



## Welcome to this month's newsletter

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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 me on 4560 4437 or 0418 296 579 or email [Amanda.Kearney@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Amanda.Kearney@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au).

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## Mayoral Column

To those Hawkesbury residents and businesses impacted by the floods earlier this year, I urge you to continue to access the support available to you. Your recovery and future successes remain a priority for myself and the greater Hawkesbury City Council team.

Along with the financial assistance and support services available from the State and Federal Governments, an interactive workshop from the Western Sydney Business Centre is being held this month to provide assistance and advice specific to the Hawkesbury.

This month will also see the commencement of works to revitalise Richmond Town Centre as part of Council's Liveability Project. This exciting project will see upgrades such as tree planting, new pavement and street furniture, and new surfacing, signage, and lighting for pedestrian crossings. Weather permitting, works are due to be complete in late 2022.



As always, I am incredibly thankful to live in such a caring community. I sincerely thank you all for your concern and well wishes and continue to be humbled by the support I have received in these difficult past weeks.

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## Flood Support for Businesses

A range of financial assistance and support services are available to individuals and businesses impacted by severe weather and flooding in NSW from 22 February 2022 onwards.

### Support for Businesses

As part of Hawkesbury City Council's efforts to assist businesses through their recovery, a special Flood Support Newsletter was distributed earlier this month containing information on support and services available to local businesses. Click [HERE](#) to access the newsletter and [HERE](#) for more information on flood support services in the Hawkesbury.

### Support for flood affected landholders

[Meat & Livestock Australia](#) have compiled a comprehensive list of flood recovery information including farm and livestock management resources, financial assistance, and state and national support. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

[Rural Aid](#) provides critical support to farmers affected by natural disaster through financial, wellbeing and fodder assistance. Register online at [www.ruralaid.org.au](http://www.ruralaid.org.au) or by calling 1300 327 624.

[Rural Aid's Farm Army](#) provides a job posting platform for farmers seeking assistance with advertising job opportunities for farmers, workers and volunteers. Learn more [HERE](#).

### NSW Government Support

#### [Storm and Flood Disaster Recovery Small Business Grant](#)

If you are a small business or not-for-profit and were directly impacted by the March 2022 storms and floods, you may be eligible for a disaster recovery grant of up to \$50,000 to help cover the costs of clean-up and reinstatement of operations.

#### [Special Disaster Grants](#)

Targeted assistance and Special Disaster Grants of up to \$75,000 are now available to primary producers recovering from the impacts of severe weather and flooding in February and March 2022, through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). Flood affected primary producers are encouraged to apply for the grant as soon as possible, and once approved, will be able to access \$15,000 in assistance up-front, with a further \$60,000 in financial assistance available thereafter upon submission of valid tax invoices.

### Federal Government Support

#### [The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment](#)

A lump sum payment available to residents in a [disaster declared Local Government Area \(LGA\)](#) who were significantly affected by the 2022 floods. If eligible you will receive \$1,000 per adult, \$1,000 per partner or dependent adult, and \$400 per child under 16. To claim online, you will need a myGov account that is linked to Centrelink. If you require assistance, you can call the Emergency information line on 180 22 66.

The [Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment - Special Supplement](#) is available to eligible persons in heavily impacted LGAs. If you meet eligibility rules, you will receive an additional \$2,000 per adult, \$2,000 per partner or dependent adult, and \$800 per child under 16.

#### [Disaster Recovery Allowance](#)

The Disaster Recovery Allowance is a short-term payment to help those whose income has been directly impacted by a disaster. You can get it for a maximum of 13 weeks, paid from the date you started losing

income as a direct result of the NSW floods. To claim online, you will need a myGov account that is linked to Centrelink. If you require assistance, you can call the Emergency information line on 180 22 66.

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## Liveability Project Update



Hawkesbury City Council is excited to announce the latest update to the Liveability Project - Revitalising Our Town Centres.

As of Monday 30 May 2022, works to revitalise Richmond Town Centre have begun. This exciting project will see significant improvements made to Windsor Street, from East Market Street through to Bosworth Street, to attract more visitors and improve their experience.

The upgrade includes:

- Planting of advanced trees
- New feature paving and street furniture
- New surfacing, signage, and lighting for the pedestrian crossing between Bosworth Street and West Market Street

Weather permitting, the works are scheduled to be complete in late 2022.

A contractor has also been awarded for South Windsor Town Centre. Site establishment is expected in early June 2022 with construction works to follow. Approvals from Heritage NSW are still pending for Windsor Town Centre.

