

## MAYORAL REPORT

Council Meeting	23 July 2024
Author:	Mayor
File #:	SC217
Approval:	Mayor

With winter weather well and truly upon us, our everyday living expenses are causing many in our communities significant duress. The cost of living challenges - the cost of power, the cost of food, an ability to pay rent, service your mortgage or even have a roof over your head are becoming an increasingly difficult battle for many in our community.

To those at the coalface delivering services and supporting the many who are struggling, we thank you. If anyone in the community can lend a hand or offer support, please reach out to volunteer or contribute in any way you can.

The MLHD have circulated many Public Health Bulletins encouraging us to be mindful regarding the many bugs out there. The one thing we can all do is, if we are unwell, whether it be the flu, COVID 19, RSV, is to be mindful of where we are and the transmission of these bugs to our more vulnerable cohorts.

Council currently has a survey circulating regarding the operating hours preferred by our communities for our swimming pools - please take the time to complete this survey so Council can best cater to the majority of our swimmers and families.

Council facilitated 3 drop in sessions regarding our Western Riverina Drought Resilience Planning Program Project. These sessions were very poorly attended. The General Manager and I had the opportunity to meet on line with the Project Co-Ordinators Meridian Urban prior to the community sessions. Feedback in this space would be valuable.

The Local Government Elections will take place on 14 September 2024 Nominations open on 5 August 2024. I encourage those that may be interested to touch base with myself or any current Councillors or our Council's General Manager if you would like to have a chat regarding the expectations and commitment required to step into his role.

Excitingly, Council's new website is due to go live on 31 July - as the first point of entry to our organisation, it is vital that it is user friendly, visibly attractive and informative. Importantly, for Council efficiency, it must be reliable, cost effective and operate on a trusted platform.

The major roadworks on the Newell Highway just north of the bridge over the Billabong Creek are all but complete. This is a major improvement and a significant financial investment on this national transport corridor - the work has been carried out expeditiously with minimal interruption and the Jerilderie

community is grateful for the upgraded work ensuring safety is paramount and traffic movement is optimised.

The National General Assembly in Canberra was a very full 4 day program.

Day 1 was a Regional and Rural Forum - We seem to visit the same pillars annually - with some degree of investment but are we actually keeping pace or are we slipping slowly backwards in areas of connectivity, housing and infrastructure - roads and transport, energy transition, disaster recovery and resilience. The discussions, while enlightening, often leave you with a degree of frustration.

Days 2, 3 and 4 saw addresses from:

- Newly appointed Governor General Sam Mostyn AC.
- A thought provoking presentation from a demographer - Simon Kuestemacher on intergenerational equity and fairness
- An address by the current Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and territories, Kristy McBain
- The Prime Minister Mr Anthony Albanese - briefly
- Panel contributor Mr Chris Bowen

Panel Session's on Climate Change and Renewable Energy, Disaster Recovery and Resilience, Service Delivery, Housing, Communications and Skills and Capacity.

The Murray Darling Association National Conference was held in Tamworth. This 2 Day Conference is also very packed.

We had addresses from:

- NSW Water Minister Rose Jackson
- Shadow Minister for Water Senator Perrin Davey
- Ms Steph Cooke MP
- Mr Troy Grant and IGWC
- Mr Phil Coates DECEW
- Mr Andrew McConville MDBA
- Ms Zara Lowein NSWIC

We did have the chance to circulate the open letter Council penned to the Prime Minister regarding our grave concerns with the water buybacks, which have now proceeded to tender. We have been approached by some areas of the media, to which we have provided commentary.

It was an insightful segment that appeared on Landline regarding the Friends of Toganmain and there is a passion for restoring the woolshed to its fitting and former glory. It is a huge undertaking and Council wishes the Committee and all volunteers well in their continued endeavours.

Our major projects continue to progress, all be it slowly.  
Our roads program continues, as stated in our workshop papers.

Meetings /Conferences attended since last meeting of Council:

26 June 2024

Jerilderie Bakery - re proposed change of traffic movement in Powell St  
Jerilderie  
Meeting in Jerilderie

28 June 2024

Honestly Riverina Rice Meeting  
Jerilderie Chambers

1-5 July 2024

National General Assembly of Local Government  
Canberra

9-11 July 2024

Murray Darling Association National Conference  
Tamworth

15 July 2024

Jerilderie LHAC Meeting  
Jerilderie

22 July 2024

Coleambally Irrigation Co-operative Limited  
Jerilderie Chambers



Ruth McRae, OAM  
**MAYOR**