

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I hope everyone has recovered from their Easter weekend and enjoyed the time with friends and family. Griffith certainly didn't disappoint and pulled out all the stops to ensure locals and visitors had a great time!

As we move toward the end of the 2016/17 financial year, Council has been preparing the suite of documents to plan for the future. At the last Council Meeting held April 11, we adopted the draft Budget for 2017/18. This budget is a strong one, focused on continuing to work towards delivering the high level of services and programs residents have come to expect and deserve.

This budget also cements Council's sustainable financial position, further cementing our 'Fit for the Future' position.

Council was declared Fit for the Future by the State Government last year, confirming Council meets all 7 benchmarks. Councillors and staff have worked very hard to ensure Griffith City Council is financial viable and sustainable now and into the future, while providing all the services needed by our community. This strong financial position means we can invest in large scale infrastructure and capital projects in the coming years to enhance the livability of Griffith and surrounding villages.

Over the last financial year Council contributed heavily to several important projects across the Local Government Area, and combined with significant grant funding from State and Federal Governments, have been able to provide enhanced services such as the drainage upgrades, significant road works, the Tharbogang Landfill transfer station, Griffith City Library youth space, the anticipated Bagtown Roundabout (5 ways roundabout), along with several park upgrades. Heading into the 2017/18 budget we again have contributed significant funds to continue the great work being carried out across the region.

Consultation took place earlier this week for the



proposed skate park, to be built in Olympic Street as part of the masterplan for the Olympic Street precinct in the CBD Strategy.

We are excited to have engaged En:Locus to assist with the design, which will be disability friendly.

Part of Council's commitment to supporting the local community is the annual Community Grants Program (2 rounds). Council funds approximately \$58,000 annually to assist local community groups and individuals with their community based initiatives.

We are currently preparing to distribute the next round of cheques to the successful applicants. This will see 14 projects funded in this round. Keep an eye out to see which groups were successful and what their fantastic projects include.

Council welcomes an announcement that we have been accepted as a regional capital by Regional Capital Australia.

Regional Capitals Australia aims to bring Australia's regional capital cities together as one unified voice. Their vision is to provide an alliance, a reference group, a 'strength-in-numbers' body that understands all things 'regional capitals'.

Now that Griffith is a local government member council, we have a stronger voice and can work as a collaborative to explore opportunities for growth. Being declared a regional capital means we can present to the Federal Government the needs of our combined communities, voicing the social and economic issues specific to our cities; not the needs of Sydney, Melbourne or the other 'Big 5'.

Together, we can ensure a fairer share of government attention and investment than what our cities have traditionally experienced.

Regards, Cr John Dal Broi

Council Budget good news for residents



The Bagtown Roundabout is currently under construction with thanks to HVSP funding

Griffith City Council's draft 2017/18 budget is now out for public comment, after it was adopted at the last Council Meeting.

The documents, including the Delivery Program, Ten Year Long Term Financial Plan and Fees & Charges, are all now on Public Exhibition for community feedback with Griffith Mayor, Councillor John Dal Broi inviting residents to attend a public information session on Thursday 27 April, 5.30pm at Griffith City Library. "Council has worked towards a surplus for the 2017/18 financial year with a projected Operational Budget of \$53M and a projected Capital Budget of \$26M," said Councillor Dal Broi.

"Over the last 12 months we have focussed on providing exceptional services to our community and delivered significant capital works projects to ensure the needs of residents are being met."

Significant projects undertaken by Council in the 12 months to June 2017 include:

- Griffith Pound and Rehoming Centre construction and completion
- Drainage upgrades in Yenda and Yoogali
- \$5M Sewerage upgrades in Tharbogang, Lake Wyangan and Nericon (\$2.1M Restart NSW Fund, \$2.9M Council contribution)
- Sand Filter assessment at Griffith Water Treatment Plant with a view to refurbishment and upgrade carbon dosing

facility to improve taste and water – upper estimate \$2.2M

- Tender awarded for construction of 250mm potable trunk water main along Willandra Avenue from Kidman Way to Merrigal Street and Merrigal Street to Sidlow Road
- Southern Industrial Link – Stage 1 Bagtown Roundabout - on budget and currently ahead of schedule
- Southern Industrial Link – Stage 2a Thorne Road East (anticipated to commence June/July)
- Lakes Road upgrade
- Transfer Station at Tharbogang Waste Management Facility
- Halse Road culvert repairs and upgrade (damage from September 2016 flood event)
- Library Multipurpose Room - funding of \$150,000 secured to enhance the library meeting spaces
- Energy efficiency audits being undertaken in conjunction with OEH to identify potential energy and cost savings in some of Councils high usage facilities and buildings
- Funding applications submitted to undertake major capital maintenance works on Westend Stadium (roof), Enticknap Park (playground upgrade) and the War Memorial Museum (roof) (works to be carried out over the next 6 – 12 months depending on funding)
- CCTV installation at IOOF Park
- Mallee Park upgrade (Ner-

icon)

- McKirdy Park upgrade

With projects to be undertaken in the 2017/18 financial year including:

- Southern Industrial Link – Stage 2b Thorne Road/Kindman Way Roundabout construction from the national HVSP
- Yambil Street & CBD upgrade
- Skate Park relocation and renewal
- Yoogali Intersection upgrade
- \$2.4M allocated for roads maintenance
- \$100K stormwater upgrades in Hanwood
- \$24K allocated for Christmas Tree installation in Yenda

"Council has approved the plans and budget (pending community feedback) which will benefit our community well into the future, through funding a wide range of improvements, services and programs" said Councillor Dal Broi.

"There is a lot of good work being undertaken by Council staff to ensure we deliver the services and facilities required and expected by our community. The projects listed are just some of the large scale projects undertaken or scheduled to be undertaken, however there is a lot more happening in the background."

"The adopted draft budget and plans will ensure financial stability into the future, allowing staff to get on with their great work for our community," he added.



The Griffith City Pound and Rehoming Centre is just one of the major projects funded during 2016/17



Budget win for Yenda

Council has allocated \$24,000 to the Yenda community to install a Christmas Tree.

The Yenda Progress Association applied to Council for the funds to purchase the tree, proposed to be similar to that which is installed at Christmas in Griffith's Memorial Park.

The tree will become part of the annual Yenda Christmas festivities and community focus during December, when the Carols are held.



Sewerage upgrades for 3 villages

Council is the recipient of Restart Funding for Water & Waste Water Project: Lake Wyangan, Nericon and Tharbogang Sewerage.

The Funding is \$2.1M and is part of the NSW Government's \$110M Regional Water and Waste Water Backlog Program to ensure regional communities have the right infrastructure to build for the future.

The \$5M project will upgrade sewerage systems for 141 properties, being Lake Wyangan - 56 properties, Nericon - 43 Properties, and Tharbogang - 42 Properties.

Council is in the process of tender, survey and design for Lake Wyangan and Nericon, with construction expected to commence later this year.

The Survey, Design & Tender process for Tharbogang is set to take place from January 2017 – October 2017, with construction expected to commence June 2018.

Stage 2b - Southern Industrial Link Road

The southern Industrial Link Road is a proposed transport link from Yoogali across the southern side of the Griffith urban fringe connecting to the Kidman Way (west) on the western side of Griffith.

This is a key link in the freight movement through Griffith and Stage 2b involves the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of the Kidman Way and Thorne Road just north of Hanwood.

This project has been part funded by the federally funded Heavy Vehicle Safety Productivity Program (HVSP) and Griffith City Council 50:50 to the value of \$1.6M.

Council has been working closely with Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) who is one of the primary stakeholders in the project.