

MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting:	22 September 2020
Report Date:	21 September 2020
Author:	Mayor
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As we move forward with a cautious level of optimism, we are buoyed by the gradual easing of some of the restrictions in regional Australia.

The economic challenges that are emerging like a runaway train are set to dictate how we manage our way out of the mire, and at what pace.

Council continues to conduct business as expeditiously as possible given the constraints we are working under - we are informed by the Public Health Orders and our movement and accessibility to Contractors are governed by the State.

At all times the safety and well health of our workforce and community are our priority.

While it is frustrating to say the least when our exposure and impact appears minimal, it is this considered mindset that has served us well to date.

Spring is here - the crops look fantastic and the welcome rain at the weekend and hopefully further follow up will ensure a bountiful harvest.

Our town revitalisation projects have certainly given us all something positive to focus on, with generous funding to work with - ably led by teams in each community, the imminent visible signs of investment will undoubtedly lift and promote our amenity for our locals and our visitors.

Water, and then more water, meetings have had a large focus during the last month.

2 meetings with the SDLAM Stakeholder Advisory Group and a further meeting with the 3 Rivers engineer exploring feasible options in the Creek plus a video link up with Minister Pavey, the YACTAC AGM, the Murray Darling Association Virtual Annual Conference and AGM and the Region 9 MDA meeting in Leeton has certainly made clear that this contentious and yet to be rationalised resource is very much a work in progress.

General Manager John Scarce and I met in Darlington Point with Murray Radcliffe and Matt Woodward of the MDBA's Griffith office. There were small but encouraging signs of a willingness to work collaboratively.

I have attended, both virtually and in person, 3 levels of bushfire/RFS meetings:

- RFS Mid Murray Zone (MMZ) Captains Meeting at the southern end of Murrumbidgee Council area;
- MMZ Bush Fire Management Committee Meeting (via Teams)
- Meeting with Chief Superintendent Tim Butcher, South Western Zone RFS regarding Fire preparedness for the coming season (via Teams)

A visit to Coleambally by Hon Sussan Ley MP to inspect some of our Drought Project Round 1 initiatives was a welcome opportunity to showcase some of the things that are happening in our Council footprint - Sam Star was able to show both Ms Ley and Councillors exactly where this money had been spent and who the local contractors had been. We also had the opportunity to speak on water, roads, tourism, economic development, and of course the COVID-19 issue.

I attended the Business Murrumbidgee Darlington Point Chapter Open Night which was well attended.

School holidays are about to commence and the weather is perfect- it will be tempting to get out and about. Please be mindful of the protocols that have kept us safe until now and please keep safe on our roads.

Below are a list of meetings I have attended during the month:

26 August 2020

SDLAM Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting

Video Link up with Minister Pavey, Justin Clancy, MP, Tanya Thompson and Dale McNeil YACTAC

27 August 2020

YACTAC AGM, held at Conargo

2 September 2020

Jerilderie Town Revitalisation Committee Meeting

MDBA Griffith Office - personnel meet and greet

Business Murrumbidgee - Darlington Point Meeting

7 September 2020

Meeting with Chief Superintendent Tim Butcher, South Western Zone RFS (via Teams)

RFS Mid Murray Zone Captains Meeting at the RFS Station Jerilderie

10 September 2020

Meeting with Hon Sussan Ley, MP at Coleambally

11 September 2020

Empowering our Communities Teleconference - RAMJO Representation

14 -16 September 2020

Murray Darling Association Annual Conference and AGM - Virtual

16 September 2020 - Jerilderie Town Revitalisation Meeting

17 September 2020 - Murray Darling Association Region 9 Meeting Leeton and
Bush Fire Management Committee Meeting Deniliquin via Teams

18 September 2020 - SDLAM Road Trip with Engineer - viewing infrastructure
in the Yanco/Colombo /Billabong Creeks



Ruth McRae
MAYOR