

MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting:	25 June 2019
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Author:	Mayor
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The month of June has disappeared in a flash. Winter has settled with a very cold blanket on our communities.

With some rain in some communities, some growth has occurred prior to the freezing conditions.

We have engaged with both State members during the month and have spoken about our areas of concern and sought their advocacy. With no points for guessing water was a key driver in these conversations.

Various information sessions during the month covered the proposed SDLAM projects:

- The Murrumbidgee Surface Water Resource Plan public meetings;
- 2 x drought information sessions 3 and 5 June in Finley and Coleambally, by Department of Industry, Water;
- A drought interactive session at the National General Assembly in Canberra on 18 June.

Creek Country Alliance (CCA) and Yanco Creeks & Tributaries Advisory Committee (YACTAC) continue to engage in all matters water in a challenged communication environment. We are lucky we have these 2 bodies advocating for our Council community.

And, yes, the toilet block at the Lions Park in Coleambally is complete!

Below please find a brief of meetings/conferences attended since the last Council meeting:

31 May-"Basin, Eggs, Breakfast", Griffith

Community engagement session facilitated by the BDBA. Addresses by: Phillip Glyde; Robbie Sefton, Sefton Agricultural/Consultant; Brett Jones, DEO, Murrumbidgee Irrigation; and Bill Williams, CEO, Proten (poultry industry).

Addresses covered social, economic, environmental, industry, cultural, innovation, resources, best practice, and international markets.

Announcement 24 June 2019 of socio-economic impact panel for the Murray Darling by Minister Littleproud. Local representatives are Robbie Sefton and Bruce Simpson.

2 June 2019 - Jerilderie District Brigades Long Service Medal Presentations

52 recipients. A collective 2,300 years voluntary service. Mr Peter McKechnie, Director, Regions South and West, Rural Fire Service, NSW officiated. Still no formal declaration of Zone rationalisation.

3 June 2019 - Drought Information Session, Finley

A sobering meeting attended by 70 people, with a message of probably more of the same for the next 12 months. Significant rains into the catchments only thing that will alter this.

5 June 2019 - Drought Information Session, Coleambally

A less confronting meeting attended by 60 people. Nevertheless, the message is clear. At the beginning of June allocations were assured the same as this year. However, if by 1 July 2019, no significant rainfall, then this will require review.

10 June 2019 - League of Silent Flight Presentations, Jerilderie

Another successful event. Excellent conditions for flying. 2 events conducted. National team selected. Many thanks conveyed to Murrumbidgee Council for welcoming and supporting this event.

12 June 2019 - Economic Development Strategy Feedback Session, Darlington Point

Very poor attendance. Out of 22 businesses that stated they would be interested in this session, only 2 businesses attended (as well as 2 Councillors who have businesses). There was feedback that it was too far to travel-an issue. Disappointing it should have had better Council representation. 4 Councillors out of 9 was less than perfect.

13 June 2019 - Traffic Committee Meeting in Darlington Point

Signage, road marking, road entries-all covered.

13 June 2019 - Media & Communications Officer Anne Lyons

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor met with new Media & Communications Officer. Encouraged to reactivate the Council community newsletter as soon as possible. Encouraged to engage with relevant media to try and have a regular information piece in the Coly Observer and SRN newspapers.

14 June 2019 - Naturalisation Ceremony, Darlington Point

Our newest citizen, Mr Venkateswar Kaigala, was naturalised in a ceremony in Darlington Point. He was joined by his family and friends.

14 June 2019 - Meeting with Helen Dalton, Jerilderie

Meeting convened in Jerilderie chambers to discuss state of play in the water dialogue. Deputy Mayor, Cr Black attended, and also present were YACTAC Chair and Executive Officer Mr Bob Crawford and Mrs Tanya Thompson. Also, Russell Ford. CCA members Helene Mortlock, Gwen McLaughlin and Jenna Robinson, and community representative Ian Girdwood.

Restated and reinforced the need for more transparent and genuine engagement and more regular communication. Also, some genuine recognition for the innovation, stewardship and growth in productivity for this life source.

16-19 June 2019 - National General Assembly, Canberra

Regional Forum 2019 – 200 + participants

820 participants in NGA of the whole-covering topics of:

- Future thinking engaging technology and design;
- Communications led disaster recovery;
- Intelligent community initiative;
- Indigenous – Australia’s first language;
- Housing, infrastructure and population – affordable housing; Local Government involvement;
- Community/Intelligent leadership; Reducing Community Harm;
- Community/environmental harmony;
- Engaged, positive mindset;

Local Government has a huge challenge to stay relevant and sustainable into the future.

20 June 2019 - Monash Park Advisory Group, Jerilderie

A revisit of an existing Council and community group, that will now meet regularly.

A common collective with a collaborative mindset.

A great start point for a “whole of Council” approach for user groups.

20 June 2019 – Lions Club of Coleambally Change Over Dinner

An annual dinner and changeover of executive of a successful and fully engaged community group.

Their ‘can-do’ attitude and most obvious warmth and fellowship is a credit to this organisation.

The Lions Club made mention of Murrumbidgee Council and its desire to continue to work with them for the betterment of the community.

21 June 2019-Audit Risk & Improvement Committee, Jerilderie

Delegate Councillor Smith will verbally report on this meeting.

Discussions centred around:

Annual statements; Audit Engagement Plan; Expressions of Interest for Internal Audit of IT and its program. Chair’s Report on Audit Risk & Improvement Training attended, facilitated by the Office of Local Government.

Cr Ruth McRae
MAYOR