



HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL

Community Report 2017

JULY

Mayor's Message

Council has been actively engaging with the community about the future of our assets and services and now we need your input to help us with some important decisions about our community assets.

Like most councils in NSW, we have reached a point where we need to invest more resources in renewing and maintaining our ageing assets, like our roads, buildings and parks.

Our community has told us that the condition of many of these assets are not meeting their expectations, and that Council needs to invest more money in maintaining and upgrading our assets and services. Residents told us which assets were more important to them and they identified roads as a priority followed by the condition of our town centres and public spaces, stormwater drains, footpaths and parks.

Our blend of rural and urban landscapes means that we have to maintain a large number of assets for a relatively small and dispersed population. As a result, our costs are higher.

At the same time, our ability to fund the cost of maintaining our assets is restricted by our financial resources. The revenue we receive from rates increases annually by an amount determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). This set amount is called a rate peg. For many years this increase has not provided the money we need to maintain our community assets to meet the expectations of residents. This year the amount was less than the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Therefore, Council is actively working to find savings and efficiencies. We will need to borrow responsibly, increase income and continue to review services to ensure the best value and greatest positive impact for the Hawkesbury community.

Investing in Your Future outlines three funding options for you to consider. Each option will have a different impact on our assets and the quality of service that Council can deliver into the future.

For further information, attend one of the many town meetings or information kiosks being held throughout the Hawkesbury - location and times available at www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au and you can also have your say by returning the reply paid postcard with your rates notices or by participating in the online survey at www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/investing-in-your-future



Mary Lyons-Buckett
MAYOR OF HAWKESBURY

INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

It's your Hawkesbury - Have your say

www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/investing-in-your-future

Our Hawkesbury

Thanks for getting to know us!

Visitor numbers in the Hawkesbury boomed in May, with the 2017 annual Hawkesbury Show being one of the best ever shows held according to many locals.

The Hawkesbury Show was a great success with special events at the Show including woodchopping, art, crafts and agricultural exhibits, racing pigs, the Isuzu D-Max Precision Driving Team, horse events plus flyball dog demonstrations, unchained BMX performances and special guests including singing cowboys with the Animal Wranglers and the skilful trick rider Mikayla Jade.

Over 7,000 people visited Hawkesbury City Council's tent at the Show which featured a theme of 'Know your Hawkesbury, Know Your Rates' as well as plenty of giveaways and free plants, information, flood maps, and a special recycling competition with winners receiving a \$50 gift voucher.



Hawkesbury Mayor, Councillor Mary Lyons-Buckett and Council's General Manager Peter Conroy at the Hawkesbury Show

2017 Business Awards

The Hawkesbury 2017 Local Business Awards program is now underway and judges are underfoot! The Awards Night will be held at the Windsor Function Centre on Wednesday, 13 September 2017. As a way of supporting local businesses, Council is a major sponsor of the Awards which are run by Precedent Productions Pty Ltd.

Awards will be presented for many categories including the Community Access and Inclusion Award. Visit <https://ebusinessawards.com.au> for more information.



Sanjiv Kumar - Alpha Car Wash (right), the inaugural 2016 winner of Council's Community Access and Inclusion Award with Hawkesbury Mayor, Councillor Mary Lyons-Buckett

1867 Flood

The Hawkesbury witnessed a special community gathering at Windsor in late June for the commemoration of the 1867 flood 150 years on – the highest-ever recorded flood in local history.

Locals found themselves in a vibrant and moving atmosphere amid music, performers and storytelling at 'An Evening in the Square' at Thompson Square, which had Olivia Leal Walker, a former Hawkesbury Showgirl as Master of Ceremonies.

Uncle Wes told Dreamtime stories around the campfire at the Howe House gardens and Aaron Jeffery's flood narration brought the events of the 1867 flood to the current community, as everyone present considered the damage caused by floods.

State Emergency Services and Infrastructure NSW put on educational displays as well as informative talks. Council will continue raising awareness within the community about the risks of flooding and the importance of being prepared for future flooding.



1867 Flood commemoration at Thompson Square

Sports Award winners

Congratulations to all the winners of the 2017 Hawkesbury Sports Awards. Nominated sports ranged from swimming, karate, soccer, netball, athletics, water ski racing, and even slalom kayaking. Lynwood Country Club and Vintage FM teamed up with Hawkesbury City Council as sponsors of the Sports Awards.



Junior Sportsperson of the Year, Nellie McMillan

The awards are a wonderful way to acknowledge the sporting accomplishments of our individual sportspeople, sporting clubs and their support people.



