



# LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL

Council Chambers  
LEETON 2705

Date: 23 August 2017

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

**23 AUGUST 2017**

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Kruger'.

Jackie Kruger  
General Manager

**LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL**

**AGENDA**

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

**23 August, 2017**

**7.00PM**

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**6. MAYORAL MINUTES**

**MAYORAL REPORTS**

**6.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - CONGRATULATIONS BRENT LAWRENCE.2**

**6.2 MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION ORGANISATIONAL CHANGES...3**

**MAYORAL REPORTS**

**ITEM 6.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - CONGRATULATIONS BRENT  
LAWRENCE**

**RECORD NUMBER** 17/136

**RELATED FILE NUMBER** EF10/497

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**MAYORAL MINUTE**

For the formal record I wish to acknowledge Council's Communications and Marketing Coordinator Brent Lawrence who, earlier this month, was awarded the RH Dougherty Award for Outstanding Individual Contribution in Communications at the 2017 Local Government NSW Awards Week Ceremony.

The awards are named after former Local Government Association President Robert Dougherty, who demonstrated an unwavering commitment to best practice communication between Councils and ratepayers throughout a 20-year career in the sector.

Since Brent's arrival in the role the community has been kept more informed than ever through his regular media releases and active social media presence across all platforms.

Council's website, which is the face of Council for many residents, has been overhauled with up to date content, greater searchability and improved access for people with sight or hearing impairments. The introduction of "Have Your Say" as an engagement tool has allowed many more people to engage with Council and give feedback on strategies, plans, policies and programs that Council has developed.

Thank you Brent for helping our community to become active and engaged citizens of Leeton Shire and for building Council's reputation in the sector.

**Mayor Cr Paul Maytom.**

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the minute be received and noted and Council's congratulations and thanks be extended to Brent Lawrence.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

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**ITEM 6.2 MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION ORGANISATIONAL CHANGES**

**RECORD NUMBER** 17/137

**RELATED FILE NUMBER** EF10/214

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**MAYORAL MINUTE**

As we all know, Leeton is the birth place of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. If you look at an aerial view of the Shire it is almost entirely criss-crossed by canals and channels that serve hundreds of irrigated farms. I am concerned that this history is being forgotten by Murrumbidgee Irrigation Ltd in its recent decisions to relocate a large part of its workforce to Griffith. I appreciate that businesses need to run efficiently, but when a company is effectively owned by the users there need to be considerations outside of just dollars. Our community deserves to get the same level of service as any other part of the MIA and we need MI Ltd to continue to contribute to the commercial activity in Leeton Shire. Every time a service is reduced or leaves town it has a flow on effect to local businesses, local services, local schools, local sports clubs etc.

I am also deeply concerned that MI Ltd may be suggesting to Yanco residents that Council is backing their plans to buy their water licences to progress a beautification scheme by closing in the channels. This is categorically incorrect and MI Ltd has been requested to cease linking Council with their decision to rationalise services in Yanco.

I intend to write to the MI Ltd Board to ask for the full details of their staff and infrastructure rationalisation plans in Leeton and to appeal to their moral conscience to remain loyal to Leeton as the birthplace of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA) and a key area in their network. MI Ltd has received an unprecedented level of funding from the federal government in recent years to improve its infrastructure and services. With this level of investment there should be every opportunity to sustain full services in Leeton while still running a sustainable business operation.

Councillor endorsement of this action would be appreciated.

**Mayor Cr Paul Maytom**

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council endorses the actions of the Mayor in writing to Murrumbidgee Irrigation Ltd Board to request full details of their staff and infrastructure rationalisation plans in Leeton and to appeal to their moral conscience to remain loyal to Leeton, which is the birthplace of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA) and a key area in their network.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

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