropping regions, stored soil moisture is providing some buffer against a drier spring.

Farmers are encouraged to continue monitoring water and feed supplies. If soils do not fully saturate during winter, runoff into farm water storages is likely to be limited. Livestock owners should track water levels, pasture availability and stock condition, and set clear trigger points for action in late winter and early spring.

Seasonal decisions should be based on the Bureau of Meteorology's outlooks rather than El Niño alone, as these forecasts consider a wider range of climate drivers.

Agriculture Victoria provides regular seasonal updates through *The Break* videos and newsletters. You can access the latest edition here: <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/newsletters/the-break>

You can access the latest webinar with Dale Grey of Ag Vic at '[El Nino does not equal drought': agronomist says time to think and plan](#)' Or join in the recent Country Hour segment at [Victorian Country Hour - ABC listen](#) or on Country Today: [Country Today - 1089 3WM](#) – from the 18 June.

Now is a good time to start monitoring dams

With patchy rainfall across the state and the forecast of a drier spring, now is an ideal time to start monitoring dam water levels.

Over recent years stock water has become a scarce commodity across many parts of the state, significantly impacting carrying capacity over drier months.

Taking stock of dam water levels and pasture growth over the next few months will greatly assist farmers in calculating potential carrying capacity. [Farm water calculator](#) | [Tools and calculators](#) | [Support and resources](#) | [Agriculture Victoria](#)

[Now is a good time to start monitoring dams](#) | [Media releases](#) | [Media centre](#) | [About](#) | [Agriculture Victoria](#). For more information about drought support available visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call [136 186](tel:136186).

Drought Trigger plans preparation thoughts Rod Hayes

Do you have a drought plan? Maybe it's written down, tucked away in a drawer, or simply lives in your head. Whatever form it takes, now is a good time to review it with your family and team. If you don't have a plan, now is the time to start.

Three practical actions to strengthen your preparedness:

1. **Use the "Prepare for Drought – Plan It Out" resource** to help identify triggers, priorities and practical actions before conditions become more challenging.
2. **Apply for the \$5,000 Drought Support Grant** if you haven't already. Funding is available for activities such as stock containment areas, reticulated water systems, irrigation upgrades, grain and fodder storage, re-fencing, feed system improvements, pasture and crop restoration, and water carting. Grants are available until funding is exhausted or 30 June 2026. Applications can be made through Rural Finance.
3. **Review your drought preparedness plan with your team** and identify any actions that can be implemented now to improve resilience before conditions deteriorate.
4. **Book a free Agriculture Victoria Technical Support session** – access up to **three hours of fully funded, one-on-one drought planning support** with an approved consultant of your choice to help assess your situation, identify options and strengthen your farm's drought preparedness

Rod Hayes, Senior Manager – Resilience & Innovation at Food & Fibre Gippsland, reminds us:

"Preparedness isn't built in the tough times. It's built on ordinary days, in steady seasons, through practical decisions made before you need them."



H5 Bird Flu Update

Victorians are being urged to stay alert following confirmation of H5N1 high pathogenicity avian influenza (H5 bird flu) in wild birds in Western Australia and South Australia.

This is a significant development as it is the first time this strain of bird flu has been detected in Australia. It is a highly contagious strain that can cause serious disease in birds and some other wild animals.

There are currently no detections in Victoria and no evidence of any mass mortality in wildlife or spread to other animals in Western Australia. There has been no detection in poultry.

The current risk of bird flu to people in Australia is low. Bird flu is not a food safety risk for chicken meat and eggs if they are handled and cooked correctly.

As we have seen the global spread of the H5 bird flu virus, Victoria has been focusing on preparedness and is well-advanced in support of early detection, assessment and response. If you see something unusual, don't ignore it.

This disease is not present in Victoria, but it's a timely reminder to stay aware.

If you see sick or dead birds:

- **AVOID** contact
- **RECORD** what you see
- **REPORT** it to 1800 675 888 or via the [online form](#)

Report 5 or more dead birds anywhere in Victoria, or even one high-risk species like marine mammals, seabirds, waterbirds, shorebirds or birds of prey. [H5 bird flu detection in Western Australia](#) | [Media releases](#) | [Media centre](#) | [About](#) | [Agriculture Victoria](#)

What can you do

For poultry:

If you suspect avian influenza in poultry, please call the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on [1800 675 888](#).

