

## MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting	27 June 2023
Report Date:	22 June 2023
Author:	Mayor
File #:	SC217
Approval:	Mayor

June and the wintery conditions have hit with a vengeance. Welcome rain has been accompanied by cold conditions. I encourage all to have your vaccinations to minimise the impacts of both the recurring COVID surge and the flu season.

June has been pretty much business as usual.

On 30 May Councillors were offered the opportunity to attend an ICAC information session on Fraud and Corruption - it is really important that we, as Councillors, keep ourselves as current and informed as possible. If we view this in the positive vein it is intended, it will allow us to represent and advocate for our communities, secure in the knowledge that the NOGO parameters are for our protection.

On 6 June I had the pleasure and privilege of conferring Citizenship on our newest Murrumbidgee Australian Citizen, Mr Paul Wood. Mr Wood has lived in Australia for many, many years and very proudly has taken this important step in formalising where he chooses to live. On behalf of the whole Council, we offer you our congratulations.

General Manager John Scarce and I attended the National General Assembly in Canberra from 12-16 June 2023. Over 4 days of conference, we attended a full day Regional Forum on the 13 June, covering topics including:

- Increasing Resilience to Natural Disasters
- Skills Shortages in Regional and Rural Australia
- Connecting and Investing in our Regions
- What does our Regional Future look like

Other presentations included panels and presentations on The Future of Local Government/Leading your Communities through Change; A conversation about the Voice; Natural Disasters; Affordable Housing Crisis and Cyber Security.

We also had an address from the Prime Minister and some of his Ministers. We had the opportunity to meet with our duty Senator Deborah O'Neill, and allowed us to seek her assistance in furthering Council's housing initiative. We met with Senator Perin Davey and Edward River Council for dinner at Parliament House. Senator Davey is from Conargo and is the Deputy Leader of the National Party and an Elected Senator. We also met with Hon Sussan Ley MP and Hon Michael McCormack MP who hosted drinks at Parliament House for all Mayors in Sussan's Federal Electorate. It is very busy, long days but very worthwhile.

Murrumbidgee Council staff facilitated the very impressive “Waste to Art Exhibition”, formally judged and open to the public on 21 Jun, 2023. Our Council footprint is rich in both talent and enthusiasm, acknowledging our key partners in the waste space, acknowledging the great work being done by our operational staff in this space and acknowledging an overview presented by Bill Tink, Environmental Learning Advisor, NetWaste. It was informative, educational and reassuring that Council’s investment in this space is valuable and most necessary. Our thanks to Garry Stoll, Anne Lyons and Eden Hercus for the great night.

I was involved in a survey being conducted at the moment, as a LGA Mayor, and also as a Water License Holder - “Have your say - How DPIE Water, Water NSW and NRAR are delivering long term value to customers and the wider community”. A very interesting opportunity - I’m hopeful that some useful lessons will be identified and carried forward for best practice in this space. Lastly I would like to take this opportunity to thank many of the Murrumbidgee community who have offered congratulations and acknowledged my King’s Birthday 2023 Order of Australia Medal. It is a great honour and lovely to be acknowledged - it is my privilege to be involved in Local Government and has been an even greater privilege to represent and lead our local Council.

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

30 May 2023

ICAC Fraud and Corruption Information Session Jerilderie

6 June 2023

Citizenship Ceremony - Mr Paul Wood Darlington Point

12-16 June 2023

National General Assembly Canberra

19 June 2023

ARIC Committee Meeting Jerilderie

20 June 2023

Western Regional Planning Panel Teams Meeting - Determination of Solar Farm Development, Jerilderie

LHAC Meeting via Zoom Jerilderie

21 June 2023

Consultant’s Phone Survey - re DPIE, Water NSW and NRAR’s long term value  
Jerilderie Waste to Art Exhibition judging and official opening Coleambally



Ruth McRae, OAM  
**MAYOR**