

MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting:	29 June 2021
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Author:	Mayor
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As I write this report, our communities once again find themselves at the coalface of an escalating COVID 19 resurgence.

It behoves us all to be vigilant in this space, our communities will be guided as best we can by adhering to and closely following the Public Health Orders.

June has been incredibly busy and has seen us at the table of many valuable forums and conferences, whilst at the same time trying to keep abreast of a very full program in our own backyard.

Our staff have facilitated 3 community consultation drop in sessions to allow the general public access to the proposed implications the rates harmonisation process.

These have had minimal attendance, but I do thank the staff, in particular Vicki, Robert and Kerry, who have invested many, many hours in bringing this mandated process to the table.

The General Manager and I have attended many meetings and Conferences during June.

With Councillor Black, we attended the first Regional Water Conference “River Reflections”, convened by the MDBA in Griffith.

The General Manager and I attended the 4 day National General Assembly in Canberra.

Day 1 - A Regional Forum which actually addresses the burning issues regionally, without being swallowed up by the bigger players.

With themes that promoted the importance of localism and place based decision making, the very clear message is that whatever the initiatives, incentives, or blue sky out-there thinking, a flexible and adaptive approach needs to lead and drive the decision making. Topics included food security/ regenerative agriculture, digital connectivity, accessible and appropriate health, workforce and its change of focus, affordable and social housing, mental health crisis.

Days 2 - 4 covered:

- A national overview of the COVID 19 pandemic by epidemiologists, infectious disease specialists and a social economist. This was confronting and hair raising all at the same time!

- A thought provoking address on the importance of Local Government and its place in the multi-tiered Government structure;
- Many addresses on planning, local employment, economic stimulus, social capital, the indigenous voice/closing the gap, recovery and resilience and cyber security.

RAMJO has hosted 2 workshops - health and water sub committees.

On 16 June we held the first of our Staff Recognition Ceremonies. This saw 10 of our employees recognised for 10 years valuable service to the previous Jerilderie and Murrumbidgee Shire Councils, and now Murrumbidgee Council.

It was a privilege to recognise these staff who give willingly to our communities and play a large part in making them the best they can be.

My congratulations to Steve Krause, John O'Hara, Mick McCann, Aaron Purcell, Wayne Neilson, Ben Nash, Bernadette Dowdle and Catie Purtell (absent: Peter Keating and former employee Wayne Church).

Below are a list of meetings I have attended since the May Council meeting:

31 May 2021

Extraordinary Council Meeting - Budget

1 June 2021

MDBA Teleconference

2 June 2021

- Justin Clancy facilitated meeting at Federation Council with Paul Toole, Minister for Regional Roads and Transport
- Coleambally Gym Meeting, Coleambally

8 June 2021

- LEMC Meeting Coleambally
- Western Riverina Arts Meeting - Create NSW visit Darlington Point

9 – 10 June 2021

- River Reflections Regional Water Forum, Griffith

11 June 2021

- Community Consultation - Rates Harmonisation, Darlington Point

15 June 2021

- Councillor mid monthly Council Workshop, Darlington Point
- Election Webinar, Council Chambers

16 June 2021

- Staff Recognition Ceremony - Council Chambers, Jerilderie
- MDA Region 2 Ordinary Meeting, Berrigan

17 June 2021

- MPHJN - Conversations on the Couch Community Engagement/ Meeting with
General Manager and Mayor

- Community Consultation -Rates Harmonisation, Jerilderie

18 June 2021

- Community Consultation Rates Harmonisation, Coleambally

19 – 23 June 2021

National General Assembly, Canberra

24 June 2021

RAMJO Health Sub Committee Meeting/Workshop Jerilderie

25 June 2021

RAMJO Water Sub Committee Meeting, Narrandera

27 June 2021

Site Meeting - Coleambally Sports Precinct - CFNC Reps, Councillors Black,
Brown and McRae



Ruth McRae

MAYOR