For birds and wildlife:

- **AVOID** contact with sick or dead birds, wildlife or their environment
- **RECORD** what you see
- **REPORT** wildlife sickness or deaths to DEECA using the [online form](#) or call the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on [1800 675 888](#).

Report clusters of 5 or more sick or dead wild birds of any species, anywhere in Victoria. Please do not unnecessarily handle or move sick or dead wild animals as this may spread the virus.

Report even one sick or dead:

- wild seabird, waterbird, shorebird or bird of prey.
- marine mammal (e.g. seal, sea lion, dolphin).

Following a report, DEECA will assess each report and decide if testing is needed.

Farmers under pressure - ASAC calls for urgent government action on pest animals

Council in consultation with the Agriculture Sector Advisory Group developed a paper aimed at highlighting pest animal impacts to safeguard agricultural productivity, regional communities and food security in East Gippsland and Victoria. The paper is on Council's website under Position papers in the Advocacy section: [2026 March - Pest Animal Management East Gippsland Shire Council.pdf](#). The media release can be accessed at [Media Release: Farmers under pressure as ASAC calls for urgent government action on pest animals](#).

At the May ASAC DEECA attended and highlighted the work the department have underway and have provided the following information to assist farmers to report all sitings.

Wild invaders: working together to protect our land

On farms and in bushland across Victoria, a quiet battle is being fought every day. Rabbits nibble away at crops and native plants, foxes prey on livestock and wildlife, and feral pigs and goats leave a trail of damage in their wake. These animals, classified as *Established Pest Animals* under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, pose a serious and ongoing threat to both agriculture and biodiversity.



The challenge is not a simple one. These species are now so widespread that removing them entirely from the state or Australia is not possible. Instead, the focus has shifted to something equally important: reducing their impact. This means carefully planned, coordinated management programs that use a mix of control tools, applied strategically and consistently across the landscape, to protect what matters most.

Helping lead this effort are Agriculture Victoria's Engagement Officers – Vertebrate Pests (EOVP). These specialists bring technical expertise and local knowledge to the front line, working alongside landholders, community groups, Traditional Owners and government agencies. Their role is to support communities in tackling pest animals through education, engagement, and practical on-ground advice.

Spread across Victoria's east and west, EOVPs play a vital role in connecting people. By bringing stakeholders together, they help establish partnerships that align pest management efforts across both public and private land. This coordinated approach is key because managing invasive animals effectively requires everyone pulling in the same direction. The result is smarter, more effective action that delivers longer-lasting outcomes for the environment and for agriculture.

If you're noticing signs of rabbits, foxes, feral pigs or goats on your property or in your area, you're not alone and help is close at hand. Reaching out early can make a big difference because strong biosecurity safeguards communities, the environment and Victoria's food supply.

Contact your local Engagement Officer – Vertebrate Pests to report sightings and seek support:
Eastern Victoria: Dylan Brookes Dylan.Brookes@agriculture.vic.gov.au.



Safe Food Victoria up and running

Victoria's new streamlined food regulator Safe Food Victoria will cut red tape, making it easier to get fresh food to families. **Safe Food Victoria consolidates multiple regulators including Dairy Safe Food Victoria, Primesafe and other regulators** to simplify arrangements for businesses. The new regulator will report to the Minister for Agriculture.

It brings Victoria in line with other jurisdictions and creates a simpler and more streamlined regulatory system. Safe Food Victoria will work with local government to deliver food safety regulatory services and will maintain Victoria's strong focus on food safety and consumer protection.

This ensures the state's high standards continue to protect Victorians from food safety risks. See more at [Safe Food Victoria Up And Running | Premier](#).

Apply for a Safe Food Victoria licence [Apply for a licence | safefood.vic.gov.au](#), contact the Safe Food Victoria recall officer on 1300 364 352 [Safe Food Victoria | safefood.vic.gov.au](#).

Changes to business are here

Changes to how small businesses operate are now in effect. These changes impact payroll, tax returns, SMS marketing and retail leases. Find out what has changed and what you need to do now at [Changes to how you do business from 1 July | Business Victoria](#).

How you lodge a tax return for your business

As we all know, all businesses must lodge an income tax return, even if no income is earned. If you've just started a new business or need a refresher, the ATO have resources to help you see what you need to report and how you lodge a tax return for your business [Income tax return | Australian Taxation Office](#).

