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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

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for electing me to the position of Mayor and thank outgoing Mayor Patrick Conolly for his important work in the role up until now.

I encourage all businesses to make use of the many workshops and programs that offer support for those affected by recent flood events from local, state and federal governments outlined below.

For everyone in and around Bilpin, Kurmond or Kurrajong make sure you tell Council how you would like these villages to look and feel by giving your input to the current survey you can find [HERE](#).

Until next month,

Clr Sarah McMahon
Mayor



Flood Recovery Support for Businesses



Disaster And Emergency Dashboard

Visit [Hawkesbury City Council's Disaster and Emergency Dashboard](#) for up-to-date information on road closures, current warnings, and flood support information.

Find Assistance

If the recent floods have impacted your business, the [Storm and flood assistance for businesses tool](#) available on the Service NSW website can help you with information on clean up options, mental health support and more. You can also use the [Disaster Assistance Finder](#) – a simple online tool that gives you a personalised list of flood recovery services.

Assistance is also available through the [Service NSW Business Concierge](#), which offers ongoing, tailored help for NSW businesses. Professional advisors can help you access storm and flood support, grants and loans, and connect you to a variety of services and advice. Book an appointment online or call 13 77 88 Monday to Friday, 7am to 7pm.

Disaster Recovery Payment

The [Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment](#) provides one-off financial assistance to [eligible people](#) affected by the floods in New South Wales. \$1,000 per eligible adult and \$400 per eligible child if your home has been severely damaged or destroyed, or you've been seriously injured.

Disaster Recovery Allowance

Short-term income assistance (up to 13 weeks) if you've lost income as a direct result of the floods. Click [here](#) for more information about eligibility and how to claim.

Storm and Flood Disaster Recovery Small Business Grant

If you're a small business or a not-for-profit organisation in NSW and you've been directly impacted by storms and floods in June and July 2022, you may be eligible for a [storm and flood disaster recovery small business grant](#).

This disaster recovery grant of up to \$50,000 is to help pay for the costs of clean-up and reinstatement of a small business or not-for-profit organisation's operations.

Special Disaster Grants

The NSW and Australian Government have announced [Special Disaster Grants](#) of up to \$75,000 for primary producers who have been impacted by severe weather and flooding from February 2022 onwards.

Disaster Relief Loans

Small businesses, not-for-profit organisations, sporting and recreational clubs, and primary producers in local government areas declared as [disaster areas](#) may be eligible for low interest [disaster relief loans](#) from the NSW Government Rural Assistance Authority (RAA).

Rural Landholders Grant

The [Rural Landholders Grant](#) is available to help landholders and oyster farmers who are not eligible under existing flood support programs. Eligible applicants can apply for a grant of up to \$25,000.

Revenue NSW

If you are or have been impacted by the recent floods and are having difficulty managing your obligations with [Revenue NSW](#), there are a range of options on offer to assist you based on your specific circumstances including extensions of payment and lodgement timeframes, lifting of license or registration sanctions, putting debts on short term hold, and assistance with hardship applications.

Tax Relief

The ATO is offering assistance with meeting tax obligations for businesses impacted by floods. Visit the [ATO website](#) or call the ATO Emergency support line on 1800 806 218 to see what support is available in your circumstances.

Legal Support

Businesses can contact [LawAccess NSW](#) on 1300 888 529 to discuss legal support that may be available from Legal Aid NSW, Community Legal Centres and other free legal assistance services in your area.

[Legal Aid NSW](#) lawyers may be able to provide free legal advice to businesses affected by disasters on a range of issues including insurance, tenancy, credit and debt problems.

Insurance Assistance

The [NSW Small Business Commissioner's quick guide to making an insurance](#) claim can help businesses through the claims process to get paid quickly and smoothly after a disaster or disruption.

[The Insurance Council of Australia](#) may be able to assist businesses who have queries relating to insurance. Visit their website or call 1800 734 621.

