

MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting	18 April 2023
Report Date:	14 April 2023
Author:	Mayor
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Approval:	Mayor

Our area has been the beneficiary of very welcome rains. The Autumn break will hopefully set us up for a promising season to follow.

The Easter break has been and gone and the school holidays are in full swing.

There has been much social activity surrounding us, including the commencement of our football and netball competitions and the annual Good Friday Royal Children's Hospital Golf and Bowls Day held at the Jerilderie Sports Club, which raised an amazing amount in excess of \$23,000.

Council has been busy on our road network spraying, grading and carrying out planned repair and maintenance works.

Our swimming pools have closed for the season - our thanks to our lessees who have provided this valuable service for our communities - our thanks also to our Council staff that have collaboratively ensured that the infrastructure has been maintained to an operational standard.

Council facilitated a late afternoon Council/community information session in Brolga Place on 5 April bringing to the public our progress over 4 major projects.

Brolga Place - updated plans and planned commencement start time - 17 April 2023

Coleambally Sports Precinct - civil works plan

Coleambally Community Hall - plan and project progress update

Coleambally Lake - plan and progress to date with the engagement of the required stakeholders

Council Executive, myself, Deputy Mayor Cr Black and representatives from the Coleambally Early Learning Centre met on 5 April 2023. Areas of importance covered were determining the most appropriate site for this ELC green fields build and in depth discussion around specifics required for the ELC Committee's ability to make applications for opportunistic grant funding.

The Young Street residential development is gaining momentum, and significant visible progress is imminent. This will be a great step forward, and it is our hope that this project proceeds unhindered from here on.

There is a large amount of uncertainty surrounding every sphere of the water story across our LGA - the deadline for delivery of the Murray Darling Basin Plan and its initiatives is looming like a freight train with a June 2024 date, and its inflexibility is certain to cause significant collateral damage.

The SDLAM initiative directly impacts us - The Yanco Creek Modernisation Project now has significant financial and time restrictions that will undoubtedly impact on its ability to be delivered in any form at all. With the lower part of our LGA being impacted, particularly with the intention to "take water" from the Murray River system, it would appear that the foreseeable future will bring uncertainty and there is no doubt our agricultural, business and social fabric will be impacted.

Our ANZAC Day services will be held in each community. I encourage you all to attend our services - there is no doubt both that the price of eternal liberty is continued vigilance.

Below is a small list of meetings I have attended since the last Council meeting. It is only 3 weeks with Easter in the middle - I do assure you life has continued to be busy:

29 March 2023

MDA Region 9 Meeting Griffith

5 April 2023

Staff, Councillors/community information session Brolga Place Coleambally

5 April 2023

Coleambally Early Learning Centre Meeting, Coleambally

6 April 2023

RAMJO Water Sub Committee Teams Meeting

12 April 2023

YSAG - SDLAM Water Meeting Morundah



Ruth McRae
MAYOR