Mental health coaching for workers

The **Before Blue program** offers free, confidential mental health coaching for workers in Victorian small and medium businesses. You can access up to 8 coaching sessions by phone or video to help you manage stress and improve your wellbeing. [Before Blue – Worker Mental Health Coaching - Beyond Blue](#).

Keeping your small business safe

OHS Essentials is a free, independent program funded by WorkSafe Victoria to help small businesses improve workplace safety. Through the program you'll receive advice from safety experts, including site visits and action plans, to help implement safety procedures. [OHS Essentials - OHS Essentials program](#).

The OHS Essentials Program is available to:

- Victorian small businesses with 60 workers or fewer who have a WorkCover insurance policy
- Sole traders who use contractors and have a WorkCover insurance policy
- **All Victorian farmers**
- For 2026, manufacturers in postcode 3175 with less than 200 employees, can register for the OHS essentials program.

Australian Defence Export Catalogue 2026

A record 365 Australian defence industry businesses are listed, showcasing Australia's export-ready products, services and technologies to international partners.

The [2026 Catalogue](#) showcases strategically important sovereign capabilities to priority international partners. Complementing the work of the Australian Defence Strategic Sales Office, and supporting broader Defence export initiatives aligned with the [2026 National Defence Strategy](#) and the [Defence Industry Development Strategy](#). The Catalogue provides our international partners with a direct link to engaging with Australian defence industry.

Companies seeking entry may now apply all-year round. Applications are assessed at the end of each quarter. Successful applicants will be approved for 2 years, with immediate inclusion on the app and online.

Launch of AI.gov.au

AI.gov.au is a new dedicated digital platform providing information, guidance and practical tools to help Australians better understand AI.

The National AI Centre is helping Australian businesses safely explore and adopt AI through practical tools, training and real-world examples. From creating AI policies to discovering local AI providers, there are plenty of resources to get started. With a strong focus on responsible use and broad access (including support for not-for-profits) AI is becoming more accessible for organisations of all sizes

It will help businesses and organisations to:

- Gain clarity on AI.
- Build confidence in its use.
- Strengthen their capability to adopt AI responsibly.

To find out more go to [Homepage](#) | [National AI Centre](#).



straight to the source

Straight to the Source Interview with Remy Davis

This week on Straight To The Source, chef Remy Davis shares how he went from shucking oysters in Sydney to cooking at one of the world's most revered restaurants.

From Sydney to Spain's legendary Elkano, chef Remy Davis shares the risks, lessons and opportunities that shaped his career, and why backing yourself is often the first step to getting where you want to go. Listen here [Three Passports, One Mission: Chef Remy Davis on Cooking with Fire & Chasing the World's Best Fish](#).

Episode Highlights

[3:45](#) - How to fast-track your chef certificate at TAFE without a traditional apprenticeship

[7:00](#) - Why mentorship matters: Claude's Restaurant Oxford Street & the chefs who shaped him



Food & Fibre Gippsland - Join Us, East Gippsland

Free membership for East Gippsland small businesses.

Did you know that if your business has **fewer than 10 employees** and you're **based** in the East Gippsland Shire, you could be eligible for a free Associate Membership with Food & Fibre Gippsland?

As a Strategic Partner of F&FG, East Gippsland Shire Council's investment in our organisation means small businesses in the region can access membership at no cost, connecting you to industry networks, events, advocacy and programs across Gippsland's food and fibre sector.

Benefits include the F&FG monthly Industry Newsletter, invitations to networking events and industry awards, a listing on the F&FG Membership Directory, and access to corporate offers and discounts.

Businesses with **10 or more employees** can join as a **General Member** from \$350 plus GST per annum, with access to additional benefits including social media profiling, priority event invitations and more.

Find out more and join at [Join Us — Food and Fibre Gippsland](#) or email us at info@foodandfibregippsland.com.au.



**Food & Fibre
Gippsland**

Connect, Innovate & Grow Together

Gippsland Trusted - Is Your Product Gippsland Trusted?

Gippsland Trusted is a regional brand owned and managed by Food & Fibre Gippsland that identifies and promotes products grown, made or processed in Gippsland, assuring consumers of their origin and quality.

It's not an onerous certification process, but rather a self-regulated network of opportunities, with expert oversight and marketing and sales support.

