



Message from the Shire President



On Wednesday, 12 August 2026, Council adopted the Shire of Moora's 2026/2027 Budget. In developing the Budget, Council has had to make some difficult decisions to meet its statutory obligation of delivering a balanced budget. While applying government's *Local Government Act 1995* and numerous other laws, the Shire continues to provide the services and infrastructure our community expects and needs. As a result, the general rate increase has increased from 5% in previous years, to 6.5% for 2026/2027.

The Budget for the 2026/2027 financial year supports a material capital works program which supports the sustained economic growth of the region and increasing levels of road safety. The Shire recognises the importance of quality, safe, and healthy residential accommodation in supporting our community and ensuring we can attract and retain skilled professionals to the region. The Shire will expand its programme to provide high-quality residential housing for healthcare and education staff.

The Budget continues to invest in the development, renewal and upgrading of Shire assets, including roads, water and sewerage infrastructure, the aerodrome, and community recreation facilities. Stage one of the Shire's aerodrome Emergency Service and Safety Upgrade is nearing completion and will represent a significant investment in essential regional infrastructure. The Shire is pleased to have successfully completed the Early Childhood Development Centre and Wheatbelt Kids Institute projects. These projects provide invaluable facilities and services for local families and children and demonstrate the Shire's ongoing commitment to creating a community where people can live, grow, and thrive.

Council is conscious of the financial pressures facing regional local governments. The reduction in Federal Assistance Grants from 1% to 0.49% of taxation collection by the federal government has placed substantial financial pressure on us and other Shires. This is at a time when federal and state governments are also cost shifting to local governments. Council will continue to advocate strongly for the restoration and annual indexation of appropriate levels of Federal Assistance Grants that enable the delivery of essential local services and infrastructure.

The Shire continues to work hard to fill vacant positions across the organisation. Like many regional communities, we continue to experience challenges attracting and retaining staff and can often operate between 10% and 20% understaffed.

The Council of the Shire of Moora and its dedicated staff remain committed to making the Shire of Moora an even better place to live and work. Through responsible financial management, investment in infrastructure, support for local services and a focus on creating economic and community opportunities, the Shire will continue working towards the long-term growth, resilience and prosperity of our community.

Cr Ken Seymour
Shire President