

## MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting:	23 August 2022
Report Date:	22 August 2022
Author:	Mayor
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Approval:	Mayor

Our Council area, like most others, is receiving varying degrees of rain.

Some parts are very wet which is causing delays in planting and moving produce. Others are getting just enough to keep their hopes alive for another bumper season.

The wet weather is taking a toll on our road network.

I urge you all to be mindful of our road usage in these wet times. Our roads are our biggest asset, and the damage that is caused when wet weather is upon us is difficult and very costly to remediate.

Please be careful whilst driving in these conditions and ever mindful of our school buses.

The Darlington Point community hosted the “Pig Day Out” on 19 August 2022. Funded by the NSW Government and supported by Murrumbidgee Council and many other organisations and businesses, this unique event attracted approx. 1,000 people, young and old - the Piglets, trained to perfection were entertaining and amazingly agile and adept at completing their courses. Well done to the organising committee and the providers of the entertainment.

On Thursday 4 August 2022 Council hosted “Connecting with a Councillor”. These sessions were targeted at the senior group within our Primary Schools.

Two sessions were held in Coleambally for the children from Coleambally Central School and St Peter’s Primary School, with one session in Jerilderie for the Jerilderie Public School and St Joseph’s Primary School combined.

The children were very well versed on what Local Government does and provides. They asked informative questions and were great advocates for things they think our communities need. Most importantly they were respectful and well behaved, a credit to all of their teachers and their schools.

Our Council has a bright future with these active and engaged minds in our midst.

Councillors undertook a 2 hour bus tour of Darlington Point prior to our mid monthly workshop. Our Darlington Point Councillors had the opportunity to show us, first hand, what they see as priorities. It was a very worthwhile activity.

The General Manager and I spent 2 days in Deniliquin attending A RAMJO Strategic Planning Workshop, dinner and RAMJO Board Meeting.

Defining our priorities to match the budget is the big challenge in this space. Whittled down for the foreseeable future they are:

- housing
- infrastructure
- health
- water
- digital connectivity

The General Manager and I attended a zoom meeting with the Advisor to the Federal Minister for Housing. This was a follow up to a letter sent by Council on 20 June 2022.

Given the critical shortage of all housing across Australia, it was reassuring to have been acknowledged and a meeting facilitated so quickly.

John had the opportunity to promote an “affordable” housing initiative that could benefit and promote housing in our. Council footprint and would activate a collaborative approach, engaging Federal, State, Local Government and industry inclusively.

We received a very fair hearing and a level of interest was garnered.

I had the privilege of attending the Coleambally Lions Club’s 50th birthday celebrations on Saturday night - this service group is testament to the mantra that collectively much can be achieved - they have 31 members and that is because their fellowship is as important as their service - well done to all involved.

Below a list of meetings I have attended since the July Council meeting.

28 July 2022

- 1- MDA REGION 9 Meeting, Griffith
- 2- AGM of the MPS Hospital Auxilliary, Jerilderie

29 July 2022

“Bridges and Culverts” meeting for the Murray Valley Region - A Way Forward  
Facilitated by Sam Knight TfNSW

1 August 2022

Transgrid Meeting, Darlington Point

4 August 2022

“Connecting with a Councillor” - Local Government Week  
Coleambally Central School/St Peter’s Primary School in Coleambally  
Jerilderie Public School/St Joseph’s Primary School in Jerilderie

5 August 2022  
Riverina Community Forum - Teams Meeting

8 August 2022  
MLHD Council Session - Zoom Meeting

9 August 2022  
Councillor Workshop and Bus Tour, Darlington Point

11 and 12 August 2022  
RAMJO Strategic Planning Workshop and Dinner  
RAMJO Board Meeting  
Deniliquin

18 August 2022  
Meeting with the Advisor for the Federal Minister for Housing  
Zoom Meeting

20 August 2022  
Coleambally Lions Club 50th Birthday Celebration Dinner  
Coleambally

22 August 2022  
Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting  
Jerilderie



Ruth McRae  
**MAYOR**