If your business produces, processes or sells Gippsland food or fibre products, Gippsland Trusted could help you tell your story, access new markets and connect with a collaborative platform of local producers.

Find out more at foodandfibregippsland.com.au/gippslandtrustedprovenance or email us at info@foodandfibregippsland.com.au.



Victoria Records Strongest Food and Fibre Export Year on Record

Victoria has recorded a **record \$22.1 billion in food and fibre exports in 2024-25**, maintaining its position as Australia's leading agricultural exporting state for the second consecutive year. The result is **almost \$2 billion higher than the previous year** and marks the fourth consecutive year of export growth, despite challenging seasonal conditions.

Meat remained the state's largest export category at **\$8.2 billion**, followed by **grain (\$4.6 billion)**, **dairy (\$2.8 billion)** and **horticulture (\$1.9 billion)**. **China** continued as Victoria's largest export market, with strong demand also coming from the **United States, Japan, Indonesia and New Zealand**, highlighting the sector's ongoing market diversification and global competitiveness. Read Global Victoria full export report at [Record \\$22.1 billion year cements Victoria as Australia's food and fibre export leader | Global Victoria](#)



VegNET Gippsland Update

It's been a busy few months across Gippsland, with a range of activities, events and projects supporting local vegetable growers.

Hort Connections 2026

Amanda Gould and Simon Johnson attended Hort Connections 2026, connecting with growers, researchers, industry service providers and supply chain partners from across Australia. They returned with valuable insights into emerging research, industry trends and innovation opportunities relevant to Gippsland growers.

Spray Optimisation Roadshow

Planning is underway for the upcoming Spray Optimisation Roadshow, which will provide practical information on spray application efficiency, calibration, coverage and best-practice techniques. The program will include on-farm learning opportunities and discussions with industry experts. There are still four places available for a one-on-one farm visit.

Fall Armyworm Monitoring Project

The Fall Armyworm Monitoring Project is nearing completion, with monitoring traps across the region due to be collected in the coming weeks. The project has generated valuable data on pest activity and distribution throughout Gippsland, helping to inform future monitoring and management strategies.

Grower Networking Nights

A series of Grower Networking Nights will be held across South Gippsland, Wellington Shire and East Gippsland, providing an opportunity for growers to connect, discuss current challenges and hear from industry representatives. See details in the events section for the Lindenow event.

Ongoing Grower Support

VegNET continues to provide one-on-one support to growers, connecting businesses with research, development and extension opportunities, industry resources, funding programs and specialist technical assistance.

Have an idea, issue or opportunity you'd like VegNET to explore? Contact Amanda Gould on 0474 500 380 or amanda.gould@foodandfibregippsland.com.au.

UPDATES

Council - East Gippsland Livestock Exchange



EAST GIPPSLAND LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE
UPCOMING SALES

JULY 2026 *Dates are subject to change by Stock Agents

Prime Cattle Sale, 8.30 am
 Wednesday 1 July
 Wednesday 8 July
 Wednesday 15 July
 Wednesday 22 July
 Wednesday 29 July

Store Cattle Sale, 9.00 am
 Friday 10 July
 Friday 24 July

Sheep Sale, 10.00 am
 Monday 6 July
 Monday 20 July

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL



EAST GIPPSLAND LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE
UPCOMING SALES

AUGUST 2026 *Dates are subject to change by Stock Agents

Prime Cattle Sale, 8.30 am
 Wednesday 5 August
 Wednesday 12 August
 Wednesday 19 August
 Wednesday 26 August

Spring Store Cattle Sale, 9.00 am
 Friday 21 August

Store Cattle Sale, 9.00 am
 Friday 14 August
 Friday 28 August

Sheep Sale, 10.00 am
 Monday 3 August
 Monday 17 August
 Monday 31 August

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL



ASAC Expression of Interest open for two Vacancies

Closes 10 August

East Gippsland Shire Council is seeking Expressions of Interest from local farmers, producers and agribusiness professionals to fill two vacancies on the Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee (ASAC).

ASAC provides advice to Council on a wide range of agricultural issues, including industry resilience, strategic planning, emerging challenges, natural disaster recovery, water security, biosecurity and Council policies that impact farming businesses and rural communities.

Successful applicants will join a diverse committee comprising representatives from key agricultural organisations, Councillors and industry leaders from across East Gippsland. Meetings are held quarterly, with additional meetings scheduled as needed.

