

# 2021/22 Budget Mayoral Message

G'Day!

Council has passed the budget for the 2021/22 financial year. This budget is a solid follow up to the last two years, where we were responding to the 2019 flood event and last year's COVID hit. Council has accepted a 5% rise for general rates and utility charges. This will be a rise of approximately \$0.80 per week for the average residential ratepayer.

Council has managed to contain the rise to 5% even with some wild variations in valuations of land by the Valuer-General. Rural properties jumped in value on the back of strong sales and residential valuations have dropped.

This budget continues the focus on maintaining our existing assets including water, roads, sewer, and buildings. The upgrade to the Chinaman Creek Dam Recreation Area and pathway is still a priority, as well as improvements to Curry Kids and the Landfill.

For the first time in its history, Dajarra is receiving safe, treated water, with grant funding allocated to improve the overall water security for the community. Council will continue our strong support of community groups and events with approximately \$2.5 million allocated directly to our community infrastructure and groups.

Other significant projects include the renewal of river well infrastructure to be able to preserve dam water for as long as possible for leisure activities. Coppermine Creek Bridge is planned to be replaced and this is with the assistance of a grant of \$1.3 million from the Federal Government. Dajarra Airstrip will receive some much needed resealing, and Sir Hudson Fysh Drive will see the final section between Alice Street and One Mile Creek upgraded and rehabilitated.

Council will continue to push for economic efficiency. This is evident through the take-up of Wi-Sky, which has given Council a greatly improved internet connection and created significant recurrent cost savings. A key requirement is to deliver Council's core responsibilities effectively, creating an environment to then focus time on new opportunities to diversify our economy with irrigated agriculture, tourism, and events.

The popular Shopfront Revitalisation Grant program will continue, and Council will spend approximately \$20 million with local businesses this year.

The Cloncurry Shire has led the way during the 2019 flood event and again in 2020 with COVID. The beef, mining, and transport industries, plus their support industries, are continuing to show how critical they are to the state and national economies.

This budget continues the strong financial stewardship in very uncertain times. NSW is currently showing we are far from COVID free at the moment, and Council is well placed to respond to the challenges ahead.

Cheers,  
Mayor Greg Campbell

