



### Message from the Mayor

Cr Kathy Majdlik

The State Budget was announced recently and Melton City Council has yet again been left disappointed. The State Government has failed to recognise the urgent need for further investment in infrastructure and service delivery in growth Councils such as Melton.

Our municipality is the second fastest growing area in Australia and with that growth comes the need for vital infrastructure and services. We have long been advocating for an infrastructure fund for interface growth Councils and this call has fallen on deaf ears.

There was no good news for commuters either. The Victorian Government has once again failed to commit funding for the much needed Caroline Springs train station, the electrification and duplication of the Melton rail line and improvements to the Melton Highway.

Investment in health services in the area has also been ignored with no funding for a 24 hour hospital or community health centre in Melton.

A positive announcement for the City was the news of \$11.5 million in funding for a new primary school in Melton North West, however this is long overdue and further school provision is required in other areas of the municipality.

I am pleased to announce that a junior council will be set up to show local students the ropes of local government. The idea was something I first raised at a Council meeting in November last year. The initiative is a good way to give young people an inside look at how local government works as well as the issues Council deals with and is an opportunity for personal development and community leadership. I look forward to working with the junior council and hearing their ideas for the City.

Work has commenced on an Aquatics Strategy, to explore the options available for the community. The Aquatics Strategy will help us understand the current and future demands for aquatic facilities within the municipality, and will review potential sites where any additional aquatic facilities could be developed over the next 20 years. The Strategy will also identify an aquatic facilities hierarchy to service the whole municipality, review the existing capacity of Melton Waves Leisure Centre and provide suggestions and costs for future facility enhancement.



### Cambridge Ward with

Cr Nola Dunn

I've had a busy few weeks, working with my fellow Councillors to prepare the draft 2013-2014 Council budget. As this was a first for me, I was nervous and a little daunted at the prospect of delivering such an important document for the community.

Can I say, though, how pleased I am with Council's budgeting process, due in no small part, to the expertise of Council officers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make the budget a reality?

Now, it's your turn to have your say. We genuinely value your opinions and invite written submissions to the draft budget 2013-2014. If you're interested you can make a submission until Thursday 30 May 2013, and I encourage residents and groups to participate in this important process. I recently had the pleasure of attending the 2013 Powercor City of Melton Business Excellence Awards. It was marvellous to see so many local businesses come together and support these prestigious awards. I'd like to congratulate all the winners, but in particular, Westcare Medical Centre, named 2013 business of the year.

Some of you know that I have a small business background, so nurturing the interests of our business community is close to my heart. Council drives a number of initiatives that support local business, most notably, the Western Business Accelerator and Centre for Excellence (Western BACE), an innovative facility that will provide support for new and emerging businesses and will ultimately create economic growth and local jobs for our community. Like the business community, I eagerly await the arrival of the Western BACE in 2015.

Please feel free to contact me on either 0408 794 232 or via email at: [nola.dunn@melton.vic.gov.au](mailto:nola.dunn@melton.vic.gov.au)

## HAVE YOUR SAY

on the City of Melton Draft Municipal Budget 2013-2014 and Draft Council Plan 2013 – 2017



## KEY ELEMENT 1 – COMMUNITY SERVICES

\$168.5 million total budget expenditure

\$17.5 million for community buildings

Botanica Springs Children's and Community Centre

Atherstone Children's and Community Centre

Men's Shed Morton Homestead

Award ceremony for children with a disability

A highlight of the draft budget is a \$36.5 million investment in capital works projects including \$8.9 million for road infrastructure, \$17.5 million for community buildings and \$4.1 million for recreational assets.

Other key initiatives include Bridge Road extension, Westwood Drive (year 2), Harkness Rd construction, Western BACE, Athletics Facility and Pavilion – Bridge Road Reserve (year 1), Arnolds Creek Recreation Reserve and Pavilion, street planting beautification program, Environmental Enhancement Rebate, At-Call Hard Waste Service, options for waste bins, Diggers Rest Bowling Club upgrade works, Thoroughbred Estate Archer Drive Reserve development and footpath and shared path program.



Submissions close 30 May 2013  
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Visit [www.melton.vic.gov.au](http://www.melton.vic.gov.au) for further information