The \$18.75 million revitalisation of Richmond, South Windsor and Windsor town centres is funded by Hawkesbury City Council and the Australian and NSW governments through the Western Sydney City Deal's Western Parkland City Liveability Fund.

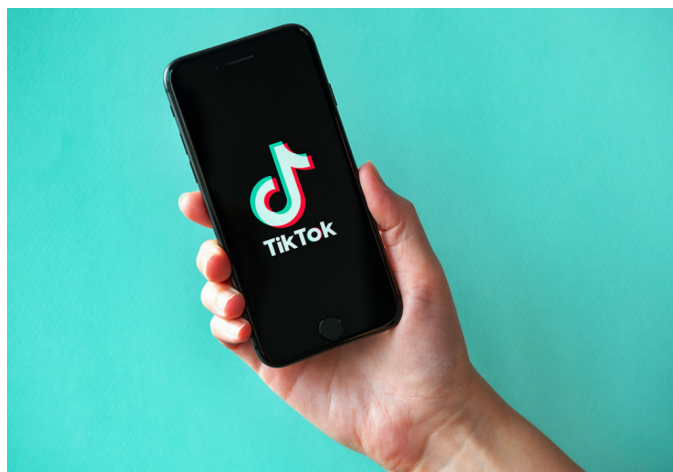
This project is part of the Greening Our City grant program that is proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with Local Government NSW.

Click [here](#) to see the final design concept. More information on the project is available on Council's community engagement website, [Your Hawkesbury Your Say](#).

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## Workshops for Businesses

Find and book your next workshop, webinar or event from an expert. Develop your business skills, learn something new, or get your new business idea off the ground.



### **TikTok 101 Workshop**

Wednesday 1 June 2022, 10am-12pm

[Register](#)



### **Food Waste Workshop for Bilpin Businesses**

Monday 6 June 2022, 10am-12pm

[Register](#)

**Grow**  
YOUR FUTURE

**Job Ready &  
Money Smart**

**SESSION 3**  
**FINANCIAL TOOLKIT SESSION**  
**(UNDERSTANDING MONEY)**

With Julia Webber, Financial  
Literacy Educator

### **Financial Toolkit Session**

Thursday 9 June, 9:30am

[Register](#)

**Grow**  
YOUR FUTURE

**Job Ready &  
Money Smart**

**SESSION 4**  
**JOB INTERVIEW TIPS**

### **Job Interview Tips**

Monday 23 June 2022, 9:30am

[Register](#)



# Hawkesbury REFRESH. REBOUND. REIMAGINE. FLOOD RECOVERY & BEYOND

HURRY! LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE

Complimentary Lunch Will Be Provided



WESTERN SYDNEY  
BUSINESS CENTRE



Hawkesbury  
City Council

BusinessConnect  
Funded by the NSW Government

**24TH JUNE**  
9am to 4:30pm

**RICHMOND CLUB**



**Kirryn Zerna**  
Keynote Speaker



**Rich Evans**  
CEO, Founder, Author



**Peter Merrett**  
Keynote Speaker



**Katina Beveridge**  
Digital Expert

## Hawkesbury Refresh Rebound Reimagine Workshop – Flood Recovery & Beyond

Brought to you by Western Sydney Business Centre in partnership with Business Connect and Hawkesbury City Council, *Hawkesbury Refresh Rebound Reimagine* is an interactive workshop focused on providing you with tips and tricks to help you and your small business get back on track and plan for the future. Morning tea and lunch is provided, and the day will feature four inspiring speakers.

The workshop will be held between 9am and 4:30pm on **Friday 24 June 2022** at the Richmond Club. Registration closes Tuesday 21st June.

Register



**HAWKESBURY**  
living sustainably

**Workshops for Businesses**

Plastic-Free Living  
Monday 20 June, 3pm-5pm

Presented by:  
Jo Taranto from *Good for the Hood*



## Hawkesbury Living Sustainably Workshop – Plastic-Free Living

Thinking of participating in the global Plastic Free July movement this year? Want your business to be prepared for the single-use plastic ban?

Join us for an online workshop where we look at some of the simplest, easiest and most effective ways to ditch single-use plastic. Whether you're a beginner or already making changes, this workshop will assist your business to prepare for the ban, help you understand what questions to ask suppliers, and teach you how to inform your customers and team.

Date: Monday, 20 June 2022

Time: 3pm-5pm

Location: 100% online  
Cost: FREE

Register

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## New Education and Training Model (NETM)



The Western Parkland City Authority (WPCA) has recently launched the New Education and Training Model (NETM). Developed in collaboration with industry, government, and universities and vocational education and training (VET) providers, the NETM offers short, targeted training courses (micro-credentials) to businesses in Western Sydney and their staff.

