

From the Mayor – March 2021

In mid-February, the General Manager and I met with Ms Christine White, Board member, and Mr Andrew Mulligan, General Manager of the Local Land Services.

Various topics of mutual interest were discussed, especially the current infestation of mice throughout the local government area and beyond.

We also met with Ms Emma Bradbury, Chief Executive Officer of the Murray Darling Association, and Councillor Craig Davies, Mayor of Narromine Shire Council, to discuss the benefits of becoming a member of the Association. Information provided demonstrated the potential benefits to be gained with Council adding its voice regarding coal seam gas extraction and maintaining adequate flows of the river system feeding the Macquarie Marshes. I am pleased to say my colleagues supported my motion for us to become a 'member council' of the Murray Darling Association.

The RDA Orana Inland Growth Summit was held in Dubbo on 26 February. Councillor Deans, the General Manager and Manager Economic Development and Growth were able to attend on behalf of our Council. It was concerning to note that throughout the region there is a general shortage of employees and potential employees to fill various job vacancies. RDA staff are investigating potential solutions to this challenging situation and we will keep our businesses informed of any positive outcomes.

Finally, I can say with some confidence that progress is being made on the Tooraweenah Road upgrade. This has been a long and exhaustive exercise due to the amount of funding involved and various approvals that needed to be obtained for all stages of the work. It is paramount that our three tiers of government be 'in sync', and it appears this will now be the case with regular meetings of Federal, State and Local Government representatives scheduled monthly.

I encourage you all to read some of the outcomes of the March meeting which are highlighted in this newsletter.

Should anyone wish to contact me to discuss issues or concerns, please phone 0427 887 666.

Ahmad Karanouh

Mayor