To make participation easier for those living in more remote parts of the shire, Council offers reimbursement of eligible travel costs and provides the option to attend meetings online.

Appointments will be for the **remainder of the current committee term**, ending in November 2027, with the opportunity to apply for a **further two-year term**.

If you're passionate about the future of agriculture in East Gippsland and would like to contribute your experience and insights, we encourage you to apply.

Expressions of Interest close on the 10 August and can be accessed online at Council's website: [Agricultural Assistance](#).

More information about the role and operation of ASAC can be read in the Charter: [Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee Charter - 17 February 2026.pdf](#)

Seafood Market Opportunity Assessment for the East Gippsland

East Gippsland Shire Council has engaged **Rosie Love from Tether Agency** to undertake a **Seafood Market Opportunity Assessment** to identify future growth opportunities and help inform investment priorities for the region's seafood industry.

The assessment will examine market trends, value-adding opportunities, domestic and export market potential, industry challenges and collaboration opportunities to strengthen the sector and increase local value capture. Input from seafood businesses and industry stakeholders will play a key role in ensuring the assessment reflects the realities and opportunities facing the industry.

Rosie will be engaging with industry participants over the coming months. Participation is voluntary and confidential. To learn more contact Rosie Love on 0403 615 038 or email rosie@tetheragency.com.au.

East Gippsland Grant Finder

Looking for funding for community projects, business ideas, or events? Don't forget about the East Gippsland Grant Finder, provided free by East Gippsland Shire Council in partnership with Grant Guru.

**East Gippsland
grant finder**



The portal helps local businesses, community groups, not-for-profits, and individuals discover grants from local, state, and federal sources, as well as corporate and philanthropic funding. Users can save favourites, receive email alerts, and access grant-writing tips. It is a one-stop shop for all your grant needs. For more information, visit the [East Gippsland Grant Guru portal](#).

The Emergency Dashboard – Check out the Ag Support section

The [Dashboard](#) is a practical one-stop place for our community to access trusted, up-to-date emergency information.

Bringing together warnings, weather, road conditions, outages, relief information and [local emergency planning resources](#), it helps residents and visitors stay informed and [prepared before, during and after emergencies](#).

The **dashboard also includes links to [agricultural supports](#) and services** that can assist people facing [fuel and cost-of-living pressures](#) through the link to Rural Aid. It is a valuable source of information and support when it is needed most.

Community Matters e-newsletter

Check out the latest edition of our community e-newsletter, Community Matters. This newsletter shares updates on projects, services, decisions, open consultations and more. [Click here to subscribe and stay informed.](#)

Your Say on Projects

Have you checked out [Your Say, East Gippsland](#) recently? Your Say is an online platform that lets you share what you think about the projects, services and places that matter to you. It's an important engagement tool for Council and community.

It is important to note that Council will also continue to consult with the community in a number of other ways including site meetings, community workshops, drop-in sessions and more.

Engagement opportunities at [Your Say East Gippsland](#) are:

Lindenow District Place Plan

Having a Place Plan is our way of working with communities to shape the future of each district – ...



How to get involved

Your voice matters, and we'd love to hear from you. We're working together to create the Lindenow District Place Plan, and your ideas, experiences, and perspectives are important.

We're committed to listening and learning from our community throughout this process. Everyone is welcome to get involved, whether you live, work, or spend time in the district, your input will help shape a vibrant and inclusive future for the Lindenow District.

Current Opportunities

You can provide your feedback by completing our [survey](#) open until 31 July 2026 or [in writing](#).

We also invite community to [share a story of place through images](#) that reflect what you love about the Lindenow District.

STORIES

QUESTIONS

Share your Port of Bairnsdale story and/or photo

Do you have a story or photo you'd like to share about your time at the Port of Bairnsdale, or experiences from another community space that matter to you? We'd like to hear from you. Your lived experience and local knowledge will help shape the Port of Bairnsdale Masterplan, ensuring it reflects how the community values, uses and wants to enjoy this space now and into the future.



There are many more programs and projects being delivered in the region, contact your local agencies, production group or ag business to find out more.

This is compiled by council for general information only. If a friend or a neighbour would like to receive a copy of this newsletter, please contact Kaylene Wickham Agribusiness Development Officer on 5153 9450 or register online at [AgriNews newsletter](#).