Property Assessment and Demolition Grants (PAD)

Free structural assessments and demolition for damaged primary production properties. Register for the Flood Property Assessment Program [here](#).

Flood Clean-up Assistance

Guidance for flood-impacted individuals and businesses on flood clean-up and recovery is available through [Service NSW](#). You can also [apply for assistance](#) with clean-up of debris such as asbestos, cement, timber, fencing and furniture. For help with removal of animal carcasses, call the Agriculture and Animal Emergency Services hotline on 1800 814 647.

Help from your Financial Institution

Flood-affected residents of NSW may also be granted loan deferrals or reduced payment arrangements by their financial institution for some business loans depending on their circumstances. Contact your financial institution for further details.

Help from Telecommunications Providers

Optus has announced a [range of support](#) for affected customers, including additional bonus data on eligible plans, free interim services for private and business fixed internet customers affected by the floods. A dedicated phone number for flood-affected Optus customers has also been set up - call 1800 507 581.

Telstra has announced a disaster relief package for its residential and small business customers who have lost services following the severe storms and major flooding across eastern parts of NSW. The package includes mobile call diversion, a boost to data and free calls as well as reconnection support to those impacted in the Northern NSW flood affected areas. Call 1800 888 888 or visit Telstra's [disaster relief page](#) for more information.

National Debt Hotline

The National Debt Hotline offers free and confidential financial counselling and resources. Call 1800 007 007 or visit <https://ndh.org.au/>.

Business Guide to Recovering from Disaster

"Get back to business" by the NSW Small Business Commissioner is a step-by-step guide for business owners dealing with a disaster. The guide provides information to help businesses from the moment disaster hits, to the days, weeks and months ahead. Visit the [NSW Small Business Commissioner website](#) for more information, or download the guide [here](#).

Disaster Recovery Initiatives

Over the past few years, the NSW Government has introduced a number of planning initiatives to support families, businesses and communities across the state to rebuild and recover following natural disasters.

Click [here](#) for more information on these initiatives and other general guidance material that may assist you in your emergency response work, including returning to your property, cleaning up and rebuilding your home.

Local Recovery Support Services

[Workplace Advice Line](#) – 13 29 59

Free to all businesses within NSW for the next 4 weeks who have been impacted by the current flood disaster.

[Strengthening Business](#) - 13 28 46

Strengthening Business is a service under the AusIndustry Entrepreneurs' Programme that connects you with experts to make your business stronger, more resilient and better prepared for the future.

Mental Health Support

Free 24-hour mental health support is available seven days a week through:

- Lifeline 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue 1300 224 636
- NSW Mental Health Line – 1800 011 511

R U OK? Day 2022



R U OK?Day is Thursday 8 September 2022

R U OK?Day is a national day of action when Australians are reminded that every day is the day to ask, 'are you OK?' and start a meaningful conversation whenever they spot the signs that someone they care about might be struggling with life.

R U OK? has released resources, tips and ideas to help you drive genuine change in your workplace, school and community. These can be accessed by signing up to the form via the [R U OK? website](#).

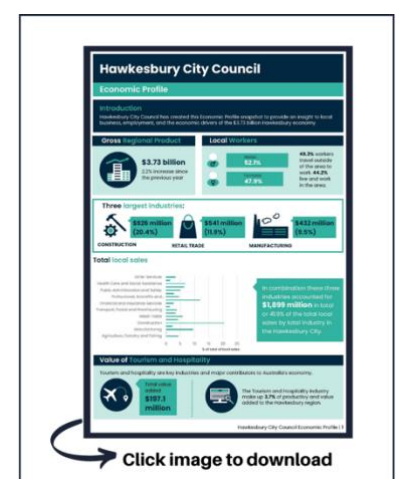
A free presentation will be streamed online at midday (AEST) on R U OK?Day Thursday 8 September. You can register [here](#) to tune in to the nationwide virtual event when R U OK? CEO, Katherine Newton, and special guests will share conversation tips and personal stories.

