



Community REPORT

2014



Mayor's Message

The challenges of local government are becoming clearer to me as I complete my third term as Mayor of Hawkesbury. The management of such a large local government area with a relatively small and dispersed population is very complex as the needs of our population differ greatly. There is no 'one size fits all' solution to many of the issues that we face.

The most pressing problem we have is lack of financial resources. Years of rate pegging below the rise in the cost of living have meant that our revenue is effectively being eroded. The impact is cumulative. Each year we have to delay a large portion of required maintenance and renewal of many of our assets as we simply cannot afford to meet these costs within our current income. As Mayor, and particularly as a grandfather, this worries me greatly as we are effectively burdening our children and grandchildren with a legacy of a local government area that is not of the standard that it could be. Added to this, our funding sources from other levels of government are also being reduced with one of our main sources, Financial Assistance Grants from the Federal Government, being effectively frozen.

We welcome input from our community on ways in which they feel these issues can be addressed. Some have suggested grants as an option and while Council does receive a significant amount of grant funding – as you will see in this report – grants are rarely offered for maintenance and renewal purposes. Council has presented a balanced budget for many years, relying on efficiencies gained to meet costs but it seems that we have reached a stage where we must now seriously look at the services that we provide and this matter will be the subject of community consultation in the coming year.

We were lucky to escape major damage with the bushfires that raged through the Blue Mountains in October. My heartfelt gratitude goes to all those members of our emergency services, especially the Rural Fire Service, for the work they did in preventing what could have been a tragic event for our community.

We have celebrated a number of historic events throughout this financial year, the most recent being the inaugural raising of the Aboriginal flag and Torres Strait Islander flag at a special ceremony at the Council Chambers.

We also celebrated the Bicentenary of the first crossing of the Blue Mountains and unveiled plaques to commemorate some of our citizens who played a major role in this achievement – William Cox and George Evans – at Ham Common, Clarendon.

This report provides a snapshot of the many projects and activities undertaken by Council throughout the past financial year as well as highlighting projects planned for the next financial year. I hope that you find this report an insight into some of Council's activities which your rates help to fund.

Kim Ford
MAYOR OF HAWKESBURY



2014/2015 Operational Plan Highlights

Council is fulfilling the goals of the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2013 - 2032 and has developed and approved an Operational Plan which includes the Budget for the coming financial year. Highlights of the Plan show a range of important projects for 2014/2015.



Road Improvements \$2,058,868

- Ham Street, South Windsor
- Bullridge Road, East Kurrajong
- East Kurrajong Road, East Kurrajong
- Comleroy Road, Kurrajong
- Racecourse Road, Clarendon
- Unsealed Roads



Road Reseals \$1,600,000

- Berambing
- Kurmond
- Bilpin
- Kurrajong Heights
- Blaxland Ridge
- Maraylya
- Bowen Mountain
- McGraths Hill
- Cattai
- Mulgrave
- Central Macdonald
- North Richmond
- Cornwallis
- Oakville
- East Kurrajong
- Pitt Town
- Ebenezer
- Richmond
- Freemans Reach
- South Windsor
- Glossodia
- Wilberforce
- Grose Vale
- Windsor
- Grose Wold
- Wisemans Ferry
- Hobartville



Bridges \$2,045,000

- Stannix Park Road Bridge
- Upper Colo Bridge No. 8
- Upper Macdonald Bridge
- West Portland Road Bridge
- Wrights Creek Bridge



Buildings \$1,050,800

- Richmond Neighbourhood Centre Kitchen Upgrade
- Richmond Park Amenities Upgrade
- Governor Phillip Boat Club Roof Replacement
- Maraylya Community Centre Security Lighting & Security Camera Upgrades
- Oasis Aquatic & Leisure Centre Works including Changeroom Upgrade
- Windsor Function Centre Stage Lighting
- Hawkesbury Indoor Stadium Backboards



