

Mayoral Report – 23 November 2022

Good Morning Councillors, CEO Tammy Smith, managers and guests within the gallery. Welcome and thank you all for attending the 2022 Statutory Council meeting.

It has been a privilege to serve as Mayor of Yarriambiack Shire Council over the last 12 months. I feel extremely privileged, humbled, and honoured to represent our council and community over this 12-month period.

Last week I was asked, “What’s the one positive that you believe has been the highlight of your mayoral term?”

- It was hard to answer – how do I pick just ONE!

My term as mayor has been an amazing experience and one which I have thoroughly enjoyed. I have witnessed our communities and council regroup, recoup, and rebuild after the effects of COVID. It has been heart-warming to see our communities out and about, engaging, enjoying, and hosting events as the restrictions reduced over the year. Volunteers within our towns have hosted and planned events across our Shire which have connected and brought people together.

A huge congratulations to the Minyip and Murtoa communities and their associated committees when hosting their 150-year celebrations. These events brought massive crowds to both communities where an enjoyable weekend was celebrated by past residents, current residents, and visitors.

Council proudly completed several major projects during the year, with some of these including the lighting at the Hopetoun recreational reserve, Beulah Netball courts and changerooms and Brim tennis and netball courts.

Funding for master planning and for Anzac Park, the old school site at Hopetoun, Murtoa Master planning and Rupanyup Street scape have been a wonderful tool for communities to offer feedback as to what they see as their communities’ future needs and offer input, ideas, and suggestions with regard to this.

Success in the Regional Infrastructure Fund – Round 2 saw the Affordable housing project receive funding which will enable construction of new two-bedroom housing units for older residents across Warracknabeal, Hopetoun, Murtoa, Rupanyup and Woomelang and successful funding will transform the Rupanyup library into a multi purpose community hub that will be a wonderful asset to the Dunmunkle communities.

As Mayor of the Yarriambiack Shire Council it gives me immense pleasure to confirm that a new childcare facility will be built in Murtoa. Election commitments have been received from both the Labor and Coalition Governments, securing the project that has been a priority for Council and the community for many years. I would like to thank the Dunmunkle communities and CEO Tammy Smith for their unwavering advocacy - "The tireless work of Councillors, staff and the community has certainly paid off.

The heavy rain and unprecedented wet season have offered unusual challenges to our road networks and capital works programs. The full damage to our roads only now be fully assessed as the rain slows and the water subsides. Council staff are working to prioritise the roads that need repairs prior to the harvest season so that product can be moved effectively by farmers from the paddock.

With regard to the water event I would like to sincerely thank council management and staff for the countless behind the scenes hours that have been allocated and the time spent ensuring that our communities had the most effective flood mitigation practices in place when and if needed.

Council is committed to effective communication with our community. Throughout the year the community consultation process was enhance and adapted so that residents could be informed of important information but also more importantly be the champions of their communities to offer feedback, input and suggestions and have their voice heard regarding what is needed in their communities.

On a personal note, Mayor is a role that I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to hold and it has indeed been a privilege to engage, advocate and represent Yarriambiack on and at many occasions. A particular highlight was conducting the Australian Citizenship Ceremonies throughout the year, attending the round table for age care reform, and advocating for housing and childcare across our communities.

In closing I would like to sincerely thank my fellow councillors for their dedication, support and commitment to their role as Cr, it has been a privilege to serve with you all over the 12-month period. I would like to also offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to CEO Tammy Smith whose knowledge, leadership, guidance, and dedication to Yarriambiack Shire Council is seen in every decision.

To the council managers and staff I say thank you and I would like to acknowledge your dedication, guidance and passion that is put into decisions and projects with the view to make Yarriambiack grow and flourish.

Most importantly I would like to thank our communities for their innovation, motivation, resilience, support, and enthusiasm to ensure that their town and community is represented, has a voice and is an amazing place to reside in. Partnerships achieve amazing results.

To my wonderful family and friends, I am deeply grateful and appreciative for your support and assistance over the past 12 months it has been invaluable.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to serve as your Mayor.

Cr Kylie Zanker