A/Mayor, Cr David (Dave) Bilney, Tablelands Regional Council

Councillor David (Dave) Bilney represents Division 3 of the Tablelands Regional Council, encompassing Malanda, Millaa Millaa, Topaz, Tarzali and the surrounding communities, including the world-renowned Millaa Millaa Falls.

Recently re-elected unopposed for a third consecutive term, Councillor Bilney currently serves as Deputy Mayor of the Tablelands Regional Council and has also undertaken the responsibilities of Acting Mayor following the resignation of the Mayor due to health reasons.

Originally from regional South Australia, Dave relocated to the Tablelands 27 years ago through a work transfer. He has an extensive background in banking, specialising in relationship banking, commercial lending and management, before owning and operating a successful small business in Atherton.

Dave is married to a local woman from one of the Tablelands' pioneering families. Together they have a blended family of six children and eight grandchildren.

Throughout his time in local government, Dave has established a reputation for practical leadership, strong community engagement and responsive service. He is committed to delivering quality infrastructure and essential services while maintaining open, transparent communication with residents. He actively supports local initiatives through Shop Local campaigns, community working bees, business development and community engagement activities.

Dave has also demonstrated strong financial leadership, supporting responsible budget decisions that have positioned the Tablelands Regional Council as one of Queensland's financially sustainable councils. He strongly supported open and transparent conversations with the community regarding Council's Asset Divestment Program and the need to make difficult but responsible budget decisions. These measures have strengthened Council's long-term financial sustainability and will enable significant investment in the renewal and upgrade of the region's core critical infrastructure in the years ahead.

A passionate advocate for the future of the Tablelands, Dave has championed initiatives that improve liveability, economic development and environmental sustainability. He has taken a leading role in advancing climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives, helping to shape Council's climate strategies and the policies that support future action.

Dave is also a strong advocate for expanding tourism and outdoor recreation opportunities across the region. His current advocacy focuses on the continued expansion of the Atherton Forest Mountain Bike Park and the development of the Tablelands Rail Trail, with the vision of establishing the Tablelands as one of Australia's premier cycling destinations.

Previous Committee Roles

- Chair, Rocky Creek Memorial Park Advisory Committee
- Chair, Tablelands Pest Management Advisory Committee
- Chair, Malanda Falls Visitor Centre Gift Fund Advisory Committee
- Chair, Natural Assets Management Advisory Committee
- Co-Chair, Rivers to Reef Climate Alliance (representing four local governments)
- Board Representative, Endeavour Foundation (Far North Queensland)

Current Committee Roles

- Chair, Local Disaster Management Group
- Committee Member, Atherton Forest Mountain Bike Committee
- Committee Member, Far North Queensland Mountain Bike Steering Committee

Community Involvement

- Malanda Lions Club
- Millaa Millaa Lions Club
- Malanda Chamber of Commerce
- Eacham Senior Citizens Club
- Malanda Men's Shed
- Malanda Local Ambulance Committee

Dave remains committed to delivering sustainable outcomes for the Tablelands through collaborative leadership, sound financial management and strong advocacy for infrastructure investment, economic development, community wellbeing and environmental stewardship. As a strong advocate for Far North Queensland, he is committed to working collaboratively with all levels of government to secure investment that strengthens the resilience, liveability and long-term prosperity of the Tablelands region.