



community newsletter

January 2010

We will work with the community to provide high quality services and facilities through excellence in leadership and with consideration for the needs of the environment and of future generations

Where to from here for Airport?

Over 200 people attended the community discussion on the future of the Airport, which was held at the Council Chambers on Tuesday 8 December 2009.



At the meeting Council gave an update about the status of the infrastructure at the airport, the prevailing market conditions in regional aviation and the options which have been explored for future use of the airport. Council also explained the projected costs for developing the airport, maintaining it, and for withdrawing from it altogether.

Those present at the meeting were overwhelmingly in support of retaining the Airport. From here, Council needs to determine how best to achieve this for the community.

There are a range of ways Council could retain the airport; each would have different level of cost to the community. Some of the options are:

- Keep the airport at its current level, which allows for larger planes to land. This would require a special rate variation of 1.36% (which equates to an average increase of \$10.76 per rate assessment).
- Maintain the airport to meet the demands of air ambulance, light industrial and recreational activities, which need a shorter runway than is currently supplied. This would require a smaller rate variation of 1.06% (which equates to an average increase of \$8.08 per rate assessment).
- Invest funds into the development of the airport in the hope that it will provide a profitable return to the community. Based on the current concept development plan, the increased cost of this option is around \$26 per rate assessment per year.

As a result of the publicity received on the airport issues, Council has been approached by several private organisations to take over the airport, however, Council has not had sufficient information to determine if this would be of benefit to the community.

If you would like a fact sheet about funding the airport or would like to make a comment on the issue please visit our website (www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au) or phone Customer First on 65 663200.



New Phone System

Just prior to Christmas Council introduced a new phone system that will allow it to better manage the volume of calls it receives and also to provide appropriate training to staff, as needs are identified.

The new system means that callers will be required to press options as follows:

- 1 - Rates enquiries
- 2 - Planning & Building
- 3 - Other enquiries
- 8 - To enter a known extension
- 9 - To repeat the options

By selecting options 1 to 3 you are allowing Council's Customer First Staff to be more prepared for the type of enquiry you wish to make.

This process of channelling calls will also make it easier for Council to identify areas for improvement and training.

We know that this new system will take a little getting used to so we ask for your patience while we all adjust to the new system.

Remember, any feedback you have which may help us improve our service is always welcome.



Planning renovations or additions?

If you are planning a simple home addition, such as a sunroom or a patio, or if you are thinking about building a carport, shed or pool, Council can speed up the approval process of your Development Application.



Development applications that meet pre-set standards can be turned around in 7 days, saving you both time and processing costs.

Council's Customer First Officers welcome your enquiries on complying development on 6566 3200.

OH&S Workshop a huge success

Council, in conjunction with WorkCover NSW, hosted a "Contractor Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) Requirements" information morning at the Council Chambers on Tuesday, 20 October 2009.

The number of local contractors who turned out to take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about their OH&S obligations surprised the WorkCover team that came to present the workshop.

The information session was held to discuss the Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) requirements for both Council and Contractors, who are being engaged to undertake work on behalf of Council.

Contractors were given information about a \$500 grant available to them from WorkCover, via the Business Assist Unit, to help with the cost of purchasing OH&S items for their business.

Hugh Corner, a WorkCover inspector, was on hand at the event to answer any questions and to explain the legislative requirements from an inspection point of view.

The event was so successful that Council will host another workshop sometime in February 2010.

For more information about the next workshop contact Karen Anderson at Council on 65 663200.

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Above: It was a full house for the first Contractors OH&S Compliance information morning held at Council on 20 October 2009.

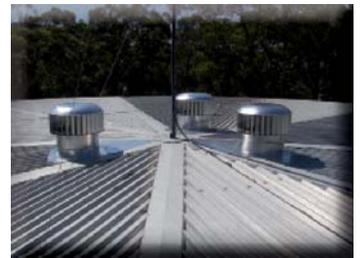
SWR Reservoir repairs now complete

The urgent repairs to the South West Rocks Water Supply Reservoir No. 2 have been successfully completed. The work involved the internal recoating of the reservoir. Some of the structural beams on the roof also required strengthening.

Council would like to thank the South West Rocks community for their patience and support in minimising their water use while this important work was carried out.

Right: Work in progress on the interior of the the reservoir.

Far Right: New ventilation on the reservoir's roof.



Important Information for the owners of Cats and Dogs

Owners of cats and dogs have some important responsibilities under the Companion Animals Act 1998. If you are a pet owner, or were one of the many people who became a pet owner for the first time over the Christmas Period, below is some information which may be of value to you.

All dogs and cats in New South Wales must be microchipped and registered on the NSW Companion Animals Register. Microchipping and registering your cat and/or dog is a two step process that requires owners to:

1. Have your animals implanted with a microchip from the time they are 12 weeks old, at the point of sale or change of ownership (whichever occurs first).
2. Register their animals with Council by 6 months of age.

For peace of mind you should ensure your animal is registered and microchipped as soon as possible because many young animals are regularly reported missing from their homes. Registration and microchipping enables Council rangers to identify your pet quickly if it is picked up.

