

Mayor's Message



Happy New Year to all. The following Message is an update on some of the changes instigated since I became Mayor in November, along with some information on what is coming up shortly.

Meeting norms were discussed within the Councillor group and these expected behaviour standards are now being followed. Meetings have improved and Council business is conducted efficiently and at a professional standard. Robust debate continues but within the framework of acceptable conduct as defined by the Councillor Code of Conduct document and other appropriate standards. I invite people to view one of the recent Council meetings streamed on the website to see the smooth functioning Council in operation.

The Councillors now meet every week for an hour session to specifically discuss strategic issues at Council and this is allowing Council to be more in control of the direction of Council as well as enabling Councillors to be more on top of the information on the really big topics.

Councillors this year will be meeting on all Wednesdays each month instead of only three per month as has been the case for the years since 2012. This was decided as Councillors felt they needed more time to discuss topics and strategically plan for success.

Although Council has had no meeting days since December, Councillors and staff have been busy on upcoming agenda items and longer-term planning.

February for example will see Council briefed upon and or debate in Council matters such as the Bald Hills Wind Farm complaint, Leongatha Community Hub options, Great Southern Rail Trail, Financial and Annual Plan, 2019/20 Budget, Rating Strategy, Road Safety Strategy, Shared Services, improvements to the Councillor Support and Expenditure policy, and much more.

Council is currently preparing work to submit to the GLGN group of local councils on Council's suggestions for inclusion in the GLGN agenda. These are projects that give benefit to multi-shire impact and we are hoping to get a few projects listed for discussion and possible adoption.

March will see several important documents released for the usual 28 day consultation period and I encourage anyone interested to consider contributing to those discussions: your input is considered and more so when Council makes changes to the way things have been done in the past.

Cr Don Hill
Mayor