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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.



Welcome to this month's edition of the business newsletter

An important part of supporting a healthy and vibrant Hawkesbury is engaging with our community. The event on everyone's calendar every April – including ours - was the Hawkesbury Show and again we took the opportunity to

talk with thousands of you about the work we are doing and listen to your very valuable feedback. This year more than 17,000 visitors stopped by our stand –by far the most ever, and we even won second place in the Public Service Exhibit category!

There are currently four community Western Sydney Infrastructure Grant projects on public exhibition, and we want to hear what everyone has to say, including our local businesses. These include draft designs for the new Fernadell Park Community Centre and the Kurrajong to Kurmond Cycleway, as well as consultation for the Richmond Swimming Centre and the North Richmond Community Precinct. Jump online at www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au

Council's Draft Operational Plan is on public exhibition until 7 May. The Operational Plan is the list of all Council projects that we plan to complete in the following year. It is essential reading for anyone who wants to know what we have planned, and another chance to have your say.

As you can see there are plenty of opportunities this month to use your voice to help shape the Hawkesbury, and still more on the way. Stay tuned!

Sincerely, Mayor Sarah McMahon

In the Hawkesbury



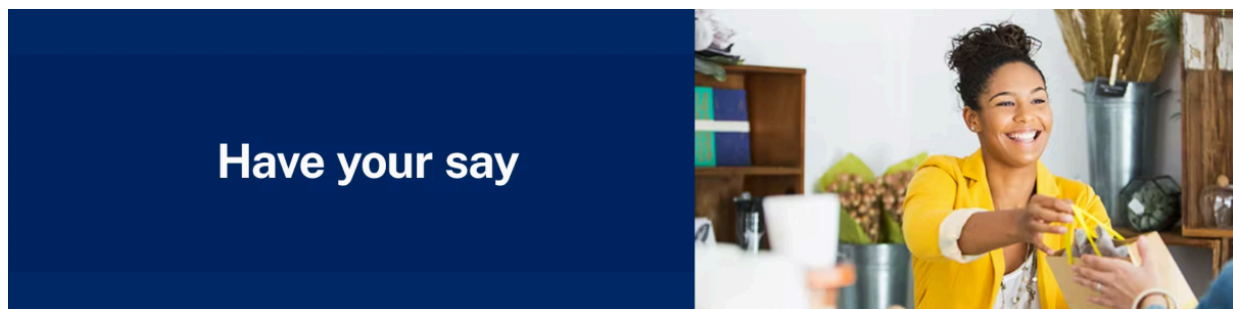
Waste Levy Lifted for Hawkesbury Residents

The NSW Government has lifted the waste levy fee for residents in the Hawkesbury Local Government Area, to help them recover from intense heavy rainfall and flash flooding.

The community will not have to pay to dispose of flood-generated waste and debris at landfill sites until 30 June 2024. The local landfill gate fee may still apply.

The exemption covers waste on both public and private land, including damaged building materials, furniture, carpet, gardening debris, and any other flood-related products.

Lifting the levy fee makes it easier for locals to get rid of flood-affected household items in a safe and efficient way. It also provides financial relief as the Hawkesbury community gets back on its feet as soon as possible.



Have Your Say! Council documents on public exhibition

Cultural Plan - Community Survey

Hawkesbury City Council is developing a Cultural Plan to improve the arts, heritage, and cultural activities in the region. We want to hear from you! What do you love about arts and culture and your community? How can we make the Hawkesbury a great cultural destination?

Your feedback is important to help shape the Cultural Plan so that culture in the Hawkesbury can continue to provide something for everyone in our community.

The Cultural Plan and community survey closes 21 May and can be found [here](#).

Draft 2024/2025 Operational Plan and Resourcing Strategy

Hawkesbury City Council is inviting community members to view and comment on Council's Draft 2024/2025 Operational Plan. The Draft 2024/2025 Operational Plan has been developed to outline the proposed actions and projects for 2024/2025. It also includes information about rates, fees and charges and estimated income and expenditure.

