



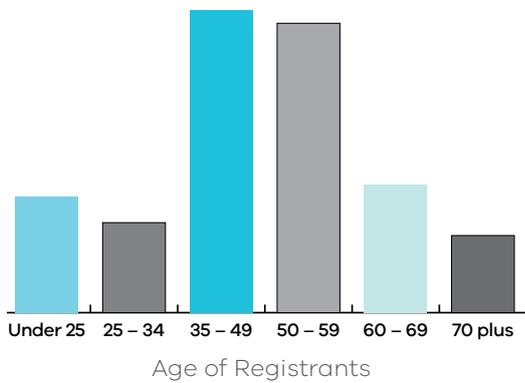
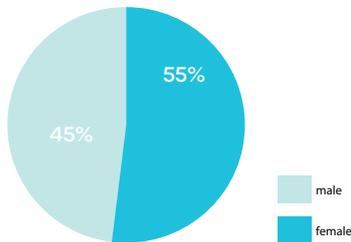
2017 Gippsland Regional Assembly

Sale, 16 August 2017

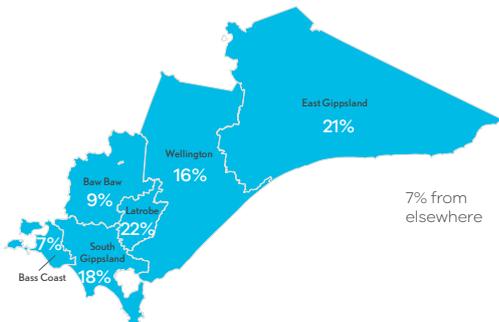
190 attendees, including Ministers and Partnership members, with 155 from the local Gippsland community.

The Assembly was preceded by two mini Assemblies, in Leongatha and Lakes Entrance. In total, 330 people attended this year's Gippsland Regional Assembly consultations.

Demographics of Assembly registrants



58 per cent of those who registered for the Assembly were not on our original invitation list, likely meaning they were new to this consultation process.



This map shows registrations for the Assembly and mini Assemblies by area

Main topics discussed

- Skills and Education
- Connectivity
- Family and Community Wellbeing (including health)
- New Jobs and Industry
- Tourism and Visitor Economy
- Energy and Resources
- Food and Fibre



Ideas generated include:

- Strengthening our region's brand to capture the positive spirit and diversity of the region
- Improved educational outcomes supported by world class infrastructure and improved access
- More course offerings and curriculum that align with future jobs
- Technology enabled learning hubs supporting remote students and modern learning practices
- Improved regional transport and connectivity
- Developing and promoting high end tourism attractions
- Greater incentives for entrepreneurship and industry innovation
- Improving year 12 completion rates – strive for better than state average
- Improving health and employment outcomes for indigenous Gippslanders.



2017 Gippsland Regional Assembly



Your voice making a difference

In 2016, following our Regional Assembly and consultation process, the Gippsland Regional Partnership prioritised securing funding for the development of a tourism plan for the region.

As a direct result of our efforts, the Minister for Regional Development Jaala Pulford and Minister for Tourism John Eren announced \$400,000 for the creation of a Gippsland Destination Management Plan while in Sale for the Assembly. The aim of the Plan is to revitalise Gippsland's visitor economy, to make it more competitive, adaptive and diverse.

In 2016 alone, there were 5.2 million visitors to Gippsland, who contributed \$781 million to the local economy. The Plan will be the first step in identifying opportunities to lift visitor numbers, improve the resilience and adaptive capacity of the region, as well as increase participation in arts, cultural, sporting and recreational activities.

Partnership Chair Maree McPherson explains that the project is about developing a cohesive plan for Gippsland. "We have incredible beaches, national and state parks, bushwalking and fishing, and this investment will ensure we grow tourism, boosting local employment and economic opportunities."

Feedback on the Assembly

Feedback on the Assembly was overwhelmingly positive with agreement that everyone was provided with the opportunity to participate in discussions and that the format was effective in encouraging discussions and drawing out ideas. There was also very positive feedback following both mini Assemblies, with the most frequent concern being around possible lack of diversity among participants.

Moving forward

The Partnership is considering all information gathered at the Assembly and mini Assemblies, and through our wider engagement. Our priorities will be considered as part of the Government's Budget process.

