

WinterNews

Dungog Shire Council Newsletter | July 2024



WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR

Funding from state and federal governments forms the backbone of Dungog Shire Council's operations. With such a small rate-payer base, our funding for the essential services and infrastructure our shire needs rely on council applying for the various government grants that become available.

But the work doesn't stop there. In 2022 we revised our advocacy strategy to focus on forming long-term partnerships with government so that we can strategically plan for our future. We recognise that without these relationships, our shire is at risk of not receiving our fair share of government grants.

I'm really pleased to report that our strategy and the partnerships we have worked very hard to form with all levels of government over the past two years is well and truly paying off!

While these funding injections have been great for our shire, we know the work has only just begun. We look forward to bringing you more news on our partnerships with government and our funding success in the near future.

Some of our more recent funding wins include:



\$8.923 million

under the Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package (you can read more about this on the next page).



\$1.895 million

to develop a strategic planning framework which will enable accelerated new and affordable housing across the shire (more news on this over the page).



\$20.5 million

for the new Clarence Town Bridge.



Just under **\$30,000**

to implement Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations at the Dungog Visitor Information Centre and Vacy.

2024/25 BUDGET

In 2024/25 we have over **\$65 million** allocated towards further development and continuous improvements for the shire, and a substantial capital works program totalling **\$37.1 million**.

Key project highlights of the 2024/25 budget include:



\$6 million on Clarence Town Bridge during 2024/25



Over \$19.5 million on new and improved roads



Over \$1.2 million on road resealing and resheeting



\$40,000 for library improvements

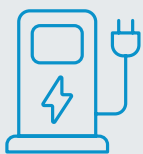


\$100,000 for improvements to Clarence Town and Dungog Swimming Pools



\$2.2 million on 26 Causeway approach upgrades

Council is looking forward to seeing these projects come to life over the coming months and continuing to work towards building a better shire for us all, with better roads, infrastructure and amenities.



EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS IN EV CHARGING FOR DUNGOG SHIRE

In another significant funding achievement for the shire, Council has secured just under \$30,000 to support the cost of installing the shire's first ever electric vehicle charging stations at Dungog and Vacy.

Council has been working with an Electric Vehicle Charging Group over the past six months and as a result, has successfully secured a grant from the NSW Government which will co-fund the purchase and installation of two 22kW EV chargers at the Visitor Information Centre in Dungog, and another charger at the Vacy Rest Stop.

These chargers mark the first publicly accessible EV charging points in the Shire, offering advancements and convenience for both residents and visitors.

Four designated parking bays at the Visitor Information Centre will be allocated for EV charging, and two bays at Vacy, supporting sustainable travel within our region. This initiative represents a significant economic boost, attracting electric vehicle owners who will now have the incentive to explore Dungog and its surroundings while their vehicles charge. Furthermore, a second application for an EV charger at Vacy rest stop has recently been approved.

Both charging stations are scheduled to be installed and operational by mid-December, just in time for the Christmas holiday period!



BETTER BRIDGES FOR DUNGOG SHIRE

Celebrating the completion of the Fixing Country Bridges Program

In what can only be described as one of the largest infrastructure projects on record, Dungog Shire Council has celebrated the completion of the bridge construction component of the NSW Government's Fixing Country Bridges Program, with all 23 new bridges now open to traffic.

This major milestone marks a significant turning point in the region's infrastructure history. These once aged timber truss structures have been replaced with more sturdy and reliable concrete structures, which means improved connectivity for shire residents now and into the future, plus fewer bridge closures and less downtime during flooding events.

During the construction phase, a staggering:



1500 cubic metres

of concrete was utilised to build the new bridges



490 metres

of bridge was rebuilt across the shire



2400 square metres

of bridge decking replaced.



Of the 23 bridges

undertaken during this project, 8 bridges were on bus routes, 14 bridges had load limits (all of which have now been removed) and 16 bridge decks were raised or waterways widened, improving access during wet conditions.

The project will be fully completed later in the year, when all the bridge approaches and guard rails are installed.



CLARENCE TOWN STRUCTURE PLAN:

WE NEED YOUR INPUT

The Clarence Town, Glen Martin, Glen William, Glen Oak and Brookfield communities along with any other residents of the shire are invited to attend a community workshop so you can help shape the future of Clarence Town.

Dungog Shire Council recently received a NSW Government grant to develop the Clarence Town Structure Plan and Streetscape Master Plan. These plans will ensure that opportunities are identified for rural residential development and town centre growth, whilst preserving local environmental values, biodiversity, scenic, landscape, significant agricultural land and rural character.

Details of the workshops include:

Date:
Tuesday 13th August 2024

Where:
Clarence Town School of Arts Hall

Times:
Daytime session: 1pm – 3pm
Evening session: 5pm – 7pm

If you would like to attend, please register your interest on the Dungog Shire Council website. More details on the Clarence Town Structure Plan can also be found on the website.



PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR FUTURE HOUSING

Dungog Shire has been recognised as a region ready for growth by the Federal Government, who have approved a **\$1.895 million funding grant** request to facilitate the development of a strategic planning framework aimed at accelerating the construction of new, affordable housing throughout the shire.