The Draft Operational Plan and community survey closes 7 May and can be found [here](#).

North Richmond Community Precinct

The redevelopment of the North Richmond Community Centre will create a hub that will serve as a meeting and cultural space, social and recreational hub, and a much-needed fit-for-purpose emergency evacuation centre for our community residing west of the Hawkesbury River.

The North Richmond Community Precinct community survey closes 19 May and can be found [here](#).

Richmond Swimming Centre

A brand-new swimming facility will be built in Richmond, replacing the aging circa 1960s centre with a modern facility catering to a variety of needs with the aim of being capable of operating year-round.

The Richmond swimming centre community survey closes 19 May and can be found [here](#).

Kurrajong to Kurmond Cycleway

The Kurrajong to Kurmond Cycleway Project will construct a shared pedestrian and cycle path alongside Bells Line of Road and Old Bells Line of Road, between Kurmond and Kurrajong. These works will complete a continuous off-road link between North Richmond and Kurrajong, supporting Council's and the community's goal to increase active transport and recreation use by residents and tourists.

The Kurrajong to Kurmond Cycleway community survey closes 19 May and can be found [here](#).

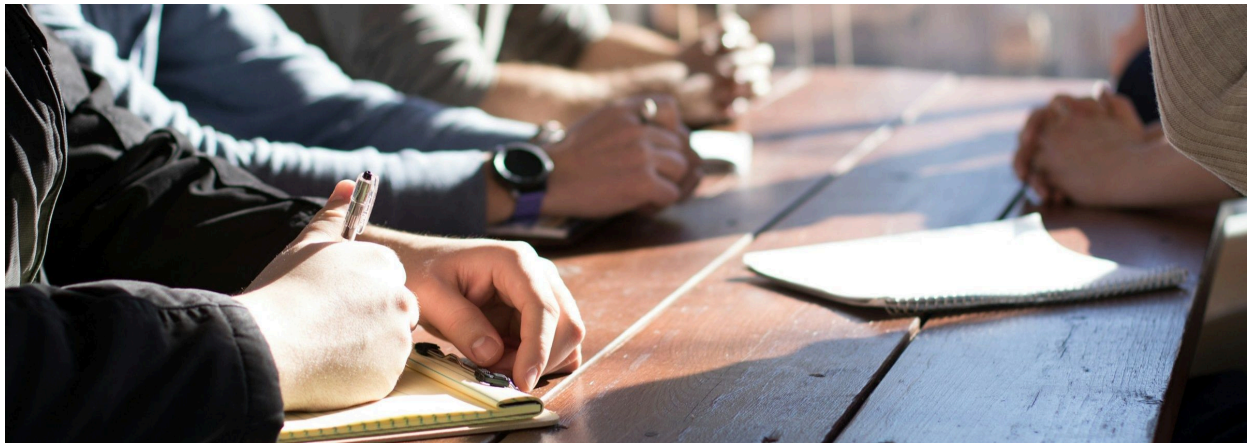
Our Hawkesbury 2045 - Community Strategic Plan Review

The CSP is a key component of the Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework. It is written on behalf of the community to represent their main priorities and aspirations for the future and to plan strategies for achieving these goals. It guides all remaining strategies and plans written by Council including the Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

The minimum timeframe for a CSP is 10 years and it addresses 4 key questions:

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to be?
- How will we get there?
- How will we know we have arrived?

The Community Strategic Plan Review survey can be found [here](#).



Expression of interest – Community Representative on Council’s Local Planning Panel

We are seeking community representatives to become members of the Hawkesbury Local Planning Panel (HLPP).

