

# BLAYNEY SHIRE

welcoming communities, beautiful and productive landscapes,  
rural and mining heritage ... Blayney Shire is the place to live your dreams

update

November 2013



## PROPOSED SPECIAL RATE VARIATION

Over the last 18 months Blayney Shire Councillors and staff have been undertaking a detailed review of the future direction of Council, and the level of services required, to ensure that the Shire roads, bridges, buildings, parks, ovals and community service levels are maintained at a high level. Council's review has recently been confirmed by a community survey, that was undertaken, where respondents identified that roads, bridges, and recreational facilities are a high priority to this community.

Council has undertaken a detailed review of its assets and has inspected closed bridges, roads, footpaths and buildings to identify unfunded maintenance works. This review is part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) requirements of the NSW Government and has required Councillors to take a detailed look at the organisation and to ensure that it is heading in the direction that you, the residents, identified in the development of the IP&R (community direction) documents.

The work undertaken in the review of the assets, budgets and IP&R documents has highlighted that Council, due to rate pegging over the last 30 years, has fallen behind in what it can afford. Without a Special Rate Variation (SRV) we will continue to fall further behind and our roads, bridges and other service areas will continue to deteriorate and become unusable.

Council has undertaken community meetings to talk to you about introducing a Special Rate Variation (SRV) and consider your advice as to the acceptable level you believe the community can afford and the expected level of service you require Council to meet into the future. Council has also undertaken an independent review of the affordability across each rating sector.

A Special Rate Variation is a change to the general rates payable above the yearly increase that is available from IPART and the NSW State Government. In previous years Council has adopted rate increases from 2.5% to 3.5% based on this allowable increase.

Based on the IP&R process and the independent review undertaken by the Western Research Institute at Bathurst, the following SRV options are being considered by Council;

1. Reduced Services Model – 3.3% being the proposed rate cap each year (current situation) for all rating categories.
2. Maintained Model – Residential / business / mining and farmland 10.0% per annum over 4 years (cumulative and permanent).
3. Road to Infrastructure Improvement Model – 15% per annum over 6 years (cumulative and permanent) for all rating categories.

To find out more about the Special Rate Variations being considered by council, go to our web site at [www.blayney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.blayney.nsw.gov.au)

## BRIDGES UPDATE

### Garland Road Bridge

The replacement of the Garland Road bridge is underway with installation of the pile footings and placement of headstocks completed. Council awaits delivery of the bridge beams to continue, with work expected to be completed during November.

### Newbridge Road Bridge

The proposed bridge for Newbridge Road, over the Belubula River in Blayney, is progressing with design work now finalised and final approvals in place. Council continues to progress the project, and bridge components are currently being manufactured.

## ROADWORK UPDATE

Council has been undertaking widening and rehabilitation work on Burnt Yards Road and Errowanbang Road.

The works will improve the safety of these roads, and will repair significant failures that were evident along some sections. It is anticipated that these works will be completed by mid-November.

Working with Roads and Maritime Services, Council will be undertaking rehabilitation work on Orange Road within the 70 zone on the outskirts of Blayney. The total length of the work will be 1.6km, and will provide for a dramatically improved running surface. Work is proposed to commence mid-November and is expected to take 4 weeks.

## SCHOOL TREE PLANTING

The Community Strategic Plan, as developed by the Shire community in 2012, identified a need to improve native and riparian lands in the Shire. The Village Enhancement Program includes native rehabilitation, and specifically identified that riparian and native rehabilitation was needed in the Village of Carcoar.

Council's Parks and Recreation staff recently undertook a community tree planting at Pound Flat in the Village of Carcoar.

The first, in what is hoped to be one of many, saw Carcoar and Neville Public School students help to plant various native trees and shrubs as part of a larger plan to rehabilitate the Belubula River habitat around Pound Flat. This stretch of river is heavily infested and choked with non-native species which cause a decline in river health. In times to come it is hoped that the efforts of the Carcoar Urban Landcare Group, Lachlan Catchment Management Authority, Council and local volunteers will see the river cleared and rehabilitated with native species, endemic to the area, and return it to an environmentally friendly and more appealing feature of our shire.

