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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.

Mayoral Column

Welcome to the final edition of the business newsletter for 2022. I am continuously in awe of the strong and resilient community we have in the Hawkesbury, and I thank you all for the strength and support that the business community have demonstrated throughout this year.

As we enter the month of December, I encourage you all to attend at our wonderful Light Up Windsor event, which is happening on Saturday, 3 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.

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



Light Up Windsor

Celebrate Christmas the Hawkesbury way at the annual Light Up Windsor Street Fair.

This year the Light Up Windsor Street Fair will be a true celebration of Christmas. On Saturday 3 December 2022, Windsor Mall and George Street will come to life with our annual street festival, which will include markets, live entertainment, amazing Christmas lights display, roving characters, Christmas workshop, snow and much more.

The Light Up Windsor Festival is the perfect way for families from the Hawkesbury and beyond to come and enjoy local hospitality and retail while celebrating a magical time of the year at a fun, exciting and interactive Christmas event.

Where: Street Fair - Windsor Mall to George Street, Windsor

When: Saturday, 3 December 2022 5pm - 9pm



Australia Day on the Hawkesbury 2023

Be part of Australia Day on the Hawkesbury! A free local event with live and roving entertainment, music, food, and drinks.

Enjoy a relaxed family picnic event with fireworks at 9pm.

Where: Governor Phillip Park, Windsor, 2756

When: Thursday, 26 January 2023 from 5pm to 9:30pm



Visitor Economy Workshop

Hawkesbury City Council would like to extend a warm thank you to all those who participated in our Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (BLERF) Visitor Economy workshops, and mentoring program held throughout 2022.

The aim of the Visitor Economy workshops was to support, empower and provide tools and resources to business owners, to support them with practical information to optimise their business.

On behalf of Hawkesbury City Council, we would like to extend our many thanks to business and tourism experts, Sparrowly Group for sharing their expertise and knowledge, and running these workshops with the Hawkesbury business community.

This program was free of charge and funded under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (BLERF) Grant funded by NSW Government received by Hawkesbury City Council.

Business News & Updates



Supporting COVID Safe Workplaces

With an increase of COVID-19 cases and variants circulating in the community, NSW Health advises we have entered a new COVID-19 wave.

To help communicate COVID-19 safe behaviours in the workplace, NSW Health have put together a toolkit which contains the following guidance:

- **WHS obligations:** Employers or businesses must manage the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the workplace and should review the [COVID-19 safety plan checklist](#).
- **Testing:** It's important that anyone unwell tests for COVID-19 and stays home (regardless of the result) until their acute symptoms (runny nose, sore throat, cough and fever) have gone. Employers should consider supporting employees to stay or work from home where possible if they have COVID-19, have had contact with a case, or are at higher risk of severe illness.
- **Register the result:** If you or a staff member tests positive on a [rapid antigen test](#), register the result online with [Service NSW](#). Voluntarily registering helps access health advice including antivirals, if eligible.

- **Mask wearing:** Encourage employees to [wear a mask](#) in indoor public spaces including offices and public transport. Wearing a mask is still required in healthcare settings.
- **Vaccinations:** Remind staff to stay up to date with [COVID-19 vaccinations](#).

Download the toolkit



Destination NSW Digital Skills Accelerator Program – Western Sydney 2023

Destination NSW has partnered with [Tourism Tribe](#) to offer a fully funded **Digital Skills Accelerator for Western Sydney** to assist tourism businesses in Sydney's Central River City and Western Parklands City, including accommodation, tours and attractions to digitally transform their marketing.

This free program aims to help tourism businesses to improve their digital skills and online presence, build their digital marketing channels and ultimately help grow their business. The program will assist businesses to work towards their goals with a customised Digital Engagement Health Check™, ATDW Health Check and individual consultation sessions.

This program is open to 200 tourism businesses from Western Sydney. For the full program details and to register your interest, visit <https://www.tourismtribe.com/programs/west-sydney23/>



Single-use Plastics Ban

Last month the NSW Government banned certain single-use plastic items commonly used in hospitality businesses. [Take 3 for the Sea](#), a NSW charity dedicated to reducing the impact of plastic pollution, is partnering with the NSW EPA to encourage hospitality business owners to reduce the use of single-use plastic food service items.