NATIONAL GROWER NETWORK FORUM - SALE (Vic)



The Star Hotel
173 Raymond Street,
SALE VIC 3850



When: Tuesday 21 July 2026, 10:00am – 2:45pm

Cost: This event is free to attend. Lunch included.

Register: <https://bit.ly/4b6hYv0>

For more information:

Anita Giarratano, AgCommunicators
08 8332 3277 | anita@agcommunicators.com.au

For information on the NGN forums visit:

grdc.com.au/about/our-industry/national-grower-network

You are invited to attend this GRDC National Grower Network Forum to contribute your ideas, issues, constraints and opportunities for RD&E investments to enhance grower profitability in your local region.

Hear from Agriculture Victoria's Dr Joshua Fanning and Melissa Cook on foliar and soil-borne diseases, as well as Ben Morris from FAR Australia who will provide an update on crop disease trials. Chris Jehu, Countryside Business Partners, will also present on defining and maintaining margins in cropping.

This forum is free to attend and is open to growers, advisers, researchers and industry.

Topics:

- Identify challenges and opportunities impacting farm profitability
- Contribute to local RD&E investments
- Cereal and pulse pathology
- Soil-borne disease update
- Disease trial insights
- Defining and maintaining margins in cropping

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](https://bit.ly/4b6hYv0)

grdc.com.au

Improving Lamb Performance: Worms, Grazing & Growth

GIPPSLAND SHEEP PRODUCERS DAY

THURS 23RD JULY

8AM TO 12:30PM LUNCH INCLUDED
GIPPSLAND AG CENTRE (BAIRNSDALE AIRPORT)

TOPIC 1



Worms, Drenching & Resistance Management

Keren Walker & Amy Rogers

- Current worm and drench resistance challenges in Gippsland
- Smart drenching strategies
- Avoiding resistance through management
- Practical tools available

TOPIC 2



Smart Strategies For Worm Control

Alison Gunn

- Integrating grazing management with drench programs
- Utilising Barbevax in your worm control program
- Practical paddock planning for livestock systems

TOPIC 3



Lamb Growth, Carcass Traits & Future Markets

Lachlan Jeffers MLA & Alister Micallef

- Understanding future market and how producers can position themselves.
- Market demands and how growth rates influence profitability and market access.
- GippsLAMB results over the last two years

REGISTER

Click link: <https://bit.ly/4vurfW2>

Scan QR Code

Need info? Call Alister on 0418 576 957



This project has been funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund with support from Food & Fibre Gippsland, The Producer Demonstration Site is supported by Meat & Livestock Australia.



A 'HOW-TO' WORKSHOP

BUYING & REARING PODDY AND ORPHAN CALVES

what you need to know



With Cindy Lucas from Calm Calf Contract Calf Rearing

Cindy has 15 years experience providing contract rearing services in North East Victoria. She is now a resident of East Gippsland and offers contract rearing for dairy replacement heifers and/or surplus calves.

This is a great opportunity to see how the professionals do it.

Learn about:

- practical skills (vaccinating, drenching, etc)
- housing, bedding, and paddock access
- how and what to feed
- weaning decisions
- Pen size & layout
- Identifying sick calves



Tue 28th July 2026



10am to 2pm



Bruthen

lunch is provided

FREE EVENT

REGISTER LINK

<https://bit.ly/4g4vGSH>

RSVP is essential to book use QR code or above link.

Questions - contact Emma Orgill on 0400 467 921 or emma.orgill@fevl.org.au



The Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program.



SPONSORING AND RETAINING OVERSEAS EMPLOYEES

Orbost VICTORIA

Sponsoring overseas employees can bring many benefits to a farm business. Increasingly, farmers are utilising this option to recruit motivated, reliable people for their team.

Dairy Industry Labour Agreement

Fadi Malek is the Managing Director of Global Skilled Employment Services and has detailed knowledge of the DILA. Fadi will cover the practicalities of the process, timelines, approximate costs, visa options, and employer obligations. He will also discuss strategies for retaining and developing overseas employees.

Q&A session

The session will include a Q&A, giving participants the opportunity to ask questions and gain practical information relevant to their own farm and circumstances.

