



TONING DOWN OF RESTRICTIONS

Through what has been another tough time for local businesses the COVID-19 pandemic has added to the pressure that has impacted them for the last 18 months. A tough task for any Government negotiate a path through, but this week sees some welcome concessions come into play. Hopefully these concessions, and recognition of that risks still prevail, communities such as ours can begin to move forward and start to repair some of the financial damage done over this period. Council has been able to ease some of the restrictions they had to put in place, and hopefully these can be eased more into the future. These changes will be communicated on Council's website and the Apsley Advocate.

NEW DIRECTOR

New Director Infrastructure Peter Murray started his tenure at Walcha Council a fortnight ago and brings a great deal of experience in that role to our Council. With so much infrastructure funded in Walcha over the next couple of years Peters' appointment is certainly timely. Council wish Peter good luck for the duration of time here and look forward to working with him.

GRANT FUNDING

The release of another \$591,796 from Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program from the Federal Government last week continues the flow of much needed stimulus money into our community. Following other grant received over the last couple of years this will certainly provide better facilities to all of us. On top of the success of the Showground Trust in obtaining over \$180,000 for building improvements from the State Government, and their safety upgrade funding of around \$50,000 will greatly improve what is arguably the most utilized public facility in Walcha.

LOOKING AFTER A COMMUNITY

Having been the recipient of a flu needle and COVID-19 test at the Showground a couple of weeks ago it was a great time to reflect on what a tight and caring community we are lucky to be a part of. The dedication, forethought and care which the Walcha General Practice have offered residents should not go without recognition. On a day that would have had a polar bear in a coat and ugg boots Dr Allen and his staff, in mud, rain and wind, soldiered on and when I arrived at 4:30pm were still smiling. It's easy to pull into a drive through like this and not appreciate what thought and compassion was involved in the planning of this day. I spoke to many people who wouldn't have gotten the flu shot, and certainly not had the COVID test, if not for this type of access. Thank you all and hope you warmed up that night.

BUSHFIRE GRANTS

Businesses in Walcha that have not applied for the \$10,000 Bushfire Grants should research them and consider applying. Our LGA has been included in this funding in recognition of the impact last years fires had on the viability of our businesses. The important message



once again don't self assess, put in your claim and take it from there. If you are unsuccessful and wish to have your application reassessed call me and we will pursue other options.

LLS BOARD

Fellow Councillor Scott Kermode was successful in his bid to be elected to the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services Board. This Board plays such a large role in primary producers and communities lives, being the 'go to' place for so much information and assistance in many areas. Covering livestock health etc, pests, weeds and diseases as well as drought, an issue Scott hopes won't plague him too much in his term, to have local representation is a win for our community. LLS, along with Australian Wool Innovation were instrumental in gaining the close on \$1 million for the linear exclusion fence in the Moona Winterbourne area. Previously Ross King and Tim Norton have both been members of this Board. Having spent nearly four years on Council with Scott I know he will represent your opinions without fear or favour and would certainly appreciate your ideas or opinions.

Clr Eric Noakes
Mayor of Walcha