

MAYORAL REPORT – NOVEMBER 2019

Council Meeting:	29 October 2019
Report Date:	22 October 2019
Author:	Mayor
File #:	SC217
Approval:	Mayor

As we move through arguably the busiest time of the year (when isn't it busy!!) I encourage you all to enjoy the end of year Presentation Nights, festivities and of course to stay safe while we are engaged in everything work related.

While our harvest has been challenging, there is still obvious signs of activity agriculturally. Rain would be welcomed warmly.

Our thoughts are with the many communities across Australia that are experiencing the devastating bushfires - as the unpredictable weather patterns continue to test us, it is a very current reminder to be vigilant in our own backyard.

The heat has arrived with a vengeance - stay cool and hydrated.

I encourage everybody to get behind the Drought Activity Days planned for:

Jerilderie	- 29 November
Darlington Point	- 5 December
Coleambally	- 6 December

These very important dates are about the WHOLE community. The whole community is impacted by drought. And there is absolutely no doubt that the one thing that sustains us when the going gets tough is each other.

Council is visibly busy.

Many roadworks, concreting of footpaths, and swimming pools readiness preparation and openings.

It is my hope that the long awaited plans for many projects across our Council footprint will be to us before Christmas - a great way to move forward into 2020

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

30 October 2019 - Local Health Advisory Committee Forum – Wagga Wagga

A consumer led forum identifying and acknowledging the value of Community Led Engagement, facilitated by Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD).

Local Government's key role is as a stakeholder and the importance of developing that engagement so that communities have a seat at the table, enhancing our ability to advocate and influence.

General Manager John Scarce and I then met with Jill Ludford, Chief Executive of CE of MLHD and Gayle Murphy to discuss a way forward for sustainability of Cypress View, medical services, ambulance services and community health into the future.

We are waiting for the Manager of Aged Care Services in MLHD to contact us regarding a follow up meeting.

4 November 2019 - Yanco Creek Advisory Group (YCAG) - SDLAM Tour -Middle Reaches of the System

Tour incorporated Hartwood Weir, Forest Creek Offtake/Weir , Algudgerie Weir, the Finley Escape Channel, the DC800, the DC800 Escape, Colombo Ski Club and the Colombo Ski Club 8 Mile Weir.

This familiarisation tour is the second, visibly showing members of the YCAG just where and how these pieces of infrastructure are situated in the system.

5 and 6 November 2019 - RAMJO Networking Dinner and Board Meeting, Griffith

Issues and Presentations as follows

- James Bolton – DPIE, Regional NSW

Conversations around SCCF Rd 3 - opportunity for not for profit's - The collective asked that Council be advised of these applications to avoid duplication and to ensure we are not working at cross purposes.

Snowy Hydro Legacy- digital connectivity the priority.

Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) review - Councils will be consulted in this process.

- Cameron Templeton - OLG Engagement Officer

Conversations centred around:

- 1- exorbitant costs of LG Elections going forward;
- 2- Councillor information sessions and information packs need to be developed and made ready ASAP in 2020;
- 3- "Your Council" website up and running.

- Karl Rodriguez - Australian Space Agency, Civil Space Advisory Body

Aims to create 20,000 jobs across manufacturing, digital technology, data usage. Humans and their place in the supply chain.

Our opportunity - We are in a desirable location -flat land and minimal air traffic.

- Nicola James – AusIndustry, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science
Main role is to feed business information intelligence up to executive level to avail business of grant frameworks facilitating industrial growth.
Covers areas of Building Better Regions, Safer Communities Fund, Regional and Remote Communities Fund.

Further discussions around:

- Water-RAMJO position statement
- Refugee -discussion incorporating resettlement ,support ,-access and advocacy
- General Practitioners - concerns and activity surrounding all associated issues
- RMCC Contracts
- Internal Audit and Risk Improvement Committees

11 November 2019 - Remembrance Day Ceremonies - Jerilderie, Coleambally and Darlington Point

Our 3 communities commemorated Remembrance Day with Ceremonies - all with a unique approach.

All communities drawing large crowds -including large School contingents
An important part of Australia's history and duly recognised with unwavering respect

11 November 2019 - General Manager's Performance Appraisal - Jerilderie

A comprehensive, frank and thought provoking performance appraisal was facilitated by Mark Anderson Manager Local Government Solutions and attended by our General Manager, Mr John Scarce, myself as Mayor and Cr Robert Black as Deputy Mayor.