Guests and winners at the 2017 Hawkesbury Sports Awards

Our Community



L-R: Minister for Western Sydney, Stuart Ayres, Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Mary Lyons-Buckett, NSW Treasurer and Member for Hawkesbury, Dominic Perrottet and Member for Riverstone, Mr Kevin Conolly at the launch

Flood Risk Management Strategy launched

Infrastructure NSW has launched Resilient Valley, Resilient Communities - the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy. The Flood Strategy is a comprehensive long term framework for the NSW Government, Councils, businesses and the community to work together to reduce and manage the flood risk in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley.

Council welcomes the opportunity to be involved in community education about the outcomes of the Flood Strategy, given that flooding is an ever present concern for our community. Community assets are a central element in the Flood Strategy, as well as the capacity of the community to respond in a timely way.

Infrastructure NSW and WaterNSW have begun the first steps in a comprehensive environmental assessment process that will include robust community and stakeholder consultation. Council looks forward to working with the NSW Government on integrated land use and road planning to ensure the interests of all stakeholders are considered. The document is available at http://www.insw.com/media/59396/insw_hnvfloodstrategy_1.pdf

Thematic History launched

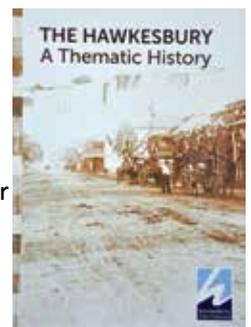
Council recently celebrated the release of the Thematic History of the Hawkesbury, a publication which aims to recognise, preserve and enhance the rich and unique heritage of the Hawkesbury.

The Thematic History highlights the fact that the Darug people were the custodians of this land long before European settlement. Their custodianship of the land saw much of their lives centred around the river that they called Deerubbin but which we call Hawkesbury. They lived, sourced food and undertook their cultural life in close proximity to the river, but had a particular respect for the river's ability to rise and flood.

The Thematic History also highlights how the Hawkesbury has been shaped and defined by its river and floodplain during the custodianship of the Darug and following European settlement.

Copies are being provided to all schools within the Hawkesbury so that they can encourage our future generations to understand our past and the significant factors that shaped the Hawkesbury we live in today.

The publication is also available at Hawkesbury Central Library, Windsor and Richmond Branch Library, and an electronic version can be found on Council's website www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au



L-R: Manager, Strategic Planning Andrew Kearns, Mayor Mary Lyons-Buckett and Director Support Services Laurie Mifsud at the launch



Honouring Aboriginal diggers

Hawkesbury Library Service recently displayed a touring exhibition of Aboriginal ANZAC WWI diggers from the Blue Mountains and Windsor areas in May. The exhibition focused on the WWI service of the descendants of Maria (daughter of Darug elder, Yarramundi) and Robert Lock but also included photographs and short biographies of 11 members of the wider Lock(e) family. It was a joint project between the Mountains Outreach Community Service, Blue Mountains People for Reconciliation and Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR). For more information visit www.aboriginaldiggersWW1.com

Our Environment



Open Day for pets and plants

Come along to the annual Open Day at the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter on Saturday, 29 July, when local residents can get cheap microchips for two pets - proof of residence required, plus a free pet wash. Located at 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave, Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter covers 1030 square metres with 70 kennels and a large cattery area. It services the Local Government Areas of Hawkesbury City Council, The Hills Shire Council, Hornsby Shire Council and Penrith City Council.

Shelter staff do their utmost to ensure that as many lost pets as possible are reunited with their owners or found suitable new homes, thanks to our positive partnerships with a number of rescue organisations. The Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter has very good rehoming rates. The latest figures, using the 2016 calendar year, indicate that 1505 dogs were either returned to their owners or rehomed, which accounts for 94% of all dogs coming to the Shelter.

For the sixteenth year in a row, Council's Hawkesbury Community Nursery will be giving hundreds of native plants to residents on Saturday, 29 July, in conjunction with the annual Animal Shelter Open Day, in association with Planet Ark's National Tree Day. The free native plants use less fertiliser and less water as they prefer local conditions. The Community Nursery is next door to the Animal Shelter.

Coastal Zone Management Plan

Council's Upper Hawkesbury River Estuary Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) has received certification under the Coastal Protection Act 1979.

Council prepared a CZMP in order to provide strategic direction and guidance on future environmental and strategic planning for the Hawkesbury River and tributaries. The CZMP was developed under the NSW Government's Estuary Management Program in accordance with the Coastal Protection Act 1979. It also complies with the requirements of the NSW Coastal Policy 1997 and the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Action Plan 2013.

Gazettal of the CZMP has opened up further opportunities for funding to support identified actions within the Plan.

