

## Chair's Minute

### End of term for Rous' current county councillors

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#### Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Chair's Minute and acknowledge the achievements of the General Manager and Staff during this term.

Today's ordinary meeting of the Rous County Council marks its last for the current local government term, with the next NSW council elections to be held on 14 September 2024.

It has been a privilege to serve as Rous' chairperson for the past two and a half years and work alongside my fellow county councillors as well as Rous' amazing staff. Your devotion to and passion for community service above all else is something to behold and worthy of major recognition. I appreciate your efforts and your support during my tenure as Rous Chair.

This term of the Rous County Council has been one of its most extraordinary and challenging.

Already facing a shorter than usual term due to the COVID-19 delayed 2021 local government elections, barely a month after being appointed by our constituent councils as their county council delegates, the 2022 flood disaster devastated our region. Rous will continue to have a significant role to play in helping its constituent councils and their communities navigate the long road to recovery as well as improve the region's preparedness for future floods.

While Rous' priority during this term has rightly been flood response and recovery efforts, I am extremely proud of what my fellow councillors and Rous' staff have also been able to achieve including:

- maintain water supply uninterrupted during the 2022 floods
- rolling out digital smart water meters
- responding to various weed biosecurity threats
- progressing the Future Water Project
- completing \$30 million St Helena pipeline project
- securing almost \$8.5 million in funding to restore the Bungawalbin and South Lismore levees
- progressing the organisation's relocation to its new Gallans Road site in Ballina.

As the only multi-purpose county council in NSW, Rous is truly a unique local government organisation – making the opportunity to contribute to its mission over the past term even more special.

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