



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Buloke CEO Resigns**

**15 September 2016**

The Chief Executive Officer of the Buloke Shire Council, John Hicks, gave notice yesterday, Wednesday 14 September, of his resignation to be effective as of 3 February 2017.

John was appointed in May 2014, at a time when the Shire of Buloke was undergoing huge challenges to its financial sustainability and organisational effectiveness. The ensuing period has seen cuts to expenditure, a focus on core services, large staff reductions, significant changes to workplace culture and a return to financial health and sustainability.

“Now that the transition to a more sustainable Council has been achieved, I believe my role at Buloke can come to an end.” John said, “I am leaving the Council in very capable hands with an excellent Senior Management Team and a strong and capable workforce. This will be a great opportunity for a new Chief Executive Officer living and working in the community”

John was specifically appointed to take Council through a period of major change and the task of the new Council and its Chief Executive Officer will be to continue that change to the next level of engagement and performance. A key element of this work will emphasise the alignment of Council with its community; focussing on its needs and future.

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Council staff for the enormous job they have done over the past couple of years. The organisation has gone through huge challenges and changes, and has emerged as a stronger and more effective and compassionate organisation as a result.” he said, “I would also like to thank Councillors for their strong and steadfast approach that has enabled these essential changes to be made.”

The Mayor, Cr Reid Mather, congratulated John on an excellent job implementing the radical changes required by Council in such a seamless and effective manner.

“Council would like to thank John Hicks for all he has done. He was very much the right person at the right time to facilitate changes that were necessary to set Council on the path to financial sustainability. He oversaw an enormous organisational transition without mass redundancies. It was quite difficult for John at the coalface and he handled the task and himself with grace and empathy for community and staff alike”, said Cr Mather.

**End release**

**For further information contact Media and Communications Officer, Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520.**