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Please share this newsletter with other local businesses, become a member of the Hawkesbury Business Hub (it's free!) and please tell me what you think by contacting [business@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:business@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au).

**Welcome to the final edition of the business newsletter for 2023!**

We are fast approaching the end of another busy year, and congratulations to the Local Business Award finalists and winners who were celebrated at the annual local business awards presentation evening.

As we enter the month of December, I encourage you all to attend our wonderful Light Up Windsor event, which is happening on Saturday, 2 December in Windsor Mall. This will be an opportunity to enjoy local hospitality and retail while celebrating Christmas time with other local business owners, family and friends and I can't wait to see everyone there!

It will be 2024 before we know it, and Council will return from a brief break to put the finishing touches on our exciting Australia Day events – including our Australia Day Awards, Citizenship Ceremony, and of course our Australia Day on the Hawkesbury family celebration at Governor Phillip Park.

On behalf of Hawkesbury City Council, we wish you a safe and Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year and we look forward to working closely with you again in the new year.

Sincerely, Mayor Sarah McMahon

## In the Hawkesbury



### Council Hours for 2023-24 Festive Season

As in previous years, Council will operate with reduced staffing levels from Saturday, 23 December 2023 to Wednesday, 3 January 2024. Please see <https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/link/christmas-operating-hours> for the various operating hours of Council's facilities. Hawkesbury City Councillors, staff and volunteers wish you a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.



The Hawkesbury's favourite annual Christmas celebration, Light Up Windsor Street Fair returns!

Council's calendar of annual major events do more than bring the community together – they also deliver tangible economic benefits to local businesses. Light Up Windsor Street Fair is an annual event that attracts more than 12,000 visitors to the Windsor town centre with Christmas markets and entertainment in early December.

Across the day of last year's Light Up Windsor, there was \$1.101 million spent by locals and visitors in Windsor. This compares to \$953,593 spent the previous year. For dining and entertainment, \$272,000 was spent in Windsor across the entire day, compared to \$200,000 the previous Saturday, and \$201,200 the week after.

From 5pm to 9pm on Saturday 2 December 2023, Windsor Mall and George Street will burst to life with Christmas cheer, including dozens of market stalls, snow flurries, Christmas lights, free face painting, and live entertainment. For more information about the event visit the website: [www.lightupwindsor.com.au](http://www.lightupwindsor.com.au)



## Mayoral Christmas Appeal

Hawkesbury City Council's Mayoral Christmas Appeal is now open!

This year's Mayoral Christmas Appeal will be held in partnership with San Miguel – a Hawkesbury program run by the charity yourtown – which is a family residential service providing support to vulnerable young parents and their children.

San Miguel welcomes gifts for all ages but has especially asked for gifts for parents. Often, parents from underprivileged homes are overlooked at this time of year.

Gifts must be unwrapped and can be dropped off up from now until Friday 15 December 2022 at Council's Administration Building, 366 George Street, Windsor, at Hawkesbury Central Library, 300 George Street, Windsor, and Richmond Branch Library at 29 West Market Street.

Shoppers can also drop off unwrapped gifts at Richmond Marketplace outside Lowes.

Gift ideas may include board games, card games, outdoor games, sport equipment, tool kits or gift vouchers from local shops that offer items such as books, clothes, ice cream, stationery, or sporting goods.





## Australia Day 2024

Council invites you to Australia Day on the Hawkesbury 2024, a fun family friendly community event on 26 January 2024 from 5pm to 9pm at Governor Phillip Park, Windsor.

This will be the perfect way to enjoy this special day with friends and family alongside our beautiful river. We are also marking this important day with the Australia Day Awards Ceremony and a Citizenship Ceremony, both at the Windsor Function Centre. Visit the Hawkesbury Events Facebook page for event updates.



## Live performance venue program

Are you a hospitality venue looking to add live performance to your regular operations? Unsure where to start?

The Live Performance Venue Program will help existing venues build their knowledge and skills so they can make informed decisions – developing a vision for staging live performance, aligning this vision with your existing business model, and purchasing equipment and sound management for the creation of a fit-for-purpose performance space.

The first stage in the two-phase Program is the Live Performance Venue Accelerator, a six-week series of workshops covering the above topics and more. Applications are now open (until 13 December), with the workshops starting in February.

Join an online information session to find out more about the Accelerator, how to apply, eligibility and opportunity for Q&A: <https://events.humanitix.com/live-performance-venue-accelerator-information-sessions>

The second phase is a grant program, with successful applicants receiving up to \$80,000 to get their live performance programming off the ground (via essential equipment and promotion). Admission guidelines and grant applications open February 2024.