In the Hawkesbury

Hawkesbury City Council Economic Profile

Hawkesbury City Council has created this Economic Profile snapshot to provide an insight to local business, employment, and the economic drivers of the \$3.73 billion Hawkesbury economy.

The full report can be downloaded [here](#) and details and source of information are available at www.economy.id.com.au/hawkesbury.



Hawkesbury *Towns and Villages* PLACE PLANS

Hawkesbury Place Plans Survey

Council is undertaking place planning for all town and village centres in the Hawkesbury Local Government Area as part of Council's Local Environmental Plan update. The Bilpin, Kurmond and Kurrajong Place Plans are being developed alongside these other plans.

What do you love most about Bilpin, Kurmond or Kurrajong, what you would like to change and what would you like to stay the same? Local residents, rate payers, employees and business owners are being encouraged to complete the survey below as part of Council's place plans for Bilpin, Kurmond and Kurrajong. The Plans will aim to improve the sense of place, ensure local business has the conditions to thrive, and to create a place that instils pride in the community.

The place plans will provide Council with a strategic base from which to direct resources and investment into community ideas or proposals that are best for the community.

For more information, visit <https://www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/place-plans-bkk>



Hawkesbury City Council Local Jobs Board

If you have a local job available for a local person, please advertise to the local business community via our Local Jobs board!

Advertising is FREE and applications can be found via the link below.

[Jobs board form | Resources \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

If you require any assistance in creating your job advertisement, please feel welcome to contact Cemre Scaron, on 02 4560 5272 or send an email to business@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.



Become a Light Up Windsor event sponsor!

We invite you, as a local business, to partner with Hawkesbury City Council to create a bigger and better Light Up Windsor Street Festival in 2022.

The event hosted over 8000 people in 2021, and with this success we expect an even larger number of people to attend. This year, the Light Up Windsor Street Fair will be a true celebration of Christmas. On Saturday 3 December our annual street festival 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 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.

We invite your business to partner with Hawkesbury City Council and Windsor Business Group to help create a memorable Christmas celebration for everyone to enjoy.

[Download the Light up Windsor Festival Partnership Proposal](#)



Savour the Flavour Hawkesbury 2022

Get your tastebuds ready!

Hawkesbury City Council is launching the first ever Savour the Flavour Hawkesbury, a new food and beverage event celebrating our past and present as the original 'food bowl' of Sydney.

Visitors and locals will have the chance to sample and purchase delicious food, produce and beverages from local farmers and businesses, including fruit and vegetables, ciders, wines, beers and honey, as well as artisan goods such as breads, preserves and cheeses. There will also be cooking demonstrations and live entertainment to enjoy.

For more information, visit discoverthehawkesbury.com.au.

Business Resources and Support



Single-use Plastics Ban – prepare for the next phase

NSW small businesses will soon need to begin preparing for the next stage of the phasing out of single-use plastics, known as the **Let's Stop it and Swap It** initiative. The initiative will come into effect on November 1 this year, extending the ban on single-use plastics to include:

- Straws
- Stirrers

- Cutlery
- Bowls
- Plates
- Polystyrene containers and cups
- Single-use plastic cotton buds
- Some personal care products containing plastic microbeads

The [NSW Environment Protection Authority](#) has declared some plastic items exempt from the bans where this is no safe alternative reusable item. You can check [here](#) for information about exemptions to the ban.

Prepare for the Ban

Businesses don't have to wait until November 1 and can take the opportunity to prepare and be ready to continue business as usual. It is recommended that you:

- Prepare your staff, volunteers and clients by informing them of the upcoming ban and what changes they should expect
- 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 (however be aware of similar bans in other states)
- Contact a local recycler to see if they can take some items if you cannot exhaust, return, exchange or transfer your stock in time
- Register with the [Great Plastic Rescue](#) for assistance with recycling excess stock

Visit [Plastics Ban NSW](#) for more information about the ban and tips on how to make a smooth transition in your business.



