

## MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting:	23 November 2021
Report Date:	22 November 2021
Author:	Mayor
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I can hardly believe it's November!

And it is even more difficult to reconcile that our inaugural term as Murrumbidgee Council is drawing to a close.

I take this opportunity to thank you all for your commitment and courage in bravely stepping forward to be part of this new entity, Murrumbidgee Council.

The landscape has been challenging and the resilience of our Councillors has been admirable.

To those current Councillors nominating for the Local Government elections, I offer you my best wishes.

To Councillor Phillip Wells - we acknowledge your contribution to Local Government at the previous Murrumbidgee Shire Council and latterly Murrumbidgee Council for more than 2 decades - it is a generous commitment to your community and the wider Council footprint. We wish you well as you can now spend time with family and pursue other interests.

It is encouraging to see renewed interest in our Local Government election set for 4 December - I wish all nominees the best of luck.

We were able to conduct a Staff Recognition Ceremony in Jerilderie on 28 October, 2021. To all of the recipients, we thank you for your commitment to Council and your service to your communities - our thanks also to Julie, Sarah, and Anne for coordinating and making the Ceremony so special.

It is encouraging to see the progress on our Major Projects continuing:

- The Bencubbin Avenue roadworks are moving along well, fingers crossed that the predicted inclement weather does not eventuate;
- The Coleambally Sports Precinct is also moving forward with completion of the Gym very near and the Clubhouse/Scorekeeper/Timekeepers Box completed hopefully by Christmas;
- Brolga Place will be the project of 2022;
- The Jerilderie Early Learning Centre is also taking shape and expected timelines are being met;
- The Skate Park and Pump Track at Elliott Park is due for commencement;
- Darlington Point skate bowl is almost complete;

The rejuvenation of the centre of town is so visible. The energy that DP Business Connect is bringing to the table is great for both businesses and community alike.

I am sure that 2022 will see the Young Street Residential Subdivision activated.

Congratulations to Gavin and Tammy Gilbert for once again investing such time and energy in the Redneck Rally River Run - such generosity is immeasurable.

The RAMJO Annual Board Dinner was held in Albury on 18 and 19 November to coincide with our last Board Meeting of the year. RAMJO will lose four long-standing Local Government stalwarts in John Dal Broi, Griffith City, Paul Maytom, Leeton Shire, Norm Brennan, Edward River Council and Kevin Mack, AlburyCity. A collective wealth of knowledge that will be greatly missed.

Their advocacy for our region has been invaluable, as we continue to strive for better access and connectivity across mobile phone coverage, internet connectivity and reliability, health, education, law enforcement, all things water, staff attraction and retention, a greater slice of the Financial Assistance Grant pool, better remuneration for Councillors, a greater working brief of the planning processes, tangible incentives for economic development and tourism opportunities and a far greater acknowledgement of the huge financial impost that our local roads place on our small rural Councils.

All of the above receive varying degrees of advocacy at both LGNSW and Country Mayors.

The COVID 19 landscape has shifted exponentially. The opening up of most of Australia in a myriad of differing rules and expectations is both encouraging and confusing - we need to continue to practice our hygiene and public health requirements to help keep us safe and navigate the way forward.

My thanks to General Manager, John Scarce, Executive Assistant Julie Conn and all of Council's staff for their assistance and guidance.

Below are a list of meetings attended:

28 October 2021  
Staff Recognition Ceremony, Jerilderie  
CICL AGM, Coleambally

1 November 2021  
St Joseph's Primary School, Jerilderie  
Zoom Meeting - Local Government

4 November 2021  
Tidy Towns AGM, Jerilderie  
Jerilderie

5 November 2021  
Country Mayors Meeting - via Teams

9 November 2021

Newell Highway Taskforce Committee Meeting - via Teams  
Council Mid-Monthly Workshop, Darlington Point

10 November 2021

YSAG Meeting No 14 - SDLAM Water Projects, Morundah

11 November 2021

Remembrance Day Ceremony, Jerilderie  
Awarding of 2021 Sir John Monash Educational Bursary - Mr Austin Mauger  
Local Government Candidate Forum, Darlington Point

17 November 2021

Region 2 Murray Darling Association Meeting, Urana

18/19 November 2021

RAMJO Health Sub Committee - Albury  
RAMJO Board Farewell Dinner - Albury  
RAMJO Board Meeting - Albury  
RAMJO EO Position - Interviews conducted - Albury City Council

22 November 2021

MDBA - Riverina Community Forum, Griffith - via Teams



Ruth McRae  
**MAYOR**