

# *From the* **Mayor's Desk**

## **Cattle feed manufacturing business coming to Guyra**

*with*

**Councillor Robyn Jackson**

At an extraordinary meeting held in late April, Council considered the future options for the Guyra cattle yards. These facilities are ageing, no longer meet OH&S standards, are not used for cattle sales and are only used periodically for the loading and unloading of cattle. At the same time, this land is prime industrial real estate.

Following the calling of expressions of interest for this land, Council resolved to sell it to New England Stock-Feeding Service (NESS).

NESS intend to set up a stock feeding manufacturing and distribution plant on-site that should initially employ eight people, and eventually employ around double this amount.

Council also resolved to contribute \$25,000 from the sale proceeds towards the construction of a suitable cattle loading and unloading facility to be located in the sheep yards.

I am pleased to see another business coming to the Shire and the potential beginning of an industrial estate in the town. I wish the owners all the best with this exciting venture.

## **Tomato Farm DA approved for Stage 2 and 3**

Council had the absolute pleasure of approving stage 2 (another 5ha glass house) and stage three (a 10ha glass house) for the tomato farm at this months meeting. I believe stage 2 is currently on the "high seas" and on its way to Guyra while stage 3 will be some time away. While most people already know that the Tomato farm is a success story for both the Shire and for the operators, stage 2 will bring opportunities for some 60 additional jobs with stage 3 over 120 job opportunities being provided. I wish to congratulate Godfrey Dol and his team as well as the Costa Group of Companies for the confidence they have shown in our community.



## **Strategic Alliance endorsement**

I had the pleasure of attending and presenting at a Strategic Alliance Conference held jointly by the Department of Local Government and the Local Government and Shires Association. The conference highlighted all the efforts made by Councils across the State to make better efforts to resource share to improve services to their community.

I was overwhelmed by the number of positive comments made during the conference by both the Minister for Local Government and his Deputy Director General about our own New England Strategic Alliance. To see both citing examples and promoting our Alliance in such a public manner, I believe is a strong endorsement of the time and effort we have invested in this project and the expected benefits that will be received in due course. I was also inundated with questions and requests for further information from the many Councils who attended this conference. While I realise that much work is still required to be done to have all systems go by July 1, I sincerely congratulate the staff of the four Councils on a job well done, and that your effort to bring the Alliance to reality have not gone unnoticed.

## **Visitor Information Centre for Guyra**

Council received three very professional presentations from existing Guyra businesses to incorporate an accredited Visitor Information Centre into their premises. Due to the strong proposals received, Council spent a large amount of time debating the issue before resolving to endorse Rafters Restaurant as the preferred location of the Centre. Rafters intend expanding their current premises later this year which should provide the ideal venue for the Visitor Information Centre. Council will be working with the operators of Rafters over the coming months to get the centre up and running. Council thanks the other two applicants for the time and effort that they put into their proposal and presentation.