

FUTURE OF ORBOST & DISTRICT PROJECT



Media Release – 10th May 2024

Thinking big while going tiny in the visitor economy

The Future of Orbost & District Project is hosting a forum that's all about thinking big while going tiny. The forum will explore the potential for tiny houses and glamping to breathe new life into the local visitor economy and create new business opportunities.

The Project's Visitor Economy Innovation Working Group has been exploring strategies to enhance visitation, and one area under consideration is the different kinds of accommodation that can provide unique opportunities for visitors to immerse themselves in the beauty of the district's environment. Both tiny homes and glamping have become significant trends in the travel and hospitality industry in recent years across the globe, and they continue to gain popularity.

Liz Mitchell, Chair of the Project's Governance Group, and a member of the Visitor Economy Innovation Working Group, says that glamping and tiny homes offer travellers a very special way to experience nature while enjoying modern comforts. "Our district has so many unique landscapes, like our mountains, waterways, forests, and picturesque farmland. These accommodation types can help visitors better access them. These accommodations are also often quite innovative in the way they utilize eco-friendly materials, renewable energy sources, and low-impact designs, allowing visitors to minimize their environmental footprint while enjoying their stay."

Ms Mitchell also says that tiny houses and glamping potentially open up new revenue streams for landowners, as well creating opportunities for local construction businesses and other service providers. "There are a lot of collaborative and innovative business models being applied elsewhere that support different ownership models, and collective marketing and servicing. We're keen to just start a conversation and explore the interest and what might be possible to strengthen and diversify our local economy."

The forum is open to all interested parties, and representatives from East Gippsland Shire Council will also be in attendance to share insights and planning considerations.

The forum will be held on 6th June from 3pm to 5pm. Registrations are essential, with a venue to be confirmed on the basis of number of participants.

The Future of Orbost & District project is a response to the impacts of the end of native timber harvesting in Victoria's state forests, and the need to transition the local economy. The purpose of the project is to build on to Orbost and District's existing strengths and leverage opportunities for supporting positive economic, social, and environmental outcomes. The Future of Orbost Project is receiving support through the Victorian Government's Forestry Transition Program's Community Stream through to September 2025.

The Orbost and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry has an agreement with the Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) to deliver the Future of Orbost & District project, which is overseen by a community-led governance group.

For more information and to get in contact with the project team, email: project@orbostregion.com.au.

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For more information contact:

Dr Nicola Watts

Future of Orbost & District Project Lead

0408 351 475

