

President's time for change

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Moving on from position

By Meredith Clisby

OUTGOING community council president Darryl Johnston says the declining population in the region is the biggest threat to the successful future of Tuggeranong.

Mr Johnston said it would be important to attract younger people back to the area as the rest of the population aged.

He said the lack of affordable housing and public transport issues would "continue to be a problem down the track".

The president is stepping down after three years in the role but plans to remain in the executive committee.

The council's constitution prescribes that a person cannot hold the position longer than three years.

Mr Johnston was elected unopposed to the position following the decision by long-standing president Rosemary Lissimore to step down in 2009.

He said the council had achieved quite a lot during the past three years, including advocating for random roadside drug testing, garnering more attention on the state of Lake Tuggeranong and building strong ties with other local organisations.

One of the first decisions he made upon becoming the president in 2009 was to implement sub committees to focus on different areas, such as transport, planning and environment.

This enabled the council to be much more involved in the government's decision making over major projects



Darryl Johnston is stepping down as president of the Tuggeranong Community Council in September after three years in the role. Picture: Elesa Lee

for the community, he said. "I also think the fact this subcommittee structure has worked so well that the council is a lot more involved in issues," Mr Johnston said.

"I think that our membership has grown substantially and some people have come back to the council."

Mr Johnston said the council had also developed a better relationship with the ACT government.

The Tuggeranong Community Council's AGM will be held next Tuesday, September 4 and it is expected there will be a number of new faces on the executive. Mr Johnston said he aimed to volunteer in the role of secretary so he could continue to produce the council's newsletter.

He said he would also continue to push for a university-affiliated education campus in Tuggeranong and the integration of the bus interchange into the Hyperdome.

He said the interchange was in desperate need of work.