Alfresco Dining Rebate Extended

Measures to encourage alfresco dining are being extended for another 18 months to further support the NSW hospitality industry. The temporary alfresco measures enable hospitality businesses to use a range of spaces for outdoor dining, such as parks and car parks, without the need for a separate application.

Alfresco Restart Rebate

If you are a small or medium food and beverage business wanting to create, expand or improve your outdoor dining area, you may be eligible for a rebate of up to **\$5,000** under the NSW Government's Alfresco Restart package.

More information about the rebate is available [here](#).



New Education and Training Model (NETM) Course Catalogue

The New Education and Training Model (NETM) course catalogue is now live! Head to the [course catalogue](#) to find out more about current and upcoming NETM micro-credentials on offer. NETM micro-credentials currently under development include collaborative robots, biology and microbiology, through to technical drawings. The catalogue will continue to be updated as new micro-credentials are being rolled out.

If you don't find the training your business is looking for, email netm@wpca.sydney to work with the NETM team to develop a micro-credential that is tailored to your industry requirements.

Visit the [NETM website](#) for more information.

Business News and Updates

SpendMapp (June 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.

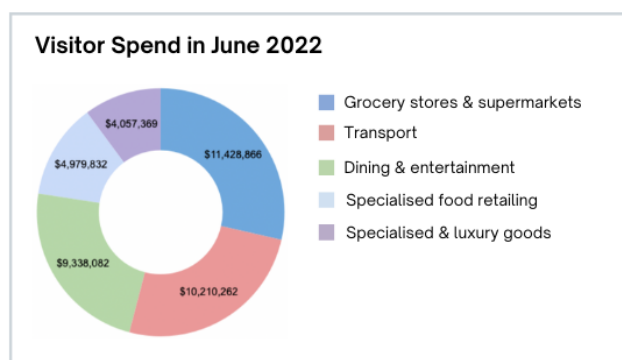


Figure 1. Visitor spend in June 2022, Spendmapp by Geografia, June 2022

There has been a slight decrease in visitor spending from the previous month. However, compared to the same period last year spending is up 7.59% on the same period last year. The last four months have remained relatively stable for the top 5 sectors of spending with the exception of specialised food retailing.



Figure 2. Top categories for visitor local spend, Spendmapp by Geografia, June 2022

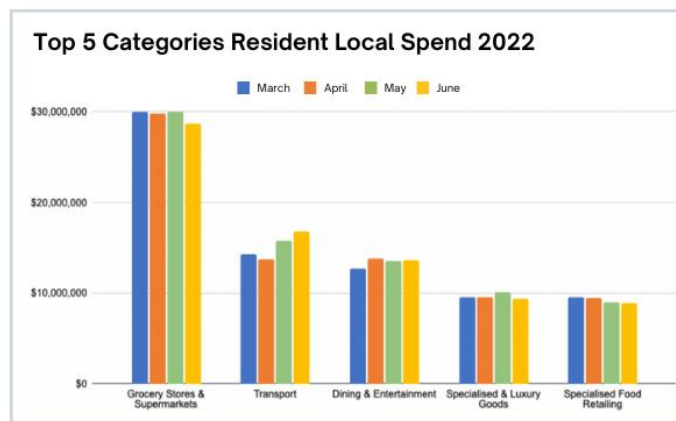


Figure 3. Top categories for resident local spend, Spendmapp by Geografia, June 2022

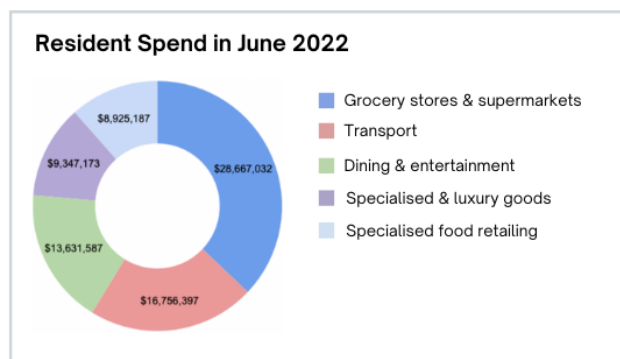


Figure 4. Resident spend in June 2022, Spendmapp by Geografia, June 2022



Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Penrith, Wollondilly Destination Network Boundary Changes

