

Mayor's message

As a person who was born and bred on the Coast, I care deeply about the future of the Buller. We all know that over the decades the Buller region has seen good times come and good times go. The economic tide rolls in and rolls out again, leaving those who remain behind, stranded and struggling to survive.

All the signals we see today indicate that the tide is on the rise. Our biggest industry, mining, is set for big expansion and then good times could return. That is fantastic for an area that has had to watch as our family members have previously had to leave to find work. But will it last? Not if we just do what we have always done.

This is a chance in a lifetime.

This time we have to ensure that the boom stays invested in the region to build a diversified economy. It will not be easy, and the Council cannot do it on its own. The whole community will have to pull together with the Council leading the way. We need to improve basic infrastructure up to scratch and we have to get the very best out of our natural advantages to build vibrant modern and long lasting communities.

This is not a short term plan and it will not happen overnight.

We will need all of the ten years on this plan to build the diversified economy that uses the coal boom as a springboard to benefit the whole region.

The Council spent considerable time developing this Long Term Plan and debating what services and projects need to be undertaken. Prioritising the services and activities was no easy task for Council. There are many deserving services and projects that Council would like to provide to our communities and which we are expected to provide by our residents and ratepayers.

In preparing this Long Term Plan the Council has done its very best to provide what we consider will be in the long term interests of the Buller District as a whole taking into account the varying needs and preferences of the residents in our region wide network of settlements.

Councillors listened to your views on the key issues we highlighted in our Plan, and were pleased that so many ratepayers attended our roadshows.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat McManus'.

Pat McManus
Mayor