

BLAYNEYSHIRE

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

update

February 2014



SECURING OUR FUTURE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

In December 2013 Council adopted the exhibition of its Corporate Planning documents, known as Integrated Planning and Reporting which include a 2 year permanent Special Rate Variation of 6% across all rate categories, excluding existing special rate variations in place. These documents have been on display during December to early February.

The additional funds from the special rate variation will assist Council to ramp up its asset renewal programs with a view to addressing the funding gap and provide for village enhancement. Approval by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal is required prior to implementation of the rate variation being proposed.

This outcome is the culmination of months of work by Councillors and Officers, following initial consultation with our community, regarding their priorities and the desired level of council services. It has become clear that Council's current financial situation cannot support all the programs and projects that the community seeks and expects – without increased funding and operational efficiencies. The community has expressed an expectation that the elected Councillors will ensure that assets are maintained to a reasonable standard and that improvements are made to reduce long-term deterioration. The special rate variation will assist to ensure minimum acceptable levels are maintained and current services will be available to future generations.

The economic prosperity of Council is reflected in the economic prosperity of the people it represents. The Blayney Shire economy is made up of many areas including agriculture, mining, tourism, manufacturing, residential accommodation, industrial activities and government services, to name a few. All sectors of the Blayney Shire community need to work together to ensure our future. We are small in population and if one sector is impacted, such as the closure of a major employer, or a rural producer cannot access markets due to poor infrastructure (e.g. roads), then the whole Shire community is impacted. As a community we need to work towards supporting all economic sectors of our shire and work to develop standards that can be afforded by the majority of residents, whilst securing our economic prosperity.

Council has sought to address this challenge in the short-term, with an approach that balances community affordability with financial sustainability for service delivery and maintenance of community assets.

Council will continue to review its long-term planning documents such as its Delivery Program, Resourcing Strategy (including the Long-term Financial Plan) to factor in a financially sustainable target for the organisation and to ensure our operating budget is in balance, yet work towards addressing the asset backlog, while

securing 'Intergenerational Equity' with maintenance of our assets.

Strategies to achieve this must be affirmed with you, the community, and the conversation has started – and will need to continue – over the next couple of years. Council will also seek to commence work on the next phase of its path to securing our future economic prosperity, with a community engagement program and consulting the community on funding and services in the medium to long-term.

NEWBRIDGE ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Work has commenced on the replacement of the timber bridge on Newbridge Road, about 100m from the intersection with Henry Street, Blayney. A bypass road has been constructed and will be used during the construction process.

The existing bridge, which is believed to have been built early last century, was originally built from timber. The bridge beams were replaced with steel girders and the timber deck overlaid with concrete in the 1980's. The original piling and superstructure, which remains as it was originally constructed, are showing signs of their age. Accordingly, the time has come for the bridge to be replaced.

This bridge serves as a vital link for the community, providing access to Blayney and the Mid-Western Highway, including the Sea-Link facility, which uses Newbridge Road and this bridge is used on a daily basis. Council sought assistance from the State Government for the bridge project which was generously provided due to the importance of this link.

Motorists are reminded to obey all signage and traffic controllers.

The new concrete bridge will serve the public and provide access to Newbridge Road and beyond for many years to come.

GARDEN ORGANICS CLEAN UP

Council is providing a 'Garden Organics Clean Up'. This will enable processing and recycling of garden organics, saving landfill space and utilising this valuable resource.

The Clean Up is available for residents currently receiving a waste and recycling collection service.

Collections will commence on Monday 10 March, 2014 so please put your Garden Organics out the weekend before.

Garden Organics are to be placed neatly next to the edge of the kerb, and not blocking the footpath, at your normal weekly collection point. Please also secure items to avoid windblown littering.

The volume of Garden Organics collected from any one property shall not exceed two cubic metres or more than 1 standard (6' x 4') level box trailer.





COMMUNITY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Applications for Round 2 of the 2013/14 Financial Assistance Program are now being invited, for eligible organisations to apply for a share in \$50,000.

All requests for assistance (cash or in-kind) to Council are now coordinated through this program. Successful applications in the past have included fee waivers, development of promotional material, hall and showground improvements, assistance with events and sporting infrastructure.

Applications close 21 March, 2014 and are independently assessed by a community panel. Successful applicants have to meet a criteria based on merit and benefit to the community.

Council has dedicated \$100,000 to this program for 2013/14 and is aimed to ease the financial burden of not-for-profit organisations, who contribute to the Blayney Shire community.

There are a number of funding categories including financial assistance for junior sporting representatives who attain regional, state or national selection.



GARLAND ROAD BRIDGE REPLACED

Work is now complete on the replacement of the old timber bridge over Grubbenbun Creek, on Garland Road.

The old bridge has been replaced with a single span modular concrete bridge (similar to other new bridges across the shire) after an extensive design and investigation process.