NETM is now piloting the first micro-credential on metal additive manufacturing in partnership with Western Sydney University and GE Additive. They are actively seeking businesses as industry partners who want:

- Access to rapid, economical training (free during the initial phase of the pilot)
- To attract, grow and retain a skilled workforce
- To build a skill development pipeline for the future.

The NETM team wants to work with local businesses in Western Sydney to develop concepts for short, targeted training courses (micro-credentials) of around 40 hours. Once the concept is endorsed by the NETM Industry Reference Group, the WPCA will procure a leading education provider to turn your training concept into a reality.

Priority industries for the NETM are:

- Advanced manufacturing
- Aerospace & defence
- Freight & logistics
- Agribusiness
- Pharmaceutical manufacturing

If your organisation has a skills need and would like to work with the NETM team to develop a micro-credential proposal, please register your interest here, or contact [netm@wpca.sydney](mailto:netm@wpca.sydney) to connect with the NETM team.

There are different ways organisations can participate in the NETM depending on their resources and capacity. For example, small businesses may only want to enrol their staff in an existing micro-credential for free; or if they have a skill need that is not currently being addressed by existing micro-credentials, WPCA will work with them to scope a potential micro-credential that will address the needs they identify. Please contact the NETM team if you have any questions.

You can learn more about the NETM by visiting the [Western Parkland City Authority website](#) or by downloading the NETM Industry Brochure [here](#).

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# Essentials of Additive Manufacturing Short Course Training Program



The *Essentials of Additive Manufacturing* short course offers an introduction to the fundamentals of additive manufacturing, and an understanding of its benefits and role in the modern manufacturing landscape.

Additive manufacturing, also known as 3D printing, is the process of creating a physical object from a digital design file. Participants in the program will learn how to select the right parts for additive, how to choose the right additive process and how to develop a business case for additive manufacturing. The course is delivered either online or face-to-face, with multiple start dates available.

[Download the course brochure](#)

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## NSW Plastic Ban – Information for Businesses



In 2022, the NSW Government is banning certain single-use plastics.

From **Wednesday 1 June**, lightweight plastic bags will be banned. This includes bags made from biodegradable plastics, compostable plastics, and bio-plastics. The ban does not include produce and deli bags, bin liners, human or animal waste bags, and bags used to contain items for medical purposes.

From **Tuesday 1 November**, the ban will extend to single-use plastic straws, stirrers and cutlery and single-use plastic bowls and plates. This ban also applies to items made from biodegradable plastics, compostable plastics, and bio-plastics. Visit the [NSW single-use plastic ban website](#) for more information on exemptions.

### How to prepare for the ban

- Stop ordering banned items now and use up existing stock
- Do a stock-take and work out how long it will take to exhaust your banned items
- Speak to your supplier if you have large amounts of stock. They may accept returns or exchanges
- Transfer excess stock to another state



- Contact a local recycler to see if they can take some items if you cannot exhaust, return, exchange or transfer your stock in time

### What to ask your suppliers

- Do these items comply with the NSW plastics ban that comes into effect in 2022?
- Can you confirm that they do not contain any form of polymer, plastic, or compostable plastic?
- Are my plastic shopping bags more than 35 microns in thickness at all parts of the bag?

If your supplier cannot answer yes to all of these questions, the items may be banned.

### Inform your customers and staff

- Prepare your staff for customer questions about the ban and inform them of the changes you have decided to make
- Make sure food and beverage staff know that they are allowed to provide a plastic straw on request (and do not have to ask for a reason) and know that straws must not be on display
- Inform your customers of the ban and prepare them for changes you will be implementing

Resources such as posters and flyers for retailers, suppliers and not-for-profit organisations are available from the [NSW single-use plastic ban website](#).

### Support for Businesses

The NSW Government in partnership with the National Retail Association is delivering a range of resources and activities to help businesses and organisations implement the legislation. In addition to providing signage and factsheets, the National Retail Association will be visiting retail stores, business, suppliers, and not-for-profit organisations across NSW. It will also run online information sessions.

For further information or advice, call the toll-free hotline on 1800 844 946 or email [sustainability@nra.net.au](mailto:sustainability@nra.net.au).

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## .au direct: Australian Domain Administration



Shorter, simpler Australian domain names are available with the launch of .au direct. The new namespace is the biggest innovation in Australia's domain landscape in 20 years, providing new options for web and email addresses.