Thirty nine high priority actions have been identified as part of the CZMP, which have allowed works to be undertaken along the river. More specifically, the following has been completed:

- Bank stabilisation in Governor Phillip Reserve
- Jetty construction at Governor Phillip Reserve
- Foreshore protection at Governor Phillip Reserve
- Boat ramp upgrade at Holmes Drive Reserve
- Boat launch facility at Macquarie Park
- Boat launch facility at Colo Park
- Ongoing riparian restoration at strategic locations.

The CZMP is a document which identifies how Council plans to manage the Upper Hawkesbury River over the next five to ten years. The adopted Plan is available on Council's website www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/66084/CZMP-October-2014.pdf



Windsor Bushcare

Windsor residents have the chance to form a new Bushcare Group, thanks to Bushcare volunteer John Jose, who is asking for people to join him.

John has been single-handedly planting, weeding and restoring the riverbank around the Windsor Wharf Reserve area next to Windsor Bridge, Windsor for the past three years. Native vegetation along riverbanks encourages higher fish populations in rivers. So John's message is: don't dig it up for bait - the exposed soil runs into the river creating murky water with less oxygen, making it difficult for fish to flourish. John would truly welcome a helping hand along the riverbank at Windsor Wharf. To volunteer, please contact our Community Bushcare Officer on 4560 4525 or email mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au



Bushcare volunteer John Jose and Council's Community Bushcare Officer, Martin Gauci

Our Assets

Infrastructure improvement – a priority for Council

Council continues to upgrade the local road network through its ongoing maintenance and improvements program using Council funding as well as State and Federal grants. Over the financial years 2015-2017, funding to Council from the Australian Government's Roads to Recovery Program has been temporarily doubled to \$4.78 million, allowing Council to address part of its infrastructure backlog through an expanded program of road works. Council is also spending \$100,000 to install new guard rails and replace old guard rails at various locations for improved road safety.

Bridges

West Portland Road Bridge, Lower Portland has now been replaced using \$2.24 million in funding which Council has borrowed under the State Government Local Infrastructure Scheme and Federal Bridges Renewal Programme.

Two timber bridges on Upper Macdonald Road, Higher Macdonald are currently being replaced with anticipated completion by September 2017. Council will spend \$1.7million on the bridge replacements using borrowed funds through the State Government Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme. The new structures will significantly increase the safety of the bridges for both pedestrians and vehicles.



West Portland Road Bridge, Lower Portland

Completed projects – Council funded

- Branders Lane, North Richmond – road construction - \$132,500
- George Road, Wilberforce – footpath – \$10,000
- Macquarie Street, Windsor – footpath – \$102,000
- Wattle Street, Bowen Mountain drainage - \$134,000
- The Driftway, Londonderry – rehabilitation – jointly funded \$100,000 Penrith City Council and \$100,000 Hawkesbury City Council
- Wattle Street, Bowen Mountain – Stage 2 drainage – \$34,000
- Boundary Road, Maraylya – rehabilitation – jointly funded \$165,000 Hills Shire Council and \$165,000 Hawkesbury City Council

Upcoming reconstruction and sealing projects for 2017/2018

- Hermitage Road, Kurrajong Hills – road reconstruction – \$310,000
- Freemans Reach Road, Freemans Reach – road reconstruction – \$920,000

Completed major works jointly (50:50) funded by Council and Roads and Maritime Services (RMS)

- King Road/Sackville Road, Wilberforce – reconstruction and sealing – \$638,000
- Freemans Reach Road, Freemans Reach – reconstruction and sealing – \$296,000
- Grose Vale Road, Kurrajong – shoulder improvement works – \$23,000 (RMS fully funded)
- Kurmond Road, North Richmond – traffic improvement works – \$135,000 (RMS fully funded)
- Cycleway, South Windsor, (between Berger and Fairey Roads) – \$100,000
- Grose Vale Road, Grose Vale – rehabilitation – (repair program) – \$180,000

Completed rehabilitation projects – Roads to Recovery Australian Government 2016/2017 grants

- Tizzana Road, Ebenezer – \$384,000
- Boomerang Drive, Glossodia – \$240,000
- Freemans Reach Road, Freemans Reach – \$876,000 (Stage 1)
- Crooked Lane, North Richmond – \$294,000
- Wallace Road, Vineyard – \$230,000
- Blaxlands Ridge Road, Blaxlands Ridge – \$170,000
- Roberts Creek Road, East Kurrajong – \$86,000
- Maddens Road, North Richmond – \$121,500
- Dollins Road, Blaxland Ridge – \$102,000
- King Road, Wilberforce – \$955,000
- Boundary Road, Maraylya – \$165,000
- The Driftway, Londonderry – \$100,000

