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Local Government Week 2021: Warrumbungle Shire Council calls for support to help drive a locally led recovery

It is Local Government Week, and Council is using this occasion to call on the State and Federal governments to provide the financial support necessary to enable it to continue to lead the region's economic recovery and create new jobs in the process.

Warrumbungle Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Ambrose Doolan, said the Warrumbungle Region had been through the wringer in the past 4 years, and had emerged in strong shape thanks to the hard work of the local community, the financial support of State and Federal governments and the frontline efforts of council staff.

"Floods, drought, plagues and COVID have all tried to extinguish us, but we have not only survived but are in a relatively strong position," said Cr Doolan.

"These testing years have proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that councils are best placed to provide a locally led economic recovery for their communities and create new jobs for ongoing resilience.

"I am so proud of our community and our council, who have used Federal and State funding support wisely on projects that have helped to maintain jobs and keep money pumping through the local economy."

Cr Doolan said recent projects included the installation of a digital sign at the Coonabarabran Visitors Information Centre, Binnaway Bowling Club upgrades, Coolah Community Hall upgrades, refurbishment of the old basketball courts in Coonabarabran, seed funding for Dark Sky Awakens Festival, shade structures, fencing and upgrades to playgrounds and skateparks in Binnaway, Dunedoo, Coonabarabran and Mendooran, community hall upgrades, show society event support in all six (6) towns, and Rural Small Centre Empowerment events.

"Local Government Week is a time to acknowledge those projects, and the greater economic support provided to the Warrumbungle Region," said Cr Doolan

“But the job is far from done, so we want to use this occasion to highlight the need for ongoing and increased Federal and State support for projects that will help us improve our region, keep people in jobs and keep businesses in business.”

Local Government NSW President Cr Linda Scott said NSW councils had long proven their economic credentials, employing about 60,000 people and collectively managing assets worth an estimated \$153 billion.

“I agree with Warrumbungle Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Ambrose Doolan; Local Government Week is an opportunity to not only celebrate past achievements, but to also press the case for even greater financial support for other levels of government to ensure councils have the means to provide ongoing locally led economic growth,” said Cr Scott.

“If councils get the right support, they have the capacity to create up to 68,000 new jobs for NSW, and as local government’s peak body we will continue to press for that support from the State and Federal governments.”

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