I am very excited to announce that the Draft Open Space, Sport & Recreation Plan 2017-2027 has been approved by Council for public exhibition and comments. The Draft Plan is a major and innovative planning initiative of both the Waratah-Wynyard and Circular Head Councils to provide an evidence-based long-term direction for the planning and management of the open space networks in our municipal area. The 10 year plan includes recommendations for recreational and sporting grounds, and associated community facilities. Information sessions, feedback opportunities and further details of the plan will soon be advertised in The Advocate and on the Councils’ website and Facebook page and I encourage everyone to read the reports and have their say.

Rates notices have been sent out to ratepayers and should be received in the mail shortly, if they have not arrived already. You will notice this years’ rates notice also includes a two-page summary of the results of Councils’ most recent Community Survey. The summary provides a snapshot of responses to the survey, including areas where people felt Council was performing well and also where we could improve. I’d like to thank all those that took part in the survey and look forward to seeing even more responses for the next one, which will be conducted in 2018.

Dog registration renewals have also been sent out in the mail, with a discount available to those who pay before July 31. While we’re on the subject of dogs, I’d like to encourage owners to pick up after our furry friends when they do their business in public. By being responsible dog owners, we can work together to ensure our municipality is kept as clean as possible.