Council funded upcoming road and drainage works

- Spinks Road, Glossodia – reconstruct failing retaining wall – \$63,000
- Peppercorn Services Inc., George Street, Windsor – reconstruct failing timber retaining wall \$22,000
- Bus shelter outside Windsor High School, Mulgrave Road, McGraths Hill – \$26,500
- Francis Street, Richmond – open pipe channel – \$65,000



King Road, Wilberforce

Our Future

'Youthfest '17'

Youthfest '17 saw 500 young people come along to a free outdoor festival at Richmond Park in April to enjoy bubble soccer, an obstacle course, free food and music, DJs, prizes and giveaways. The Youth Action Team at the North Richmond Youth Project organised the event in conjunction with Hawkesbury City Council to celebrate National Youth Week.

Specialist youth services based in the Hawkesbury also attended with interactive displays and activities to help young residents learn about their services. The services support young people with issues such as mental health, homelessness/couch surfing, drugs and alcohol, sexual and reproductive health, disability, health and fitness. Many young people attending said Youthfest offered an open, honest, and friendly space for them to share their ideas and views with youth services and Council staff.

A Youth Summit was also held during Youth Week at Richmond High School to provide young people with the chance to show leadership by contributing ideas for future programs and services. A report is being prepared from the Summit about the issues facing young people who are living, studying, or working in the Hawkesbury. To find out more about youth events and issues, please contact Council's Youth Participation Officer, Rohan Smyth on 4560 4562 or rohan.smyth@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au



Investing in Your Future - Have your say

Council's community consultation, 'Investing in your Future' is underway. It's about a proposal for a Special Rate Variation that would commence in July 2018.

Residents have told Council that the condition of many local assets are not meeting their expectations, and that Council needs to invest more money in maintaining and upgrading its assets and services.

The Investing in Your Future brochure sent with rates notices outlines three funding options for community members to consider. Each option will have a different outcome in terms of the standards to which Council manages its assets and delivers its services.

The community consultation includes information kiosks at shopping centres and markets, town meetings, an online survey and a telephone survey.

Residents can participate in the online survey at www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/investing-in-yourfuture

For further information, attend one of the many public meetings or information kiosks being held throughout the Hawkesbury from Saturday, 15 July until Saturday, 12 August. Go to www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au for more information as well as location and times, or call Customer Service on 4560 4444. The community consultation for Investing in Your Future will conclude on Sunday, 13 August 2017.

Stormwater levy

To better meet the Hawkesbury community's expectations for stormwater services, Hawkesbury City Council will introduce a new Stormwater Management Service Charge on 1 July 2017.

The levy will apply to all residential and businesses in Hawkesbury's urban areas (a town or village) for which Council provides stormwater services.

The dedicated funding will be used to improve current stormwater infrastructure and help to meet future demands. This will enable Council to fund improved stormwater service levels in urban areas.

The Stormwater Management Service Charge will cost:

- \$25 for a residential property
- \$12.50 for a residential strata property
- \$25 per 350m² to a maximum amount of \$1,500 for a business property
- \$25 per 350m² to a maximum amount of \$1500, divided between the strata lots, for a business strata unit property.

If you would like further information about the Stormwater Management Service Charge go online www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au and click on the Know Your Rates image or call Customer Service on 4560 4444.

Major projects at a glance for 2017/2018

Council is fulfilling the goals of the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2017-2036 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 2017/2018.

1 Road Rehabilitation \$5,156,895

Works will be undertaken in the following locations including:

- Hermitage Road, Kurrajong
- Freemans Reach Road, Freemans Reach
- King and Sackville Roads, Wilberforce
- The Driftway, Richmond
- Toll House Way, Windsor
- Teviot Street, Richmond
- Johnson Street, Pitt Town
- Bathurst Street, Pitt Town
- Hawkesbury Street, Pitt Town

2 Road Reseals \$2,097,500

Reseals of various roads will be undertaken, including:

- Agnes Banks
- Bowen Mountain
- Cattai
- Cornwallis
- East Kurrajong
- Ebenezer
- Freemans Reach
- Glossodia
- Grose Vale
- Hobartville
- Kurmond
- Kurrajong
- Kurrajong Heights
- Kurrajong Hills
- Lower Macdonald
- Lower Portland
- Maraylya
- Mulgrave
- North Richmond
- Oakville
- Pitt Town
- Pitt Town Bottoms
- Richmond
- Richmond Lowlands
- Sackville
- South Windsor
- St Albans area
- Tennyson
- The Slopes
- Wilberforce
- Windsor

