

President Pauline Bantock

Statement 28th Oct 2026

Resignation from Shire of Victoria Plains

After 11 years of service to the Shire of Victoria Plains, including the past seven years as Shire President, I have come to the decision to resign from Council effective 6th November.

2026 has presented personal health challenges as I've navigated a rare neurological condition involving increased fluid pressure on my brain and eyes. Despite ongoing treatment my health quality has continued to deteriorate over the past 10 months.

While I remain very positive about the future and confident of a return to good health, the challenges of recent months have made it increasingly difficult to balance the demands of Council with my personal life and business commitments.

Serving the Victoria Plains community for 11 years has been an enormous privilege. To have been entrusted with the role of Shire President for seven of those years is something I will always be incredibly proud of.

Public life is not without its challenges, but serving in local government is both immensely rewarding and deeply meaningful. I've had the opportunity to work alongside dedicated councillors, shire staff, community organisations and residents who genuinely care about the future of our Shire.

I leave Council knowing the Shire of Victoria Plains is in a stable and financially sustainable position, with a strong foundation for the future. Equally important, I have every confidence in the professional and capable Council that will continue to guide the organisation. I would like to acknowledge Deputy President Suzanne Woods, Councillor Rebecca Johnson, Councillor Liz Williams and Councillor Neil Smith not only for their support, but for their strong dedication to the Shire which has made this decision much easier. I have no concerns about succession, knowing our current Council is in good hands. I also know we have communities full of strong leaders and I'm hopeful the right person will step forward to fill this vacancy on Council.

I have greatly valued the excellent working relationship with Chief Executive Officer Sean Fletcher, whose strong leadership and organisational skills have been instrumental in building a capable and effective administration team, fostering a positive organisational culture and maintaining a strong working relationship with Council. I am particularly grateful for his support throughout my time as Shire President, especially during the health challenges of recent months. My sincere thanks also go to the many community members and past councillors who have offered encouragement, friendship and trust throughout my time in local government. It is our

amazing community which has inspired and continued to push me forward over the past 11 years.

Lastly, I would like to thank my personal supporters. My Husband Dave, who has accepted the personal sacrifice to our life and business while I spent these years on Council. To my Parents Judy & Brian and my close friends who have always encouraged me and supported me. I couldn't have done it without you.

Stepping away from Council will undoubtedly be a significant change after 11 years, but my passion for community remains as strong as ever. I look forward to remaining actively involved in the projects, organisations and initiatives that matter to me, while allowing more time for my personal health and business interests. My time on Council may be coming to an end, but my desire to contribute remains as strong as ever.

Thank you to the Victoria Plains community for the privilege of representing you. It has been an honour.

Pauline Bantock