



# Welcome



## Mayoral Comment

with Councillor Scott Ferguson

For 2020/21 Council programs, whilst ambitious remain responsible with a reasonable operational surplus forecast of \$847k before capital grants and contributions.

Council has adopted the full rate peg increase of 2.6% as recommended and set by IPART. Much of our farming land has been impacted by the NSW Valuer General revaluations conducted in 2019, which come into effect in 2020/21. Council has smoothed the potential increases to provide more equity across the Shire, by increasing the farmland category base rate to \$550.

Residential Rates will also be shared more equitably across the shire, by setting all base rate amounts to \$333.

The averages for the Residential sub-categories will range from \$678.44 to 700.49 for 2020/21. The 2019/20 year comparison range was \$661.95 to \$680.71.

Council has also made some structural changes to Business rates to ease the impact of some significant swings in land valuations. The base rate has been set at \$433 to equitably share the rate burden. Averages range from \$1,048.77 to \$1,280.91 for 2020/21.

The 2019/20 comparison range was \$986.16 to \$1245.80. The mining rate category continues to contribute a substantial amount to Council's rate base and represents 49.8% of rate income. Council is cognisant of the risk of being too reliant on this income, and therefore have directed a large proportion of this revenue towards funding capital projects.

