

MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting	12 September 2023
Report Date:	6 September 2023
Author:	Mayor
File #:	SC217
Approval:	Mayor

This meeting has come around very quickly. I'd like to thank Councillors and Council staff for accommodating my request for the change of Council meeting day. A three week turnaround is a big push for most of us.

There has been some real evidence of Spring having arrived. The days are warming up, although the nights and mornings are still chilly. We are waiting and watching for rain, which would be really welcome at this stage.

Our Council meeting this month is being held in Coleambally. Our Coleambally Community Hall has undergone an extensive redevelopment - at an estimated cost of \$550,000 - and will now be home to our Coleambally held Council meetings. It will also have the ability to be used for many other events and occasions. This upgraded community asset sits on the rise that overlooks Brolga Place, and has pride of place in the centre of town. I also note that the redevelopment of Brolga Place is progressing well. Recent photos show the installation of the lighting, which certainly portrays a bright and well lit central area, which enhances this hub beautifully. As I write this report, the replacement of the concrete is commencing - this challenging aspect does include the replacement of a water main, so it will be a "working together for the greater good" exercise.

The fact these projects are progressing is so very positive. I was fortunate to be invited, along with Murrumbidgee Council staff, to the "Cultural Site Cleansing Event" facilitated by Transgrid at the Dinawan sub station site south of Coleambally on 30 August. With about 60 people in attendance, we were privileged to witness the Dinawan Dancers Welcome and the ritual Smoking Ceremony. Access to the site will be occurring in the near future. There will be an accommodation village erected that will house up to 300 people. It was a valuable networking opportunity, with many stakeholders in attendance.

On the 31 August/1 September, I attended a 2 day Local Health Advisory Committee (LHAC) Forum in Deniliquin. With over 90 attendees from across the MLHD it was a great opportunity to listen to the MLHD's status report, speaking to their initiatives and their many significant challenges - the greatest of which is their workforce. The greatest challenge as a local LHAC is attracting people to be part of our Advisory Committees. The larger, more engaged communities are able to facilitate a variety of health and wellness sessions - the smaller LHAC's are limited by numbers. In Jerilderie our primary focus is advocating for greater inclusion in all health related positions, advertising and seeking to attract staff with longer term contracts rather than a short term band-aid approach, which is keeping our doors open but a very difficult space to operate in. Unfortunately for all of us, these workforce issues are national.

On 6 September, the General Manager and I met with the Office of Local Government Deputy Secretary Brett Whitworth and Cameron Templeton, to discuss many burning issues. Our conversation covered areas such as Stronger Communities Fund aquittal, its deadlines and the process, Joint Organisations - their viability to stand alone without State input, RFS Red Fleet, Audit Office ongoing dialogue and our advocacy around the need for a review of the Local Government Act, which would make it current and fit for purpose.

I have also attended meetings with the Coleambally Community Club, the Monash Statue Committee and the RFS Murrumbidgee Captains Meeting.

I'd like to wish all of those involved in finals series the very best of luck - your efforts to date are remarkable and we are proud of you all, you are great ambassadors for our towns and Murrumbidgee LGA. I wish the community of Darlington Point every success with their Spring Fair - I hope the visitors are many and you are blessed with fine Spring weather.

Below are meetings I have attended

23 August 2023

Meeting with the Coleambally Community Club Members Coleambally

24 August 2023

Monash Statue Committee Meeting Jerilderie

25 August 2023

Zoom Meeting - LHAC Panel Briefing for Deniliquin Forum Jerilderie

28 August 2023

Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting Jerilderie

30 August 2023

Cultural Cleansing Site Event Coleambally

31 August - 1st of September 2023

Local Health Advisory Committee Forum Deniliquin

6 September 2023

Meeting with Office of Local Government Deputy Secretary Brett Whitworth and Cameron Templeton
Jerilderie

11 September 2023

Murrumbidgee RFS Captains Meeting Jerilderie



Ruth McRae, OAM
MAYOR