

There is a large gap between promises and aspirations of candidates and the reality of being able to achieve them. My six years' experience on Council has taught me that a collaborative and collegiate approach will deliver the best overall results. So, I am not going to make any outlandish offers for the future but ask that you reflect on the numerous successes and achievements of the past.

I often reminded myself that my role and responsibilities as a Councillor is to represent the interests of ALL electors, ratepayers, and residents of the district. To provide leadership and guidance to the community and to facilitate communication between the community and the Council to enable your participation in the decision-making processes at council and at committee meetings. I believe I have always been true to these requirements.

The Council has many committees that involve the community for advice and ideas, and I have been actively involved in most including the Seniors, Art & Public Art and Heritage committees

No profile would be complete without touching on the unpopular topic of rates and expenditure. We all think rates are too high and why do some people pay more than others particularly if you don't use all the services provided. There are very few people happy with the levels of rates, but rates are essential to meet our maintenance responsibilities, community service levels and infrastructure improvements. However, it is imperative that our demands are reasonable, and all expenditure is essential and within our means.

Because of efficient and responsible financial management in the past we are now in a strong financial situation to sustain us into the future. I will strive to ensure our budget doesn't require rate increases by looking at more efficient expenditure plans. Council must ensure a balanced operating budget, sound reserves and reduced debt. We also have to meet all the financial management targets set by the State Government.