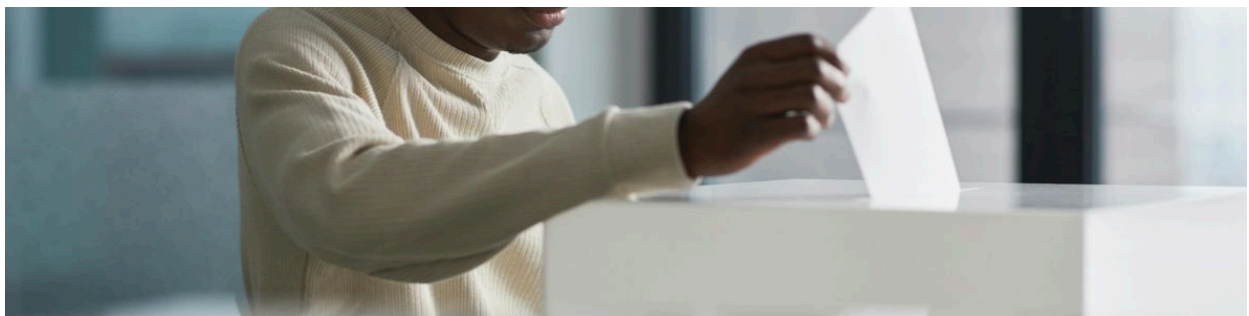
As a community representative, you will be expected to contribute constructively to panel discussions and help determine specific categories of planning and proposals for local development.

Your attendance fee is paid in accordance with the rates set by the NSW Government.

You will be required to address the selection criteria in your application.

Applications close on 22 May 2024.

For more information, including how to apply, visit [here](#).



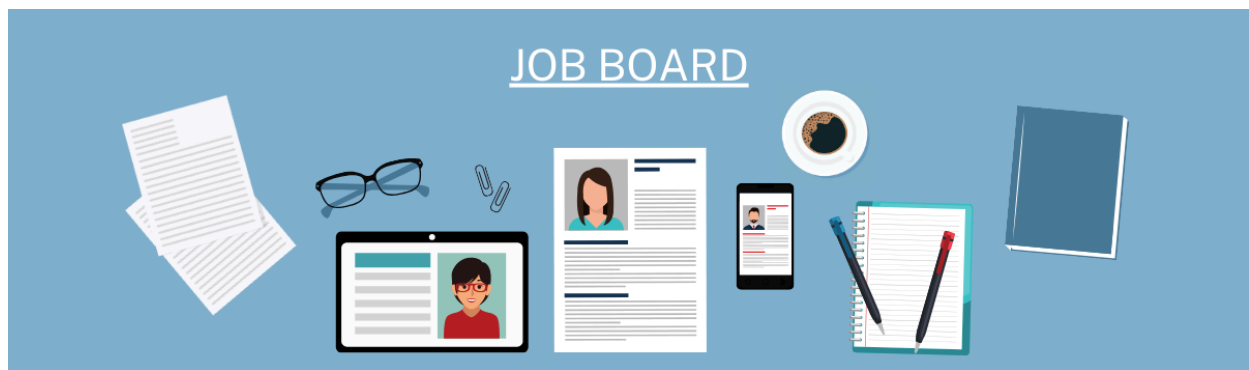
2024 Local Government Elections – Applications to the Non-Residential Roll

Interested persons who are non-resident owners, occupiers and rate-paying lessees of ratable land within the Hawkesbury local government area have the opportunity to have a say in who is elected to Council.

You can apply to be added to the non-residential roll in order to vote in Hawkesbury’s 2024 Local Government Elections by completing a form available on Council’s website.

Forms must be returned to Council by 6pm, Monday, 5 August 2024.

For more information, including your eligibility and how to apply, visit [here](#).



Hawkesbury 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 for further information or if you require assistance in creating your job advertisement, please contact Council's Economic Development Team on 02 4560 4444 or email business@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

[Jobs Board Form](#)



Hawkesbury Fest Small Business Sponsorships - Sunday 4 August 2024 at Governor Phillip Park

Our \$500 small business partner opportunities are now available to snap up. Email or call the events team to discuss the cost and inclusions.

