

Fit for the Future is Coming

The NSW Government has announced their Fit for the Future (FFF) program for councils across NSW.

The State Government would like councils to be FFF and have invited every council in NSW to assess themselves against a set of ratios and benchmarks across three key areas:

1. Sustainability
2. Effective Infrastructure and Service Management
3. Efficiency

If councils are unable to meet all the criteria they are in effect not Fit for the Future and need to clearly demonstrate how they intend to get there. There are a number of options available to councils:

- Merge with another council/s
- Become a member with a new regional structure called a Joint Organisation,
- Become a Rural Council
- Maintain current Council status (all councils need to demonstrate how they will achieve this and be FFF).

This Council will prepare a submission to the State Government by 30 June 2015. prior to doing so, we would like to hear from the community on the direction they want Junee Shire Council to take.

The State Government is offering funding packages to councils that want to merge with another council, as well as other forms of assistance to facilitate councils becoming FFF.

During February and March 2015, the Councillor's Couch will be rolled out in Junee for you to come along and talk to the elected representatives about what future you might want for your council area. To help residents understand the scope of what it is the State Government is proposing, additional information has been uploaded onto Council's website.



35 Mayors all in a Row



Junee Mayor Councillor Neil Smith was invited to join 35 of his colleagues in Sydney for the inaugural Mayoral weekend workshop. The event was facilitated by Local Government NSW (LGNSW) to help councils deal with the demanding roles facing Local Government across the State.

"What I found interesting was it didn't seem to matter how big or small councils are, they face the same sort of pressures

and opportunities that we face here in Junee. The pleasing aspect for me was the opportunity to tell people what Junee had accomplished. When I mentioned our new library, 12 km of bike track and pitch perfect soccer field people found it hard to believe our population was only 6000.

Without doubt the cornerstone and feature of the weekend was how communities participate and involve themselves with volunteer groups and events. The capacity for residents to help or participate at different levels across the community spectrum is so important.

Especially, as the baby-boomer generation moves into retirement age.

The days of council being simply a road, rates and rubbish organisation are long gone. Communities expect so much more for themselves and their families. Councils and community organisations do remarkable work on behalf of their residents. They not only care deeply about the future of their family, they want to be part of community life as well.

A good section of the weekend was spent talking over the importance of Leisure and Cultural facilities being available so that individuals can improve their lifestyle and wellbeing, enabling them to enjoy community life well into the senior years.

I recalled Adrian Eisenhower's acceptance speech after receiving his Citizen of the Year award last January with his thought provoking message about having appropriate forms of self-care accommodation. That one speech initiated a Seniors Living forum at the Athenium Theatre in June at which 75 people attended. From there, a local committee was formed which is meeting regularly to advocate and instruct the community on the provisioning of suitable local Senior's Housing." Councillor Smith said.

Junee Farewells Col Macaulay

Junee Shire Council's long-serving Engineer was farewelled recently after 16 years in the job. Will Barton has been appointed to the Director of Engineering Services position.

When it came to identifying the biggest achievement of his career, Mr Macaulay had one answer: "Being part of a team which has changed Junee from a declining railway town to a flourishing tourist town," he said.

Mr Macaulay said road and infrastructure projects had played a part in helping improve Junee. They included upgrading parts of Gundagai Road, the bike path network, a "V" drain network to Park Dam, upgrades to Main and Lorne Streets and Broadway.



Col Macaulay and Will Barton

Bethungra Dam

Bethungra Dam's hazard rating has been reduced from high to low and this means the wall will remain at the current height and be strengthened.

Late in November 2014, the Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson MP, Minister for Primary Industries and Member for Burrinjuck announced that preliminary works would shortly commence on the safety upgrade of Bethungra Dam.

The NSW Government has allocated \$3.935 million for the project which is due to be completed in 2016.

This is a positive outcome for the village of Bethungra and the wider communities of Junee Shire and Cootamundra Shire who frequent the dam throughout the year. The State Government should be commended for their perseverance reducing the risk category of the dam which has been of concern to the community for over 10 years.



Bethungra Dam wall is to be retained at the same height

Bethungra Hill Road Works

Work to widen and reconstruct the Olympic Highway on Bethungra Hill has slowed following the discovery of a partially collapsed culvert.

Works completed to date include:

- Excavation of batters and cut floors,
- Installation of subsoil drainage,
- Construction of new pavement in the widening,
- Construction of concrete dish drain,
- Widening of three culverts, and
- Full replacement of one culvert.

The remainder of the project will see the replacement of one other culvert, a reconstruction of the existing pavement to improve ride quality and the installation of wire rope safety barriers to replace and extend the length of road currently protected by steel guard rail.