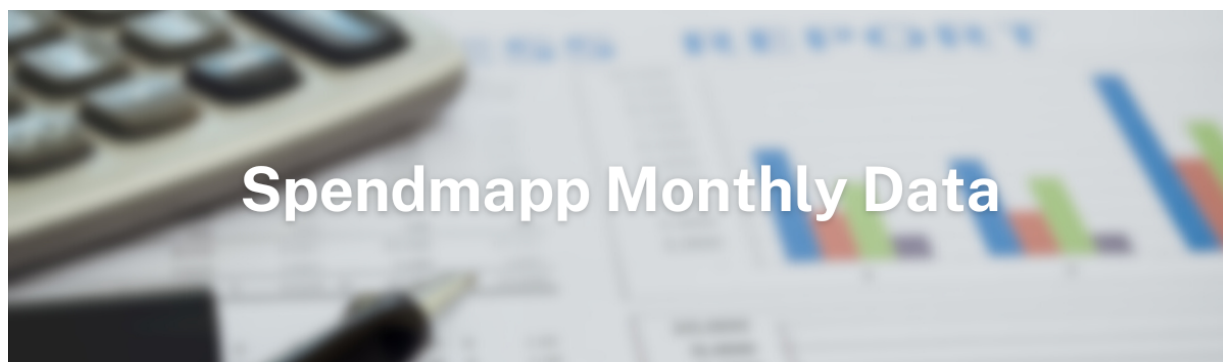
The Live Performance Venue Program is part of the NSW Government's Venues Unlocked initiative. Venues Unlocked is being jointly delivered by the Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner and the newly-formed Sound NSW, which is currently offering soundproofing grants for live music venues.



Click the link to find out more about the Live Performance Venue Program:

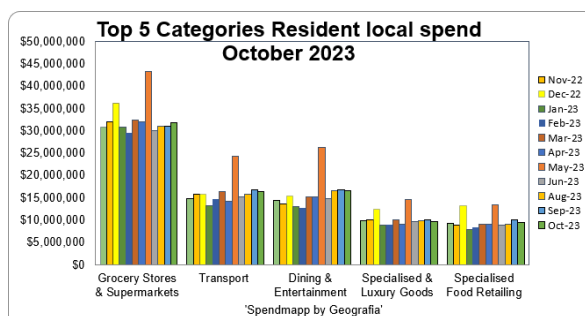
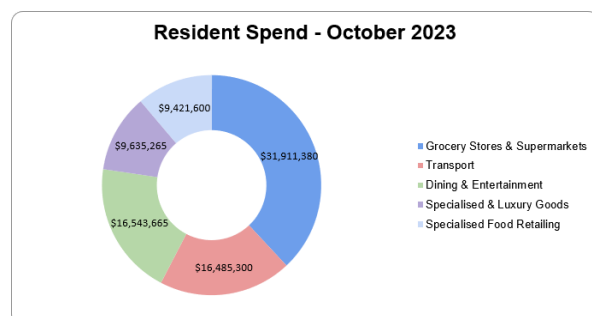
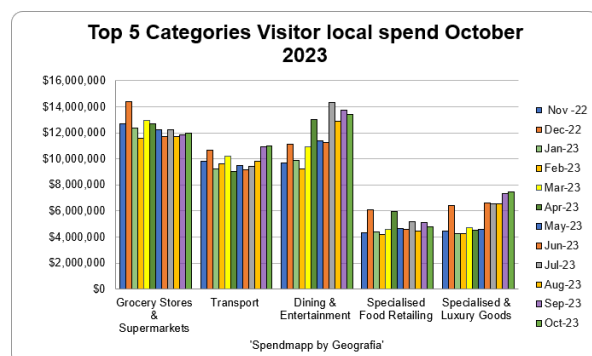
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/venues-unlocked/live-performance-venue-program>

## Business News & Updates



[Spendmapp](#), developed by Geografia, is an economic modelling tool used by several local government areas to measure consumer spending of locals and visitors geographically using bank data.