Register your interest

[SPONSORING AND
RETAINING OVERSEAS
EMPLOYEES - Orbost -
29July2026 | Dairy Australia](#)



Presenter	Fadi Malek
Dates	29 th July 2026
Time	6.00pm to 9.00pm
Location	Orbost Football Club
RSVP	28 th July 2026
Dinner provided - Registration is essential for catering purposes.	
Contact	
Jackie Aveling Farm Engagement Lead Gipps Dairy 0474488750	
Tania Ketteringham People Experience Lead Dairy Australia 0412040504	

For more information contact Jackie Aveling 0474488750 | dairyaustralia.com.au

MAKING THE MOST OF SPRING

& prepare for summer

With Nicole Frost from Peak Pasture & Livestock

Nicole Frost is a well-known agronomist based in Ensay, with 12 yrs experience working across Gippsland. She combines practical farming experience with expertise in soil health and pasture management.

Learn about:

- boosting that winter crop
- silage & hay
- making the most of Spring
- preparing for Summer
- fertiliser use

 **WED 5TH AUGUST 2026**

 **10AM - 2PM**

 **GENOA HALL**
4644 Princes Hwy, Genoa

FOLLOWED BY A Paddock WALK

lunch is provided



REGISTER LINK

RSVP is essential to book use QR code or above link.

Questions - contact Emma Orgill
on 0400 467 921 or
emma.orgill@fevl.org.au



This TopSoils event is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program.

Kick start your future with **BE WORK READY - Jobs on Farms**

Join us for a training program developed for beginners looking to build practical skills, gain industry knowledge, and the confidence to start a rewarding career in agriculture.

This program includes:

- Local farm tours
- Support with resume writing, where to look for jobs and interview skills
- Presentations from industry representatives
- Links to training pathways

**SCAN TO
BOOK
ONLINE**



call: 5148 2100

email: coordinator@heyfield.net

**Heyfield Community Resource Centre
5 George Street, Heyfield VIC 3858**

Be Work Ready - Jobs on Farms is an ACFE supported course.

This community training is brought to you by the Future of Heyfield Project.

The Future of Heyfield is supported by the Victorian Government through the Forestry Transition Program

NEW DATES!

Runs over 5 sessions

Tuesday 4th August

Wednesday 5th August

Tuesday 11th August

Wednesday 12th August

Thursday 13th August

9:30am - 2:30pm each day

Only \$20 per person.

Bookings essential.

EGMI PARTNERS ATTEND FOR FREE
Email: info@egmi.com.au for your discount code

egmi. 
wilderness
COLLECTIVE

**Business
Networking
Speaker Event**

0730 - 0900 AM
THURSDAY 13 AUGUST 2026
EAGLE POINT FORESHORE HUB
12 Eagle Bay Drive, Eagle Point

Paris shares the inspiring blueprint
...enation,
...tion &
...llience.



EO - The Wilderness Collective, Mallacoota



Working together to prepare for Emergencies

Australian Red Cross EmergencyRedi workshops are FREE for your community
Please join us for a free lunch, and learn some tips for preparedness!

- Tuesday 11 August
- Bendoc Neighbourhood House, 18 Dowling St Bendoc Vic.
- 12pm - 2pm
- Light lunch provided- RSVPs for catering essential (please advise any dietary needs) to Alli Norfolk anorfolk@redcross.org.au

About the workshops EmergencyRedi workshops help individuals and households prepare for emergencies. They provide people with an introduction to emergency preparedness, and help them to learn practical ways to prepare for emergencies.

RSVPs to anorfolk@redcross.org.au





TopSoils

Monday

17th August

9am to 3pm

**Gippsland Agriculture Centre
(Bairnsdale Airport)**

UNLOCKING SOIL POTENTIAL

Finding the hidden fertility in your paddocks with Graeme Sait

Across East Gippsland, many soils contain significant nutrient reserves, yet a large proportion remains unavailable to crops and pastures due to limitations in soil chemistry, biology and mineral balance. Join leading soil nutrition specialist Graeme Sait for a practical, no-nonsense day focused on unlocking existing nutrients, improving fertiliser efficiency, lifting productivity and making more profitable soil amendment decisions.

Across East Gippsland, many soils hold significant nutrients that crops and pastures can't access. That means wasted spend, underperforming paddocks, and missed production.

Join leading soil nutrition specialist Graeme Sait for a practical, no-nonsense day focused on improving nutrient efficiency, lifting productivity, and making better fertiliser decisions.

