



Eric Traise is the new president of Tuggeranong Community Council. A new committee was elected at the council's annual general meeting last week.

Picture: Elesia Kurtz

New leader for council

By Josephine Huynh

TUGGERANONG Community Council's new president hopes to help reverse the area's declining population.

Amid the celebrations of Tuggeranong Community Council's 30th anniversary, the reign of the 2012-2013 committee drew to a close as a new executive was elected at the annual general meeting last week.

The meeting saw the announcement of incoming president Eric Traise, vice president Glenys Patulny, secretary Lynn Bott, treasurer Max Flint and public officer Beverly Flint as the new executive of voices and ideas.

Although new to the job, Mr Traise has not wasted any time settling into his role and said there were many issues he is determined to resolve in the Tuggeranong community.

"We are mostly concerned about the decreasing population of Tuggeranong Valley," he said.

"This means that businesses will struggle to carry on and the government will start to look at whether it can continue to provide services to the area."

Mr Traise said the proposed move of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) out of Tuggeranong would substantially add to distress on businesses, particularly those in the town centre.

"It's the big one that's right on top of us now. There are about 1000 people working there so you could imagine what it would do to local businesses if they suddenly no longer work there," he said.

"The Tuggeranong Community Council organised a petition presented to parliament asking for FaHCSIA to remain based in Tuggeranong, so that is something that we will be following closely."

Another ongoing issue Mr Traise is eager to tackle is the clean up of Lake Tuggeranong to make way for new residential developments.

"We'd like to see residential development of the south key land planned to be done earlier than later to provide for more and new housing areas and bring more people here," he said.

Mr Traise, having previously served on the committee for four years as treasurer, has moved in and out of Canberra four times and said it was his last move to Bonython with his wife that gave him no reason to pack his bags again.

"I've got an invested interest because our three adult children, their partners, and our grandchildren live in Tuggeranong, so this role is for their future, as well as the future of all residents of the Tuggeranong community," Mr Traise said.

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