

SUBJECT: MAYORAL MINUTE - FINAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE TERM
FROM: The Mayor
EDMS #: 24/406888

This evening marks the final Ordinary Council meeting for this term of Council, and I'm incredibly proud of what we have achieved.

When we were elected in December 2021, Camden faced immediate and severe challenges. Our area was devastated by four floods within just five months. Our Council crews worked tirelessly during each event, closing roads, clearing debris and repairing the damage to ensure our community's safety. Their dedication and hard work during these trying times have been nothing short of heroic, and I extend my deepest gratitude to all involved.

Camden continues to be one of the fastest-growing local government areas in the country. Our population has grown from 122,000 at the start of our Council term, to more than 138,000 people who now have the privilege of calling this incredible part of the world home. This growth continues to bring an amazing level of diversity to our area, allowing us to become a vibrant tapestry of cultures and traditions, beautifully woven together with Camden's rich history. Our residents come from more than 90 countries, identify with over 120 nationalities, speak more than 80 languages and follow more than 40 religions.

Despite the shortened term, the impact of this Council has been profound and far-reaching. We continued the critical work initiated by the previous Council to support our community and businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic. Our efforts in progressing the \$130.6 million COVID-19 Community Support Package have provided much-needed relief and support to our residents and businesses, helping to foster resilience and recovery in our community.

We also secured more than \$130 million through the NSW Government's Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants program to deliver 11 transformational infrastructure projects, all of which will provide significant benefits for the community.

Of all the incredible things we have delivered over this term, a few of the capital works highlights achieved include:

- The completion of the Oran Park Leisure Centre, which is set to open in October;
- Mount Annan Leisure Centre renewal;
- Nepean River Trail;
- Ferguson Land Cricket Facility;
- Design of the Camden Animal Shelter, Community Education Hub and Community Nursery;
- The commencement of work on the Camden Civic Centre renewal and upgrade;
- Community engagement on the John Street Public Domain upgrade and activation;
- Narellan Sports Hub expansion completion;
- Kirkham Park BMX Facility completion;
- The start of work on the Cut Hill Reserve Sports Field redevelopment;
- The start of work on walking trails in John Oxley Reserve, Kirkham; and
- Design of Stage 1A of The Crest, Gledswood Hills.

Just to name a few, some of the community initiatives developed and service enhancements made during this Council term include:

- Improvements to bin collection routes;
- Development of the draft Leppington Planning Proposal – a vision to transform Leppington into a thriving, integrated and lively town centre;
- Running of the Customer Satisfaction Survey, which saw 96% of the community indicating a level of satisfaction with Council's overall performance;
- Opening of the Community Recycling Centre;
- Launch of Your Voice Camden – an online community engagement tool;
- New Boots n' Beats country music festival;
- Live screening of the Matildas' World Cup semi-final against England;
- Council's first Careers Expo;
- Council's first Volunteer Expo; and
- The Empowering Inclusivity through Technology project, which has made it easier for people to access wet wheelchairs at our water play spaces.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank several individuals and teams for their unwavering support and dedication. To the General Manager, Andrew Carfield, and the former General Manager, Ron Moore, thank you for your leadership and vision. To the Executive Team and the Senior Management Team, your commitment and hard work have been instrumental in realising the decisions of this Council. To every staff member and volunteer at Council, your efforts have gone a long way in making Camden a place our residents are proud to live, work and play in. Your dedication to outstanding service has been exemplary.

To my fellow Councillors, thank you for your service to our community and for your support, especially during my time as Mayor. Together, we have navigated through numerous challenges and achieved significant positive outcomes for our residents. I am excited to see what the future holds for Camden.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank my husband, John, and our four beautiful children. Your continuous love, support, and patience have been my backbone, allowing me to fulfil my duties as Mayor. Your understanding and sacrifices have made my service possible, and, for that, I am eternally grateful.

Thank you, everyone, for your dedication and support. It has been a privilege to be your Mayor.

RECOMMENDED

That Council note the information.