

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July**

### **Council Candidate calls for Fair Council Spending Across Greater Bendigo**

As the Bendigo council meets this week to adopt its 2020/2021 budget, Whipstick Ward candidate Dave Fagg has called for a more equitable spread of council funding across the municipality.

“From the draft 2020/2021 council budget, it is clear that most spending is concentrated in the centre of the city. Areas like Long Gully and Golden Square are almost completely neglected, and the northern growth corridor through to Huntly needs more community infrastructure.”

Mr Fagg released an online map that shows the location of capital works as listed in the draft budget for 2020/2021. <https://bit.ly/LGBudgetSpread>

Mr Fagg recognised that spending on council assets such as the Bendigo Art Gallery and the Hargreaves Mall was necessary to attract tourists and support business. However, he drew attention to needs of Bendigo’s growing neighbourhoods, and argued that a shift in the balance of spending is needed.

“Our neighbourhoods are where people actually live. There is a pressing need to invest in social infrastructure so that these places remain healthy and attractive places to live.”

As examples of needed infrastructure, Mr Fagg said community members had suggested a community hub in Huntly, and a community plan to guide the development of Long Gully.

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Mr Fagg is available for media interviews and photo opportunities upon request.

#### **Contact details:**

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