

2016

Community Newsletter

Autumn



Local economy will lose in proposed merger

Residents and ratepayers have demonstrated their opposition to the State Government's proposal to merge Hawkesbury City Council with part of The Hills Shire Council.



The Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Kim Ford and Councillors helped inform the community about the proposed merger with local shopping centre displays.

While hundreds of people have voiced their opinions by attending or speaking at the Public Inquiry, and many have submitted written submissions, there are thousands more who still do not know what is proposed or the serious implications of this misguided merger proposal.

In a positive show of support, local MP Mr Dominic Perrottet recently accompanied the Mayor and the General Manager of Hawkesbury City Council to meet staff at the Office of the Minister of Local Government. The Mayor reinforced that Hawkesbury Council has been assessed as having the scale and capacity to stand alone and that any proposed benefits of the merger are far outweighed by the negative financial impact of the merger on the local economy. The Council has proven that it is financially sustainable and therefore the proposed merger is unnecessary.

The merger proposal will not, by itself, address Council's infrastructure backlog. Council has formulated a 'Fit for the Future' plan which will deliver a better financial and community outcome than a merger.

The Hawkesbury Local Government Area does not share a strong community of interest with The Hills. Its existing, strong and well-established connections are orientated to the south, rather than east towards The Hills and Sydney. Therefore the merger proposal is an inferior alternative to the existing Regional Strategic Alliance that Council is progressing with the Blue Mountains and Penrith City Councils. The proposal ignores Hawkesbury Council's recognised and specialised role in managing an area on the fringe of metropolitan Sydney and seeks to force it into becoming a Council with an urban focus.

To read Council's case on remaining a stand-alone council, visit www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au and go to the 'Getting Council Fit for the Future' page. Here you will find a wealth of information about this very important issue for Hawkesbury residents.

Have your say

Residents can still have their say, by directing their views on this merger via email, phone or letter to:

- State Member for Hawkesbury, The Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP, email hawkesbury@parliament.nsw.gov.au, phone (02) 4578 0300, mail PO Box 505 Richmond NSW 2753 or in person Western Sydney University, Hawkesbury Campus, Building R4, College Drive, Richmond
- Minister for Local Government, The Hon Paul Toole MP, email office@toole.minister.nsw.gov.au, phone (02) 8574 7000, mail GPO Box 5341, SYDNEY NSW 2001
- Premier of NSW, The Hon. Mike Baird MP email www.nsw.gov.au/your-government/contact-premier-new-south-wales, phone (02) 9976 2773, mail GPO Box 5341 SYDNEY NSW 2001.



Mayor Kim Ford with Macquarie Federal MP Louise Markus at the West Portland Road Bridge, Sackville

\$2M bridge upgrade

The community is set to benefit from a \$2 million bridge upgrade at West Portland Road Bridge, Sackville, funded by Council and a \$920,000 grant from the Australian Government's Bridges Renewal Program (Round Two). The single lane timber bridge will be replaced with a two-lane concrete bridge.

The Bridges Renewal Program highlights the Australian Government's support for local infrastructure which is deemed vital in ensuring communities and local businesses have easy access to essential services, traffic movement and transportation of goods.

Scheduled to be completed by July this year, the bridge will be realigned to alleviate a very tight bend. The current load limit of 12 tonnes will be removed to allow direct access for water carriers and other heavy vehicles that must currently detour approximately 20km via Packer Road.

Road improvements

Various roads in the Hawkesbury are being reconstructed and improved including:

- Branders Lane, North Richmond - road rehabilitation - Council funded - completed - \$132,500
- Neiche Road and Boundary Road, Maraylya - improvement works - Community Partnership and Council funded - in progress - \$60,000
- Mileham Street, South Windsor - road rehabilitation - Council funded - completed - \$188,000

Joint Council and Roads and Maritime Services projects:

- Freemans Reach Road, Freemans Reach - reconstruction and sealing - completed - \$296,000
- Grose Vale Road, Kurrajong - shoulder improvement works - completed - \$23,000
- Kurmond Road, North Richmond - traffic improvement works - completed - \$135,000
- King Road/Sackville Road, Wilberforce - reconstruction and sealing - in progress - \$420,000

Other major works funded by Roads to Recovery grants:

- Grose Wold Road, Grose Wold - reconstruction and sealing - completed - \$98,674
- Dunns Road, Maraylya shoulder widening and sealing - in progress - \$155,000
- Kurmond Road, Freemans Reach - reconstruction and sealing - in progress - \$262,500
- Harris Street, South Windsor - reconstruction and sealing - in progress - \$96,000
- Scheyville Road, Scheyville - reconstruction and sealing - in progress - \$85,000



Roadworks underway at King Road, Wilberforce



Anti-bullying toolkit

A new anti-bullying toolkit has been put together by Council, with support from The Hawkesbury Youth Interagency and The Schools Partnership Group, to help local high schools to promote anti-bullying messages for events such as Harmony Day and Youth Week.

The toolkit is an initiative recommended by the 2015 Hawkesbury Youth Summit, which involved more than 60 young people representing six Hawkesbury high schools. Summit participants identified a real need for information and resources to address bullying and cyber-bullying in high schools. The toolkit includes anti-bullying posters, artwork, promotional material, investigative lesson plans, t-shirt transfers, badge designs, creative activities to do as well as research and information for teachers, parents and students.