Road Widening at Bethungra Hill

Electronic Housing Code

Check online to see if your building works are Exempt or Complying Development.

Junee Shire Council has been part of the Electronic Housing Code (EHC) project which has focused on the development of an online system for the electronic lodgement of complying development applications under the NSW Housing Code for lots 200m² and above. This system will also allow the user to determine if they are able to proceed with their development without further approvals, as an exempt development.

The service allows you to identify your site, choose your development type, and provides a detailed report that tells you whether your building works are eligible for exempt or complying development approval. You can then proceed to lodge the application online if you wish, or take the report along to Council to discuss your options.

If your building works are deemed to be exempt, Council should still be notified of these works by sending us a copy of the report.



Has your house building works been finalised with Council?

If you have received either a Development Consent or Complying Development Certificate for a building or structure, you must ensure you obtain either an Interim Occupation Certificate or a Final Occupation Certificate before you can occupy or use the building.

It is important to get your Occupation Certificate as it can affect re-sale or building warranty insurance claims.

When all outstanding matters have been completed and Council staff have been advised, a Final Occupation Certificate will be issued for the building works.



Small Business Initiatives



As part of the NSW Creating Liveable Communities Initiative, Junee Shire Council will partner with other stakeholders to develop a "Junee Liveable Community" which will:

- make physical changes to provide access to nominated key small businesses in Junee.
- improve connectivity and upgrade infrastructure within and between key facilities and the Junee CBD.

The aim is to improve the shopping experience for carers, the elderly and people with a disability in the community and hence increase income for small businesses.

As the majority of small businesses in Junee are located in the Heritage Conservation Area (HCA), any Development Application (DA) received by the Council for proposed building works must be referred to Council's Heritage Advisor (HA) for comment. As this procedural requirement can add up to two weeks to a determination of a DA, staff propose the following:

- Any referrals to the HA are prepared and forwarded to the HA by Council staff within two days of receipt of the DA.
- The HA be encouraged to initially liaise directly with the applicant, rather than Council, to arrange a site inspection in order to obtain a satisfactory outcome in the shortest possible time.

The aim is to reduce the time taken from when Council refer the application to the HA and comments are received by Council from the HA. This will, in turn, reduce the overall determination time of the DA.

School Holiday Activities

Summer Reading Club kits are available from the Junee Library. There are 50 free kits available. Go to www.summerreadingclub.org.au to get involved online.

On Tuesday 13 January 2015, Puppet Making is on at 10:30am until 12 noon. The cost is \$5.00 for children/adults free. Bookings essential. Story-time for families is on Wednesday 14 and 21 January 2015 at 10:00am. Children young or old are invited. Free stories and craft provided.

A movie bus trip will be held in late January. A notice will be in the Junee Southern Cross closer to the date.

Community Transport

New service charges are in effect for Junee Community Transport, as follows:

Junee to Wagga	\$18.00
Junee to Cootamundra	\$26.00
Junee to Albury	\$63.00
Junee to Canberra	\$73.00
Illabo to Junee	\$14.00
Around Junee	\$7.50



When booking transport, please give at least two days' notice of intended travel. In case of hardship, Junee Community Transport reserves the right to negotiate advertised charges.

Community Litter Grants

The Keep NSW Beautiful Community Litter Grants are open for applications.

The Grants provide community groups with up to \$5,000 to reduce litter in their neighbourhood while enhancing public spaces.

To apply, choose an area to target and register to do a 'Local Litter Check', once there measure the litter problem and workshop ideas for improvements. Then submit an application to KNSWB with a new plan for the space.

Examples of what grants have been used for so far:

- Building picnic tables and other infrastructure
- Landscaping gardens and bushland
- Setting up community care groups
- Involving youth groups, Scouts and schools in projects
- Installing playground equipment

The options are open and the grant is intended to furnish your community's needs! To take part, please register by 6 February 2015.



For further information get in touch with Kellie Harrison at communitylittergrants@knswb.org.au or phone (02) 8594 4099.

Smoke Free Areas

On 6 July 2015, new smoking bans come into effect in NSW under the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 for commercial outdoor dining areas and for pedestrian entrances to and exits from restaurants, cafes and licensed premises.