In 2011, Council had to impose a load limit on the original bridge, following a structural inspection, which identified significant structural deficiencies. Shortly after, a heavy vehicle by-pass was put in place to enable the movement of trucks, primarily for transport of stock.

Due to the poor ground conditions, significant

work was undertaken to identify a foundation solution that provided adequate loading capacity and which was within Council's budget. Following this process, Council and its design consultant were able to reduce the required depth of the piles from 25m to 17m, ensuring Council was able to complete the project on budget.

Works commenced in October with the piling contractor Wagstaff Piling installing eight (8) 750mm diameter reinforced concrete piles. Following this, Council staff were able to install the bridge components and provide access within a period of only 3 weeks.

The advantage of modular bridges such as this is the ability for Council staff to undertake the work and provide access in very short periods of time.

Council will now turn its focus to the replacement of the old timber bridge on the Newbridge Road, over the Belubula River, on the edge of Blayney. Being a three span modular bridge of similar construction, the project involving contractors and Council staff is expected to commence in early January and be operational in late March.

Preparatory works are complete with traffic being directed to a bypass track during construction.

Council regrets any inconvenience as it continues to upgrade infrastructure across the shire.



POOL SAFETY PRIORITY

Drowning is one of the major causes of death for NSW children under the age of five.

Each year, on average, 10 children under five drown in backyard swimming pools and many more suffer brain damage and other serious injuries associated with near-drowning experiences.

The Swimming Pool Act was amended on 20 October 2012 to address concerns about the high rate of non-compliance with swimming pool barrier requirements.

The legislation addresses where swimming pools are, educates pool owners about pool safety, and enables an inspection to be carried out to ensure that pools, particularly those that pose the highest risk to children, are made safe.

Pool owners are required to self-register their pool, free of charge, on a state-wide online register. Pool owners can register their backyard swimming pool online at:

www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au

There is easy-to-follow and useful information on the site such as checklists and FAQs, so there's no excuse not to get it done to protect you family and community.

NSW GOVERNMENT		NSW SWIMMING POOL REGISTER	
Pool 'self assessment' checklist			
Indoor Pools			
			Does your pool meet the safety standards?
Window restrictions for indoor pools			
The windows can only open to a maximum of 100mm			Yes No
OR The windows are totally covered by bars or a mesh screen			Yes No
OR The height from the sill of the lowest opening panel of a window (to the pool area) is at least 1800mm from the ground			Yes No
Doors that have access to pools			
There is a latch on the door at least 1500mm above floor level			Yes No
Doors open away from the pool area and are self-latching			Yes No
There are no pet doors or openings greater than 100mm			Yes No
Wall restrictions for indoor pools			
There are no wall openings greater than 100mm			Yes No
Around the pool			
There is an appropriate warning sign, including details of resuscitation (CPR) techniques, in the immediate vicinity of the pool area which can be easily read from a distance of 3 metres.			Yes No

If you have answered 'No' to any of the questions above, please contact your local council for further information.

There have been 93 pools registered in the Blayney Shire.





HOT WEATHER TIPS FOR PET OWNERS

Summertime is a time for fun, but it's also fraught with danger for our pets. When the temperature rises, we need to take extra caution to make sure our pets are okay in the heat. Here are some key tips to help keep your pet cool and safe.

Don't leave your pet alone in the car on a warm day

Despite the warnings, every year, pets die after their owners leave them in a parked car that overheats. Within just a few minutes, a car can get extremely hot, stifling, and deadly. Within 30 minutes temperatures can reach 45C inside the car. Never, ever leave your pet in a parked car on a warm day.

Avoid walking your dog in the heat

Aim for mornings and evenings when letting your dog outside. Sometimes, though, it's just hot all day long. Even in the coolest part of the day, watch for signs of trouble: Glassy eyes and frantic panting indicate a dog who needs help. Get to a veterinarian immediately if you see these symptoms!

Keep your home cool for your pets

When the temperature outside gets hot it can be harder to keep the indoors cool. Some people turn their air conditioning off when they leave for the day. If you have a pet at home, this could put them in danger. Instead of turning off the air conditioner, try leaving it on a conservative but comfortable setting (perhaps 22°C) while you are out. Make sure your pet has water and consider closing curtains to reduce the heating effects of sunlight through windows.

Give them access to shade plus plenty of water

Pets can get dehydrated or get heatstroke quickly, so any pet outside needs to have plenty of water and access to shade.

Know which dogs are less tolerant of heat

Some dog breeds are less tolerant of the heat than others. Remember that older, obese or short-nosed dogs (Pugs, Bulldogs, Boston Terriers, Pekingese, Boxers, Shih Tzu's and French Bulldogs) are less tolerant of heat. Also, older dogs, puppies and dogs with health issues can also be more susceptible to hot weather. Of course, you should keep a close eye on your dog in the heat, no matter what his breed, age or state of health.

