

ATTACHMENT 1:

OUTGOING MAYORAL REPORT

The past 12 months have been an incredibly active time for Strathbogie Shire Council and we have achieved some significant outcomes and started some highly anticipated projects. This mayoral term began whilst still under covid restrictions and Council has continued to provide community and business support in response to the pandemic.

The year has proved busy with the federal election in May and the upcoming state election. One key role of council is to advocate to both federal and state governments for funding to be able to achieve projects within our community. This is particularly important for shires like ours as we operate on a much smaller budget than our regional city and metropolitan colleagues.

We have run a strong advocacy campaign all year, starting with a federal government focus and shifting to a state focus. As I have presented our advocacy asks over the year, I have witnessed both the Strathbogie Shire Council's name and our projects be recognised and known well within the state and federal governments. We were thrilled to recently learn that our advocacy to produce a feasibility study for the Balmattum Hil Mountain Bike Track was funded by the state government.

It is exciting to see the highly anticipated Nagambie Foreshore Walk started which will provide greater pedestrian and cycle access between the Regatta Centre / Caravan Park area and the township. Equally seeing the Splash Park in Buckley's Park take shape is a great development for the local community and visitors to Nagambie.

After years of work with the community, we saw the completion of the new Rockies Bridge crossing the Seven Creeks in Euroa. This community driven project has been welcomed by the Apex track users and ensures improved access to this beautiful natural landscape in the town. The original Rockies Bridge has been relocated to the Arboretum and installed in the gardens down there to preserve the history of this community infrastructure.

We've started works on our Streetscape renewal across the shire with stage 1 completed in Avenel, Longwood and Euroa. We're looking forward to continuing to roll these project out in Nagambie, Violet Town and Strathbogie.

As local government is reliant on good policies and plans, we have been busy adopting and updating important documents to ensure that we operate council to the highest level of good governance, transparency and accountability. Some significant documents we adopted were the Asset Management Plan, Tree Management Policy, Tree Management Plan, Public Art Policy, Climate Action Plan and Community Engagement Policy to name just a few.

We have commenced work on a Planning Scheme Review, which we know is incredibly important to the community to ensure we are making planning decisions which balance community expectations and development requirements.

Our community, farmers, clubs, businesses, and shire have been significantly impacted by the floods and third La Nina season. Whilst we continue to support the whole community in the recovery process, we will continue to work on restoring assets as quickly as we can. This week we are finalising the impact to council infrastructure and it will result in a reassessment of our current capital works budget so we can redirect funds to flood recovery projects. We know that the poor condition of roads post the floods is frustrating and improving conditions as soon as possible is our top priority. Unfortunately, we have to keep Lake Nagambie and Kirwan's Bridge closed until they can be thoroughly assessed by specialist and deemed safe to open.

I would like to thank Deputy Mayor Murray, fellow councillors, CEO Julie Salamon, the executive leadership team and all staff for their support of me in this role for the past 12 months. I have learnt a great deal and look forward to sharing my skills and knowledge in the role of councillor in the years to come.