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**MEDIA RELEASE**



## **SOUTHERN MALLEE WELCOMES CR JEFF NICKOLLS AS NEW MAYOR**

Southern Mallee District Council has elected a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor to lead the district for the next year.

Elected Members this week chose their fellow Councillor Jeff Nickolls to take on the top leadership role, replacing outgoing Mayor Andrew Grieger. Councillor Paul Ireland was also appointed as Deputy Mayor, providing him with a second one year term in that role.

The Council acknowledged the service of the outgoing Mayor, and welcomed the new Mayor as he commenced his formal duties immediately after the vote.

New Southern Mallee District Council Mayor Jeff Nickolls says he is looking forward to delivering positive outcomes for the district over the coming two years.

“It is an honour to be given the opportunity to represent the Southern Mallee community at this level – and at such an exciting time for our district,” Mayor Nickolls says.

“We know there has been significant hardship in recent years with drought and now COVID-19 - however, we believe that we’re moving into a new era in 2021, and I’m looking forward to working with our community to ensure our district continues to grow and prosper.

“This Council has worked hard to plan and implement many new initiatives, including the Lameroo Town Centre Plan and Pinnaroo Village Green Masterplan projects.

“There is a lot to look forward to for our residents and businesses as this work comes to fruition. Together, we will put our district and the towns of Lameroo and Pinnaroo on the map and create new facilities for our community to be proud of and to enjoy for years to come.”

Mayor Nickolls said the Council’s system in allowing Elected Members to choose their own Chairperson – or Mayor – was a unique one that allowed Councillors to share the leadership roles.

“We are in a fortunate position in that we’re able to choose our leaders at the start and during the term of Council, and that allows us to share this role so that Elected Members can continue to grow and develop their skills in service to their community,” Mayor Nickolls says.

“On behalf of Council I thank Cr Grieger for his service in the mayoral role over recent years.”

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