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## **Remembering Councillor Peter Kennelly – A Reflection from Mayor Bill Close**

The passing of Peter Kennelly is a significant loss for our Council and our community. Peter was not only a long-serving and highly respected Councillor, but also a good friend. We first met through our connection to Roseworthy College many years before we were both elected to Council in 2006, so it was a welcome surprise to see a familiar face when we each began our journey in local government.

Peter dedicated almost two decades to serving the people of the Light region, always placing the interests of ratepayers at the forefront of every decision. He firmly believed that Council had a responsibility to deliver the best outcomes for the community while carefully considering the impact on residents and rural ratepayers. That commitment never wavered. Peter Kennelly served as a Councillor from November 2006 and became a respected representative of the communities across the Light region.

One of Peter's greatest strengths was his willingness to listen. He took the time to understand people's concerns, empathise with their experiences and advocate strongly on their behalf. He was a principled representative, deeply committed to community service and determined to ensure local voices were heard.

Peter was also a passionate advocate for primary production and rural communities. His extensive knowledge of viticulture, agriculture, drought conditions and regional economics brought valuable insight to Council discussions. His expertise helped shape decisions and provided an understanding that was unique within our Council chamber. His contributions in these areas will be difficult to replace. Peter was recognised for his expertise in primary production and agricultural matters throughout his time on Council.

Those who served alongside Peter will remember his persistence and determination. When he held a view, he defended it passionately and with conviction. He was an unwavering debater who never gave up on an issue he believed was important. Alongside that determination was a touch of quirkiness and a genuine warmth that made him a valued colleague and friend.

Peter's lasting legacy will be his dedication to community representation. He believed strongly in serving others and spent nearly twenty years doing exactly that. You do not commit that amount of time to public service unless you genuinely care about your community and want to make a difference.

On behalf of the Elected Members and staff of Light Regional Council, I extend my deepest sympathies to Josie, the Kennelly family and all who knew and loved Peter. We are grateful for his many years of service, his wisdom, and his unwavering commitment to the people of our region. He will be deeply missed.

As a mark of respect and recognition of Peter's remarkable service to the community, Council will fly its flags at half-mast on the day of his funeral. It is a fitting tribute to a man who devoted so much of his life to serving the Light region and its people.

Mayor Bill Close

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