For more information, please contact 4560 4404 or events@hawesbury.nsw.gov.au



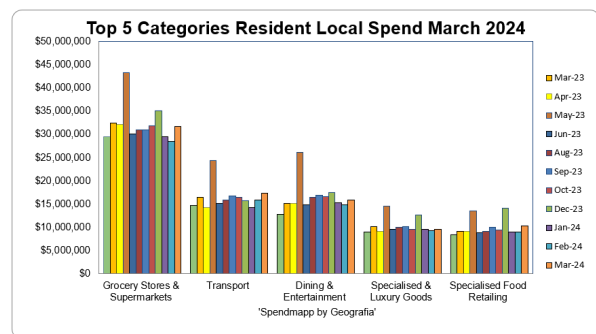
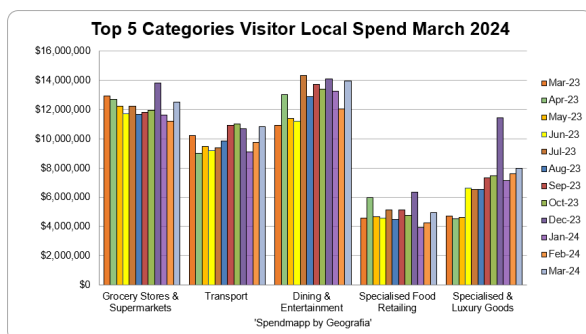
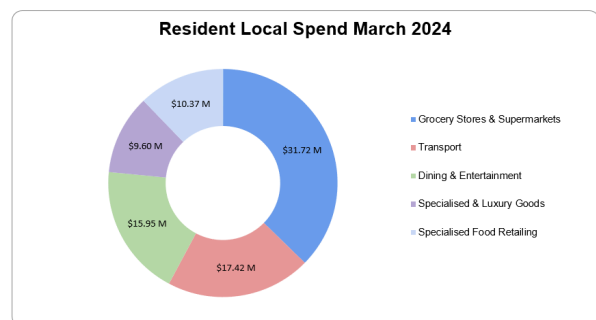
Discover What's On in the Hawkesbury this Month

Looking for something thing to do this month, check out [What's on](#) in the Hawkesbury



[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.



March's Visitor Local Spending saw an increase in all categories from the previous month.

March's Resident Local Spending also saw an increase in all categories from the previous month. In March, the category *Specialised Food Retailing* replaced *Professional Services* to be in the top 5 categories of Visitor local spending.

Business News & Updates



Autumn Community Newsletter out now!

Hawkesbury City Council's Autumn Community Newsletter is now online.

Find out what Council is doing for the Hawkesbury, Have Your Say and see What's On.

Hawkesbury businesses: looking for something to read in between customers or when you get home? Check out our new, easy to digest bites of our Council Newsletter - 🍎 Hawkesbury Bite Size 🍎. This is your quarterly Council newsletter in a digital at-a-glance format.

🍎 Access it [here](#)!

The full colour Autumn edition newsletter is available [here](#).