In the very challenging environment we live and operate in, it is very easy to overlook the achievements when consumed by the, at times, insurmountable.
Murrumbidgee Council is making progress, albeit at times laborious and difficult.

Our challenge on a daily basis is to ensure current and open communication.
It is to work as a team that is cohesive and productive. It is to ensure that our service delivery is the best it can be working within our achievable abilities.

The General Manager has a very clear picture, supported by Council, to ensure that these grass roots expectations are achieved.

12 November 2019 – Ricegrowers' Information Session - Deniliquin

An information session facilitated by the ACCC (Mick Keogh) around - water allocations, water trading transparency, Government conflict operating in this space

14 November 2019- SDLAM -YCAG Meeting - Deniliquin

First Advisory Group meeting in Deniliquin.

Has 12 community Representatives - 4 bureaucrats and an independent Chair.

We were walked through the draft Terms of Reference - needs to be consistent across the 3 Advisory Groups.

Continuing advocacy around required sitting fees.

A unanimous voice insisting that WaterNSW beat our Advisory Group Tables.

Strength in articulating that there be no further adverse impacts with any proposed efficiency initiatives.

It is imperative that the community engagement/information sharing process is consistent and regular

14 November 2019 - Coleambally Central School - Year 12 Graduation - Coleambally

It was my pleasure to attend the Coleambally Central School Year 12 Graduation Ceremony. The preparation and thought that went into making this a warm and memorable night is commendable. The staff and parents have every right to be justifiably proud of the 9 graduates. I am sure their stories of success and worthwhile contributions will be many in the years to come.

16 November 2019 - Altina Wildlife Tour and Birthday Celebration - Darlington Point

This great opportunity highlights that great things are happening in our patch.

Altina continues to think strategically and laterally, while at all times very mindful of maintaining their point of difference.

They have and always will promote that they are a wildlife park, keeping as natural as possible the surrounds for their animals.

Plans for 5 new exhibits and the introduction of “glamping” in the near future sound really exciting.

They are to be congratulated on their passion and vision

19 November 2019 - Thrive Riverina AGM and Strategic Workshop - Griffith

Annual General Meeting saw the change of Executive positions:

Chair - Brent Lawrence - Leeton Shire Council

Deputy Chair - Miriam Hewson - Snowy Valleys Council

Secretary - Tiffany Thornton- Narrandera Shire Council

Treasurer - Miriam Crane – Cootamundra - Gundagai Council

Executive Officer - Sarah Johnson - RDA Riverina

2018/19 initiatives:

- New Website - Coast is the agency
 - E Marketing and Social Media focus driven through Taste Riverina and Canberra Handmade Market data base
 - Cooperative Marketing Campaign “Go With The Flow”.
- Destination Riverina Murray (DRM) - Richie Robinson Update
Strategic Plan 2019/2020
Maintaining Core Objectives - 3 Projects:

1- Destination Champions Program

An unregulated guide to industry - will need to be connected with DRM and Destination NSW (DNSW)
Will need an online booking platform - will need to be clear, succinct, and have an active business account with facebook/instagram - export ready status.
Must be a VIP of Industry - well connected/visible network.
Develop a FAQs section - simple and accessible .

2- Destination for Inspirational Events

Presentations in Wagga in March and Griffith in May - high level engagement.
Blue sky thinking required - daring/brave/ambitious minds. Trend driven.

3- Phase 2 “Go With The Flow”

DNSW will assist to market, but not contribute to bottom line costs.
Needs to go back to Councils - could be problematic.
You don't usually quit 1/2 way through a campaign?
Benefits from phase 1 - 1st class imagery -DNSW 2 at \$113,000.
Much better placed to be players in this space.
Media spend of approx \$100,000 in phase 1

4- Canberra Handmade

Market - debrief - worthwhile

Thrive strategic priorities

- 1- Digital currency/exposure/advocacy/familiarisation/
- 2- Think local - how do we enable and empower our own
- 3- Better linkages with DRM and DNSW

22 November 2019 - Radio interview with 99.7 FM

An opportunity to promote our “Escape The Drought” community events across the northern part of our Council.

25 November 2019 - Meeting with Jeff Ward – Finley High School

A meet and greet - looking to a future focus for better engagement with Finley High School across educational, vocational, and social spheres 2020 and beyond.

Cr Ruth McRae
MAYOR