

17 May 2021

Mayor's Update on Health Issues

Warrumbungle Shire Council has been invited to provide information to the NSW upper house inquiry into rural and regional health.

"Tomorrow 18 May 2021 Deputy Mayor, Councillor Aniello Iannuzzi, will be speaking at the Wellington hearing of the NSW Upper House Inquiry into rural and regional health, bringing Warrumbungle Shire's issues to the forefront of the State Government," said Warrumbungle Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Ambrose Doolan. "A number of health concerns were previously brought to Council's attention and a submission was made to the Inquiry, in addition to that Council also held a community meeting in March at Dunedoo where further issues were raised."

"In January 2021, Council made a submission to the NSW Upper House on the Inquiry into the report on health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote New South Wales," Cr Doolan explained.

"Following the submission to the NSW Upper House, Council hosted a meeting in Dunedoo to discuss a number of health-related issues across the Warrumbungle Local Government Area. This meeting saw around 110 residents and numerous health officials attend."

As a result of this meeting Council resolved to: make representations to the NSW Minister for Health seeking a greater level of resources into rural health services and the Warrumbungle Shire; make representations to the Federal Government on the need to hasten the training of doctors for rural areas; consider developing a program to help our communities be more attractive to doctors and health workers; and to have open and ongoing communication with the Local Health District on improving staffing and resourcing of small hospitals.

Tomorrow, the Wellington and Dubbo hearings of the health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote NSW inquiry are set to start, where representatives from many councils and agencies will be speaking. To watch the hearing follow the link www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Pages/webcasts.aspx.

"Council will be having more meetings with Local District Health and other local health councils and will keep the community updated with progress on this topic," said Cr Doolan.

"It has been incredible to hear and read issues that our community members have been having with accessing health services in our region. I appreciate people getting in contact with me regarding these issues, which are vitally important to living in our communities," Cr Doolan concluded.

If you would like bring anything to my attention please email me on Ambrose.Doolan@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au

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