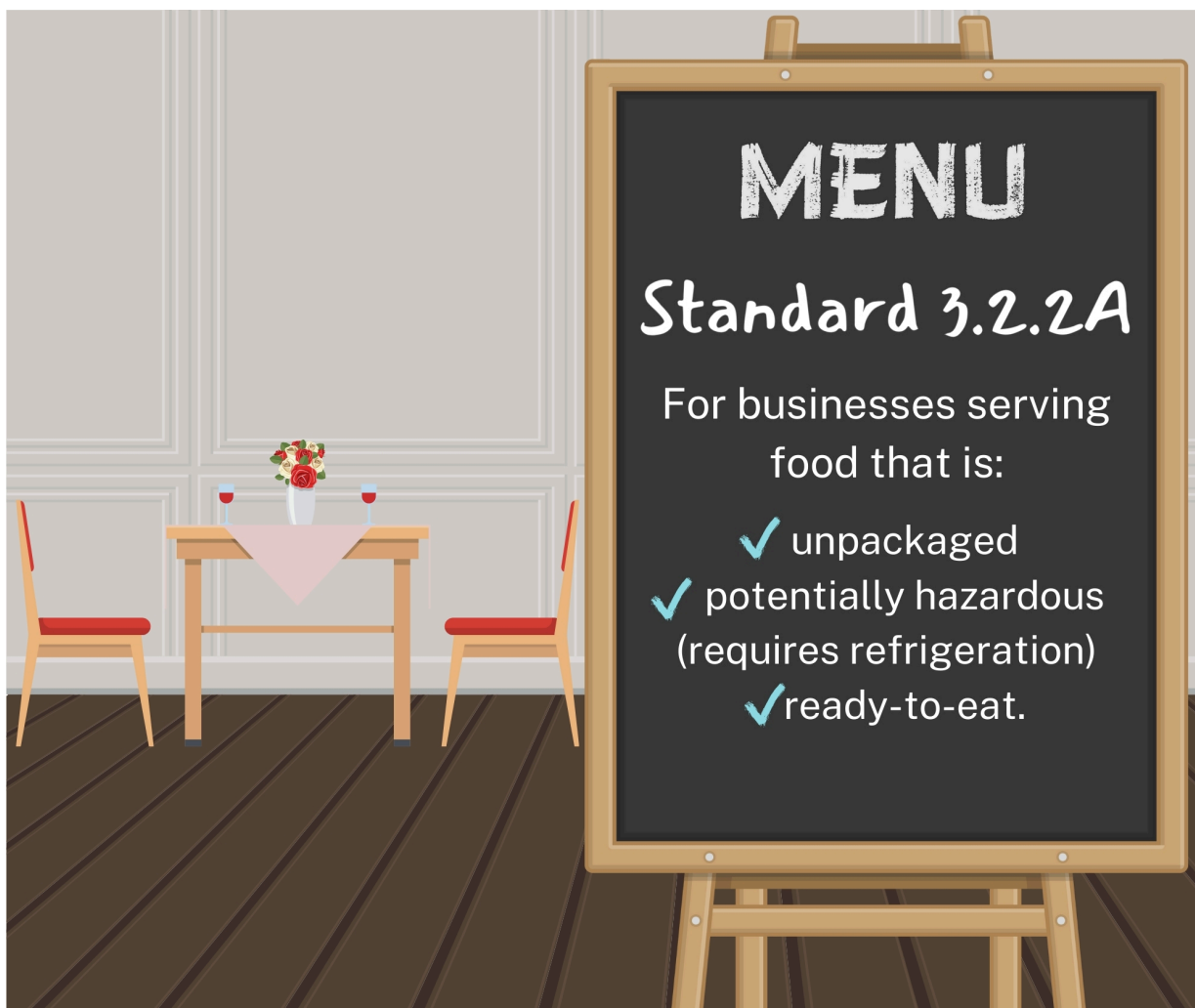
Local Land Services

April 2024
edition

Greater Sydney Small Farms Newsletter April 2024

In this edition: apply for a free soil test kit; listen to the latest Big Shift podcasts episodes on dung beetles and knowing your soils; read about three-day sickness in cattle; participate in the national Small Farms Count survey; apply for a Nuffield Scholarship; learn about the longest running soil carbon project; or consider attending the Mulloon rehydration conference.

For more information, sign up to the newsletter [here](#)!



Free Food Handler Training for Standard 3.2.2A

Food service, caterer and related retail businesses in NSW need to meet new food safety requirements in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code). The requirements apply to most businesses from 8 December 2023.

School canteens, children's services that supply food, supermarkets, greengrocers, delis, coffee vendors that sell food, correctional centres and boarding schools have until 8 December 2024 to comply.

Standard 3.2.2A aims to improve food safety by introducing 3 tools:

- Food Safety Supervisor (FSS)
- food handler training
- showing food is safe.

If you already have a current FSS, you will only need to ensure other staff who handle unpackaged, potentially hazardous food have appropriate skills and knowledge in food safety and hygiene. Higher-risk businesses must also be able to show they are managing key food safety risks.

For other businesses, all the requirements are new, such as for children's services that supply food, school canteens, supermarkets, greengrocers, delis, coffee vendors that sell food, correctional centres, and boarding schools.

