

ITEM NO. 1-MAYORAL REPORT
FILE: 03.16.01
FROM: MAYOR

August 2018 has been challenging and hectic, and yet still productive. In equal measures of each of the above, and at varying times, it has been taxing.

I am confident the outcomes will serve us well into the future.

The weather outlook continues to be less than desirable. Coupled with the naturally occurring, or in this case non-occurring, rainfall are some challenging water issues, namely:

- Projected Water Allocations
- Imminent SDL Project Implementation
- Forecast Economic Drought Impacts
- Federal Politics at its most de-stabilising

We certainly live in a “shifting sands environment”.

A resolute approach to providing the most appropriate, efficient and cost effective service delivery that sees us addressing our core business requirements is what we are charged with doing.

We are a new entity with much opportunity. A resilient and cohesive workforce can achieve great things.

Pride in our organisation will ensure we are productive and sustainable into the future. Our letter of offer for our new General Manager has been accepted. The contract is in the process of being finalised. We look forward to being able to make an announcement in the near future.

Given the organised chaos of the month, below is a dot point summary of my month’s activities:

Meetings, Community Engagement and Regional and External Stakeholder Meetings

- 25th July
St Joseph’s Primary School Jerilderie
Public Speaking Presentation Years 3-6
- 28th July
National Party Dinner, Griffith
Networking Dinner - Michael McCormack, Sussan Ley, MP, Austin Evans, MP,
Noel Hicks
- 30th July
Waddi Housing and Advancement Corporation Darlington Point
Project Description - Phase 1 - Community Consultation

- 1st August
Major Projects Workshop, Darlington Point
Priorities Project Register discussions
Some additions to the above
- 7th / 8th August
General Manager shortlisted interviews, Jerilderie
6 interviews conducted -1 late withdrawal
3 candidates progressed to final whole of Council presentation /interview
- 8th August
YACTAC AGM and Public Meeting, Conargo
Presentations by representatives from MDBA, OEH,NSW Fisheries.
A large degree of disillusionment and angst regarding the proposed implementation of the SDL Project-the installation of a Regulator at the Yanco Offtake.
- 8th August
Board Meeting Cypress View Lodge - Coleambally
Meeting convened to facilitate the creation of a Strategic Overview of the facility
Present were the Board, the Manager, consultant Mary Hoodless and Mayor, Murrumbidgee Council
Recommendations from Meeting
 - That a whole of Council footprint Aged Care review be undertaken that is inclusive of existing infrastructure and services and the delivery mechanisms
 - A proposal to flesh out a visionary 2 streamed approach to delivering both Aged Care /Acute Care
 - 1 - Ensuring the sustainability of Cypress View Lodge - it's Aged Care Focus - How to ??
 - 2 - Determine the feasibility of a stand-alone MPS
OR an innovative model that incorporates the existing Aged Care Facility with additional acute capability - Progress discussion with MLHD at LHAC Forum in Wagga 6/7th September.
- 9th August
Stronger. Communities Fund - Assessment Panel Meeting Jerilderie via Teleconference regarding allocation of monies for urgent upgrades to the Jerilderie Civic Hall Kitchen.
The assessment panel deemed the request /project compliant and agreed to allocation of monies required.
- 14th August
THRIVE RIVERINA Board Meeting, Griffith Board - Members , LGA Reps Tourism/EDO's.
3 defined Working Group updates.
Digital Marketing , Co-Operative Marketing and TASTE RIVERINA
Into the future Murrumbidgee Council will have a seat at the Co-Operative Marketing Table.

- 15th August
DNSW Sponsored Tourism Development Workshop Griffith
Presentations from
 - Richie Robinson GM. Destination Riverina Murray
 - Jill Whitehouse DNSW Visitor Insights and Performance
 - Sophie Calchera DNSW Developing your Tourism Product/Business
 - Gabby Brown DNSW Regional Tourism Development Fund

- 20th August
Meeting with Austin Evan, Jerilderie, seeking advocacy re sourcing correct and current information re proposed SDL,Project and the Regulator at the Yanco Offtake.
Discussions regarding our Major Projects Workshop and the creation of our Priority Projects List

- 21st August
CICL Breakfast Coleambally
Discussions centred around the Allocations update and projected forecast

- 22nd August
General Manager interviews . Jerilderie - Interviews facilitated by Mark Anderson LGMS. Conducted interviews of prospective General Managers , and determined the preferred applicant

Ruth McRae
MAYOR