



Media Release

Council Meets With Community

18 May 2018

Buloke Shire Council held a Community Forum Summit in Wycheproof on Monday night 14 May 2018. These summits have become a vital cog in not just budget consultation but ensuring successful relationships between Council and community leaders are fostered.

After an informal networking opportunity to start proceedings, Mayor Cr David Pollard welcomed community guests before handing over to CEO Anthony Judd who outlined the evening.

“It’s an exciting time in Buloke. I am obviously excited as the newly installed CEO to really deliver on the next year of our Council Plan”, said Mr Judd.

The CEO then walked the audience through a recently implemented initiative which has seen Council’s management team being given a township’s community group to build a two way dialogue with. He also touched on the current financial situation and outlined the impacts of the recently delivered state and federal government budgets on Buloke, including a \$20 million state commitment to small rural shires, \$100 million state commitment to fund rural and regional roads and money for the Silo Art trail and Calder Highway improvements.

Presentations followed on the draft Annual Budget, Capital Works Projects, Building Buloke 2030 project, draft Economic Development and Tourism Strategy and the Community Support Policy.

The highlight of the night was Anthony Judd facilitating an advocacy panel discussion consisting of Alison McClelland (Chair Advance Sea Lake), Win Scott (Chair Mallee Regional Partnership) and Danny Forrest (Donald Community Precinct). The panel shared their tips on successful advocacy for rural towns, the key message was to get Council involved in helping to deal with other levels of government and for the community group to be innovative and demonstrate the passion for their project and the stories connected.

John McConville Donald 2000 President spoke on the Donald experience of working together with Council to deliver great projects for their community. Cr Graeme Milne (also Chair of the Watchem Progress Association) spoke on the Watchem approach to community planning and project delivery.

The presentations promoted lively discussion on the make-up of Council’s budget with ratepayer’s from farming properties and from within townships sharing their views, particularly around the maintenance of roads.

“The Community Forum Summits are a great event on the Buloke calendar, a real opportunity to bring Council and community leaders together. It is a key networking tool for communities to touch base with others doing similar things elsewhere in Buloke. Council learns just as much from these nights as our attendees do”, said Mayor Cr David Pollard.

End release

For further information contact Team Leader Communications, Travis Fitzgibbon on 03 5478 0181 or tfitzgibbon@buloke.vic.gov.au