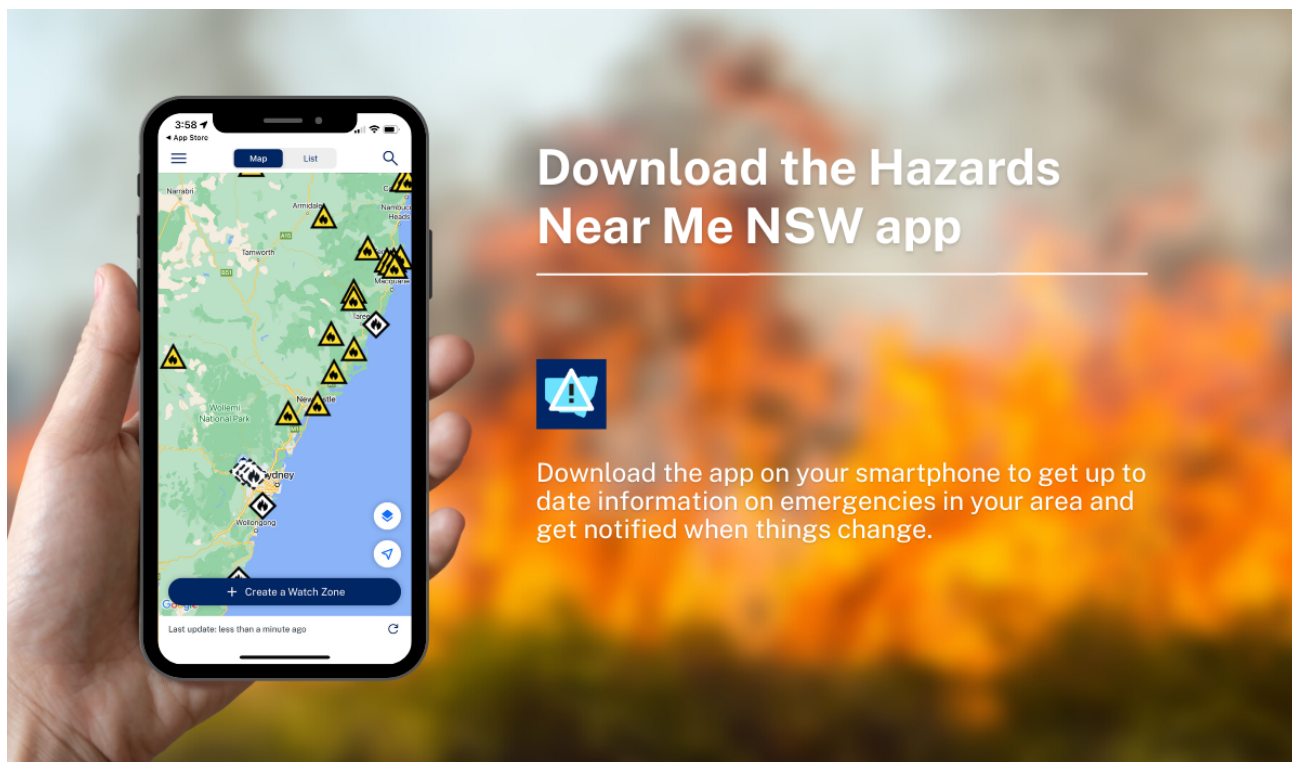
The tool helps Local Council's and businesses gain a better understanding of the local economy by providing an insight into the visitor economy, online expenditure and escape expenditure. Using the data helps determine patterns of spending and can assist with managing and responding to long term economic trends and shocks.



October 2023 showed a small decrease in resident spending in four of the categories, which means that residents are spending less in our LGA.

The visitor spend for October shows a small increase in three of the categories.

## Important Links



## Download the Hazards Near Me NSW app



Download the app on your smartphone to get up to date information on emergencies in your area and get notified when things change.

Prepare for bushfire season - <https://www.smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au/news/get-your-small-business-ready-bushfire-season>

Hazards Near Me - [Hazards Near Me app](#) | [NSW Government](#)

Bushfire preparedness – Farm fire safety - [Farm fire safety](#) - [NSW Rural Fire Service](#)

Bushfire Hub - [BushfireHub \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Bushfire Resilience Rating Home Self-Assessment - [RBC: Bushfire Resilience Assessment \(rbccouncil.org\)](#)

Small Network Grants Program - [Helping Regional Communities Prepare for Drought Initiative – Small Network Grants](#) | [FRRR](#)

Grants and Program Finder - [Grants and programs finder](#) | [business.gov.au](#)

NSW Government eases small business procurement rules - [NSW Government eases small business procurement rules](#) | [Small Business Commissioner](#)

More grants, rebates and support for small business - [More grants, rebates and support for small business](#) | [Small Business Commissioner \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

## Upcoming Workshops



### How to start a business – Western Sydney

5 December 2023, 10am-12pm (online)



### Marketing plan in 1 day

5 December 2023, 1pm-2pm (online)

Register

Register



**Social media – Creating content from content**

7 December 2023, 1pm-2pm (online)

Register



**Business planning essentials**

13 December 2023, 10am-12pm (online)

Register



**How to improve customer satisfaction**

13 December 2023, 1pm-2pm (online)

Register

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