

## Statement from David Carter

After 18 years in Local Government, I have decided it is time to have a break, and as most people are now aware, I am not standing for Mayor in the upcoming Local Government election. I had put in my nomination form on Monday (26/03/2012) but when I got out of bed on Tuesday morning I felt that I was not as committed as I should be and withdrew my nomination.

I am emotionally and physically exhausted and don't believe that I have the passion to continue for another four years. I have worked very hard to make the best of the forced amalgamation for the South Burnett. I came into Local Government to help people and that has always been my aim as a councillor. Being forced to rationalise rates, impose increased animal registrations and waste levies is not what I call helping people. Subsidies and assistance to local councils has decreased and having to meet State Government regulations and cost shifting has made it very difficult. And of course this has not been easy to explain to ratepayers.

I am proud of what has been achieved. The council's financial position has improved dramatically; Yallakool Park on BP Dam has been saved, reopened and is once again being enjoyed by locals and visitors; Coolabunia Saleyards has been maintained and improved; Healthy Communities and Traffic Advisory committees have been instigated and are showing very positive outcomes; after persistent lobbying and mountains of paperwork, the flood reconstruction roadworks have commenced.

However, the last four years have taken their toll. I am still passionate about the South Burnett but feel I no longer have the drive and commitment to continue to push myself the way I have been doing.

As I look back over the past 18 years, I am proud to leave a number of legacies which include the streetscape project in beautiful Wondai, the Proston Community Hall, Kingaroy Town Hall Forecourt and Library Upgrade and vastly improved financial position for the South Burnett Regional Council.

I will spend the next month finalising my term in office and will then begin a new phase of my life. I would like to thank the residents of the South Burnett for their support over the last four years.

David Carter

28 March 2012