

Callisthenics for Councils-Trying to become Fit for the Future

The State Government has a reform agenda in place for local government across NSW. They are recommending that Junee Shire either amalgamate with Cootamundra Shire Council or stand-alone and become a member of a newly created Joint Organisation.

The Council's current position is to adapt to being a member of a Joint Organisation, however the community may have a different view and the Council is encouraging you to have a say in what the future might look like.

While the recommendation to merge with Cootamundra is a straight forward concept to grasp, the notion of Joint Organisations may not be so familiar to residents, a Joint Organisation will be a legislative body formed of member councils, Junee being one of the members. It will resemble the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisations of Councils (REROC) model that we are part of at the moment, albeit a Joint Organisation will have compulsory membership and legislative overtones.

There are many other aspects to the Fit for the Future Reform package to improve the way local government operate. In fact Junee Shire Council agrees with 84% of the 64 recommendations being considered.

What's next?

Council has to lodge an application to the State Government proving we can be Fit for the Future. The State Government has set seven key ratios and benchmarks that, if met, mean a council is sustainable, efficient and effective.

Junee Shire Council meets the seven criteria over a 10 year period. There is one other hurdle and that is demonstrating that the council has sufficient scale and capacity. It is funny terminology but one that must be addressed in the application itself rather than meeting set criteria. The State Government treat this issue as a threshold requirement: if a council doesn't get through the scale and capacity gate, meeting the sustainability, efficiency and effective criteria may not be considered.

In order to thoroughly understand the community's position on the future direction for this Council, we have developed a short survey for residents to provide feedback on so we can finalise the Fit for Future application.

Councillors themselves have been out and about at community events in March, speaking with and encouraging residents to complete the survey this survey on Council's website www.junee.nsw.gov.au

We want to hear from community members on this issue and strongly urge residents to complete the community survey on our website so your views can be incorporated into our response to the State Government.

If you don't have access to a computer please consider popping into Council's office or the library where staff will be happy to assist you.



President Cr Keith Rhoades-LGNSW & CEO Donna Rygate meet with Councillors regarding Fit for the Future

Mayor well received at ARTC

I met with the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) representatives in Sydney in May and received confirmation that there are no current plans in place to relocate the Junee Train Control facility.

This is excellent news for the 50 employees at the Junee Train Control Centre, some of which have young families and recently built new homes in Junee.

It was well worth the trip to Sydney to discuss the community's recently raised concerns that the Junee Train Control Centre may be in jeopardy.



Cr Neil Smith

Junee is a perfect place for related rail industries. As a business sector it directly employs well in excess of 200 people. Skills and employee levels in Junee are high and there is a compelling argument that the cost of doing business in Junee is low compared to Capital or Regional Cities. That is the message we are taking to a wider audience to attract new jobs to Junee.

We have wonderful rail infrastructure in place including railway workshops and sidings that are the envy of our neighbouring towns. The Council wants to promote these attributes to bring more businesses to town.

In recent years, there has been a positive resurgence with rail related businesses investing in town, some of which provide international freight solutions.

In meeting with Executive General Manager of ARTC, we have agreed to keep in contact with each other to ensure the community are properly informed. In terms of outcomes from that meeting, I was assured that there were no plans in place to relocate the Junee Train Control Centre and reached agreement that Junee would be considered as a preferred location if any plans to expand a control centre operation were to occur.

Junee has a lot to offer ARTC as a viable location to expand train control activity. We now have an appreciation of the scale and size needed for any such expanded activity and will investigate what the Council may be able to do. This could lead to the possibility of facilitating new roles in the railway sector for the betterment of our community.

Mayor- Cr Neil Smith

Junee Recreation Centre

The 50m main pool at the Junee Recreation Centre has undergone a major transformation with the walls and floor being completely repainted. Throughout the painting job, the main pool was separated from the Program Pool with appropriate safety fencing to reduce exposure to the cooler weather and for the comfort of the patrons.

The pool re-opened on Monday 11 May following the completion of the re-painting. The main pool also went through its annual winter conversion to become a fully enclosed heated indoor 25m pool. We are anticipating that the main pool will not require repainting for another 8-10 years.



Frank Duck in the newly Re-surfaced main pool

New Flooring and New Gym Equipment

New rubberised flooring has now been installed in the Junee Recreation Centre gym. The flooring has replaced a mixture of carpet, lino and sections of rubber matting which was not ideal for gym activities.

In addition to the gym flooring, the foyer carpet, which is in poor condition, will be replaced with more appropriate flooring in the near future.



