

NEWSLETTER



FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to our Winter 2021 Newsletter. What a lovely Autumn we have enjoyed and now it's time to once again watch as Mother Nature turns down the thermostat. It's time to enjoy warm cosy nights by the fire, casseroles and slow cooked meals. Bring it on I say!



We have a few things coming up and open for public comment.

If you come from one of our outlying villages, we have been working on some specific plans for each in consultation with residents. I encourage you to have a look at what people think and what the Council sees as a priority in the coming years. If so moved, please make a submission. As well as being available on the Junee Shire website, you can view hard copies at the following locations:

- Council's Offices, Belmore Street, Junee
- Junee Library, 92 Lorne Street, Junee
- Jail Brake Inn Cafe, Olympic Highway, Old Junee
- Wantabadgery Hall
- Bethungra Service Station, Bethungra
- Illabo Hotel/Store, Olympic Highway, Illabo

Also on public exhibition is Council's Delivery Plan & Operational Plan (DPOP). This sets the direction of Council for the next four years or until 2025. Your input and comment is encouraged.

The other thing on the horizon is the election of Councillors in early September this year. If you feel you would like to be part of the positive team of Councillors that make the broad policy and direction decisions, you have the opportunity to throw your hat into the ring this September. You will need to make a personal commitment to be on Council for a three year term, a shorter cycle than the usual four year term this time around.

Some attributes that are desirable include passion for your community, the ability to listen and weigh up both sides of any story, be respectful of others and open to ideas.

It's a great opportunity to not only serve your community but also for your own personal development. You get to meet and mix with people you might never have otherwise met, gain a broader picture of the world around you and appreciate the many, many ways that local government touches our lives.

If you would like to know more, then tap one of your local Councillors on the shoulder to get their perspective. Alternately, the NSW Office of Local Government has plenty of information at this link.

www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public/about-councils/become-a-councillor



Current serving Councillors (L-R): Cr Mark Cook, Cr Martin Holmes, Cr David Carter, Deputy Mayor Cr Matt Austin, Mayor Cr Neil Smith, Cr Pam Halliburton, Cr Robin Asmus, Cr Bob Callow and Cr Kerri Walker.

Thanks for your time and thank you to our hardworking and dedicated staff. They're the ones who do the hard work, no offense meant to our Councillors :)

I commend you to our newsletter...

Mayor, Cr Neil Smith

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS - YOU ARE THE HEART OF COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Junee Shire Council would like to acknowledge the ongoing commitment and dedication of the volunteer drivers with Junee Community Transport Service.

The pandemic has been a challenging time for everyone and it made volunteering more complicated as new Government safety measures had to be introduced.

Our amazing volunteers Graham and Kym Besley were able to continue to work throughout most of 2020 enabling Community Transport to continue operating without interruption. Now the restrictions have eased all our wonderful volunteers are now back and driving in updated vehicles.

For further information about Community Transport and the services it provides contact 6924 4880.



Junee Community Transport volunteer drivers.

Junee Shire Council has been an Approved Provider for Family Day Care for over 25 years, enabling many families to be part of the workforce knowing their children are being educated and cared for by qualified Educators.

We thank Sally for her part in the lives and journeys of children in Splitt's Family Day Care.

Photo: Sally Splitt (left) pictured with Splitt's Family Day Care children and South West Regional Family Day Care Nominated Supervisor, Amanda Russell.

30 YEAR SERVICE TO RFS - HAROLD PORTER

In March of this year, Harry Porter received the Long Service Medal Clasp for 30 years of service as a member of the Riverina Zone Aviation & Junee Brigades.

Harry commenced with the Rural Fire Service in 1990 as a founding member of the Junee Brigade. In 2010 Harry was a founding member of a second brigade when the Riverina Zone Aviation Brigade was officially formed.

Harry has been a very active member serving as Deputy Captain from 2010 – 2012 and again from 2013 – 2020. Harry was also elected to the role of Junee Brigade treasurer for 14 years from 2003 to 2017.

Harry has given his time for many Out of Area deployments both as a fire fighter and Airbase Operator and has been an active member of the Community Engagement Team representing the Rural Fire Service at local events and schools visits.

Harry has been a valued member of both Brigades and his contributions over the years are greatly appreciated.



20 YEAR CELEBRATION - SALLY SPLITT

In May South West Regional Family Day Care celebrated and thanked Sally Splitt for an amazing 20 years of educating and caring for over 83 Junee children and supporting over 50 families with their childcare requirements from her home.



