

## FROM THE COAST

### Local Government Elections

#### Acting Shire President Cr Natalie Bowman

Being a Councillor is no easy task. It is hard work, but is very rewarding. There's nothing better than seeing people smile as a result of something Council has worked hard to provide for the community. Our Local Government Elections are not until October, but there are a few dates coming up to keep an eye out for.

Make sure you are enrolled to vote by 1 September to be eligible to vote in this election and please make sure you do vote. The Shire will be holding a postal election, so your ballot will come by mail and must be returned by mail to be received by 6pm 21 October or you can drop it into the box at the Shire.

I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to vote and to choose who will represent you on Council. Voting in local government elections is not compulsory but it is vital that as many people have their say as possible. You may not think these elections concern you; however the Shire is responsible for so many things that affect your daily life.

The Shire looks after roads, playgrounds, rubbish collection and operates many services like the library and leisure centre. If you've ever volunteered, or looked for volunteers, chances are you've visited the Esperance Volunteer Resource Centre or perhaps you've used Esperance Home Care; both are provided by the Shire.

It's important your elected Council focusses on what will keep the community functioning optimally not just for now, but well into the future. Your elected Councillors need to consider a wide range of issues, manage a complex and detailed budget and make decisions that are in the best interests of the community as a whole. Your vote is your say in who represents you when making important decisions. Do some research and use it wisely.

If you think you'd like to become a Councillor I commend you for wanting to improve your community. There are four seats are up for re-election and nominating to be a Councillor is not a decision to make lightly.

The Shire is holding an information session from 5.30-6.30pm on Thursday 31 August in Council Chambers for those interested in nominating to become a Councillor and I would encourage potential nominees to attend. Nominations will open Thursday 7 September and close at 4pm Thursday 14 September. Visit [elections.wa.gov.au](http://elections.wa.gov.au) for more information.