The new exercise equipment will include a new treadmill, exercise bikes (all with TV monitors) and a very versatile piece of equipment known as a cable cross-over, which will be installed some time in June. These additional items will be fantastic additions for gym users who were keen to see some new equipment at the facility.

Household Chemical Cleanup

Waste matters
CleanOut your household chemicals the right way



You can drop off:

Paints	Fire extinguishers
Garden chemicals	Pool chemicals
Motor oils and fuels	Hobby chemicals
Batteries	Acids and alkalis
Gas bottles	Fluorescent globes and tubes

FREE SERVICE

At this location between 1pm and 4pm:

Tuesday 23 June 2015
 Council Depot
 Joffre Street, Junee

Only household quantities accepted.

For more dates and locations call the Environment Line on 131 555 or visit www.cleanout.com.au

This is a NSW EPA Waste Less, Recycle More initiative funded from the Waste Levy. Visit www.epa.nsw.gov.au



Volunteers Needed

The Junee Hospital and Coinda Court are desperately in need of volunteers to visit the residents.

If you have some time to spare and would like to become a visitor – or you know someone who might appreciate a community visitor please call Jeff on 6933 5555 or 1800 000 212.



“Wrap with Love”

Knitted Square Collection @ The Junee Library.

There are millions of people in the world suffering extreme cold. In 1992 Wrap with Love began with the idea to help as many people as possible by providing warm wraps to ward off hypothermia. In the past 20 years Wrap with Love has sent more than 323,000 wraps to people in over 75 countries, including Australia.

Wrap with Love is a not for profit organisation incorporated with the Department of Fair Trading, NSW. Wrap with Love does not BUY, SELL, OR TRADE wraps.



Squares For Wraps: Squares for wraps are to measure 10 inches x 10 inches (25 cm x 25 cm) using 8 (4mm) needles, 8 ply yarn and cast on 50-55 stitches. Do not knit stocking stitch as your square will curl up. Do not cut ends off short as your square will unravel. When starting or finishing a square, sew in all ends.

Completed Wraps Are Preferred: They are made up of 28 squares (i.e. 4 squares by 7 squares). Wraps can be knitted, woven or patchwork lined to finish 40 inches x 70 inches (100 cm x 175 cm).

The library is collecting squares now until August. Last year just under 1300 squares were produced by the Junee knitters. Donations of yarn is also appreciated and will be passed onto knitters. The library is also hosting a Knit in on 17 July 2015 at 11am. Lunch will be included.

Broadway Museum

Dates To Remember – Mark Your Calendar:

- Music at the Museum: the first Friday of the month at 11:00am – bring your instrument/singing voice and join in, or just come and enjoy!
- Museum Memories: usually the third Sunday of the month at 1:30pm, but is currently on recess – come and share your memories of living and growing up in Junee!
- Historical Society monthly meetings are held on the third Monday of the month. Next meeting 15 June 2015 commencing at 2:00pm.

Junee Business and Trades

Junee Business and Trades will be again running "Visit Junee" advertisements on TV leading up to the State of Origin in conjunction with Junee Shire Council. This will be a fantastic opportunity to use our local sporting heroes once again, to help promote our town. Keep an eye out for Laurie Daley and Ray Warren during the State of Origin Series.

Upcoming Event:

The JBT Gala Charity Ball will be held on Saturday 5 September at the Athenium Theatre. More details to be released closer to the date.



Junee Business and Trades Committee at the 2014 Charity Ball

Junee Community Centre

'Food 4 Thought' Store

Our new 'Food 4 Thought' store is now open! The store hopes to assist low income earners, pensioners, and those receiving Centrelink income support payments with managing the rising cost of living by providing discounted food produce. Available for purchase is approximately \$150 of limited non-perishable food for \$20. The store is open fortnightly. Contact Wendy at the Junee Community Centre on 6924 2666 for more information and store opening times.



Follow Us Now!

Did you know that we have our own Instagram account and YouTube Channel? Make sure you follow us to keep up to date with whats happening in our beautiful Shire!

Youtube: Junee Shire Council

Instagram: #youmeandjunee



Athenium-Theatre Seating

The Friends of the Athenium Theatre & Cultural Centre Inc (FATT&CC) are going through an active period of Theatre refurbishment. The FATT&CC have purchased seating from Tamworth and received other theatre seats from Griffith. They are now gearing up to replace the dress circle seating at the Athenium with these seats.

Flooring also needs to be strengthened, levelled and widened at each tier as well as higher balustrades installed. They are working with The Men's Shed and GEO Junee to speed up this work.