When asked what she loved the most Sally replied *"the best and saddest moment is when they head to school. I know I have helped the children be the best they can be and I have contributed to preparing the children for their next journey."*

APPROVALS REQUIRED TO LIGHT OPEN-AIR FIRES

Lighting open air fires without the necessary approvals may burn a big hole in your back pocket. With the colder months now upon us, the urge to get out and light backyard fires is high, whether it is to clean up the yard of fallen timber and leaves or as a social gathering point.

Local Council Approvals :

Most people would be aware they are not allowed to burn household rubbish and prohibited articles such as tyres and coated wire in their backyards. What may not be widely known is the burning, in the open, of anything including vegetation such as dried leaves and timber without Council approval is also prohibited and is an offence under Clause 12 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulations 2010*. Council can issue on the spot penalties of \$500 to individuals or \$1,000 to corporations who are found to be lighting prohibited fires without first obtaining Council approval. In severe cases individuals can be charged with the offence and court-imposed fines of up to \$5,500 may be imposed.

Fire District Approvals ('Fire Permits'):

In addition to an approval from Council, a 'Fire Permit' may also be required when lighting fires in a Fire District (controlled by Fire and Rescue NSW) or a Rural Fire District (Controlled by NSW Rural Fire Service). Generally, in rural and village locations the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) will require a 'Fire Permit' to be issued before a fire is lit during the bushfire danger period. However, its important to know that if you are lighting a fire within the Junee township and immediate surrounding area, which is within the jurisdiction of Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW), then a 'Fire Permit' is required at any time during the year. It is an offence under the Rural Fires Act 1997 to light a fire without this official permit authorisation. The NSW RFS and FRNSW may also issue their own on the spot fines of \$1,100 or proceed to prosecute people for lighting fires without a required 'Fire Permit'.

To avoid the possibility of expensive penalties, please ensure you obtain all of the necessary approvals before you light a fire. It is recommended to contact your relevant Fire District Authority whether that is the NSW RFS or FRNSW.

There are some exemptions to the requirements to obtain approvals to burn in the open. These requirements do not impact someone's ability to use a solid fuel BBQ or Camp/Fire Pits when used for recreational purposes. These sorts of small fires can continue to be enjoyed without needing any formal approval, provided only dry seasoned wood is used

and the fire is contained within a permanently constructed fireplace having a cleared area of at least two metres around the perimeter of any combustible materials.



For further information on the processes involved in obtaining the necessary approvals to light fires in the Junee Local Government Area, please refer to Council's website at www.junee.nsw.gov.au or call the Council office on 02 6924 8100.



INLAND RAIL

Inland Rail has progressed the reference designs for the Albury to Illabo (A2I) project and finalised the reference design for the Illabo to Stockinbingal (I2S) projects. Inland Rail will be providing the community a design update for the Junee works on A2I and the final proposed alignment and design for I2S.

An A2I and I2S drop-in session will be held to seek the community's feedback:

- **Thursday 17 June**, 11.00am-1.00pm outside the Junee Newsagency, 7 Humphry Street, Junee

Further sessions will be hosted by the I2S team on:

- **Tuesday 22 June**, 10.00am-12.00pm at Illabo Tennis Clubhouse, Wood Street, Illabo.
- **Tuesday 22 June**, 2.00pm-4.00pm at The Olde School T-House, 50 Baylis Street, Bethungra.

Can't make it? There will be an online presentation available on the I2S website. For further information visit the Inland Rail website: www.inlandrail.com.au



APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT MOVE TO ONLINE LODGEMENT

From 1 July 2021, if you are planning on undertaking some building works around your home or business and you are required to lodge a development application, these will need to be submitted online with the NSW Government Planning Portal. Council will no longer be able to take and assess development applications in a paper based format over the counter.

