

# MEDIA STATEMENT



Wednesday, 27 July 2016

## **Transport infrastructure a critical part of Budget**

Transport upgrades to the tune of \$7.3 million with a strong focus on upgrading roads, intersections, footpaths and cycleways form an integral part of the City of Bunbury's 2016/17 Budget.

At the heart of the infrastructure investment is \$5.1m allocated to the upgrade of Koombana Drive, with work on this pivotal project already under way.

Work is expected to continue until the end of November and will involve the construction of a new marine wall; replacing the George Baxter Boardwalk with a new 3m-wide land-based promenade; widening a stretch of Koombana Drive; and the construction of two cycleways.

A new roundabout will also be constructed to allow better access to the Dolphin Discovery Centre and the new Department of Parks and Wildlife headquarters.

Intersection upgrades are also on the agenda with \$813,000 allocated to Parade Road/Crampton Avenue and Koombana Drive/Austral Parade.

Pedestrians and cyclists will benefit from \$826,000 to be spent on the continuing replacement, upgrade and development of dual-use paths.

Bunbury Mayor Gary Brennan said the City had committed \$30.1m to capital works in 2016/17.

"It is vital that we make a significant investment in the City's infrastructure as we have an obligation to ensure our assets are at the appropriate high level," Mr Brennan said.

"The one per cent levy for asset upgrade and renewal, which is included in the overall 4.5 per cent rate increase, is an example of how we are looking to the future in terms of our infrastructure."

The City is also spending \$325,000 to improve the City's landscape, parks, gardens and entry statements.

**ENDS**

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