

Shire President's Message

'Denmark is changing'. I hear that statement often, whether change affects us directly or touches an aspect of our community we may not be closely involved in. Choosing to believe that statement is up to you, but I feel a more accurate sentiment is that, perhaps, things are changing in Denmark.

Some recent changes include completing the Ocean Beach precinct, upgrading sections of Mount Shadforth Road, selling land to the Steiner School and leasing more to the Lions Club and Kwoorabup Nature School. We have ceased funding face-to-face visitor services, leased McLean House to a local dance company, built a path out to Springdale Beach Estate, and approved new plans for a supermarket on Hardy Street and developments that will create around 400 new lots across our town.

But have we really changed?

If you place the emphasis on the earlier paragraph, then yes, Denmark has changed. But if, like me, you see this place we call home as one that has shaped or attracted people who preserve our community's spirit and pass it on to new arrivals and visitors, then Denmark has not changed, and I do not believe it will.

Our coastline is still beautiful with world-renowned surf, our soil is productive, our forests are tall, and our town is safe. Our kids, adults and seniors continue to sail, surf, swim and row. They ride, dance and perform. We kick, throw, bowl and bat balls in our ever-growing clubs. We volunteer like nowhere else, whether it's to save lives, fight fires, pass on knowledge, educate, build, plant, create or perform. We share our passions, build things, restore things and preserve knowledge. And we stand up for, debate and research what we believe in: protecting nature, being outdoors, having access to services, and supporting people experiencing hardship.

The decisions reflected in the 2026/27 Annual Budget might appear to highlight more change coming to our Shire, but these actions are about enabling, reinforcing and preserving who we are in a modern and growing region, state, country and world.

We are commencing a major upgrade to Berridge Park, sealing a busy gravel road, and constructing a mountain bike park. We will enable the relocation of Denmark Arts and Denmark FM to the town centre, and move the library to a prominent, modern, and accessible location at the top of town. We will undertake a project to help guide the future of South Coast Highway and Strickland Street. And of course, we continue to fund important services our community relies on, day to day, such as our roads, waste services, parks, public facilities, and many other responsibilities that keep our community functioning.

The 2026/27 Annual Budget is how we ensure decisions happen whilst maintaining the services our community expects, investing in renewal and maintenance of community assets, and supporting the work needed for our Shire to grow, adapt and change without losing the qualities that will always make the Shire of Denmark our home.

Aaron Wiggins
Shire President