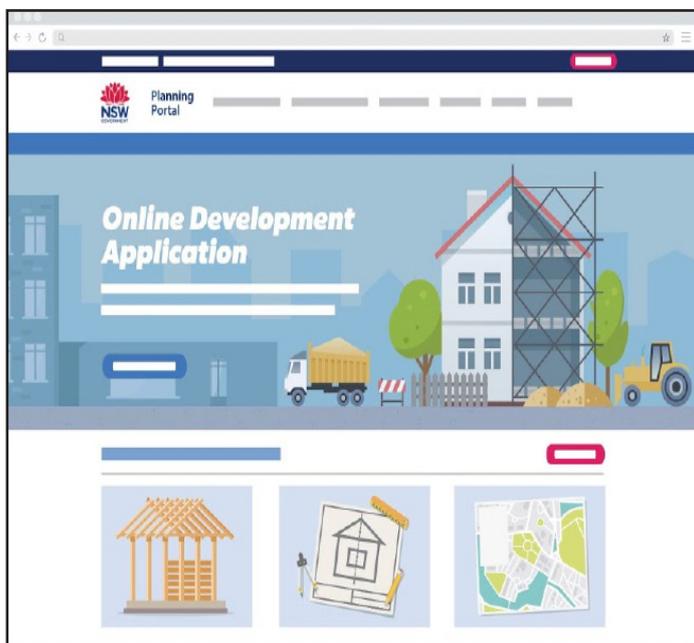
To assist the community with these changes, Council is encouraging online lodgement to commence prior to 1 July and offer a range of services free of charge during the changeover period including access to a computer, scanner and staff support for the new process. Additional help is also available on the NSW Planning Portal site and via the Planning Portal help line.

The Planning Portal can be accessed with your existing ServiceNSW account. If you do not have a ServiceNSW account, you can create an account to access the Planning Portal, however a valid email address will be required to be provided.

The Planning Portal can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/>

This site also contains planning information such as land zoning and minimum lot size through the mapping system which is intended to help the community in preparing development applications.

If you would like to know more about the Planning Portal and the new process for lodging development related applications, please contact Council and speak to our helpful Planning and Building staff.



MOUSE PLAGUE UPDATE

Junee Local Landcare recently hosted a Mouse Plague Update with CSIRO's Steve Henry sponsored by the Grain Research and Development Corporation (GRDC). A major take away from the event was the newly released changes to bait strength for zinc phosphide bait available and the funding being released by the NSW State Government:

- The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority has issued a permit allowing the concentration of zinc phosphide in bait to be increased from 25 to 50 milligrams per kilogram.
- Eligible NSW residents will soon be able to access a \$500 rebate for individuals and \$1,000 rebate for businesses for mouse bait purchased. This rebate will go LIVE soon and will be managed through the NSW services portal.
- The proposal of 20 bait treatment hubs to be established across NSW for farmers to access bait for their properties. At this stage, the closest proposed bait treatment hub will be located in Wagga. You can pre-register your interest in the program at the Local Land Services website - www.lls.nsw.gov.au (Please note that the opening of these sites is subject to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) approval for the use of bromadiolone around crops).

It is important to know the difference between the two main bait types and where they can be used. If concerned, ensure you seek expert advice from your regional veterinary.

If you missed the workshop, then a summary and useful information and tool kits for mouse control on farms can be found at the GRDC - Mouse Control website - www.grdc.com.au



“WEAR THE DAMN BELT”

FACT: Although it is compulsory to wear seatbelts in NSW, tragically, fatal crashes from not wearing a seatbelt increased by over 50% in NSW during 2020. Seatbelts are important in preventing deaths and serious injuries in a crash and should be worn by all people, travelling in all vehicles.

The five main functions of a seatbelt are:

- Cause the occupant to decelerate at the same rate as the vehicle in a crash
- Spread the force of the impact over the stronger parts of the occupant’s body (pelvis and chest area)
- Prevent the occupant colliding with the interior parts of the vehicle
- Reduce the risk of being thrown from the vehicle
- In modern cars, seatbelts are designed to work together with the airbags. In a crash, the seatbelt slows the speed of the occupant, so they impact safely with the airbag.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Always wear a seatbelt and ensure your passengers are wearing their seatbelt before you start your vehicle. If you have a child in the vehicle, ensure you have the appropriate child restraint fitted correctly.

To support this campaign, Junee Shire Council have recently branded one of their pool vehicles with the ‘Wear The Damn Belt’ message, reminding drivers to make sure they buckle up.



Photo: Junee Shire Council Director Engineering Services Cole Davis with Road Safety Office Karen Trethowan and members of the Junee Police, pictured with the “Wear Your Damn Belt” vehicle.

For more information visit:

<https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/campaigns>

Follow our local Road Safety Officer on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/RoadSafetyInfo>

#wearthedamnbelt

CAREER MOVE...

- Are you interested in operating your own **home-based business**?
- Are you looking for a **change** from **centre based employment**?
- Would you like to be your **own boss** and decided your own work hours and days?



SWRFDC are now taking applications for people who would like to become part of our team.