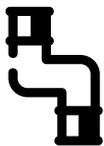
Footpaths \$228,364

- Porpoise Crescent, Bligh Park
- Elizabeth Street, North Richmond
- Kurrajong Village
- Grose Vale Road, Kurrajong



Sewer Works \$700,000

- Upgrade Pump Station C
- Sewer Pipe Relining Program
- Upgrade of South Windsor Treatment Works Plant



Drainage \$421,772

- Florence Avenue, Kurrajong
- Comleroy Road, Kurrajong
- Hermitage Road, Kurrajong
- Wallace Road & Level Crossing Road, Vineyard



Stage One Bowen Mountain Evacuation Route \$80,000



Energy Efficiency Program \$200,000



Town & Village Cleaning \$864,994

- Street Sweeping
- Footpath Cleaning
- Litter Pickup



Emergency Services \$1,183,359



Parks \$591,000

- McQuade Park Upgrade
- Hobartville Footbridges
- Governor Phillip Reserve BBQ Replacement
- Hanna Park Pergola
- Richmond Park Lighting
- Bilpin Park Upgrade



Hawkesbury Sports Council \$1,000,373



Library Services \$2,462,509

Where the \$ Go

For full details of Council's estimated income and expenditure visit www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

\$88.6
Million

2014/2015 Expenditure



Operational Expenditure \$68.7M

Capital Expenditure \$18.3M

Infrastructure Renewal Program \$1.6M



Looking after People and Place

Pool registration a must

New legislation has been introduced in NSW to improve the safety of children in and around backyard swimming pools and spas.

Swimming pool and spa owners are required to register their pools on an online register provided by the State Government. Registration is free at www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au or over the counter at Council's Administration Building for \$10. There is a \$220 penalty for owners who fail to register their pool.

Provisions that require property owners to obtain a Swimming Pool Compliance Certificate before property sale or lease will now commence on 29 April 2015, to allow pool owners more time to ensure their pool is compliant. This certificate needs to be attached to the contract for sale or a copy given to a tenant at time of leasing.

Owners may apply for a Swimming Pool Compliance Certificate from Council or an accredited certifier. A Swimming Pool Compliance Certificate is valid for three years, fees apply.

The State Government requires all councils to instigate a pool inspection program and this commenced in May 2014.

All private backyard swimming pools will be inspected approximately once every five years. Pools located on properties where there are multi-dwellings such as units or tourist accommodation will be inspected once every three years.

For further information call (02) 4560 4444 or visit www.swimmingpool-register.nsw.gov.au.



New playground for Richmond

The upgrade of Richmond Park's new playground has been completed on schedule and children, families and school groups have already descended on the new play equipment.

The park features a climbing dome, an adventure themed multi play area, balancing and climbing units as well as old favourites such as seesaws, slides and swings.

Public input and suggestions were very important to ensure that the new playground met the community's needs and expectations. The newly renovated play area was launched in May and is receiving the thumbs up.

Inaugural Hawkesbury Regional Gallery Art Fair

The diversity of Hawkesbury's creative community was showcased for everyone to enjoy at the Hawkesbury Regional Gallery's inaugural Art Fair at Windsor in June/July. The fair featured traditional and contemporary artists, designers, crafters and jewellers from the Hawkesbury. Art works were available for purchase and there were small business-building workshops for the creative industry as well as demonstrations by local and invited practitioners.

Digital library service

You can now download your books online thanks to new digital resources from Hawkesbury Library Service at www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library.

There's never been a better time to join the library and membership is free for residents. Library members can download and enjoy eBooks and audiobooks anytime, anywhere, including children's books, best-sellers and classics. This new service is free for Library members with a library card. To get started, visit <http://hawkesbury.lib.overdrive.com> or phone (02) 4560 4460.

The Library Service has also provided numerous activities throughout the year with well over 7,500 people attending events. These events included a Monster Treasure Hunt, Pyjama Dress up Day, local history cemetery tours, the Mayor's Christmas Appeal Launch and author talks. A recent evening with Fred Watson was the Library's most popular event on record. Regular events such as the bookclub, family history group, computer classes and children's storytime remain very popular.