What you'll take home:

- 🌱 Know the difference between what's in your soil and what plants can actually use
- 🌱 Identify nutrient imbalances that are costing you yield
- 🌱 Unlock tied-up nutrients already in your paddock
- 🌱 Improve fertiliser efficiency and reduce waste
- 🌱 Understand key mineral ratios that drive plant performance
- 🌱 Make more informed, profitable soil amendment decisions

REGISTER

Click link : <https://bit.ly/4uBB4Ak>

More info: Call Natalie 0436 462 559

Scan QR



Graeme will be in Orbost on Tues 18 Aug in the morning talking on Nutrient Cycling, Bairnsdale that evening talking on Nutritious Food and Maffra on Thurs 20 Aug - Click the link above for details and registration.



The Top Soils Project is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program. This Producer Demonstration Site is funded by Meat & Livestock Australia and Gippsland Agricultural Group.



Tuesday 18th August

10.00am - 2.00pm

Orbost Football Club
Lochiel Park, Lochiel St Orbost

Nutrient Management

Strategies for High-Yield, Lower-Input Farming

Internationally recognised as a pioneer in soil, plant and animal nutrition, Graeme has spent decades helping farmers increase profitability by working with nature. He is the founder of Nutrition Farming, author of the bestselling book *Nutrition Rules!*, and has published more than 300 articles on soil health and sustainable agriculture.

You will learn:

- How to increase mineral efficiency and cut down on fertiliser costs.
- Keep your rhizome crops healthy with proactive protection strategies.
- Put your microbial workforce to work to boost yields and naturally lower pest pressure.
- Understand exactly what your soil and tissue tests are telling you
- Optimise trace mineral management

lunch is provided – Includes a Paddock Walk

REGISTER



Click Link <https://bit.ly/4xONLdD>
or Scan QR

More info: Contact Josh on 0419 317 509 or
facilitator@fevLorg.au



OTHER EVENTS (register with above link)

Mon 17th August - Unlocking your soil potential @ GAgG Centre (9am - 3pm)

Tue 18th Aug - Dirt to Plate @ GAgG Centre (5.30pm - 9pm)

Thu 20th Aug - Maffra (t.b.a)



The Top Soils Project is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program.



Tuesday 18th August

5.30pm to 9pm

Gippsland Ag Centre

345 Bengworden Rd

(White & Green Shed at the Bairnsdale Airport)

Cost \$25 a head

DIRT TO DINNER - The Soil Food Connection

If you grow food, this matters. If you eat food, it matters even more.

Local produce dinner catered by

THE LONG PADDOCK

Lindenow

Join the conversation with Graham Sait, one of Australia's leading soil educators, as we explore the powerful connection between soil health, food quality, farm productivity and human well-being. Sit with local farmers who are passionate about producing quality food and learn how the soils of our region underpin everything we eat. Just 10 cm of topsoil stands between humanity and starvation. It is one of our most valuable natural assets, yet few people truly understand its importance.

Come along as we celebrate the connection between healthy soils, healthy farms and Nutritious food

Farmer or Foodie? This event is for you!



REGISTER



Click Link <https://bit.ly/4xONLdD> or Scan QR

More info: Contact Emma on 0400 467 921 or
emma.orgill@fevl.org.au



OTHER EVENTS (register with above link)

Mon 17th August - Unlocking your soil potential @ GAgG Centre (9am - 3pm)

Tue 18th Aug - Nutrient recycling @ Orbost Football Club (10am - 2pm)

Thu 20th Aug - Maffra (t.b.a)

Agricultural Sector Advisory Committee

Expressions of Interest Open for two positions



Council has two positions
vacant on the
Agriculture Sector Advisory
Committee



The primary role of the committee
is to provide advice, guidance and
recommendations to Council on
matters that affect the agriculture
sector



The Committee provides a valuable
forum through which Council can
gain timely and informed insight
into the issues that are impacting
the agriculture sector



Membership is for a period of
two years from appointment,
with an option to extend for a
further two years

Expressions of Interest close on the 10 August and can be accessed online at Council's
website: [Agricultural Assistance](#).



The Committee has sixteen members, comprising:

- Two Councilors, one of whom will be the Mayor
- Ten industry members
- One representative from Agriculture Victoria, East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Food & Fibre Gippsland and Gippsland Agriculture Group

Kaylene Wickham ■ *Agribusiness Development Officer* ■ **P: 03 5153 9450**