Watch [this video](#) to learn how the move away from single-use plastics can be beneficial for business.

For more information about the ban, visit the [Single-use plastics ban in NSW webpage](#).



New rules to boost farm businesses start 1 December

New planning rules designed to make it easier for farmers to set up agritourism businesses came into effect on 1 December.

Agritourism opportunities can include farm stays, cafes, cellar doors, retreats, roadside stalls, fruit picking or small wedding venues.

The changes to planning rules include:

- Simplifying planning terms to make it easier for farmers to know how they can use their land for new income streams.
- New planning pathways to allow activities to be either fast-tracked for approval or exempted from approval requirements.
- Landowners will be able to rebuild farm buildings destroyed by natural disasters without planning approval.

For more information visit www.planning.nsw.gov.au/agritourism



Registrations of Interest for NSW Government Manufacturing Industries Funding

The NSW Government, through the Office of Energy and Climate Change, has opened registrations of interest (ROI) across two funding programs to support manufacturing industries to develop renewable energy and low carbon products in NSW. The funding initiatives will open in 2023 and total \$550 million.

Low carbon Products Manufacturing Fund (\$300 million from 2023 to 2032)

Seeking proposals for manufacturing of low carbon and zero emissions products and materials using commercialised technology, including:

- low emissions building materials
- green chemicals
- power fuels and clean fuels

- agricultural products and feed
- equipment, plant or infrastructure for hydrogen end uses
- sharing industrial by-products and growing circular economy.

Renewable manufacturing fund (\$250 million from 2023 to 2027)

Seeking proposals for manufacturing of components for the renewable energy and electric vehicle sectors, including:

- components for renewable energy such as wind towers, solar, batteries
- electrification equipment to support switching from fossil fuels to electricity
- electric vehicle components and assembly
- hydrogen electrolyzers.

These ROIs are an opportunity for the market to inform the NSW Government on how to provide effective support to help advance projects, including fostering partnerships, networking, or market opportunities. They can also signal to the NSW Government what projects are time sensitive, strategically significant, investment ready and suitable for further development and progression through a detailed application process.

ROIs need to be submitted by 5pm AEDT on 28 February 2023 through [SmartyGrants](#) where both the application form and the review criteria are available.

To find out more visit [Developing renewable and low carbon manufacturing industries in NSW | NSW Climate and Energy Action](#)



AgriFutures Horizon Scholarship

Applications for the 2023 AgriFutures Horizon Scholarship Program are now open. Students entering their final two years of an undergraduate degree who are passionate about the future of Australian rural industries are encouraged to apply.

In collaboration with industry sponsors and partners, the AgriFutures Horizon Scholarship is an initiative supporting eligible university students by providing a \$10,000 bursary over two years, professional development workshops, opportunities to network and gain knowledge at industry events, and an annual two-week industry work placement.

To be eligible to apply students must:

- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- Be studying an undergraduate degree at an Australian university
- Be entering the final two years of their degree in 2023.

Scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of their commitment to a career in agriculture, as well as their leadership potential and tertiary academic record to date.

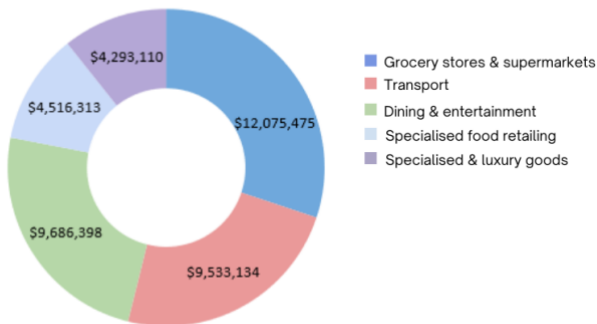
Applications close **Friday 13 January 2023 at 5pm AEDT**. Shortlisted applicants must be available for a telephone interview in February 2023, and scholarship winners will be announced in April 2023.