Caring for our Environment

Free workshops – a local success

As part of an educational program over the past year to encourage residents to reduce, reuse, recycle, Council sponsored a roving program of compost and worm farm workshops and gave compost bins or worm farms as prizes to participants and groups. Eleven sessions were held and around 170 people participated.

1,500 plants to local residents

The Hawkesbury Community Nursery is part of the Hawkesbury Bushcare program and welcomes any volunteers who are keen to help their local area.

The Nursery has given away more than 1,500 native plants to local residents over the past 12 months – at various events, including the Hawkesbury Show. There's also a chance to pick up a free plant at National Tree Day to be held at the Community Nursery as part of Local Government Week celebrations on Saturday, 9 August 2014.

Locals can support this great Community Nursery by purchasing a wide range of plants including trees, shrubs and groundcovers from as little as \$1.

The Hawkesbury Community Nursery grows a number of native plants and volunteers meet on Wednesdays. The Nursery is located at 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave and is open Wednesdays from 9am-1pm.

Why not join a Hawkesbury Bushcare group and help with Bushland regeneration – it's a great way to meet others and learn new skills. It's as little as three hours, one weekend a month.

To get involved with Bushcare or to find out more about the Nursery, contact Council's Community Bushcare Officer on (02) 4560 4525.



Council offered community groups in rural areas free composting or worm farm workshops, following a successful program of workshops held at Hawkesbury EarthCare Centre, Richmond, in conjunction with the Henry Doubleday Research Association.

New garden organics service

Following extensive community consultation, Council introduced a new garden organics collection service in October 2013 to selected urban areas. Judging by the uptake of the service, it has been a remarkable success.

Previously, 20% of the material in our residential garbage bins was garden organics such as grass and hedge clippings, flowers, leaves, plants, weeds, twigs and small branches. Diverting garden organic waste from landfill will greatly benefit Hawkesbury residents in the long term by prolonging the life of Hawkesbury's landfill site.

The material is being processed and reused as mulch, compost, and other products.

If the garden organics service is not available for your property, Hawkesbury Waste Management Facility, located on the Driftway, South Windsor, accepts garden organics waste for a fee. Call Council on (02) 4560 4444 or visit the website www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au for details.

First Garage Sale Trail a big hit!

Council participated in one of Australia's biggest community events – the Garage Sale Trail – last October. This event encourages Australians to come together on the same day to reduce waste and reuse pre-loved items in a fun and creative way.

More than 40 Hawkesbury residents and organisations participated by holding a garage sale on Saturday, 26 October 2013. It was a great way for residents to reduce waste, meet their neighbours and make some extra cash.

Nationally, the event redistributed almost one million items from ending up in landfill and has generated more than \$4.5 million in economic activity.



Linking the Hawkesbury

Lower Portland ferry replaced

A newly refurbished ferry has been commissioned for the Lower Portland River crossing to replace the old timber ferry and improve the service for local residents and visitors.

The ferry was provided to Hawkesbury City and The Hills Shire Councils – who jointly fund the ferry service – by the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS). The new ferry has more than doubled the capacity of the previous vessel.

RMS offered to handover a decommissioned ferry to the councils at no cost with councils meeting refurbishment costs of approximately \$500,000.



Council secures Better Boating Grant

Council has secured \$250,000 through the State Government's Roads and Maritime Services Better Boating Grants Program, to match Council's own funding.

These grants will be used to construct a fixed public jetty at Governor Phillip Reserve, Windsor; upgrade the existing boat ramp at Holmes Drive Reserve, Cumberland Reach and refurbish the existing jetty at Hanna Park, North Richmond.

Infrastructure improvement

Council commissioned a data collection survey relating to the condition of local and regional sealed road pavements in 2013. The data collected included video recordings which captured the actual condition of the road network, a roughness and rutting survey as well as data relating to the condition of road signs and lines on the road network.