The requirements do not apply to the handling or sale of food for fundraising solely for community or charitable causes, providing food free to the community, or to businesses licensed with the Food Authority.

For more information, view the NSW Food Authority [webpage](#).



Hawkesbury City Council

Prepared, Informed and Ready

Collect your emergency Grab-and-Go Bag

Keep up to date with emergency information through council's Disaster Dashboard

Visit [Council's Disaster and Emergency Dashboard](#) and [Prepared, Informed and Ready webpage](#) for more information on emergency preparedness in the Hawkesbury.



NSW First program

Is your Business listed on Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW)?

ATDW – online is the national digital platform that powers Sydney.com, visitnsw.com and 70+ other travel websites. ATDW has a reach of 2 million potential visitors a month.

Increase your online exposure and have your business seen by more travellers, simply by listing ATDW.

Find out more information [here](#).

Resources

Risk Management Resource

With a range of weather-related and other challenges currently affecting tourism businesses, the free [Don't Risk It guide](#) can assist tourism businesses to prevent, respond and recover from a disaster. By identifying potential risks, businesses can take proactive measures to mitigate the impact.

Quick Tips for creating wellness experiences.

Destination NSW has created a ['Quick tips for creating wellness experiences'](#) guide to help NSW visitor economy businesses benefit from growing demand.



New Active and Creative Kids Voucher Program

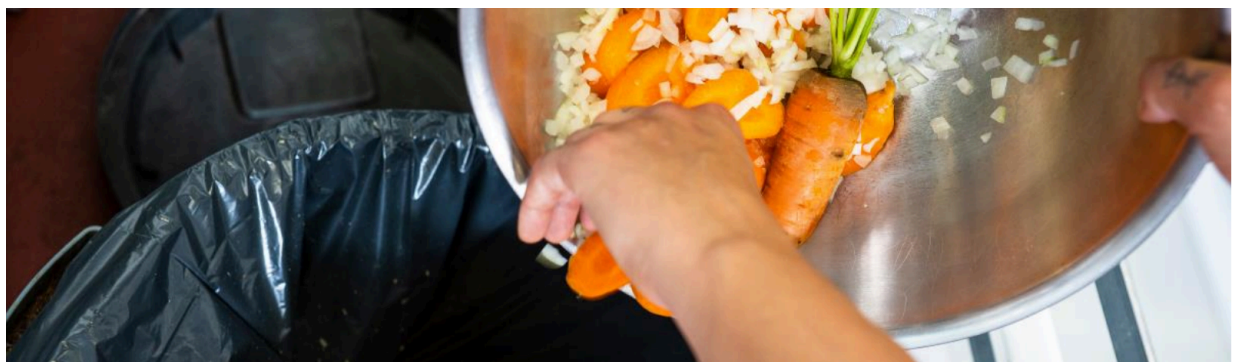
The new Active and Creative Kids voucher is now available, helping to make activities more affordable for eligible NSW families.

Parents, guardians, and carers of eligible school-aged children will be able to use two \$50 vouchers per calendar year.

About the new program

- Vouchers are available to those receiving [Family Tax Benefit Part A](#), or [Family Tax Benefit Part B](#), or both
- Vouchers can be downloaded as a QR code and used toward either an eligible physical or creative activity
- The \$50 vouchers will be issued in school term 1 and school term 3
- Vouchers must be redeemed before their expiry date

Download the guidelines to see [how to apply](#) and [how to accept your voucher](#), or visit the [website](#) for more information.



Love Food, Hate Waste?

Do you love food but hate waste? Hawkesbury City Council has put together some helpful tip for businesses on how to reduce waste and work more sustainably.

Download Councils Love food, hate waste flyer [here](#).



Firework Displays

All pyrotechnic displays, celebrations and promotions require a pyrotechnicians license or fireworks (single use) license issued by [SafeWork NSW](#).

The licensee must notify SafeWork NSW and the local council of an intention to use any fireworks, crackers, distress signal or model rocket propellant device at least 7 working days before the fireworks, signal or device is to be used.