In November 2021, the NSW Government announced changes to the boundaries of two Destination Networks - Sydney Surrounds North and Sydney Surrounds South - to better reflect the Western Sydney City Deal and regional administrative structures across the NSW Government.

From 1 July 2022, the Blue Mountains, Penrith, Hawkesbury and Wollondilly local government areas will no longer be within the administrative boundaries of Destination Sydney Surrounds North and South and will be included in the Greater Sydney region.

These changes are purely administrative in nature. They reflect the NSW Government's increasing focus on infrastructure and planning across the Western Parkland City and the opportunities to accelerate the growth of its visitor economy ahead of the new Western Sydney Airport opening in 2026.

You can learn more about these changes by visiting the [Destination Networks website](#) or by clicking the link below to download a FAQ guide to the Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Penrith, Wollondilly Destination Network Boundary Changes.

[FAQ Guide to the Destination Network boundary changes](#)

Upcoming Workshops

HAWKESBURY ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY WORKSHOP



Hawkesbury City Council is developing an Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

Council is keen to collaborate with local businesses and environmental groups on making the Hawkesbury more sustainable in the future.

Online workshop: Wednesday 21 September, midday to 1:00pm



Scan the QR code for more details and to register

hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au



Hawkesbury Environmental Sustainability Strategy Workshop

Hawkesbury City Council is currently developing an Environmental Sustainability Strategy. The strategy will incorporate the actions Council is currently undertaking to improve the sustainability of the area and identify gaps and priorities.

As part of the engagement process, Council is keen to collaborate with local businesses and environmental groups on making the Hawkesbury more sustainable into the future. Come along to this workshop for local businesses and environmental groups in the Hawkesbury, where together we will discuss priorities and identify opportunities for collaboration.

Wednesday 21 September, 12pm to 1pm
Online via Zoom (link will be provided upon registration)

[Register](#)

HAWKESBURY

Visitor Economy Workshop

'Working with the Media and Tourism Ecosystem'



Working with the Media and Tourism Ecosystem

This workshop will teach you ways to become a storyteller and create media coverage for your business. It will outline ways that you can work with the broader tourism industry and media ecosystem, with tips on crafting your story and tools for pitching your business.

Presented by business and tourism experts [Sparrowly Group](#) on behalf of Hawkesbury City Council, the Visitor Economy Industry Development Workshops will:

- deepen your knowledge of the sector and how to maximise it for your business
- give you the tools and knowledge to progress through the tourism business journey
- provide you with resources to create your travel trade kit
- give you the opportunity to connect with other business owners from your region.

We will also be joined by Dominic Mehling Industry Relations Manager Tourism Australia who will be talking about Tourism Australia's current campaigns and how to work with Tourism Australia and international media.

This workshop is free of charge and is funded under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (BLERF) Grant received by Hawkesbury City Council.

These workshops are open to all tourism businesses at any stage of their business journey. Light refreshments will be provided.

Monday 31 October 2022, 10:00am to 12:00pm

Crowne Plaza Hawkesbury

Click [here](#) to book your tickets.

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.



HR Essentials – Recruitment

Tuesday 6 September, 10am-12:30pm (online)

Register



How to start a business

Thursday 8 September,

Register



Aviation Job Skills Workshop for Women
Thursday 8 September, 10am-1pm (Hawkesbury
Central Library - Tebbutt Room)

[Register](#)



The 7 steps of selling
Tuesday 27 September, 8am-9am (online)

[Register](#)



Success for women in business – start-ups
Thursday 29 September, 1pm-2pm (online)

[Register](#)