Promote your event FREE on the Shire Events Calendar and Tourism Website. Email: [events@blayney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:events@blayney.nsw.gov.au)

Active in the growth of the broader region whilst fostering an innovative, inspirational and enjoyable local environment





## NAYLOR STREET BRIDGE

Naylor Street Bridge in Carcoar has been restored to its former glory – not by replacing it with steel and concrete – but by using the materials and construction methods practised in its original construction.

In times gone by the highway wound its way down through Carcoar, crossing the Belubula River, where it ran through this small township over a 3 span timber bridge, built in 1856. Since then, the highway has been deviated out of the main street of Carcoar and this small village can easily be missed.



For a number of years, the timber bridge has been showing the effects of its age and has been load limited to larger trucks. Blayney Shire Council resolved to repair the bridge but in a way that was sympathetic to the heritage of the small village in which it sits.

With the assistance of local State Member, Paul Toole MP, funds were made available for the restoration of the bridge. A grant of \$175,000 was made available on a dollar for dollar basis and Blayney Council were able to contribute this amount to take up this generous offer, and with some additional funds, called tenders for work to proceed.

A local contractor from Bathurst, Bridge Check Pty Ltd was the successful contractor and work commenced on site in late July 2013. The bridge was closed to traffic on 12 August 2013.

Since then the concrete deck, installed about 15 years ago, has been removed to reduce the loads on the structure and the bridge deck replaced with hardwood in the same way that it was originally constructed. Other components of the bridge structure which were showing the effects of age were also replaced.



## FOOTPATH / CYCLEWAY

Council has recently completed another section of footpath / cycleway along Carcoar Street from Water to Charles Street.

Council is currently seeking funding to extend this pathway to the Stillingfleet Netball facility. It will be doing more footpath work along Binstead Street and also fixing a number of ramps on the Binstead Street route.

## MICROCHIPPING PETS

Cat and dog owners in NSW are legally required to microchip and register their pets. Kittens and puppies must be microchipped before they are 12 weeks old or before being sold or given away. They must then be registered before they are 6 months old.

All cats and dogs over 12 weeks old must also wear an identification disc that is engraved with their name and their owner's contact number, which is to be attached to their collar when outside their home.

## Microchipping

When microchipped, if your pet goes astray and is taken to a vet, pound or shelter by Council's ranger or a member of the community, we can contact you quickly.

The microchip is only about the size of a grain of rice and needs to be inserted by your local Vet or an accredited microchip implanter between the animal's shoulder blade. Rest assured the procedure is virtually painless and your pet is not harmed.

Once your pet is microchipped, you'll be asked to fill in a standard form. The implanter will enter the information into the NSW Companion Animal Register or send it to us to be entered. You will be given the pink copy for your records.

Once the information has been entered into the database you should be sent a certificate of identification.

## Registration

To register your pet, bring the pet's identification certificate and any other relevant documents to Blayney Shire Council, or post photocopies.

We'll link your contact details with your pet's microchip number, which is held securely and confidentially in a state-wide database. A one-off fee applies.

## SHIRE EVENTS



### Carcoar Cup Running Festival

\* Saturday 2, Sunday 3 November 2013

### Millthorpe Garden Ramble

\* Saturday 2, Sunday 3 November 2013

### Longtrack State Championships

\* Saturday 2 November 2013

### Household Chemical Cleanout

\* Saturday 2 November 2013

### 'Shifting the Focus' Women's Forum

\* Tuesday 5 November 2013

### Neville Show

\* Saturday 9 November 2013

### Blayney Festival + Cadia Open day

\* Sunday 17 November 2013

### Millthorpe Markets

\* Sunday 1 December 2013

### Australia Day Breakfast and Awards Ceremony

\* Sunday 26 January 2014

### Carcoar Australia Day Fair

\* Sunday 26 January 2014

## CONTACT US

Council Administrative Office  
91 Adelaide Street, Blayney  
9.00am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday



PO Box 62 Blayney NSW 2799



02 6368 2104



02 6368 3290



council@blayney.nsw.gov.au



www.blayney.nsw.gov.au



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