



# SWIFTS CREEK FUTURE - PROJECT UPDATE

May 2025

## **Local Development Strategy**

The Swifts Creek Future Local Development Strategy (LDS) has been approved by the Leadership Group!

*What is the LDS?* - the Strategy is an outline of the project and a guide for the project for the remainder of the project until December 2026.

*How was it developed?* - The Strategy has been a work in progress since the commencement of the initial funding in November 2022, the final outcome was reached through significant community consultation, workshopping and investigation of identified opportunities and establishment of Leadership and Working Groups.

*What happens now?* - Each Innovation Working Group and Leadership Group, in collaboration with East Gippsland Shire Council, Department of Education, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA) and other stakeholders will work toward each of the identified areas for opportunity.

Check the report out on our website [www.swiftscreekfuture.com.au/LocalDevelopmentStrategy](http://www.swiftscreekfuture.com.au/LocalDevelopmentStrategy) or pop into the Swifts Creek Community Centre for a hard copy.

## **What Can You Do?**

How can you do your bit to ensure the success of our region? Keep yourself informed, follow along and play the game! Do you have experience or expertise that would support the success of any the initiatives? Then get in touch and have a chat! It doesn't mean you have to join a committee, it doesn't mean meetings that go nowhere but every support helps! To discuss further contact Kiri Allen, Project Support Officer and Acting Project Manager [Kiria@egipps.vic.gov.au](mailto:Kiria@egipps.vic.gov.au)

## **Nature-Based Recreation and Tourism**

The project team is currently working with East Gippsland Shire Council on opportunities linked to the Swifts Creek Master Realm Planning. A key focus is the revitalisation of local trail maps, with new branding being developed in collaboration with EGSC and Destination Gippsland.

In addition, historic trails are being mapped and adapted for new walking, horse riding, and cycling experiences. Opportunities for additional trail developments and partnerships are also being actively explored, alongside investigations into improved trail signage.

Support is also being sought for the development of a static display of the Crossley Engine in Ensay, which would serve as a unique heritage tourism feature for the region.

## **Value-Add Primary Industry**

Unfortunately, due to recent changes in project staffing, the application for Round 2 of the Community Development Fund (CDF) was not submitted in time. As a result, funding to support the investigation and development of a collaborative farming structure tailored to the region was not secured in this round.

A submission will be prepared for Round 3 of the CDF to progress this important initiative. In the meantime, potential opportunities for collaboration with local businesses and the Gippsland Agriculture Group (GAgG) are being actively discussed and explored to help strengthen the project and its long-term impact.

## **Education and Skills**

A report on the feasibility investigation into the potential development of a Live and Learn facility for the region has been received. The working group is currently analysing the findings to determine the most viable options for moving forward.

Meanwhile, the "This is Swifts Creek" picture book pilot program is progressing well. A focus group has been established, and implementation planning is underway. The group is aiming for a successful launch of the book in Swifts Creek in December 2025. This pilot project is designed to foster a multi-faceted learning and networking opportunity for the community, celebrating local identity while supporting educational and social outcomes.



**For more information check us out on Facebook or visit our website [www.swiftscreekfuture.com.au](http://www.swiftscreekfuture.com.au)**





# EXTERNAL PROJECT UPDATES

May 2025

## Omeo Justice Precinct Update

Have Your Say – Help Shape the Future of the Omeo Justice Precinct

The Omeo Justice Precinct Masterplan project is an exciting step toward preserving our rich local heritage while unlocking new opportunities for tourism, community use, and economic growth.

We Want to Hear From You!

### What do you value most about the Justice Precinct?

Share your thoughts on our ideas board through *Your Say* (link below) from 16 May to 14 June 2025.

### Prefer to chat in person?

Community drop-in and co-design sessions will be held throughout June 2025.

And if you're not online – no worries! Visit your nearest service centre or library to share your ideas.

### About the Project

Located in the heart of Omeo, the Justice Precinct holds significant historical and cultural value. The masterplan aims to breathe new life into this unique site by exploring business and tourism opportunities that respect its heritage while making it a vibrant, welcoming destination for locals and visitors alike.

### Funding Acknowledgement

This project is proudly funded by the Victorian Government through Emergency Recovery Victoria.

<https://yoursay.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/omeo-justice-precinct-draft-masterplan>

## Help Shape the Future of Tourism and Business in the Omeo Region

As the Omeo Mountain Bike Trail Circuit nears completion, we're working closely with the communities of Omeo, Swifts Creek, Benambra, Cobungra, Ensay, Tambo Crossing, Bindi, Tongio Gap, and Cassilis to better understand current and future tourism and hospitality business needs. This work will help us develop a practical Investment Prospectus to attract opportunities and support sustainable growth across the region.

### How to Get Involved

We're inviting local businesses to complete a short survey to help us identify gaps and opportunities in the visitor economy.

👉 Feedback is open until 5 pm, Friday 30 May 2025

👉 Head to Your Say to complete the survey <https://yoursay.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/omeo-tourism>

### Why Your Input Matters

This study will assess business capacity across key sectors, including:

- Accommodation
- Food and hospitality
- Retail and essential services (electricians, plumbers, builders)
- Visitor experiences and attractions
- Information and tourism services
- And other local services as identified

Your insights will help shape a community-led Investment Prospectus, featuring:

- Priority investment opportunities across the region
- Data, case studies, and business operator stories
- A clear snapshot of the region's workforce, trends, and potential

### Funding Acknowledgement

This project is funded by the Victorian Government through Emergency Recovery Victoria.

## East Gippsland Winter Festival

Get involved in this years events in our area!!

- *Great Alpine Scarecrow Competition*: Scarecrows created by locals will be on display from Omeo to Bruthen throughout the festival from June 20 to July 20. A scarecrow-making workshop will be held at The Junction Hotel, Swifts Creek, on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June for anyone interested in participating.
- *Entwined – Basketry Exhibition*: Opening night on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July at the Great Alpine Gallery in Swifts Creek, this exhibition showcases work by the Great Alpine Basketry Group and will run throughout the festival period.
- *Cassilis Winter Market*: Scheduled for Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July at Cassilis Recreation Reserve, the market will include local produce, handmade items, food stalls, and music.
- *Tour de Tambo*: A self-guided bike ride from Swifts Creek to Ensay will take place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July, with a community lunch provided at Ensay Recreation Reserve. A shuttle service will be available for return transport.

These events are part of a broader East Gippsland Winter Festival program, to support other Timber Transition towns check out the program at

👉 [egwinterfest.com.au/program](http://egwinterfest.com.au/program)