Our pets rely on us to protect them and keep them comfortable and safe year round! Remember, if you're hot, your pets are definitely hot.



SAFE FOOD HANDLING THIS SUMMER

With the warm weather upon us Council is encouraging everyone to follow a few simple tips to ensure food safety this summer.

Outdoor eating and the warmth of summer can create the perfect environment for foodborne illness causing bacteria to multiply. As the temperature rises, so does your risk of food poisoning.

Food poisoning affects around 5.4 million Australians each year and traditionally there is a rise in cases during the warmer months.

Safe food preparation is just as important when you're in the great outdoors as it is in your home kitchen.

Australians are blessed with an abundance of fresh, pure foods delivered daily to retail shops from our primary producers, but it is important that this purity is not compromised when being served.

Cross contamination is a common mistake people make when cooking outdoors and it is important not to return cooked meat to a plate that may have contained raw meat juices or marinade.

The Golden Rules of Food Safety:

- Wash and dry your hands thoroughly before preparing and handling food
- Keep your kitchen, BBQ and utensils clean
- Keep cold food cold, and hot food hot
- Cook food properly
- Check food labels
- Separate raw and cooked foods

Tips for outdoor cooking and dining:

- Chill food in the fridge before removing
- If you're travelling, store uncooked and ready-to-eat food in separate sealed containers and keep them cold during transport using a chiller bag or esky
- Use separate plates and utensils for cooking and serving.
- Don't leave cooked foods and salads out in the sun for more than 2 hours



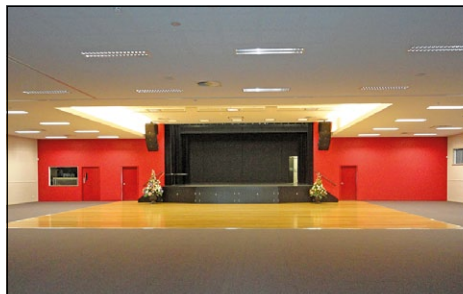


CHOOSE BLAYNEY SHIRE COMMUNITY CENTRE

When booking your next function, whether it be a wedding, birthday celebration, sporting presentation or meeting, why not hold it at the Blayney Shire Community Centre.

The Community Centre offers a large auditorium with stage, built in projectors and screens, audio system, full commercial kitchen with crockery and cutlery, bar facilities and can accommodate 300 people seated. It can also be divided into smaller meeting size rooms.

Phone Council today to enquire about your next event!



KEEPING UP-TO-DATE

Keep up-to-date with Council information! For the latest on bushfire situations, road closures, events, employment opportunities and more join us on Facebook or Twitter or subscribe to our website newsletter.

Simply 'Like us' on Facebook or follow Blayney Shire Council on Twitter (@BlayneyShire) or go to Council's website and enter your details.

SENIORS ARE GETTING CONNECTED

Are you seeking some assistance with computers?

Older community members are now able to increase their computer and internet skills as Blayney Shire Community and Information Centre is a venue for a free 'Broadband for Seniors' kiosk.

The aim of the program is to get seniors in our community better connected. This enables them to discover a whole new social experience on the web and to help them to stay in touch online with friends and family, along with offering access to the wealth of information available online.

The Broadband for Seniors initiative not only provides free access to computers and broadband for older Australians, but offers training in order to increase their confidence and skills in using computers and the internet.

The Blayney Shire Community and Information Centre Broadband for Seniors Kiosk comprises two computers with

broadband access for use and offers training and support to those who are new to computers and the internet. Tutorials are provided by volunteer tutors and are by arrangement.

The kiosk is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm and is located at the Blayney Community and Information Centre, 97 Adelaide Street.

For further information on training and session bookings contact Council by calling 6368 2104.

BLAYNEY JUNIOR SPORTS AWARDS APPLICATION

Council, in conjunction with a number of corporate sponsors, provides a Junior Sports Award Program.

The awards are open to all Blayney youngsters (18 years and under) who either attend local schools or are members of a Blayney amateur sporting association.

Conditions apply and nominations should be made on the prescribed application form, by the school or sporting association which represents the nominated junior sportsperson.

Application forms are available from Council's website or by contacting Council's Customer Service team.

SHIRE EVENTS



Lyndhurst Team Penning

* Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 February 2014

Munch and Meander in Millthorpe

* Saturday 8 February 2014

Newbridge Swap Meet

* Sunday 9 February 2014

Ordinary Council Meeting

* Monday 10 February 2014

Blayney Harness Racing

* Sunday 23 February 2014

Clean Up Australia Day

* Sunday 2 March 2014

Blayney Harness Racing

* Sunday 9 March 2014

Ordinary Council Meeting

* Monday 10 March 2014

Garden Organics Clean Up

* Monday 10 March 2014 to Friday 14 March 2014

Blayney Show

* Saturday 22 March 2014

Blayney to Bathurst Cyclo Sportif (B2B)

* Sunday 6 April 2014

CONTACT US

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



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