

Managers Report July

Works Team

My report this month provides an opportunity to reflect on the past year. I am pleased to report that over 95% of the capital projects adopted in Council's 2025/26 budget were completed. This has also seen the completion of several long-term projects, including Harrod Road, Scherzinger Road, and Kununoppin–Mukinbudin Road.

The Works Team also completed gravel re-sheeting on Stapelton Road, Huandanning Road, and Barns Road. This represented a significant capital works program, with all projects completed on time and within budget.

Unfortunately, we were unable to complete the section of road between Kellerberrin–Bencubbin Road due to the conflict in the Middle East. The resulting increase in material costs would have placed the project at risk of exceeding the allocated budget.

The Works Team is currently undertaking maintenance grading in the Yelbeni area. We are focusing on improving road quality by restoring the road crown and re-establishing effective drainage throughout the road network.

As stated in the previous Manager's Report, we are trialling different treatments on Flemmings Road. The trial is being undertaken through the salt plains, which become extremely slippery when wet. We are assessing four different methods: natural gravel, ClayCrete, deep fill, and a 14/20 mm aggregate. The Manager of Works will report back to Council over the next six months with the costs and findings for each treatment.

Parks

The Parks Team has faced several challenges this year, including irrigation failures and lawn beetle infestations. The team has worked hard to repair the irrigation systems on the school oval and within the VIC area. At present, approximately 98% of the irrigation system has been repaired in-house and is fully operational. A small number of repairs are still awaiting parts and will be completed before the upcoming summer.

Weed management has also been challenging. Parks staff have been working diligently to keep weeds under control, and this work will continue throughout the year.

Turfed areas are continually monitored. Upcoming works include top dressing, fertilising, and reseeded where required. These activities will be undertaken over the coming months.

The township dam is now operational, and the Works Team is using it regularly for road construction and maintenance. This has significantly reduced the use of scheme water and is helping to lower the cost of road works.

As mentioned earlier, Council adopted a substantial capital works program for 2025/26. As a team, we faced many challenges throughout the year, and I would like to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of both the Works and Parks teams. Their commitment and hard work have resulted in a successful year, and we look forward to the opportunities and challenges of the new financial year.