For more information visit [Fireworks| Hawkesbury City Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](#).



Liquid Trade Waste - What Is It?

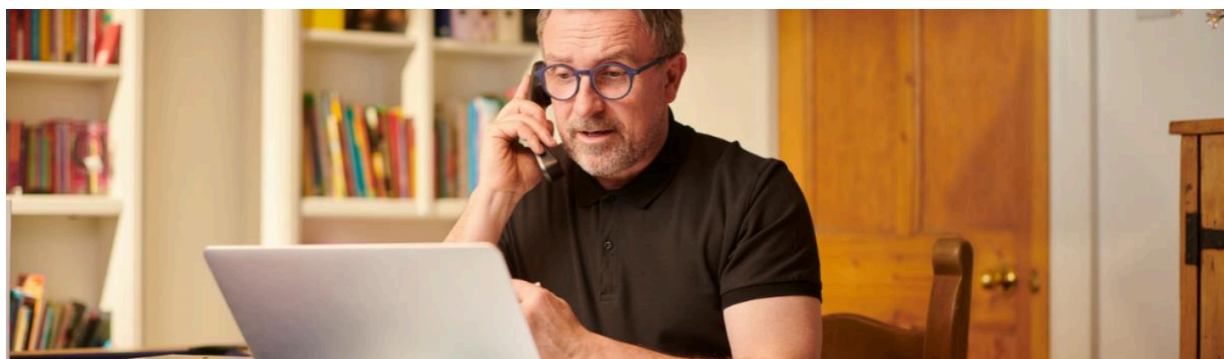
Liquid trade waste is all liquid waste generated from industrial and commercial premises that is discharged to the sewer system. Does not include human personal hygiene waste.

Does my business need a Liquid Trade Waste Approval with Hawkesbury City Council?

The policy and guidelines describe liquid trade waste in more detail and the requirements.

For more information on whether your business requires a permit, go to <https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/for-business/approvals-permits-and-regulations/liquid-trade-waste>.

Business Grants & Funding



Grants, Program and Funding Finders

- Find a government initiative, grant or funding program to help support your business, your project or your community at [Grants and funding, NSWGovernment](#).
 - Use the Australian Government's [Grants and Program Finder](#) tool to explore what grants, funding and support programs are available to you. Search by location, industry, support type, business structure and more.
 - Investment NSW provides access to grants, funding and assistance programs to help your business succeed or recover. [Grants & Programs - Investment NSW](#).
-



New Platform helps Small Businesses with Tax and Super

The ATO has launched a new online learning platform offering free courses to help small business owners and operators with their tax and super obligations.

The [Essentials to strengthen your small business](#) website includes more than 20 short courses and a calendar of key lodgment due dates. Content includes videos, case studies, audio content and written information, as well as the option to test your knowledge with quick quizzes. The content focuses on areas where small business owners often make mistakes, such as the GST and business deductions and also offers help on core business management issues.

Course titles include:

- Starting a small business
 - Goods and services tax (GST)
 - Using your business money and assets
 - Record keeping
 - Claiming small business tax deductions
 - Growing your small business
-



Small Business Skills and Training Boost

This program aims to support small businesses to build a better trained and more productive workforce.

Small businesses will be able to **deduct an additional 20% of expenditure** that is incurred for the provision of eligible external training courses to their employees by registered providers in Australia. [Open until 30th June 2024.](#)

Upcoming Workshops

Training and Workshops for the Hawkesbury Community

FREE Community First Aid Training

- Saturday 4 May 2024 - Wilberforce
- Saturday 1 June 2024 - Location TBC
- 29 June 2024 - Windsor

Click [here](#) for more information.

To register, send an email with your name, age, address, contact number and any dietary restrictions if you are interested in this training.

Email to Register

FREE Youth First Aid Training (12-18yrs)

- Saturday 17 February 2024 - Windsor
- Saturday 11 May 2024 - Windsor

Click [here](#) for more information.

To register, send an email with your name, age, address, contact number and any dietary restrictions if you are interested in this training.

