

ITEM NO. MAYORAL REPORT
FILE: 03.16.01
FROM: MAYOR

As we meet for our second last meeting for 2018, life continues to be challenging and thorough consideration across all spheres of Council life is imperative.

We have been blessed with some rain, however at this stage it is not going to alter greatly the significant duress our agricultural community finds themselves under. There is some harvest. There is some water, and there is always hope. Hope we can have some influence on. We are at the mercy of the weather gods and political appetite with the other 2 significant factors.

I am assured that the organisational structure and salary structure will come before Council as a finished product at our December Council meeting. It is my hope and expectation that this is so.

A settled, valued and respected staff, rightfully acknowledged and encouraged to revitalise and reboot over Christmas and New Year, augers well for a productive and harmonious 2019.

The continuing water debacle continues to lay a heavy pall over our community as a whole. Our hope is Council and the communities continuing advocacy can promote our concerns and encourage a positive outcome. Our informed and positive mindset is important in this continuing dialogue.

Below are a list of meetings attended during November:

Thursday 1 November – Basin Plan-Commonwealth Consultation on Socio-Economic Criteria (Griffith)

- Further explore efficiency measures off farm and on farm;
- Meeting feeling that both these options fully explored;
- Very clear message that proposed SDL projects are only way to recover 450 gigs up-water;
- Much comment re proposed SDL project-installation of regulator at the Yanco offtake
- Meeting with SDL YACTAC Group, DPI (Water) David Leslie (Project Officer) and Tracey McDonald (Director Water SDL Programs) Jerilderie Wednesday 5 December.

Friday 2 November - Country Mayors Association Meeting (Sydney)

- Waste to energy conversation initiated by Tenterfield Shire Council and RDA. Feasibility Study required – buy-in \$15,000. If lots of buy-in by Councils, it will be less. Local Government in the EPA's review of Waste To Energy policy;
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- Simon Draper, Department of Industry-5 Ministers, 11 portfolios, industry, primary industry, water, skills/vocational education and TAFE. 99% of the state is impacted by drought. \$600 million drought fund. Specialist team working with Local Government addressing critical water security use.
- Business Connect initiative-skills and relocation package available \$10,000;
- Container Deposit Scheme:
 - Government to reduce litter by 40% by 2020;
 - Average daily rate 3.38 million articles;
 - 685 collection points – 80.2% through vending machines;
 - High community support – 91%
- David Salisbury, Essential Energy
 - Distribution costs 37% of electricity costs;
 - Southern Lights project-REROL-163,000 street lights, 83 LGA's;
 - LED Solution
- Steve Orr
 - Ken Gillespie, Infrastructure Roadshow will end in December 2018;
 - Regional team to be formed with Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Monday 19 November – REEF Group Meeting, Ethanol Plant (Coleambally)

- Our tour led by Scott Hogan;
- Rob Jones will be invited to attend the February meeting of Council;
- Rachel Whiting, Executive Officer, RDA Riverina will also be invited to attend;
- Connect the Group with Klaus Baumgartel.

Darlington Point Floodplain Risk Management Meeting, Monday 19 November (Darlington Point)

- Committee endorse the Darlington Point Environmental Flood Study and go to Council for adoption, addressing the Hay Road causeway issue;
- Grant application live for Floodplain Risk Management Study-hopefully decision by Christmas;
- Can then develop a brief to go to tender;
- Next stage of levee can then go ahead. Will need funding variation by end of January 2019;
- DA for boat ramp to be lodged and all relevant parties asked for comment.

Regional Tourism and Thrive AGM, Tuesday 20 November (Tumbarumba)

- Executive remains the same;
 - 1 Board vacancy;
 - Presentation by Destination Riverina Murray re Co-Operative Marketing Campaign;
 - Identifying brand positioning;
 - To whom-market experiences, the Unique Riverina, Living, Breathing, Flowing, Personality, Voice.
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Coleambally Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 20 November 2018 (Community Club, Coleambally)

- Election of Office Bearers
 - Lynn Stuckings, President
 - Bronwyn Vearing, Secretary
 - Richard DeKoning, Treasurer

- Issues raised:
 - Brolga Place re-development;
 - Lake development;
 - A ‘Why Leave Town’ promotion;
 - Bencubbin Road Industrial Area;
 - Lions Park toilet block redevelopment-Lions issues.

Meeting of Community Group for the Promotion of Monash - Wednesday 21 November (Jerilderie)

The General Manager and Mayor met with the Community Committee (Sue Neilan, Irene Wells, Gwen McLaughlin and Helen Huggins) and invited guest Michael Headberry of the Saluting Monash Council. They are exploring options of acquisition of collection, Sir John Monash house sale, collective hub/business opportunity and creation of a statue etc. Lots of thinking to be done. A work in progress.

Murray Darling Association Region 9 AGM – Friday 23 November (Leeton)

Election-Chair-Paul Maytom, Mayor, Leeton
Secretariat-Leeton Shire, Melissa Seymour
Executive Members- Joe Burns, Bede Spannagle, Brett Stonestreet, Wes Hall

Chair’s Report

- Attended many meetings-CAG, EWAG, RAMJO
- Productivity Commission Report in MDBA
 - Lack of accountability
 - Lack of transparency
 - Trading not transparent
- 86% less rice plantings this year
- REO position relocated to Albury
- Complex/changeable water environment

CEO Emma Bradbury Report

- Much advocacy and promotional work
 - As the ear of Canberra decision makers
 - Requests greater LG representatives-General Manager and other Councillors
 - MDBA Consultative Committee Representative David Thurley
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Griffith

- Basin Plan Meeting 450 gig issue;
- No further ability to up-tech farms;
- Must ensure no future buybacks

A resolution to MDBA re region's concerns of proposed Sustainable Diversion Limit projects-specifically the regulator at the Yanco Offtake.

Ruth McRae

MAYOR
