

Mayor's Message



This week Meg Edwards has advised that she will resign from her position as a Councillor for the Tarwin Valley ward on 30 October. I am certainly sad to hear this news but I also respect her decision in these difficult circumstances.

Meg is a passionate community advocate and I can see how this led to her successful nomination for Council and now her candidacy for the State Government elections in November. It has been a fantastic opportunity working alongside Meg for the last two years – her drive is truly an inspiration and I know it'll hold her in good stead for her future endeavours.

I am hopeful that Meg can see just how much of an influence she has been during her time at Council. Her dedication to the region and desire to create the best opportunities possible is exemplary and her views will be missed around the Council table.

For those asking about the challenges we have faced as a Council and how we are dealing with the issues coming to light it must be noted that the Municipal Monitor's role is to review and improve Council's governance processes –which includes Councillor relationships.

I would like to reassure all our community members and ratepayers that Council continues to function to the best of its ability and that those of us around the table are committed to properly representing you all. I am not so naïve as to suggest that there aren't problems, but the first step to improving things is to acknowledge the issues and then to put measures in place to rectify them. Over the coming weeks and months I will work with my colleagues to ensure a safe and collegiate workplace for all.

I would also like to take the opportunity to remind people that the issues identified by the Minister and spoken about by outgoing Councillors reflect on the Council itself, not on the staff who continue to do a remarkable job providing services to the community. From Tim the CEO and his executive team to every last person who plays their part working for Council, I have the utmost respect for the way the staff conduct themselves. The fact that all our services continue to be provided with everything else that's going on is a credit to the professional integrity of all our employees.

Cr Lorraine Brunt
Mayor