Once the remaining refurbishment works of the dress circle are complete, this area will then be accessible to the general public.



Upcoming Events at the Athenium:

- 17 - 18 July 2015-Cooinda Court Fundraiser
- 25 July 2015-Masquerade Ball

To book your next event at the Athenium, please contact Nicole Barton on 0422 767 667 to arrange for a Booking Form and Hire Terms and Conditions to be sent to you.

National Family Day Care Week

South West Regional Family Day Care Educators, Staff and Children recently celebrated National Family Day Care week in Junee where they dressed as super heroes or their favourite movie star.

The children had a fun morning with mask and crown making, obstacle courses, parachute play, storytime and lots of other play activities.

The next celebration for South West Regional Family Day Care will be later this year, when they reach 20 years of supporting families with their child care requirements.



Draft Delivery Program on Exhibition

Around this time each year, Councils in NSW place their documents and budgets on public exhibition to explain what works and programs are proposed to be carried out over the next four years with a particular emphasis on the first year in that cycle.

The Combined Delivery Program Operational Plan and Financial Estimates bring to life what it is the Council can do over the next four years to match the community's goals in the 10 year Community Strategic Plan.

There a number of projects slated for 2015/16 including:

- Reconstruction and widening of Combaning Road
- Completion of the sixth stage of Wantabadgery Road reconstruction
- Old Sydney Road reconstruction
- Conversion of the Eurongilly landfill to a managed transfer station
- Preliminary investigations into the replacement of the Junee Wastewater Treatment Plan

There will be a noticeable change in 2015/16 with the application of the second year of Special Rates Variation (SRV) approvals coming into play.

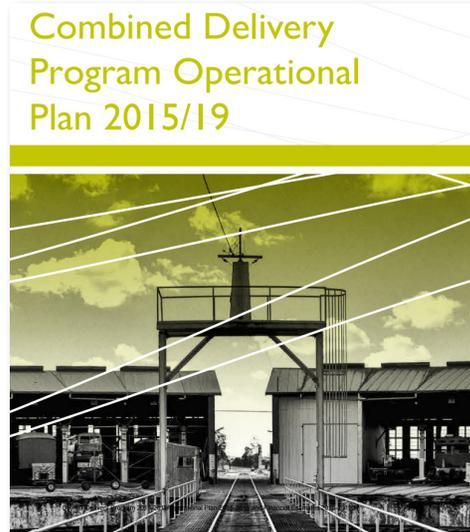
While rate increases are never welcome the community's endorsement for SRVs was approved last year. Over a three year average residential property will be paying \$0.65 more per week.

The rationale for the proposed rate increases is to secure a financially sustainable position for the Council for both the short and medium term. For a number of years, the Council's operating budget has not generated the surpluses needed to fund the work required on our road network. The Council allocates the additional revenue to road works and reports on the delivery of these projects in the community newsletter and in its annual report in September.

The value of Council's road network is about \$95M and those assets need renewing over their useful life.

It is not so much about maintenance (potholes) - that is manageable. It's about road renewals and reseals. We need to maintain our road assets to a satisfactory level and to ensure we meet community expectations where we can.

In order to offset the impact of increasing land rates, garbage and sewer increase's were frozen by the Council for a three year period.



The Draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan is available for inspection at:

- Council's Offices, Belmore Street, Junee
- Junee Library, 92 Lorne Street, Junee
- Jail Brake Inn Cafe, Olympic Highway, Old Junee
- Wantabadgery Store, Jewnee Street, Wantabadgery
- Olde School T-House, Olympic Highway, Bethungra
- Illabo Hotel/Store, Olympic Highway, Illabo
- Council's website at www.junee.nsw.gov.au

Submissions may be made in writing to Council up until 4:00pm Thursday, 18 June 2015.

Byrnes Road Reaches Practical Completion

As those that make the frequent trek to Wagga would now have seen, the \$1.3m deviation of Byrnes Road has reached practical completion.

In spite of a late burst of inclement weather, progress sped up as the final pavement material was added and the surface prepared for sealing. The final hurdle to overcome in completing the project came in the form of managing traffic while the new length of Harefield Road – from the railway crossing to Byrnes Road – was built. This included the construction of a new triple cell culvert and for this reason the unusual step of closing that part of the road for a period of two weeks, was taken.

The final elements of the project include line marking and generally tidying of the site, with the latter now waiting until drier weather next spring.

The project, jointly funded by Junee Shire Council, Transport for NSW, Qube and Visy, will see economic benefits in the order of \$500,000 flow to the region annually. Provision of turning lanes, widened shoulders, improved hydraulic structures and a raised road formation all contribute to a safer road and reduced flooding issues.

