



FROM THE COAST

Message from the Shire President

It's been quite a year for Esperance community and for Council. We've seen ups and downs and lots of robust discussion within the community. Before we take a break and spend time with our families and loved ones over the festive season, let's have a look back at some of 2016.

One topic that has dominated Council discussions this year has been the Tanker Jetty and what to do after its ultimate closure at the end of last year. The Tanker Jetty is 81 years old and over the years we've seen it survive well past its intended lifespan and finally begin to succumb to the elements. Council voted in February to begin demolition and replacement so the community could enjoy a jetty as soon as possible. Passion within the community was ignited and at the request of a dedicated and determined community group, time was given to further explore a feasible and prudent alternative to total replacement. Unfortunately no such alternative has been presented to Council and the decision was made to continue with replacement of the structure. The Heritage Council placed a 42 day stop work order delaying demolition of the jetty and the Shire Council, along with advice from a working group made up of various stakeholders and community members, will be presenting detailed concepts of the replacement jetty to the Heritage Council and the community, so everyone can be assured that the Tanker Jetty's heritage will be appropriately honoured and acknowledged.

But of course the Tanker Jetty is only one of many things that have kept Council and the Shire busy. The search for a suitable waste facility site which is urgently needed was delayed due to the first identified site not meeting all the requirements. Subsequent testing on a second site will hopefully prove more successful and keep us on target to having a new waste facility by 2019.

We've received awards and acknowledgements for Road Safety, funding for tourism, Civic Centre upgrades, and we've seen some amazing infrastructure in the form of the new Skate Park and youth precinct, successful funding for a new Indoor Sports Stadium, Munglinup Campground upgrades and recovery projects to help assist the environment and of course our community after the bushfires last year.

Some highlights have also included initiatives such as Esperance's involvement in the national Garage Sale Trail, a free Waste Weekend and more recently we've been able to provide the community with some of the most spectacular Christmas decorations Esperance has seen. The success of the event held to officially open the Skate Park and the lighting of the Christmas tree, Edge of the Bay, has been the talk of the town and is paving the way for future events in Esperance that will attract visitors from far and wide.

Thank you to the dedicated, supportive community and to everyone who has visited Esperance in the last twelve months. Have a happy and safe festive season. Looking forward to seeing what we can achieve together in 2017!