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COUNCILLOR COLUMN



As a first term councillor I am honoured to be recognised by the community in this way. This

opportunity is a privilege to have, and a weighty responsibility entrusted on me by the community.

In these first nine months, I have found as councillors we are exposed to a large perspective and are ever building on being acquainted with as many corners of the community as possible. That means councillors can find groups and people to connect with for the greater good.

For me this has included where farmers are fighting for a better deal from Transgrid, the Sculptures Trail working with local volunteers, Tumbarumba Ngarigo connecting with the Tracks and Trails Treadwell team, Tumbarumba Basketball meeting Tumbarumba Jiu jitsu, and Rotary working with Landcare.

Seeking and being open to collaboration is a tell-tale sign of a healthy community and optimism in its people. Community Leaders should be proud of their volunteer groups when they seek new connections that help their ambitions move forward. It also is a powerful part of resilience in the community - that we all hope the best for. - **Cr Sam Hughes**

COUNCIL PURSUES DEMERGER RESPONSE

Council has voted to pursue a demerger and has written to the Minister for Local Government requesting that the previous recommendation of the Boundaries Commission to demerge Snowy Valleys Council be upheld.

Councillors agreed that not having to put together a new business case would reduce the financial burden and any further risk to the emotional health of the community

Mayor Ian Chaffey will meet with Minister Wendy Tuckerman next week to followup on the letter and speak with her directly regarding council's request.

GOLDFIELDS PARK UPGRADES



Work has started on forming a large, raised mound in preparation for the installation of the new park amenities.

The mound is situated between the existing amenities and the oval and will enable the new amenities to sit above the low flood levels.

Once completed and turfed the raised ground will complement the landscape and feature concrete terrace seating.

The prefabricated new amenities building has been ordered, but due to demand and the battling construction industry delivery is slated for March 2023.

In the meantime, the existing amenities will remain open for locals and visitors.

Council received \$650,000 from the NSW Government's Public Spaces Legacy Program for the Goldfields upgrades and master planning project.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

We currently have over 12 crews out on weekdays, weekends and public holidays working hard to keep up with the high levels of additional road maintenance and fixing the potholes that seem to grow overnight!

with over 1,190km of sealed and unsealed roads to cover, the persistent wet weather is taking a big toll on not only our road network but also our capital works budget.

The 2022-23 Capital Works budget contains \$4.34M (including approximately \$2.8M grant funding) for road renewal works, however the increased need for repair and management on deteriorating road surfaces and predicted continued wet weather will be a challenge for the allocated budget.

Please always drive to the conditions and keep an eye out for our hard working crews to keep them safe.



BATLOW CARAVAN PARK WORKER ACCOMMODATION UPDATE

Early earthworks on the Batlow Caravan Park expansion uncovered a buried concrete separator tank left over from the old cannery days.

The tank has now been dug out and the hole backfilled in preparation for the storm water installation works.

While wet weather continues to impact ground works, the offsite construction of the prefabricated units is progressing nicely.

The \$3.75M Itinerant Worker Accommodation at the Batlow Caravan Park is slated to open in early 2023.



FILTRATION SYSTEM RENEWAL AT BATLOW WATER TREATMENT PLANT

There's a lot that happens behind the scenes to deliver the town water that comes out of our taps.

The Batlow plant has just had its 54 microfiltration membranes replaced.



The membranes are made up of thousands of porous fibres that filter out various particles and impurities found in the raw water entering the plant.

As the fibres become blocked larger amounts of raw water from the Kunama Dam are needed for the regular backwash process.

The blockages can compromise performance and plant efficiency, but it does not affect the quality of the water produced.

Replacing the membranes is a complex project undertaken while the plant is in operation. The work is done in the cooler months when demand for water at the plant is lower.

With regular maintenance membrane fibres can last between 8 to 12 years.

POOL SEASON OPENS ON 15 OCTOBER

The Adelong and Tumut pools will be the first to open to the public and paid card holders on Saturday 15 October.

General Public Opening Hours

ADELONG

- Monday to Friday: 3.30pm - 6.30pm
- Weekends: 1.00pm - 6.00pm

TUMUT

- Monday to Thursday: 3.30pm - 6.30pm
- Friday 3.30pm – 6.00pm
- Weekends: 1.00pm - 6.00pm

Days and times subject to change at short notice based on staff availability.