Results from this survey have now been analysed and are being used by Council to plan future road works and ensure priority is given to repairs and rehabilitation based on the latest information and road conditions.

Results from the survey have demonstrated that approximately 84% of our roads were rated as good or very good, about 15% were rated as satisfactory or fair and less than 2% were rated as poor or failed.

The local road network is a priority for Council and it is continually repairing and improving local roads by using its resources as well as securing funding from State and Federal Government through grants.

Completed works at a glance

Council funded major infrastructure works including:

- Hermitage Road, Kurrajong Hills – reconstruction and sealing including drainage works
- Kurmond Road, Wilberforce – reconstruction and sealing
- Berambing Crescent, Bilpin – reconstruction and sealing including drainage works
- Bulga Street and Wollombi Road, St Albans – reconstruction and sealing
- Bowen Mountain Road, Grose Vale – guardrail installation
- King Road, Wilberforce – resealing
- Spinks Road, Glossodia – shoulder and table drain rehabilitation
- Upper McDonald Bridge, Higher McDonald – Deck repair and improvement to abutment and wing walls completed

Other major infrastructure works completed and jointly funded by Council:

- Freemans Reach Road, Freemans Reach – reconstruction and sealing – Joint funding with Roads and Maritime Services (RMS)
- Grose Vale Road, North Richmond – reconstruction and sealing – Joint funding with RMS
- Scheyville Road Rehabilitation, Oakville/Scheyville – reconstruction and sealing – Joint funding with RMS
- Boundary Road, Oakville/Maraylya – Joint funding with RMS and The Hills Shire

Other major works funded by grants:

- Jurds Bridge on Upper Macdonald Road – Natural Disaster Funding
- West Portland – Stabilise land slip supporting road at Lower Portland – Natural Disaster Funding
- Bowen Mountain Road, Bowen Mountain – Drainage works – Natural Disaster Funding
- Slopes Road, North Richmond – Reconstruction and sealing – Roads To Recovery (Auslink – Commonwealth)
- Pughs Lagoon Car Park, Richmond – Community Partnership Grant
- North Richmond Water Tanker Reserve – Community Partnership Grant
- Raymond Street and Leila Avenue, Freeman's Reach – Drainage and road improvement completed – Community Partnership Grant and Council

Bridge works funded by Council and commenced in 2013/2014:

- Upper Colo Bridge No. 5
- Upper Colo Bridge No. 7



Supporting business and local jobs

Economic Working Group formed

Council is establishing an Economic Working Group as part of its approach to developing an Economic Development Strategy (Strategy) in 2014/2015. The Strategy will require input and support from the community and businesses to progress the local economy.

The working group's purpose is consultative and to inform and support the Strategy's vision and development. The working group will operate for up to two years and will meet monthly. Members will provide valuable input in the development and implementation of the Strategy. For more information contact Strategic Planning on (02) 4560 4579.

Support for Hawkesbury Small Business

Hawkesbury businesses had the chance to get the latest business tips and network during Hawkesbury Small Business Week in June.

Hosted by Council in partnership with business support agencies and groups, the week of free seminars and activities provided small businesses in the Hawkesbury with access to useful information as well as direct contact with agencies that can help them with short, medium and long term business goals.

Workshops and networking opportunities were hosted by partners including Hawkesbury Business Enterprise Centre (BEC), Hawkesbury City Chamber of Commerce and Council.



Providing job opportunities for our youth

Council provides range of traineeships through many areas of its operations including Finance, Records, Customer Service, Library, Cultural Services and Information Technology.

These placements provide the opportunity for trainees to gain valuable work skills through on the job training while also attaining a nationally recognised qualification. Traineeships range from 12 months to two years in duration.

For the latest job vacancies at Council see our website www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au or Council Notices in the Hawkesbury Courier each week.