3 Emergency Services \$1,659,043

- Contribution to Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Services

4 Parks \$1,600,978

Works will be undertaken at the following parks and facilities:

- Richmond Pool
- Richmond Tennis Courts
- Macquarie Park
- Glossodia Park Amenities
- Powell Park
- McQuade Park
- Woodlands Park
- Colbee Park
- St Albans Park
- Hawkesbury Park
- Pound Paddock
- Central Colo Park
- Bowen Mountain Park
- Pitt Town Reserves
- Bilpin Park
- St Albans Tennis Courts
- Smith Park
- Governor Phillip Park
- Maraylya Park
- Stanley Park
- McLeod Park
- North Richmond Park (Turnbull Oval)

5 Drainage \$1,420,925

Works will be undertaken in the following locations:

- Comleroy Road, Kurrajong
- Wattle Street, Bowen Mountain
- Johnston and Hawkesbury Streets, Pitt Town
- Old Stock Route Road, Oakville
- Richmond Road, Richmond
- Francis and Pitt Streets, Richmond
- Teviot and Moray Streets, Richmond
- Settlers Road, St Albans
- Wollombi and Mogo Creek Roads, St Albans
- East Market Street, Richmond

6 Hawkesbury Sports Council \$1,070,340

- Maintenance and management of sporting facilities throughout the Hawkesbury LGA

7 Footpath Network \$769,000

Works will be undertaken in the following locations:

- Macquarie Street, Windsor
- Rifle Range Road, Bligh Park
- Mileham Street, South Windsor
- Macquarie Street, South Windsor
- Buckingham Street, Pitt Town
- The Terrace, Windsor
- March Street, Richmond
- Colonial Drive, Bligh Park

8 Buildings \$616,675

Works will be undertaken in the following locations including:

- Glossodia Shopping Village
- Windsor Function Centre
- Hobartville Long Day Care Centre
- Richmond Preschool

9 Heritage Services \$574,243

- Provision of education, public and incentive programs and exhibitions

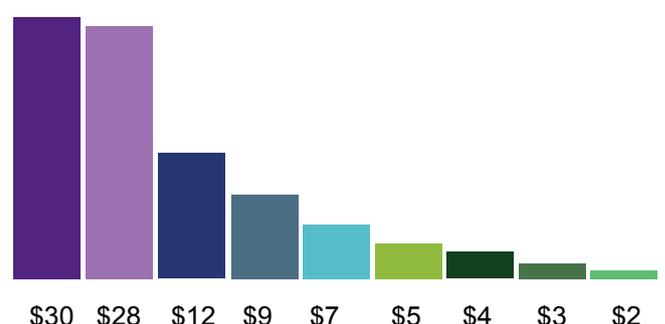
10 Library Resources \$320,814

- Resources for educational and public programs
- Books, DVDs, CDs, e-resources (book & music downloads)

How every \$100 of your rates is spent

Waste Management	\$30
Roads and Transport	\$28
Open Space and Recreation	\$12
Public Order, Health and Safety	\$9
Community Buildings and Public Toilets	\$7
Cultural and Library Services	\$5
Administration and Governance	\$4
Community and Civic Programs	\$3
Tourism and Business Development	\$2

For full details of Council's estimated 2017/2018 income and expenditure visit www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au



Save the date

Local Government Week

Monday, 31 July to Sunday, 6 August

- Big events including the Animal Shelter Open Day/National Tree Day giveaway on Saturday, 29 July 9:30am to midday
- Investing in Your Future, community consultation, go to www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au for more information

Hawkesbury Chemical CleanOut

Sunday, 27 August 2017

Hawkesbury Showground www.cleanout.com.au

St Albans Writers Festival

Friday, 8 to Sunday, 10 September 2017

www.stalbanswritersfestival.com.au

The 2017 Rex Stubbs OAM History Symposium

Saturday 9, September from 9:30am to 4:30pm

Tebbutt Room, Hawkesbury Central Library, Deerubbin Centre, 300 George St, Windsor - bookings essential, register your interest library@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au or call 4560 4460

Garden Competition

Friday, 15 to Sunday, 17 September - Garden judging

Wednesday, 18 October - Presentation evening - venue to be confirmed

St Matthew's 200th Birthday Bash

Saturday, 14 and Sunday, 15 October

St Matthew's Anglican Church, Moses Street, Windsor

Garage Sale Trail

Saturday, 21 and Sunday 22, October 2017

www.garagesaletrail.com.au

Want to hold an event?

Thinking of holding a community event in the Hawkesbury? Contact Council's Event Coordinator on 4560 4404 or email council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au for advice!



Contact us:

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

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