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Protecting, preserving and future-proofing our community

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We acknowledge the Gunaikurnai people as the Custodians of the lands and waters on which we live and work and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present

Introducing the Fund

The Golden Paradise Beach Community Development Fund (GPBCDF) was incorporated in 2024 after residents recognised a need to ensure that the local community was properly represented and fully consulted by the many large-scale infrastructure projects planned along our section of the Ninety Mile Beach.

The Fund believes that we must fully embrace the future by working with these projects to achieve the positive outcomes we desire, while at the same time we must strive to preserve our globally appreciated natural environment for those that follow us. We believe that a cohesive, collective voice for our community holds great power and can provide positive outcomes for everyone.

To begin, a community engagement program must be designed and implemented to ensure that as many citizens of Golden Beach and Paradise Beach, including renters, owners, and businesses, have an opportunity to share their hopes and dreams of a shared future through our Community Development Plan (CDP).

The value of developing a CDP lies in its ability to engage the entire community, facilitated by experts, which leads to a community sense of involvement and control. This process also encourages discussion between the many diverse individuals, groups, and organizations within our community, which in turn leads to more strategic outcomes for everyone.

Through this participatory planning process, much of the community engagement work related to desired benefits and impact management is examined, understood, and prioritized by the community as a whole. This comprehensive approach reduces the fatigue associated with the traditional development approach, where each infrastructure project conducts individual consultations. A CDP will result in more meaningful and strategic outcomes, as they incorporate broad community discussions about the needs of individual organizations and the collective community.

By combining the monetary benefits of the many infrastructure projects planned for Golden Beach and Paradise Beach, we can effectively achieve greater objectives that would be beyond the scope of funding allocated by any single infrastructure project. These objectives encompass annual grants to our local clubs, as well as medium-term and legacy projects that will benefit the entire town for the next 25 years and beyond.

Any plan is not just about delivering immediate financial benefit to a community; it needs to lay strong foundations to preserve our unique built, social, and natural environments. As we plan for the future, we need to build strong and lasting relationships with project developers to ensure we leave a lasting legacy for those who follow.

These projects have multi-generational lifespans and will irrevocably alter the physical, social, and economic landscape of Golden Beach and Paradise Beach. Consequently, it is imperative that a comprehensive plan be established to ensure the well-being of the local community, not only for the residents today but also for future generations.

The Fund will ensure that our communities have agency in their own future, and as the most impacted residents of Gippsland, we will be compensated in a fair and equitable manner for our loss of amenity.



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Statement of Purpose

We will establish genuine and meaningful partnerships with the various generation, transmission and storage projects located (or proposed) in the immediate vicinity of Golden and Paradise Beach. A local Community Development Fund (CDF) will assist in the efficient management of relationships with the various projects.

These projects should be proud to be associated with our community, and our community should embrace the approved projects ensuring mutual benefits to all parties involved.

The Fund was established with the following aims:

- To establish a suitable Governance framework for the administration of all funds allocated to the communities of Golden Beach and Paradise Beach by infrastructure projects, and to transparently and equitably administer these funds on behalf of the community.
- To engage the community in such a manner that we can develop and manage a vision for the future that embraces change, both immediate and long-term.
- To build positive and beneficial partnerships between the community and all infrastructure projects that operate in our neighbourhood.
- To build positive and beneficial partnerships with bodies such as Wellington Shire Council and any other relevant entities to ensure the interests of the local community are paramount.
- To advocate on behalf of the community to ensure that all benefits of a project, be they financial or otherwise, enhance the social and economic outcomes for the local community first and foremost, and then those of the wider region after that.
- To be active agents in determining what is appropriate benefit sharing for our local community in relation to the neighbouring communities and the regional community.
- To ensure that any funds that accrue have an immediate benefit to the community as well clearly defined medium and long-term (legacy) benefits over the lifetime of any project.
- To provide a flexible environment where the Community Development Plan can respond and adapt to local needs which are likely to change over a 25 to 30-year period, which is the expected lifespan of many of the projects.
- To build Golden Beach and Paradise Beach up to be vibrant communities that attract people to move here.
- To stand in solidarity with other Community Development Funds and assist them if asked as they determine the most appropriate path for the communities they represent.