

# *Message from the Community Advocate*

The Burwood/Pegasus Advocacy Team serves as part of an integrated, community-focused Council Unit responsible for building relationships with citizens and communities.

Our team is available to act as the direct link to the community for all Council functions. In this way we act as advocates for the community in ensuring that your suggestions, needs and concerns are addressed. As advocates for the Council we ensure that Council information and outcomes are known, and that residents are provided access to the Council's decision-making processes.

Part of our work entails support for the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board, ie your elected members. In this role, we work closely with the Board assisting elected members in networking and discussion with a wide range of groups or individuals in the community.

Work typically related to the above support involves the process of seeking community views on a wide range of issues, assisting with the implementation and/or overview of Council projects (such as roading, parks and community support services), and assisting with the determining and prioritising of projects of a local nature. In all of this activity we also maintain strong links with our colleagues in the Council's various business units.

The Advocacy Team welcomes any enquiries on information or will support your access to the Community Board, or to other Units of the Council.

The Team also holds a responsibility for community development at a local level. An outcome from efforts in this direction will often see us as part of your community, working together to achieve agreed ends. While the Team already has many established contacts, and contact groups, in the community, the challenge is to maintain these relationships and to enhance our network to embrace further partnership possibilities.

The Community Advocacy Team is here to provide the support and guidance in building ongoing relationships between the Council and the community. We welcome the opportunity to sit down with any of you to discuss any matters related to achieving this end.

Information on the Community Advocacy Team is detailed on page 11 of this document.

Peter Francis

**Community Advocate**

on behalf of the Burwood/Pegasus Advocacy Team