Here's what small businesses need to know:

- .au direct launched on 24 March 2022
  - you can register via participating auDA [accredited registrars](#)
  - .au allows for more flexibility with choosing shorter, simpler domain names
  - it is open to everyone with an Australian presence
  - it is a great opportunity for entrepreneurs, new ventures, hobbies and one-off events or campaigns
- For example, you can:
- Register a short, memorable name for a new business idea (auDAbusinessidea.au)
  - Register your name in .au direct to create a professional, personalised website (surname.au) and email address (firstname@surname.au)



- Register your marketing campaign name to launch a new product (auDAcampaign.au).
- .au complements existing Australian namespaces and does not replace them
- the launch of .au direct brings Australian into line with its international peers
- existing registrants have the first opportunity to register the exact match of their existing domain names
- you can check the status of domain names in the small chance that there may be more than one applicant for the same .au direct name
- if you hold a domain name in any other .au namespace (eg. com.au, id.au etc.), that was created prior to 24 March 2022 you'll be able to apply for Priority Status to register its exact match in .au direct during the six-month period from launch
  - to check your priority category and/ or see if there are other registrants eligible for the .au direct name you seek, you can use [auDA's Priority Status Tool](#)

You can find out more by visiting [auDA's .au direct webpage](#).

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## Small Business Grants in NSW



### Business Grants for Startups

If you're running a startup, you need to [understand your financing options](#). In NSW, there are a number of grants you could be eligible for. These include:

- Minimum Viable Product grants
- Building Partnerships grants
- Regional startup grants
- Western Sydney Investment Attraction Fund grants

For more [here](#) for information on the support available for startups.

### Grants for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Peoples

If you are an Indigenous business owner you can register as an Indigenous corporation, which will make your business eligible for specific business grants and other incentives. Click [here](#) for information on eligibility and registration.

The [Indigenous Business Australia](#) (IBA) program offers advice, training, and finance to business owners and entrepreneurs with an Indigenous or Torres Strait Islander background.

### Grants for Women

The NSW Government offers a fully subsidised [online business training program](#) for women who own or operate a small business, or who are looking to start one.

### Grants for Energy Sustainability

[The Advancing Renewables program](#) is available for businesses aiming to innovate the renewable energy landscape in Australia and help make it a commercially viable option for everyone.

### COVID-19 Grants

If your business has suffered due to COVID-19, you may be eligible for grants, benefits, rebates and concessions designed to ease the impact of the pandemic. Some include:

- [Cash flow for employers payments](#) for businesses with an aggregated turnover of less than \$50 million.
- [Small business fees and charges rebate](#) to help pay for government fees and charges. The rebate has increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000 and eligible employing businesses can use the rebate against 50% of the cost of rapid antigen tests.
- [Commercial landlord hardship fund](#) for small commercial or retail landlords with total taxable land holdings of less than \$5 million and who've provided tenant(s) with rental waivers.
- [Small and medium enterprise \(SME\) guarantee scheme](#), which has been expanded to June 2022.

### **Business Grant Finder**

[Business Australia](#) have put together a great resource tool for NSW small businesses looking for what grants are available to them. Join Business Australia for free and browse over 1500 government grants. Get started [here](#).

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## **Disaster Risk Reduction Fund**

### **Local and Regional Risk Reduction Stream**

Resilience NSW is administering funding to local and regional projects that deliver locally based risk reduction and mitigation solutions to improve disaster resilience across NSW communities.

Under two funding pathways, Pathway 1 and Pathway 2, the Local & Regional Risk Reduction stream aims to deliver direct risk reduction and risk mitigation solutions, build capabilities in disaster risk reduction, and promote collaboration between local communities, councils and other stakeholders.

- Pathway 1 offers funding of \$50,000 to \$300,000, for projects run by a single entity with a focus on implementing smaller scale, place-based solutions to prevent new, reduce existing and manage residual disaster risk.
- Pathway 2 offers funding of \$300,000 to \$1.5 million, for projects delivered by a consortium of organisations or partnerships with a focus on strategic initiatives that create long-term regional benefit and build risk reduction capability building efforts across communities or regions.

