

Mayor backs travel costs

ROCKDALE Mayor John Flowers thanked councillors who took time off work and away from their families to attend conferences around the country.

"The mysteries of local government are many, and I commend those councillors," Cr Flowers said.

"I thank them for the time they've had to spend away from their families, gaining expertise and using that expertise for the benefit of the citizens of Rockdale."

The mayor made his comments during the July 6 council meeting when Cr Liz Barlow criticised the possible cancelling of a council meeting on August 20.

The meeting may have to be cancelled if many councillors chose to attend the Aust-

ralian Mayoral Aviation Conference in Hobart. "Until last year, it was only budgeted for one councillor to attend the aviation conference. The budget for attending the conferences was only \$1500, but you're spending \$10,000," Cr Barlow said.

Cr Flowers said with nine new councillors on the council, it was advantageous for councillors to attend as many conferences as possible.

"Attending conferences will bring councillors rapidly up to speed," he said.

"Those councillors who have taken time of work and away from families, council is indebted to them and I thank them very much."