



MEDIA RELEASE

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Acting Mayor Committed to Serving Her Community

"I'm not going anywhere," Acting Mayor Sally Doyle said as Councillors Paul Gibson and Christine Campbell announced their resignation from the Huon Valley Council yesterday.

"This next six months, leading up to the elections in October, is a critical time. We've got a budget to get through, and we are making important inroads into the issues that the community care about the most – roads, strategic planning, and governance.

"I was voted in by the community, so I owe it to them to work hard and get things done. There's no doubt we are going through a tough time, but I'm prepared to stand up and commit to do an even better job," Cr Doyle said.

"The community need us, and they need stability. We have six councillors and while it is disappointing to see Crs Gibson and Campbell leave, we can still achieve the important tasks that are before us.

Cr Doyle said she has been in conversation with Acting Deputy Mayor Sue Clark who is equally as committed.

"We are both determined to progress and help make a positive difference to people's lives in the Huon Valley.

"I told Ryk Goddard on ABC Radio this morning that I want to get on with business. There are many good things happening here in the Huon Valley. We're not telling good news stories as a tactic, they are real stories and we are proud to share them.

"For example, we've just recently managed to secure a permanent GP for our medical centres, thanks to the hard work of our Medical Services Manager.

Communications & Media Officer

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"This is not a small thing. As every rural and remote town in Australia would know, getting permanent doctors is real challenge, so this is a win for the community, and a win for us. Many people will benefit from this achievement.

"Council recently approved almost half a million dollars to be channelled into strategic planning to develop a contemporary Huon Valley Land Use and Development Strategy. We have a group of passionate and dynamic planners at Council who want to see the best decisions made for the Huon Valley as far as planning goes, not just for now but for future generations.

"This project will help develop a clear planning road map for future land use and development in the Huon Valley, is responsive to the community's vision, and protects the key values and local area features that make the Huon Valley unique.

"Our General Manager has been spending a significant amount of time out in the community meeting with a whole range of people and he is deeply encouraged by what he is hearing and seeing.

"He has been meeting with businesses operating in the region, tourism operators, community groups, with the aim of getting to know the community, building relationships, identifying opportunities to work together on the priorities Council is committed to working on.

"When it comes to the budget, the community have spoken, we have heard them, and we will address those priorities in the budget.

"I am aware that these past few months have taken a toll on the staff at council. I am very aware of people's health and wellbeing. I just want to say this: I acknowledge the wonderful work and commitment that I see daily. The staff are what make our Council such a productive and dynamic place.

"I will be offering to meet with staff over coming days to check in with them and to let them know of my commitment to healthy workplaces."

Cr Campbell was a member of three committees: Arts and Culture, Audit Panel and General Manager's Performance Review Committee. A ballot will be undertaken at the next council meeting to fill these positions.

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To ensure current and future Councillors are better supported in identifying and managing conflicts of interest in all council processes, Councillors underwent training in February.

This was in response to the recommendations in the Review of the Recruitment Process for the New General Manager Appointment Report undertaken by Edge Legal. WLF Accounting and Advisory has also developed a best practice policy on managing conflicts of interest.

The Huon Valley Council Conflict of Interest Draft Policy will be tabled at the April Council Meeting.

For more information: Acting Mayor Sally Doyle (03) 6264 0300