### **Projects funded under this stream**

Projects must address a specific or multi-hazard natural disaster risk of local or regional significance to communities in NSW. Projects may include:

- Risk reduction education and capability building activities
- Training or courses that build understanding, capability, competency or capacity of individuals, organisations, and communities
- Risk or vulnerability assessment activities
- Place-based or community-led efforts
- Strategic planning activities
- Design, development and piloting of tools, technologies, platforms, systems and capabilities that measure progress, build on previous successful risk reduction efforts, and disseminate learnings in usable formats and forums

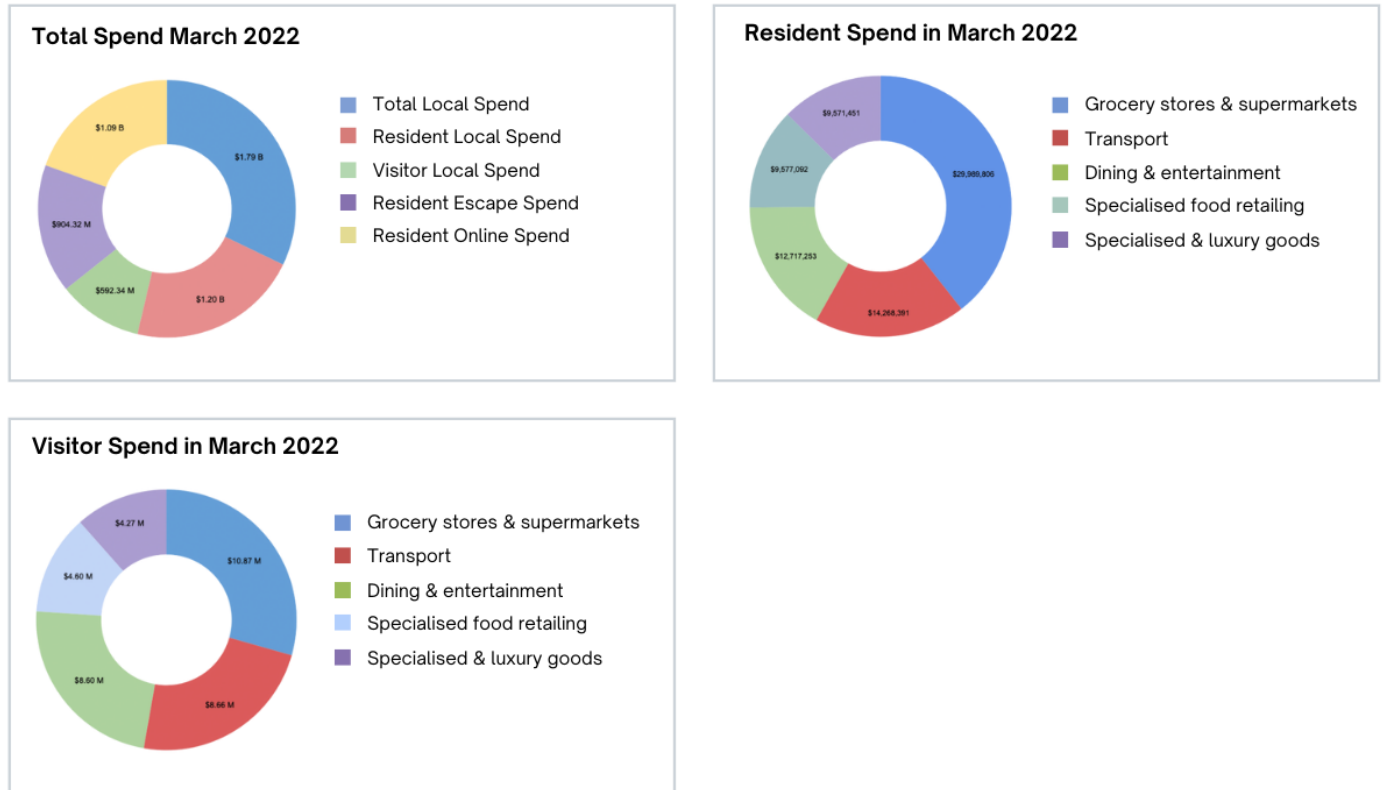
For information on eligibility and application requirements visit the [NSW Government Disaster Risk Reduction Fund webpage](#). A [guideline](#) on the Local & Regional Risk Reduction stream is also available for download as a PDF.

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# SpendMapp

[Spendmapp](#), developed by Geografia, is an economic modelling tool. It uses bank data to measure consumer spending of both locals and visitors in the geographic area over certain time periods. It can help to determine patterns of spending, by who and where, to get a better picture of the local economy.

Using the data can help inform, manage, and help also to respond to long term economic trends and shocks and also gain insights into the visitor economy, online expenditure and escape expenditure. Spendmapp is used by a number of local government areas.



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## Have Your Say - NSW Small Business Strategy

Have your say



The NSW Government is looking at how best to support small businesses and help them rebuild, recharge and renew. Fill out the online survey to give your feedback and help inform the development of the new Small Business Strategy.

[Complete the survey](#)