



NSW BUDGET SUPPORTS OUR POSITIVE REGIONAL MOMENTUM

Dubbo Regional Council Mayor, Councillor Ben Shields, has welcomed the 2019-20 Budget released earlier this week by NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet. The investment by the NSW Government in the region provides improvements to communities, provides assistance with much-needed water future planning and drought resistance; and, provides strong opportunities for regional business and jobs growth.

“\$38 million to progress the new Regional Rail Fleet will see the construction of a rail maintenance facility in Dubbo providing a strong initial jobs boost for the region’s trades during construction, followed by 50 plus ongoing jobs when the facility goes operational,” Councillor Shields said.

“The Drought Stimulus Package will see \$44.4 million to address water security in Dubbo (and Coonabarabran, Nyngan, Cobar, through the Macquarie Valley) and surrounding catchments – critical to our water future planning,” Councillor Shields said. “Dubbo benefits from \$30 million to be provided over two years to plan an expansion of the local bore field to improve groundwater supply to the city.”

In relation to telecommunication, the Regional Connectivity program sees \$97.2 million in 2019-20 with a total of \$518.8 million to be allocated over four years.

“The Regional Digital Connectivity program will include internet and data for Dubbo being one of the first locations to investigate the design of data hubs and fibre cables to make internet connectivity faster and more reliable,” Councillor Shields said. “This is not only critical for households, it’s critical for business and economic development – improving the attraction of the area for businesses to relocate here as well as enhancing the data capabilities of many existing businesses.”

The NSW State Budget also sees the government provide funding to the areas of rural and regional health, regional roads and transport, vocational education and training; and, public libraries – benefits Councillor Shields hopes will also filter into the region.

“I look forward to seeing the Dubbo Regional Council Budget released at next Monday’s Council meeting,” Councillor Shields said. “I believe the region is in a positive position to continue improving essential services, infrastructure and overall liveability as we continue to expand as a community and further establish our region as an economic, sustainable, technological and safe alternative for business and families versus the city.”

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