For more information, please call
02 6924 1017 or email
fdc@juneensw.gov.au



JUNEE
COMMUNITY
TRANSPORT



Contact Junee Community Transport on 6924 4880

PROJECT UPDATES

JOHN POTTS DRIVE STAGE 8 is complete and ready for owners to begin construction on their new homes.



BETHUNGRA DAM & SANDY BEACH
Construction has commenced on the new shade structures at Bethungra Dam and Sandy Beach.

WANTABADGERY
New footpaths within the village have been completed.



ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND
The new footbridge at the park has been installed with the approaches remaining to be completed.

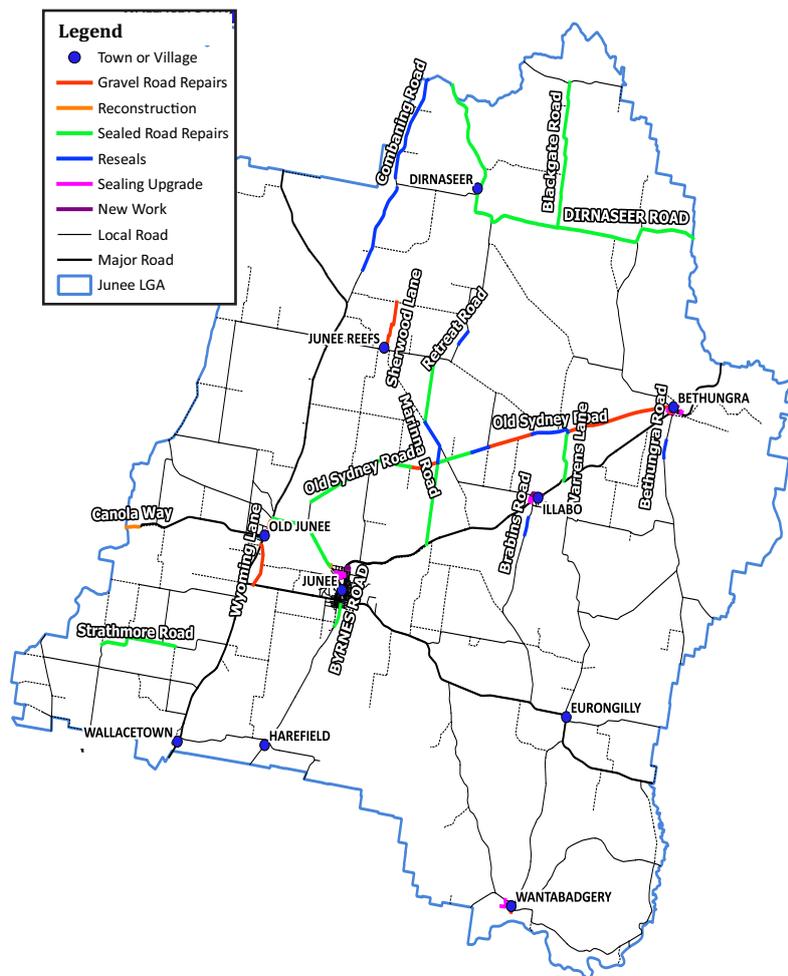
ROAD REHABILITATION
Byrnes Road and Oura Road rehabilitation are under construction. Bethungra (Olympic Highway) has been completed.



OTHER WORKS:

- Cemetery fencing – Illabo, Wantabadgery, Bethungra and Old Junee are complete.
- Broadway Museum new roof is now complete.
- Pool filter project has been completed.
- Gundagai Road widening and rehabilitation is currently in progress.
- George Street drainage works are in progress.
- Drainage works in Junee town are in progress.
- Sealing works - Lisgar Steet, Park Lane, all urban lanes, Old Junee transfer station entrance, fire shed, hall and playground parking area.

COMPLETED WORKS PROGRAM 2020 / 2021



JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL

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Junee NSW 2663
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F: 02 6924 2497
E: jsc@junee.nsw.gov.au
W: www.junee.nsw.gov.au
FB: [@JuneeShireCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/JuneeShireCouncil)

EMERGENCIES

Sewerage Blockages:
02 6924 1040
Dogs/Animals:
0427 694 272

COUNCILLORS

Neil Smith (Mayor)
Matt Austin (Deputy Mayor)
Robin Asmus
Bob Callow
David Carter
Mark Cook
Pam Halliburton
Martin Holmes
Kerri Walker

STAFF

James Davis
General Manager
Cole Davis
Director Engineering Services
Stacy Moses
Director Planning & Community Development
Luke Taberner
Chief Financial Officer