

Shire President's Message

I am pleased to present the Shire of Denmark 2024/2025 Annual Budget.

This budget maintains our focus on the key needs identified in our Strategic Community Plan. These are

- Local **roads** and storm water drainage
- Services and facilities for **youth**
- **Environmental conservation** and protection

Road maintenance and renewal receives another funding boost this year as we work to address historic shortfalls in our roads budget.

In addition, we will be purchasing a wheeled excavator to replace a tractor. This new piece of equipment will, among a variety of tasks, allow us to increase the amount of drainage maintenance completed annually, helping to improve road quality and safety.

We continue the redevelopment of the Surf Club and Ocean Beach precinct as well as beginning works on the Berridge Park redevelopment, particularly the skatepark component, this year.

This year will also see the construction of a dual-use-path between Springdale Beach and the Denmark townsite along the highway and the provision of a walking and cycling bridge across the river at Riverbend Lane, facilitating better and safer access for students and recreational walkers and riders.

The Turner Road Mountain Bike Trails should see trail construction commence this year too, with environmental assessments and planning now largely complete.

Having installed a small solar and battery system on the Denmark Public Library last year, we will be rolling out much larger systems at McLean Park and the Shire Administration Building which will see us progress our climate commitments as well as saving money.

We are also supporting a trial of Biochar production at our waste site which we anticipate will offer a cost-effective alternative solution for organic and green waste going forward.

Peaceful Bay will also receive a number of delayed amenity and facility upgrades as well as the continuation of the dust-suppression program through the leasehold area.

Staff and Councillors have worked hard to maximize community-focused outcomes while staying within our capacity to both fund and deliver these and many other projects and services. I thank the community for their direction and guidance, Councillors for their judgement, and especially the Shire's team of dedicated staff, who make it all happen.

Kingsley Gibson
Shire President