Shop.Stay.Play.Support. Local Campaign

This campaign has just been launched by the Hawkesbury City Chamber of Commerce. Our locally owned businesses are helping to build a stronger community by sustaining our vibrant town centres. So, boost the local economy, boost jobs, boost community well being – just by shopping locally! For more information, call the Hawkesbury City Chamber of Commerce on 0400 493 749.

Tourism Strategy

Council has commissioned a tourism strategy for the Hawkesbury to identify how Council can best position the area in the broader tourism market, as well as identify potential future visitors.

The Tourism Strategy has been outlined in the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan and will become the guiding document for Council actions in its engagement with the tourism sector. It will also inform the development of a tourism program and assist the local tourism sector on how to work in partnership with Council.

Input into the document has been gained from community members, Council staff and a broad range of tourism operators to provide the best possible outcomes in terms of understanding the consumer market and implementing ideas from locals who are passionate about improving the Hawkesbury's profile.

Shaping our Future together

Hawkesbury Horizon – revitalising our town centres

Council is currently formulating the Richmond, Windsor and North Richmond Revitalisation Strategy. This strategy is a 'ground up' program aimed at working with local business and community leaders to spearhead a revitalisation program for these town centres which will have flow on effects for all our towns and villages.

The aim of the revitalisation program is to make our business precincts more economically viable into the future and improve the quality of lifestyle for all our residents.

The approach Council is taking will involve key stakeholders, and all community members will have a chance to have their say in formulating the revitalisation strategy. Council aims to be the catalyst for these towns' revitalisation, but needs the community to be involved to make it happen.



.....it's Your Hawkesbury – have Your Say

Council is developing an online community engagement site www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au to improve the way in which Council involves the community in its decision making processes. This online community engagement hub is a place for you to get involved, find out information and have your say about important issues and projects in the Hawkesbury.

Register now to share your ideas and participate. Your privacy is protected on Your Hawkesbury-Your Say to ensure a secure environment for idea sharing. The site is moderated externally, independent of Council.



E-waste – free collection

Council held a successful e-waste collection event in June at Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon with approximately 35 tonnes of e-waste collected for recycling. A total of 566 cars attended the e-waste collection event, with 64% of attendees being first time participants.

Old televisions were the most popular drop-off items this year, however computers, DVD players, projectors, cables and many other items that people struggle to dispose of in an environmentally responsible way were also accepted for disposal.

There are many materials that can be recovered from these products. Recycling e-waste can also prevent hazardous materials such as lead, cadmium and arsenic from damaging the environment.

Around 16.8 million televisions, computers and related accessories are disposed of each year in Australia, of this staggering amount only 20-30% of these products are recycled. Keep an eye out on Council's website www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au for recycling events.

Creative youth win great prizes during Youth Week

Talented young photographers of the Hawkesbury saw the results of clicking with their cameras this year, when Bronte Leahy (12-17 years category) and Joshua Boyd-Chatterton (18-25 years category) each won first prize – an iPad – as part of the Hawkesbury Regional Gallery's Click media competition in celebration of Youth Week 2014.

Gift vouchers to the value of \$500 were also given in prizes. Ellie Compton won second prize in the 12-17 years category and Katy Peacock won second prize in the 18-25 years category. Highly commended was awarded to Travis Daly and Liam Pattison.

This competition gave young people an incentive to describe the Hawkesbury and what it means to them through images. The winners were announced at a Gallery celebration in April with Sketch the Rhyme performing their unique blend of rapping and drawing as part of the Youth Week.

Upcoming Events

Garden competition – enter now

The 2014 Garden competition is now open. Entry forms are available on Council's website www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au. The competition will close 30 August 2014.

The Chemical CleanOut – Sunday, 24 August 2014

For information on storage and transportation chemicals to the event, please visit www.cleanout.com.au or phone 131 555. Stay tuned for future waste education events www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

Local Government Week

Keep an eye on local papers and on Council's website, www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au for details of our program for Local Government Week to be held 4-10 August 2014.