Councillor Christine Paine, Mayor Kim Ford, long standing patron Ellie Roberts (99 years old) and Councillor Jill Reardon launch the Hawkesbury Leisure and Learning Centre

Hawkesbury Leisure and Learning Centre

Have you seen the new Hawkesbury Leisure and Learning Centre at Richmond? Located opposite Richmond Park, near the corner of East Market and March Street Richmond, the Centre is proudly run by Peppercorn Services Incorporated. Boasting great facilities including two meetings rooms, three large activity areas, a clinic room and courtyard/lounge area, the Centre is conveniently close to Richmond train station, buses, taxi ranks, restaurants and shops. The Centre is currently available for bookings by businesses who want to host lifestyle and leisure learning opportunities or smart entrepreneurs who are interested in holding seminars. Call (02) 4578 2072 for more information.

Council acts on Tourism Strategy

Council is establishing a Tourism Working Group as part of its Hawkesbury Tourism Strategy to develop a new approach to the local tourism experience in the Hawkesbury.

The Working Group aims to strategically inform, guide and participate in key tourism activities to grow the local tourism economy. As a conduit between Council and the tourism sector, the Group will drive the Hawkesbury tourism vision and help to create a fresh approach to the Hawkesbury for travellers and visitors.

The group is also involved in building a destination website for the Hawkesbury.



Sports stars to be recognised

Local sports stars and their super helpers will get the gong they deserve at the upcoming 2016 Sports Awards Presentation Dinner at Windsor RSL on Friday evening, 13 May 2016.

Proudly sponsored by Hawkesbury City Council, Windsor RSL and Vintage FM, outstanding members of our sporting community will be recognised in nine categories including Sports Person of the Year, Junior Sports Person of the Year, Coach of the Year, Sporting Excellence and Service to Sport.

Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling Windsor RSL on (02) 4587 6900.

Inclusive fitness trail launched

Hawkesbury residents and visitors alike are already enjoying the new accessible fitness stations at the fitness trail at Ham Common, Clarendon, which was funded by the NSW Government's 'Creating Liveable Communities Competition'. The Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Kim Ford officially launched the upgraded trail on 24 March.



\$30,000 amenities upgrade

Council has been busy refurbishing Windsor Preschool's children's bathroom amenities which included new flooring, new toilet suites (including wheel chair accessible), new joinery, wall tiles and painting. The preschool now also collects rainwater for garden use and toilet flushing after the installation of rain water tanks. A further \$200,000 refurbishment will commence in May which will include the addition of a new staff room and a multi-function room.



Wait, weep & be worthy

Hawkesbury Regional Gallery is proud to host a new exhibition called 'Wait, weep & be worthy: women, the home front & war' until 22 May 2016. The free exhibition provides a different perspective to conflict, according to Gallery Director Diana Robson, turning people's attention to the untold stories and contribution of women on the home front. Gallery hours are Monday, Wednesday-Friday 10am-4pm, weekends 10am-3pm, closed Tuesdays and public holidays.

Hawkesbury EVENTS

#hawkesburyevents

Find out about local events at Council's Hawkesbury Events Facebook page. To be featured on this page, email events@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au. Please refer to 'About' on the page for details you will need to provide.

Recycle your E-waste

Recycle your old technology, it's free! The next e-waste event will be on Saturday, 7 and Sunday, 8 May 2016 from 9am to 4pm at Hawkesbury Showground, Racecourse Road, Clarendon. For more information on what you can bring, visit www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

Online services

Did you know that your Council now has a variety of online services? You can report damaged bins, missed services and request changes to your bin service as well as report illegal dumping at www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au. Council is continually rolling out more online services to make it easier for residents to do business with Council.



From the Mayor's Desk

Stay up to date with what's happening at Council by visiting the Mayor's weekly online column at www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/from-the-mayor.

Survey on retail business waste

Small to medium retail businesses will soon be hearing from Council as part of a new survey to find better ways to increase recycling and reduce waste from businesses in the Hawkesbury.

Funded through a grant provided by the NSW Environment Protection Authority's Better Waste and Recycling Fund, the survey aims to identify future cost savings and greater waste management efficiencies for businesses in the Hawkesbury.

The year-long program explores what challenges local businesses face in diverting waste materials from landfill. Council is also giving advice on better methods of waste disposal and recycling. Local business involvement will help to improve services for the retail sector. For more details call (02) 4560 4598.

Tops for mobile recycling

Our residents are among the top in the state for mobile phone recycling – well done! MobileMuster is a not-for-profit mobile phone recycling program which has been working with local councils for more than a decade to encourage the community to recycle their mobile phones. The current top collecting councils in NSW, based on collections between 1 April 2015 and 31 January 2016 are Hawkesbury, Burwood, Ryde, Sydney and Randwick. Hawkesbury will now compete with other local councils to be named the country's top mobile phone recycler in the MobileMuster Local Government Awards at Canberra in June. Get your old mobile into the recycling at Hawkesbury Council's Administration Building now to help us win the national award!



New swimming pool laws

All properties with a swimming pool or spa pool being sold or leased on or after 29 April 2016 now need a valid certificate of compliance, certificate of non-compliance or a relevant occupation certificate.

A 'certificate of non-compliance' will enable the seller to transfer the responsibility to obtain a certificate of compliance to the buyer. This transfer will be finalised once a certificate of non-compliance is attached to the contract of sale.

Buyers will have the chance to rectify defects listed in the certificate of non-compliance and obtain a certificate of compliance. All pool owners are required to register their backyard swimming pools at www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au.

Contact us:



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