

Mayors Corner,
25th October 2007

Hi Folks,

Local Government Reform

At last you will all be able to have your say on forced amalgamations. The Australian Electoral Commission has announced that postal votes will be sent out two working days after the Federal Election. This would mean you all should have them by the end of November. However, as information is fed to us at Council, I will keep you well informed as it is still crucial for your vote to be recorded.

Community Forum Meetings

I have been asked to report on the Community Forum meetings we have conducted over the last two weeks. It was unfortunate that it clashed with other events that were happening but Council really did not want to delay the process any longer. I must stress that community involvement and input is going to be a very important part of the new regional structure of Local Government for the future. We have been allocated 6 Councillors plus a mayor, so forums of this nature before a budget and after a budget are going to give everyone an opportunity to understand how and what can be delivered and serviced for that financial year. It will also be the opportunity for people to address issues and ask questions so that everyone has a greater understanding of Council's Operational Plan.

The audiences we spoke with were very pleased to be given a clear and precise presentation of our future direction, the 2007/08 Budget and Corporate Plans. This information was followed by a question time that was extremely good and allowed us as Councillors to hear your concerns. Amalgamation uncertainty issues of course were answered by sharing the information we have. The Goondiwindi Regional Council Local Transition Committee (LTC) will be holding community forums during the middle of November, and we will keep everyone informed as those dates become confirmed.

Local Transition Committee (LTC)

We are pleased to inform you that all future LTC meetings will be open to the public as observers and will follow the same ruling as Ordinary Council Meetings. The next LTC will be held at Waggamba Shire 9am on Wednesday 7th November.

On my stroll around both towns that I have been doing lately, I must compliment those of you with such wonderful gardens. Both towns are to be very proud of the effort put into these gardens as it all adds to the presentation and compliment the efforts of our workforce that mow and keep the place clean and tidy. Well done! This effort has definitely not gone unnoticed.

Until Next time
Mayor Joan