



## MINUTE OF THE MAYOR

Dated: 24 February 2020

### RE: A Debt of Gratitude

As this is our first Ordinary Meeting of Council since November, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the heroic efforts of all the RFS volunteers and other volunteers who have risked their lives to help others in the recent bushfire crisis.

They put themselves in the line of fire again and again to help save homes, pets, animals and families - and without them this crisis would have been a lot worse with many more lives lost.

We owe all the RFS volunteers and other volunteers a huge debt of gratitude for giving their time, energy and expertise to help bushfire-ravaged communities.

Two of our own staff volunteered on the frontline during the crisis - one as an RFS volunteer firefighter and another in the Defence Reserves.

Other staff across Council have also volunteered in the Local Government Bushfire Recovery Support Group to assist regional councils affected by the fires who need extra resources or staff cover and relief services.

I'm proud that, as a Council, we have been able to support our staff and volunteers to help others during the bushfire crisis.

This support will continue as fire-ravaged communities across NSW start the process of rebuilding, and extreme weather events bring fresh challenges.

Our emergency services and volunteers have been out in force again in the last two weeks, this time saving people and animals from storms and flash flooding.

#### **I therefore recommend:**

- 1. THAT** Council acknowledge and note the tremendous efforts of all the RFS volunteers and other volunteers who gave their time, energy and expertise during the Christmas/New Year bushfire crisis.
- 2. THAT** Council acknowledge and note the ongoing efforts of the Emergency Services, RFS & SES volunteers, charities & other volunteer organisations as bushfire-ravaged communities rebuild and extreme weather events bring new challenges.

**COUNCILLOR JILLY GIBSON  
MAYOR**