

Media Release



15 March 2024

Council Invests in Bute's Future

Barunga West Council has invested more than \$2.3 million in the small town of Bute over the past three years, focusing on critical infrastructure and enhancing community facilities.

This funding has supported upgrades to the Bute Soldiers' Memorial Hall, improvements to tennis, basketball, and netball courts, enhancements to the township's open spaces including a new bike track, and a significant upgrade to the Community Wastewater System.

Council's commitment to Bute doesn't end there, with ongoing support for a range of non-profit groups in the community.

Commitment to Community Assets

Council manages 14 properties within Bute, providing spaces for a range of activities and services including sports, community meetings, and cultural events. These properties are leased at minimal to no cost to various non-profit groups, ensuring that community facilities are both accessible and beneficial to all residents.

Unwavering Financial Support

Over the past year, Council has allocated approximately \$43,000 towards insurance and outgoings for these community properties, in addition to offering over 60 hectares of farming land for sporting groups without charge. The provision of farming land represents a significant form of support that can be leveraged for considerable financial benefit.

This land can be used in various ways that generate income for clubs. This not only helps in offsetting the costs associated with running and maintaining sports facilities but also provides an opportunity for these clubs to invest back into their programs, equipment, and infrastructure, enhancing the sporting experience for their members and the wider community. Essentially, this generous contribution from the Council can be seen as a foundational asset that supports the financial sustainability and growth of local sporting clubs.

The Bute Sporting Clubs Inc benefits from \$13,500 worth of mowing services annually, and the Bute Progress Association receives an annual contribution of \$6,500. Council also covers approximately \$2,450 in insurance for public liability and personal accidents for non-profit groups, underlining its financial commitment to the welfare of community-based organisations in small towns.

Media Release



Engagement and Future Planning

Barunga West Council is deeply engaged in the future planning and sustainable management of community assets, incorporating public feedback and suggestions into its strategies. Recent public meetings and consultations have opened the floor for community members to voice their proposals and concerns, ensuring Council's initiatives are in line with the community's needs and aspirations.

A Word from Barunga West CEO Maree Wauchope

"Barunga West Council is fully committed to serving our communities across the Top of the Yorke, not just through the provision of services and management of assets, but by listening to and incorporating the valuable input of our residents.

"We are determined to continue our work in making Bute a thriving, inclusive, and enjoyable place to live. We extend our gratitude to all the community groups and residents for their active participation and support in these endeavours."

###