Email to Register

Psychological Support Community Tools

The Community Toolkit provides guidance for community groups and organisations when supporting their communities to learn about the psychosocial impacts of crises and how to provide good support to one another.

More Information Here

Grant Writing Workshops

Video recordings and slides are available of the grant workshops hosted by professional grant writers and Hawkesbury City Council. There are workshops on grant writing, what to do when you have won a grant, and how to prepare when you have a great idea and there is no grant available yet.

More Information Here

Communication and Marketing for Community Groups

Learn promotion tips especially for community groups and clubs. How to:

- Promote events and projects to the Hawkesbury community
- Reach and engage Hawkesbury residents
- Create effective marketing content
- Utilise free or low-cost marketing, and social media platforms

Workshop for Facebook Admins

Especially for Facebook admins of local community groups and clubs, not-for-profits, and community pages. Learn how to:

- Navigate community conflict on social media
- Manage the emotional load of social media administration
- Manage the tone of your group
- Understand Defamation laws and the Privacy Act
- Handle private information

Watch

Watch

FREE Asbestos Awareness and Safety

Training Available until 13 June, online (self-paced)

The course would be useful for training and refresher training for a range of people including building managers, painters, renovators, home installers, electricians, plumbers, handypersons, and communications technician.

Register

Weeds and Native Plants Post-Flood Recovery Workshop

6th or 8th May, 11am-1pm

Greater Sydney Local Land Services Demonstration Farm, 40 Edwards Road Richmond Lowlands.

Hawkesbury River County Council (HRCC) will be running a workshop for members of primary industry and the community on post flood weed management and plant identification. Community education resources and complimentary food and drink will be provided at the workshop.

Register

Sustainability Workshops

Are you looking to build your knowledge and skills in living more sustainably? Hawkesbury City Council offers free face-to-face and online workshops for all residents living in the Hawkesbury Local Government Area to learn about a variety of sustainability topics.

FREE Waterwise Garden Workshop

1st May, 11am-1pm

Tebbutt room, Deerubbin Centre, 300 George Street, Windsor.

Register

FREE Remote Area E-waste Collection Event - Macdonald Valley

12th May and 9th June, 10am-11am

Collection van will be visibly parked on Bulga Street St Albans

Register

FREE Remote Area E-waste Collection Event - Colo Heights

26th May, 10am-11am

Register

FREE Solar and Energy Efficiency Workshop

5th June, 6pm-7:30pm (online)

Register

Destination NSW Workshops and Webinars

Creating Wellness Experiences Webinar

The Creative Wellness Experiences Webinar was delivered as part of Destination NSW's NSW First Program last month. It was designed to assist visitor economy businesses to develop, promote and sell products and experiences.

Destination NSW Visitor Experience Workshops

The free, full-day workshops are designed to assist businesses including tour, attraction and accommodation providers to create and refine experiences that meet visitor needs and showcase the strengths of NSW.

[Watch here](#)

[Register](#)

NSW Farm Safety Advisory Program

This program aims to provide the tools and support that farming businesses need, provided by people who understand the pressures and complexities of farming.

[Upcoming Events](#)

NSW Farm Business Resilience Program

This program aims to support participants to develop or update existing farm business plans through providing individually tailored professional support and advice to complete the business plan.

[Register](#)

Business Workshops



Unconventional marketing tactics

2nd May, 10am-12pm (online)

[Register](#)



Developing your brand

8th May, 11am-12:30pm (online)

[Register](#)



Social media trends for small businesses

8th May, 1pm-2:30pm (online)

[Register](#)



Financial fundamentals

14th May, 1pm-2pm (online)

[Register](#)



More clever ways to increase online sales

16th May, 10am-11:30pm (online)

[Register](#)



Business branding and graphic design solutions

16th May, 1pm-2:30pm (online)

[Register](#)



Selling made simple

23rd May, 2pm-3:30pm (online)

[Register](#)



Save time with easy bookkeeping

28th May, 10am-11:30am (online)

[Register](#)

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