Junee Shire Council Gears Up For A Busy Year

2015-16 will see record investment in Junee Shire's roads, particularly its rural road network.

Off the back of the first year of the Council's successful Special Rates Variation (SRV), the Council has also been successful in its application to reconstruct the remaining 10km of Combaning Road under the NSW State Government's Fixing Country Roads program. Upon the completion of this project, the current mass limit will be removed and the road opened up to higher mass limited vehicles.

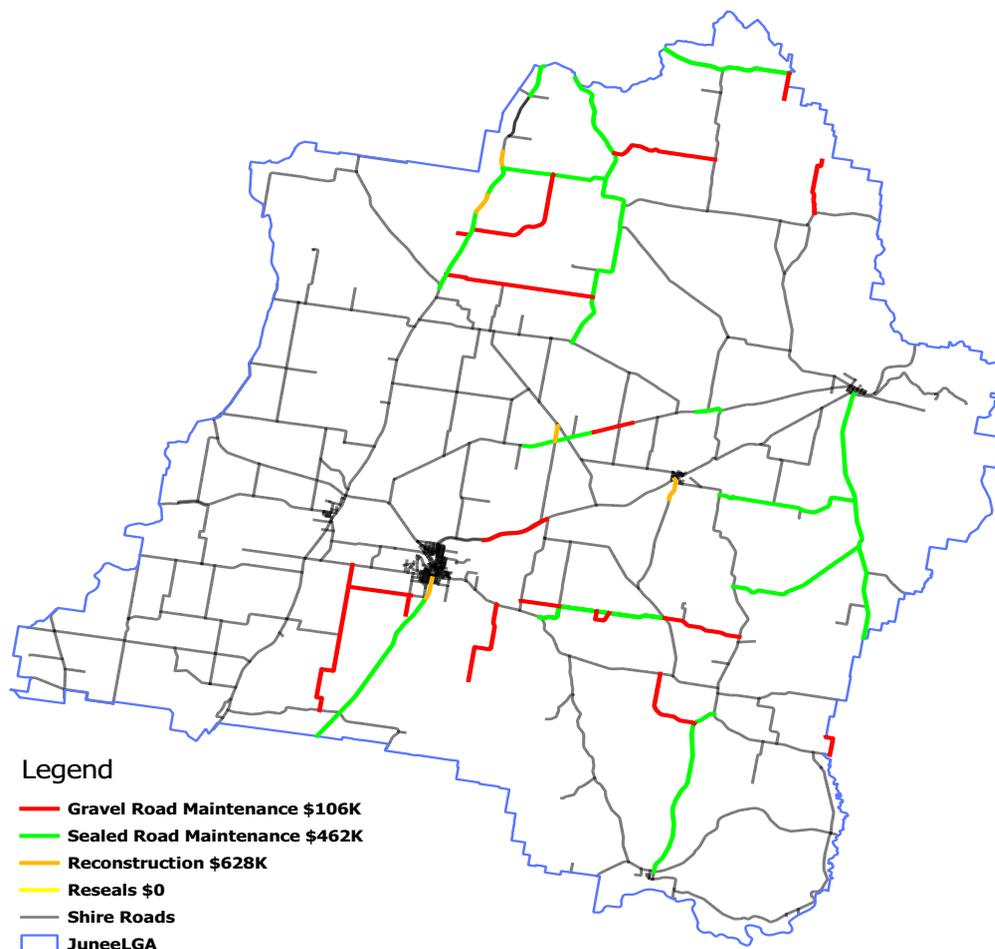
The 2014-15 federal budget promised a double payment of the Roads to Recovery funding for the 2015-16 financial year

and the Council has now received confirmation of this.

The additional funding will see renewal and upgrade works completed on a number of roads across the Shire and urban streets.

This follows an exceptionally busy year in 2014-15 that saw an additional \$900,000 invested into local road renewals and upgrades, on top of the Byrnes Road deviation, Bethungra Hill reconstruction project (RMS funded), and the Council's usual road budget.

Junee Shire Works Program from 1 July 2014 to 31 March 2015



JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL

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 0428 694 271

Works Depot:
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STAFF

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John Whitfield
Director Corporate and Community Services

Will Barton
Director Engineering Services

COUNCILLORS

Neil Smith (*Mayor*)

Pam Halliburton (*Deputy Mayor*)

Matt Austin

Bob Callow

Andrew Clinton

Lola Cummins

Martin Holmes

Colin Randall

Jo Ward