



Thursday 12 May 2022

Council disappointed by lack of funding commitments for Circular Head

With the Federal election fast approaching, most Councils around Australia are following the daily election news in anticipation of funding pledges from candidates. Promises of funding for future local government projects are never higher than prior to a Federal election.

In August 2021, Council decided to get in early and inform the major political parties about Circular Head Council's priorities for project funding. In addition, Council has provided our regional tourism organisation, West by Northwest, with letters of support for two tourism projects within Circular Head.

At this stage in the election campaign, none of these projects have been raised in funding pledges by any of the candidates.

Mayor Daryl Quilliam said *"We are over a month into the election campaign and we have just over a week before election day. There has been one funding pledge for a project in Circular Head and that is about telecommunications. There have been no commitments made to fund any local government or tourism related projects specifically in Circular Head.*

This leaves us feeling very disappointed. Local government is the tier of government best placed to provide for our communities. We know what our community wants and we have great ability to partner with the Commonwealth to deliver programs and initiatives at the local level. It's almost as though the big end of town has forgotten that Circular Head exists." Said Mayor Quilliam.

The list of priorities provided in August 2021 was:

1. Development of the Western Explorer Road to a fully sealed standard (\$25M).
2. Development of a world class multi-day mountain bike trail from Arthur River to Pieman River Heads/Corrina, and the Tayatea Trail multi day walk project (\$50M).
3. Immediate support for full feasibility study funding to develop the following key projects (\$800K):
 - a. A world class Multi-Day Mountain Bike trail for Arthur River to Pieman River Heads and Corrina.

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- b. Development of Tayatea Trail as a new multi-day walk.
- c. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage development on west coast.
- d. An annual program of \$150,000 of funding for an entrepreneurial and micro-business leadership and development program over a three-year timeframe for the local area.

Election day is on Saturday 21 May 2022.

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