

## 2020-21 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Dear Ratepayer

It is with pleasure that we present the Shire of Bruce Rock Annual Budget for the year ending 30th June 2021, a budget that will continue to deliver excellent services and resources to the local Bruce Rock community.

2020 has seen the community of Bruce Rock presented with unprecedented challenges. The past six months has seen Council and its staff handle a State of Emergency due to the COVID19 global pandemic, including its subsequent health and economic side effects, and the loss of the only grocery store in Bruce Rock. The establishment of the temporary Bruce Rock Supermarket in the Shire Hall has resulted in a significant increase of workloads and Council resources. The resilience and generosity of the Bruce Rock community has never been so apparent, and Council is thankful to everyone who has supported them in their efforts to meet these challenges.

The 2020-21 Budget can be considered a direct response to the current economic situation. Although it continues to reference our Strategic Community Plan, which focuses on Infrastructure, Economy, Community, and Governance, the main focus of the budget is to support local residents, businesses, sole traders, and community groups through these trying economic times.

Key highlights include:

- Investigations into construction of building for supermarket
- Funding allocation for Council subsidy for connection to the new STED Scheme
- Implementation works on the revitalisation of the CBD
- Exciting upgrades to the War Memorial and Sculpture Park

The safety and efficiency of our transport network throughout the Shire remains a priority and includes:

- Bruce Rock Narembeen Road - reconstruction
- Completion of Black Spot Project on Lawrie Road and Cumminin Road Intersection
- Totadgin Road – commence reconstruction and sealing
- Roads to Recovery funded projects; Belka West – reseal, Hines Hill – reconstruction & reseal, Kwolyin South, Old Beverley, Cook, Carger and Cole Boundary Roads – gravel resheet
- Replace bridges with culverts on Narembeen Boundary, Babakin South East, Bruce Rock South and Old Beverley Roads

The Local Government sector continues to face many external factors, including the COVID19 pandemic, which are affecting funding availability and service delivery; however, the Bruce Rock Shire Council is positioning itself to ensure its services and facilities continue to be well maintained. As a direct response to the COVID19 economic climate, Council has agreed to not increase fees and charges. To ensure Council are able to provide a long-term location for a supermarket, rates will be increasing 3% on average, and minimum rates increasing to \$483, which will raise an additional \$45,000 to be directly allocated to the construction of a new building for a supermarket.

Councillors and staff look forward to meeting the challenges that lay ahead and are dedicated to providing stellar leadership in this time of uncertainty and upheaval.

Cr Stephen Strange  
**Shire President**

Mr Darren Mollenoyux  
**Chief Executive Officer**

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