SpendMapp (September 2022)

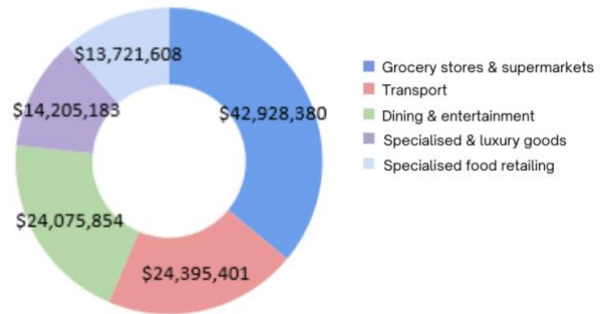
[Spendmapp](#), developed by Geografia, is an economic modelling tool. It uses bank data to measure consumer spending of both locals and visitors in the geographic area over certain time periods. It can help to determine patterns of spending, by who and where, to get a better picture of the local economy.

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.

Visitor Spend in September 2022

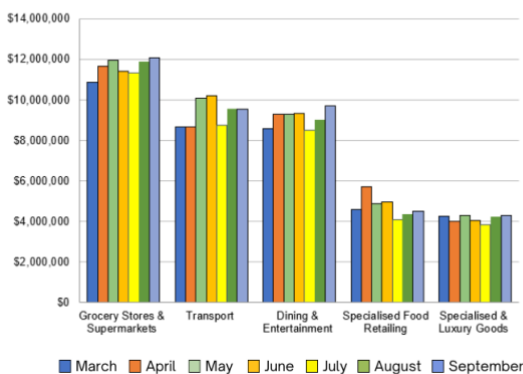


Resident Spend in September 2022

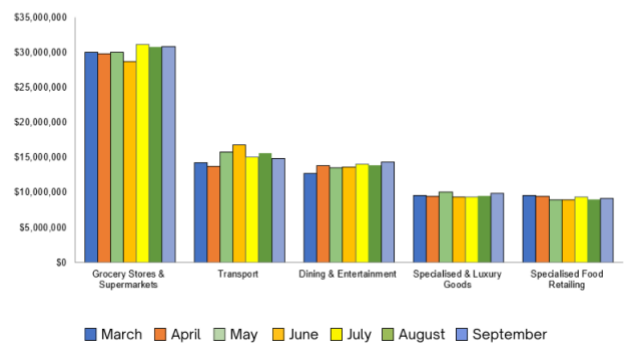


September figures show an increase in both Resident and Visitor spending in 4 out of the 5 categories with Grocery Stores and Supermarkets continuing to have the highest spending. Dining and Entertainment is increasing in the Visitor Local Spend area which means we are attracting more visitors to the area.

Top 5 Categories Visitor Local Spend



Top 5 Categories Resident Local Spend 2022



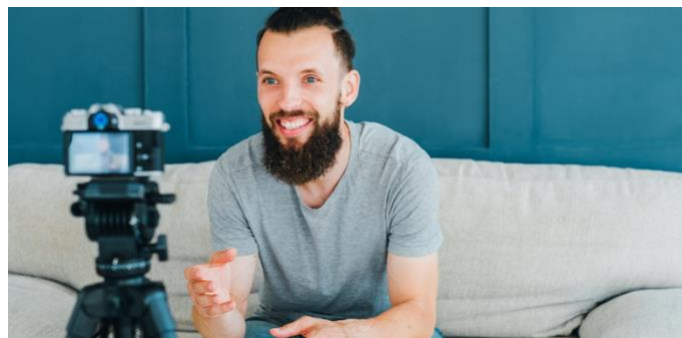
Upcoming Workshops



Being Business Savvy online

Thursday 1 December, 12pm-1:30pm (online)

[Register](#)



Engaging customers with video and social

Tuesday 6 December, 10am-11:30am (online)

[Register](#)



Maximise Christmas sales using social media

Wednesday 7 December, 12pm-2pm (online)

[Register](#)



Time management & planning

Wednesday 7 December, 4pm-6pm (online)

[Register](#)



Successful home based side hustle & start ups

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

[Register](#)