

MEDIA RELEASE

Scam Alert for Balonne Shire Residents

The Balonne Shire Council is warning residents of a new telephone scam involving payments to Council.

Mayor, Richard Marsh, says a Bollon resident was called this week by a person claiming the resident owed Council money and they could easily help them set up payments over the phone.

"I want our residents to be very aware not to give banking details over the phone to people who can't verify who they are," Cr Marsh said.

"If a Balonne Shire Council employee rings they will have all your Rate Notice data to prove they are from the Council," he said.

Cr Marsh said any Council rate repayment scheme would be authenticated in writing and people should not provide important private details over the phone.

"Every day we seem to be hit with a new scam with people pretending they are from major corporations or the banks and I would warn everyone to be on high alert."

Cr Marsh said the scams can be quite convincing leaving people feeling distressed, confused and unsure of where to seek help.

"The increasing frequency of the scams is especially concerning at a time when money is tight for the region," he said.

Cr Marsh said people can use the Do Not Call Register which is a secure database where individuals and organisations can opt out of receiving most unsolicited telemarketing calls.

"Registration is free and you only need to do it once. It's not a perfect solution but it may help reduce the overload of unwanted phone calls."

The Do Not Call Register contact number is 1300 792 958.

For more information:

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