From this date, smoking will not be permitted in commercial outdoor dining areas, being:

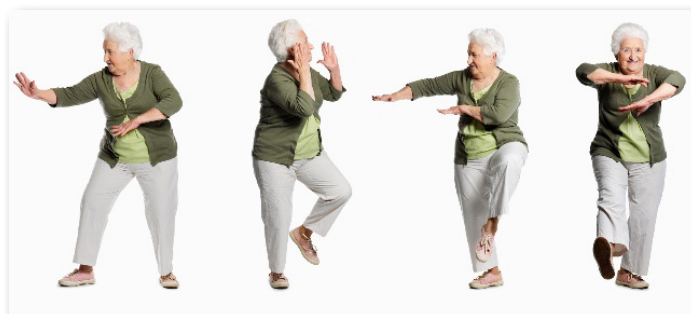
- a seated dining area (an area in which seating is provided and in which food that has been purchased and served on plates or packaged for immediate consumption is consumed)- but only while food is being consumed or is available for purchase and consumption there.
- within 4 metres of a seated dining area on licensed premises or at a restaurant.
- within 10 metres of a place at a food fair where food is sold or supplied for consumption.

Councils are not responsible for enforcing compliance with the laws. Instead authorised inspectors from NSW Health, Public Health Unit will be responsible for enforcing compliance. Please contact Council if you require any further information..



Tai Chi at the Rec Centre

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the 8am and 1pm Tai Chi classes held at Junee Junction Recreation & Aquatic Centre will be on recess until further notice.



Family Day Care Educator

South West Regional Family Day Care are now inviting applicants to apply for the position of Family Day Care Educator in Junee.

If you have a genuine interest in the Child Care Industry and would like to operate a home based service, please ring South West Regional Family Day Care on (02) 6924 1017 or email fdc@june.nsw.gov.au for an information pack.

South West Regional Family Day Care would like to take this opportunity to wish all their families and educators a Happy New Year.



Family Day Care Educator needed in Junee

Junee Community Expo

The Junee Interagency Group will be holding a free Community Expo on 20 March 2015 at the Athenium Theatre from 2pm to 6pm, with a free BBQ provided by GEO from 5pm – 6pm.

The expo will showcase services that are based in, or that service the area, coming together to provide information about how they can assist locals in our community. Activities will be taking place on the day and all age groups are encouraged to come along.

This event will assist our community with increased knowledge of what is available, how to make contact, what is required to participate and how to access such services in Junee and surrounding areas. Another benefit is that service providers will become better aware of opportunities to integrate with each other to deliver better and more effective programs to target groups.

The Junee Interagency Group is calling on individuals or community groups who are interested in being involved in this event. Please contact Robin Asmus at Intereach on 0438 675 063 or robina@intereach.com.au

Long Grass on Vacant Blocks

You can help Council to keep its costs down by keeping your yards and vacant land mowed during the summer months. It costs Council thousands of dollars a year to inspect and re-inspect overgrown blocks. Owners of vacant blocks in Junee and surrounding villages are reminded that hazard reduction works is your responsibility. If a grass fire were to break out, you can be held responsible for damages to other properties.

The coming summer months are going to be dangerous times for bushfires, vermin and snakes. Please make sure you act now to rid your property of long grass.



Long grass is a problem in warmer months

Australia Day Nominations

Nominations for the 2015 Australia Day Awards close on 15 January 2015.

Nominations must be in writing and must address the criteria for the category you are nominating. The categories are:

Citizen of the Year - A person 25 years of age and over who has given conspicuous service to an organisation or the community in general, or to specific causes.

Young Citizen of the Year - The same as above for persons under 25 as at 1 January 2015.

Sports Award - including contribution to the advancement of sport, contribution to sport through administration, true sportsmanship, dedication to participating, training and competing, and the nominee must be of amateur status and over the age of 18.

Young Sports Award - As for the Sports Award but for persons aged 18 years or under as of 1 January 2015.

Volunteer Team of the Year - Team members are to demonstrate working together on a common project.

It is essential that the criteria is addressed and all nominees must be a resident of Junee Shire. Nominations may be submitted on a form available from the Council Chambers or Library. For further information, please phone 6924 8100

Byrnes Road Deviation



It's been full-steam ahead at Harefield for the Byrnes Road deviation, with construction ahead of schedule and on budget.

The \$1.2m project will deliver important road safety and freight productivity outcomes through moving Byrnes Road approx. 140 metres east of its current alignment.

Since the last newsletter a number of major milestones have been achieved, including the completion of:

- all formation earthworks,
- all of the major drainage structures, including two new bridge culverts, and
- all of the sub-grade pavement, with the exception of the tie-ins at the existing road interfaces.

To balance the Council's workload, activity may reduce early in the New Year as attention is given to other projects. However, it is still expected that the project will be completed by April 2015.

Celebrating Junee!





you, me & junee

Invite your friends and family to visit with you during the

first weekend in

May 2015!

for details see visitjunee.com.au



#YouMeandJunee

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Pam Halliburton *(Deputy Mayor)*

Matt Austin

Bob Callow

Andrew Clinton

Lola Cummins

Martin Holmes

Colin Randall

Jo Ward