Animal Shelter Open Day

The Companion Animal Shelter will hold its annual Open Day on Saturday, 9 August 2014 from 12pm to 3pm. Free microchipping will also be available on the day for the pets of Hawkesbury residents. Visit the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter, 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave, phone (02) 4560 4644.

Want to hold an event?

Thinking of holding a community event in the Hawkesbury? Your first point of contact should be Council's Event Coordinator who can give you valuable advice on how to progress an event application.

For more information contact Council's Event Coordinator on (02) 4560 4444 or email council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au with Event enquiry in the subject.

Access Grants

Council offers local businesses the opportunity to improve the accessibility of their premises. Staff can help your business to undertake an Access and Inclusion Audit. Grants are available on a 50:50 basis to assist with access upgrades.

For further information or to arrange an Access and Inclusion audit please contact Meagan Ang, Community Programs Coordinator on (02) 4560 4502.

Contact us:

Hawkesbury City Council

366 George Street (PO Box 146)
Windsor NSW 2756

Phone: (02) 4560 4444

Facsimile: (02) 4587 7740

Email: council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Printed July 2014 on 100% Recycled Paper. Revive Silk 100% Recycled is Certified Carbon Neutral. The pulp is used in Process Chlorine Free and manufactured by an ISO 14001 Certified Mill. Please recycle this report.

If you would like to make a comment on this report please contact (02) 4560 4430.

Councillors



Councillor Kim Ford (Mayor)

142 Mountain Avenue
YARRAMUNDI NSW 2753
Phone: (02) 4588 5222
Fax: (02) 4560 4411
Mobile: 0413 195 052
Email: kim.ford@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor Tiffany Tree (Deputy Mayor)

c/o Hawkesbury City Council
PO Box 146, WINDSOR NSW 2756
Mobile: 0434 021 910
Email: tiffany.tree@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor Barry Calvert

5 Clyde Lane
KURRAJONG HEIGHTS NSW 2758
Phone: (02) 4567 7478
Fax: (02) 4567 8159
Mobile: 0437 998 951
Email: barry.calvert@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor Patrick Conolly

PO Box 5669
SOUTH WINDSOR NSW 2756
Mobile: 0419 321 328
Email: patrick.conolly@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor Mike Creed (JP)

PO Box 54
RICHMOND NSW 2753
Phone/Fax: (02) 4571 2492
Mobile: 0419 255 972
Email: mike.creed@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor Mary Lyons-Buckett

PO Box 25
KURRAJONG NSW 2758
Fax: (02) 4573 2905
Mobile: 0419 512 192
Email: mary.lyonsbuckett@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor Warwick Mackay, OAM

269 Grono Farm Road
WILBERFORCE NSW 2756
Phone/Fax: (02) 4579 9042
Mobile: 0401 740 164
Email: warwick.mackay@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor Christine Paine

"Sunnybrae" 12 Fitzgerald Street
WINDSOR NSW 2756
Phone: (02) 4577 3600
Fax: (02) 4577 2920
Mobile: 0407 729 915
Email: christine.paine@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor Bob Porter

279 Grono Farm Road
WILBERFORCE NSW 2756
Phone: (02) 4579 9547
Fax: (02) 4579 8001
Mobile: 0408 437 510
Email: bob.porter@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor Paul Rasmussen

199 Springwood Road
YARRAMUNDI NSW 2753
Phone: (02) 4776 1611
Fax: (02) 4776 2209
Mobile: 0407 412 013
Email: paul.rasmussen@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor Jill Reardon

PO Box 304
KURRAJONG NSW 2758
Phone: (02) 4572 1534
Fax: (02) 4572 2039
Mobile: 0434 022 631
Email: jill.reardon@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au



Councillor Leigh Williams

345 West Portland Road
SACKVILLE NSW 2756
Phone: (02) 4579 0135
Fax: (02) 4579 0210
Mobile: 0437 498 589
Email: leigh.williams@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au