

# MEDIA STATEMENT

DATE: 29 June 2018



## A TRIBUTE TO ROGER STROTHER, ONE OF THE COORONG'S GREATEST LEADERS

Staff and Elected Members of the Coorong District Council have been devastated by the tragic passing of one of the most fondly remembered Mayors in Council history, the late Roger Strother.



Mr Strother was a community man and regional trailblazer, leading the community and Council through some of its toughest times during the millennium drought. All before helping to rebuild the Coorong's economy and confidence in the decade following, through major investment activity – with high profile projects such as The Bend Motorsport Park project made possible thanks to his exceptional foresight and passionate leadership.

Mayor Neville Jaensch has said of his friend and past-colleague:

*"I'm incredibly saddened to hear of the loss. I had the privilege of serving with Roger on the District Council of Meningie and then Coorong District Council. Under his tutorage as Mayor, our district struggled through drought and then into prosperity. He was a person of great community spirit and dedicated many years to the benefit of our district. Our thoughts are with Mary and family at this difficult time."*

Previous Council Chief Executive Officer Tim Drew worked closely with Mr Strother during his most recent term as Mayor (2008 – 2014), and remembers him as a great man, and exceptional leader.

*"I will always remember Roger coming in as Mayor at Council during a difficult time and doing his best to work with local communities through the drought. Roger worked extremely hard during that time and never lost sight of the needs of local people. Nor did he lose his sense of humour or fair play, giving so much of himself for the area and the people he loved so much."*

Mr Strother began serving the Coorong in his role as an Elected Member with the former District Council of Meningie in 1993. In 1997 he moved across to the newly amalgamated (inaugural) Coorong District Council where he held roles on various committees. From 2006 to 2008 he was voted in as Deputy Mayor, before being promoted to Mayor in 2008 and continuing into the 2010 to 2014 term.

During this time, he served on more than 30 committees across the Coorong district and wider Murray and Mallee region, representing the interests of his beloved Coorong.

#### Postal Address:

PO Box 399  
TAILEM BEND SA 5260  
Email: [council@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@coorong.sa.gov.au)  
Web: [www.coorong.sa.gov.au](http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au)

#### Coorong Civic Centre

95 – 101 Railway Terrace  
TAILEM BEND SA 5260  
Phone: 1300 785 277  
Fax: 08 8572 3822

#### Meningie Information Hub

49 Princes Highway  
MENINGIE SA 5264

#### Tintinara Customer Service Centre

37 Becker Terrace  
TINTINARA SA 5266



Director Community and Corporate Nat Traeger had the pleasure of working alongside Mr Strother in his many years at Council and said he will be remembered by the Council team as a warm, approachable and passionate leader, who always had the best interest of the Coorong people at heart.

*“He was always held in high regard by the people who worked alongside of him during his time with Council, earning respect and support over his many years.*

*Our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with Mary and family during this difficult time as we pay respect to a great man, who achieved great things for our district.”*

- ENDS -

**Media contact:**

Nat Traeger

DIRECTOR COMMUNITY & CORPORATE | COORONG DISTRICT COUNCIL

Phone: 1300 785 277 | E: [ntraeger@coorong.sa.gov.au](mailto:ntraeger@coorong.sa.gov.au)

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PO Box 399  
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