The Housing Support Program funding will deliver:

- > **Dungog Shire Growth Management Strategy**
- > **Dungog Shire Local Housing Strategy**
- > **Dungog Shire Rural Lands Strategy**
- > **Dungog Shire Infrastructure Capacity & Prioritisation Plan**
- > **Structure Plan for Dungog Strategic Centre**
- > **Dungog Shire Housing and Infrastructure Master Plan: Summary & Delivery Plan Document**



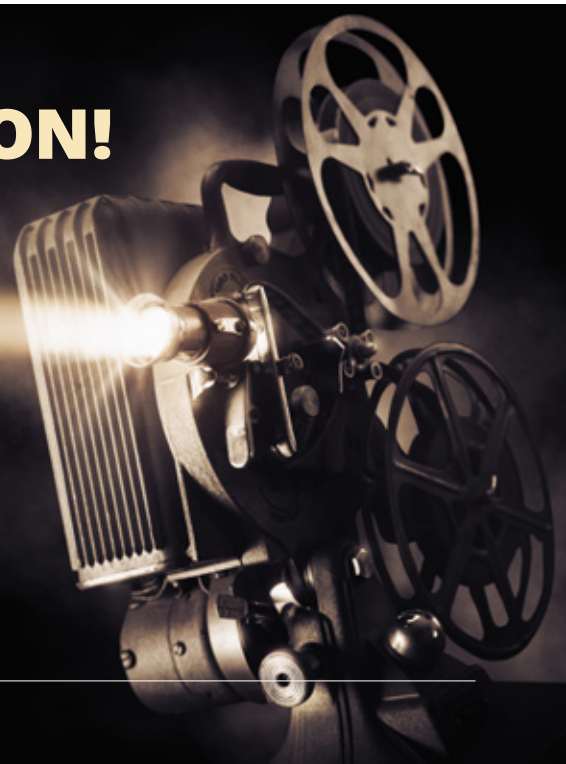
This funding is a once-in-a-generation grant that will ensure we can develop a strategic planning framework that will identify and deliver the next 20 years of housing and related infrastructure requirements needed across the shire.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

The AGOG international film festival will return to the James Theatre Dungog on 30 & 31 August.

Now in its 15th year, the event kicks off at 5pm on Friday 30 August, when there will be an Opening Night Red Carpet Event 'Soirée d'Ouverture'. Get in the spirit of the festival and dress up in French Chic, then watch the opening night film 'LA CHIMERA'.

Full program details are available on the James Theatre website.





CLARENCE TOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL TURNS 175

Clarence Town Public School is celebrating a momentous milestone this year, officially turning 175 on 23 September!

To mark this special anniversary, the school and P&C association have some exciting things planned and will be opening its doors for a variety of activities to mark the occasion – and you're invited!

The school has planned a whole series of events to celebrate this magical year in its history, including School Open Days on Monday, 5 August and Friday, 13 September (which will be followed by a 'Back to School' Trivia night at the Clarence Town Bowling, Sport and Recreation Club). There will also be a street parade on Saturday 14 September.

A full rundown of the school's events can be found on the Clarence Town Public School Facebook page.

NEW BRIDGE CONFIRMED FOR GRESFORD

The state and federal governments recently confirmed they will provide **\$8.923 million** under the Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package to improve river crossings and road pavements across the shire.

Key deliverables under the funding agreement include:

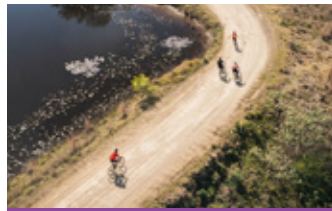
- > **A new concrete bridge crossing over the Paterson River at Gresford to replace the existing river crossing**
- > **21 river crossing and causeway approaches improved across the shire, which will greatly improve accessibility during weather events**
- > **Hooke St culvert (between Lord & Dowling Sts) to remove restrictions at the existing culvert and the pavement to be strengthened to better withstand rain events**

The funding is particularly good news for the Gresford community, as the new bridge will provide all-weather access for all vehicles, which is often restricted during rain events.

WHAT'S ON AROUND TOWN



Take a peek at all the upcoming events and activities to keep you entertained over the next couple of months



Dirty Detours Monkerai 10th August

An adventure gravel-cycling event in the foothills of Barrington Tops. Dirty Detour is a one-day gravel and mountain bike event being held from Riverwood Downs in Monkerai.



Run Dungog 11th August

Run Dungog creates a trail running weekend in Dungog, Australia on the first weekend of August each year.



UCI Pump Track World Championships 24-25th August

The Dungog Common Recreation Reserve and Ride Dungog are hosting the 2024 UCI Pump Track World Championships – Australia Qualifier Event!



Le Tour de Glen William 25th August

A family fun day, incorporating a bike ride, market stalls entertainment, games and delicious food. Ride around the 26km loop starting at Glen William Public School



Paterson Cracker Night 31st August

The Rotary Club of Paterson presents Cracker Night 2024 in Tucker Park from 3-8pm, with the main event taking place from 7 - 7.30pm. Enjoy dinner in the park.



Gresford Rodeo 31st August

Get your boots on and head down to the Gresford Showground to watch the annual Rodeo. Gates open at 8 am and open til late on Saturday. Tickets are available at the gate.



The Dungog Tea Party 4-8th September

The Dungog Tea Party is back in 2024! Located in the historic James Theatre, the tea party is a bespoke hand-made competition featuring seven categories of Tea Cosy's and Trivet's.



Botanical Art Workshop 7th September

Presented by Dungog By Design, Penny has been teaching botanical art for many years and has combined her two passions of plants and art. 9.30am-3.30pm CWA Hall, Dungog.



Vacy Country Carnival 8th September

Take a trip to the beautiful rural vistas of Vacy Village for a true country carnival – country cooking, country people, country skills and fun. Jack Russell and Dachshund races!



Dungog Arts Society Annual Exhibition

28th September - 6th October > 9am - 4pm
The Dungog Arts Society Annual Exhibition promotes visual and performing arts and crafts.



PedalFest 2024 20th - 22nd Sept

Pedalfest is set to return in September this year and includes several new events as well as the old favourites. Find out all the details at ridedungog.org



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All information is correct at the time of publication – July 2024.



dungog.nsw.gov.au