

MAYORAL REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2019

Council Meeting:	24 September 2019
Report Date:	23 September 2019
Author:	Mayor
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The unrelenting dry period seems to know no bounds. Our agricultural sector is now making serious decisions that vacillate between survival and break even.

These decisions of course have a compounding effect, and our small service centres are also feeling significant financial strain. Our economy is at tipping point and the well being of our communities is being sorely tested.

General Manager John Scarce, Deputy Mayor Councillor Black and I attended the Post Amalgamation Forum in Terrigal on 16-17 September, 2019.

In what was an informative forum, some stark realities were made very apparent. It would appear that the greatest impacts of forced Council amalgamations have and continue to be felt by the smaller Councils.

This was no news to us - a small Council - 3 uniquely different communities - 4000 people.

There is no rationale that stands up to genuine scrutiny. Our people - our staff and our communities - have felt the brunt of an onerous, anxious and convoluted process - there is nowhere to hide and there are too many faceless people.

A panel comprising very diverse cases certainly highlighted just how very different Local Government is in the State of NSW.

From the largest Council in NSW - Central Coast Council estimated population of 345,000 and an \$800 million budget to Murrumbidgee Council with an estimated population of 4000 and a \$10 million budget.

What was made very apparent was that the 'process' should have had a flexible and relevant template.

Workshops covering LEP's and Landuse Planning, Workforce and Systems, Local Representation and Community Engagement, and Rates Harmonisation and Finance were informative, but again they need to be pared back to grass roots to be of genuine assistance for us.

Where To From Here - It is our responsibility, as elected members, to make this work. Our Communities - our people - need us to be pro-active and not reactive. They need us to be future focused, accountable and transparent. They need us

to prioritise our service delivery of essential services/core business. They need us to work as a united team so that our Council has a future.

'Team work will make the dream work'.

September and October are incredibly busy times socially in our towns.

Congratulations to the Spring Fair Committee on a very successful event - by all accounts a great day.

Congratulations to the Darlington Point & Coleambally First and Reserve Grade premiership winning teams and commiserations to the under 18's on a mighty effort.

Congratulations to all of our end of season best and fairest winners across all grades and all codes.

Jerilderie's weekend of events 20-22nd September went off very well, with the Monash Dinner, the Jerilderie Gold Cup race meeting and the Jerilderie Public School 150 year celebrations all a resounding success.

The completion of two of our major project builds - the amenities block at the Jerilderie Racecourse and the Jerilderie Independent Living Ltd units set the expectation for many more to follow in the very near future.

Congratulations to the Jerilderie APEX Club on their 50th birthday celebrations.

Below is a summary of meetings I have attended during September. Please feel free to ask questions if you need more information.

28 August 2019

RAMJO Board Meeting – Jerilderie

29 August 2019

State Funeral for Hon Tim Fischer AC – Albury

3 September 2019

NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards - Riverina Region - Wagga Wagga

4 September 2019

Potential Tourism Trail Meeting with Leeton Shire Council - Darlington Point

5 September 2019

Fix The Basin Plan Rally - Tocumwal

6 September 2019

RAMJO Water Sub Committee Meeting - Berrigan

6 September 2019

NSW RFS MIA long service medal presentations - Griffith

7 September 2019

Jerilderie Apex Club 50 year celebrations - Jerilderie

10 September 2019

Coleambally Sports Precinct User Group Meeting - Coleambally

12 September 2019

Coprice Open Day - Coleambally

12 September 2019

Yanco Billabong SDL drop in session - Jerilderie

16-17 September 2019

Life After Amalgamation Forum - Terrigal

19 September 2019

MMZ RFS Liaison Meeting - Deniliquin

20 September 2019

Monash Dinner and Lecture and Monash Bursary Award presentation

21 September 2019

Jerilderie Gold Cup Race Meeting

22 September 2019

150 year celebrations - Jerilderie Public School

22 September 2019

Community open house/viewing of Jerilderie Independent Living Units



Ruth McRae
MAYOR