



Shire President's Message

I am pleased to present the Shire of Denmark's 2020/2021 Annual Budget.

This year's Budget focuses on stimulating our local economy and helping to reduce the impacts of COVID-19 within our community.

The Shire will ensure a 0% rate increase for ratepayers in 2020/21. Your rates bill will not increase (unless of course, you have made significant changes to your property).

In light of the current pandemic, Council has recently adopted a Financial Hardship Policy which provides flexibility for any ratepayer, business or community group suffering financial stress. This also provides relief from overdue interest and administration fees over the period that hardship is experienced.

While this latest Budget goes some way to easing the financial pressure on ratepayers, we understand the difficulties many people are facing and encourage you to reach out for support. With the new flexible options now available for rates payments, we will help you wherever we can.

Many of our staff live locally and have witnessed first-hand the impact COVID-19 has had on our community and local businesses.

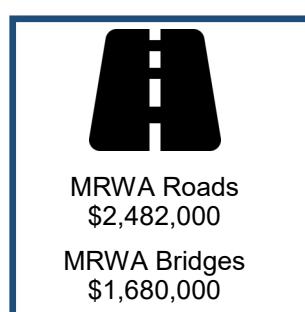


Shire President, Cr Ceinwen Gearon

The Shire has worked hard to redeploy staff who were impacted by the closure of community facilities such as the gym and library. Our staff have worked incredibly hard during this time, in positions that varied from their usual roles and throughout a recruitment freeze that was implemented to reduce operational costs.

This year, the Shire of Denmark has been successful in gaining approximately \$5.4M of external government funding to undertake a \$7.03M program of capital works. The Shire will need assistance in carrying out this extensive program of work, and this has created a fantastic opportunity for local businesses to become involved to help deliver a number of projects throughout the year.

Some of the key projects include:



Due to the ongoing nature of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Council will this year carry forward a \$200,000 closing Budget surplus. This will enable the Shire to address future operational requirements' as a result of the ongoing pandemic.

We continue to provide considerable contributions, donations and subsidies in this year's budget to support our community. This includes approximately \$500,000 towards community groups and events within the Shire. Council recognises the importance of this investment within our community and the vital role these organisations and community events play in the everyday lives of our residents.

I wish to acknowledge the way Councillors and staff have worked together to deliver this year's Budget that works to support our community at such a challenging time. Council has been both considered and responsible in their review and adoption of the 2020/2021 Annual Budget.

Further details of the Budget are available on the Shire of Denmark's website.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ceinwen Gearon".

Cr Ceinwen Gearon
Shire President
SHIRE OF DENMARK