You only pay a registration fee once per dog or cat as follows:

- \$40 for a desexed dog or cat
- \$150 for an undesexed dog or cat
- \$40 for an undesexed dog or cat by a registered breeder
- \$15 for a desexed dog or cat by an eligible pensioner.

If you sell or give away a cat or dog it is your responsibility as the 'old' owner to update the new owner's details on the Companion Animals Register at Council, otherwise penalties may apply. It is important also that if you change address, and still own the animal, that you keep your details up to date on Council's database.

More details about the responsibilities of cat and dog owners will be featured in future editions of Council's Community Newsletter. If you would like to know more before then contact Customer First on 6566 3200 or visit www.dlg.nsw.gov.au and click on 'Companion Animals'.



Be wise - minimise waste, maximise recycling!

Council successfully introduced kerbside recycling in October 2006 and, more recently, its green waste collection service in April 2009. Both of these services are aimed at diverting as much waste material away from landfill as possible. This benefits our community because it is better for the environment and means a longer life for our Waste Reveal and Disposal Facility located off Crescent Head Road.

Did you know there are two types of recycling in our area? First, there is domestic recycling such as plastic bottles, aluminium and tin cans, paper and cardboard products, etc which go in your yellow-lidded recycling bin. Second, there are recyclables such as old TV's and whitegoods, scrap metal and rubber items. These need to be separated and taken to local recyclers, the Crescent Head Landfill site or one of our waste transfer stations.

The new red-lidded general waste bins have proven effective already, with a noticeable decrease in the amount of domestic waste arriving at the landfill resulting in an increase of kerbside recyclables being collected.

Congratulations and keep up the good work!



Macleay River Estuary Community Survey Closes on February 5

Council, in association with the Department of Environment Climate Change & Water, NSW Maritime and consultants GeoLINK, GECO Environmental, and Aquatic Science & Management is preparing an Estuary Management Study and Plan for the Macleay River.



The study will examine the critical processes, threats and uses of the river including boating, fishing, river and foreshores access, riverbank erosion, protection of floodplain wetlands and water quality issues.

A detailed boating assessment is also being undertaken concurrently to improve the general

understanding of boating usage patterns and management requirements.

Study outcomes will provide direction for sustainable management of the estuary and possible future capital works including improved boat launching facilities, bank restoration, possible fishing sanctuary zones and protection of significant wetland areas.

You are invited to participate in a survey which seeks to identify and prioritise the key issues affecting the estuary.

Survey forms are available for downloading or for completion online at Council's website (www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au), click on 'Estuary Management', then 'Macleay River' OR in hard copy at the following local venues:

- *Stuarts Point Supermarket & Liquor Mart 16 Marine Parade, Stuarts Point*
- *Stuarts Point Holiday Park Marine Parade, Stuarts Point*
- *SWR Boatshed New Entrance Road, South West Rocks*
- *NSW Maritime Office, Shop 1, 1 Livingstone Street, South West Rocks*
- *Rocks Marine Bait & Tackle Gregory Street, South West Rocks*
- *Smithtown Post Office & General Store, 11 Main Street, Smithtown*
- *Gladstone Post Office 54 Barnard Street, Gladstone*
- *CJ's Tackle & Sport Centrepont Arcade, Smith Street, Kempsey*
- *Council's Customer First Centre 22 Tozer Street, West Kempsey*

Completed forms can be placed in collection boxes at survey venues or emailed, faxed or posted to the project manager as detailed on the form.

Survey forms must be received by Friday 5 February 2010.

Consumption of Alcohol on Public Reserves

At its 15 December 2009 meeting Council reviewed a policy on the Consumption of Alcohol on Public Reserves Policy and resolved to place the draft amendment on public exhibition for community comment. You still have time to make a comment as the public exhibition period runs until 12 February 2010. You are encouraged to view this document at:

- Council's Customer First Centre at 22 Tozer Street, West Kempsey, Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 4.30pm (excluding public holidays).
- Shire Libraries in Kempsey, South West Rocks, Stuarts Point and Hat Head during their normal opening hours.
- Council's website www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au (Click on the 'Documents on Public Exhibition' link).

If you would like to make a comment on this policy you are invited to make a written submission. All submissions received will be considered before a further report is put to Council. Submissions will be received up to 4.00pm on 12 February and should be addressed to the General Manager, Kempsey Shire Council, PO Box 78, West Kempsey, NSW, 2440.

In Brief...

The Waste Management page on Council's website has been updated.

The site includes information such as recycling initiatives and the opening hours for our Landfill site at Crescent Head Road and Waste Transfer stations at South West Rocks, Stuarts Point and Bellbrook.

If you would like to access this information visit Council's website (www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au), go to 'Services' then click on 'Waste Management'.

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Please note that due to contamination of materials, the recycling drop off stations at Kundabung and Belgrave Street, Kempsey are now closed.

Recycling materials can be taken to the Crescent Head Road facility, South West Rocks or Stuarts Point transfer stations.

If you require additional recycling bins please phone Council on 6566 3200 to make arrangements.

Please be aware there will be an additional cost for any additional bins.

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The following public half day holidays have been gazetted by the NSW Department of Industrial Relations for the Kempsey Shire Council area in 2010:

- **Wednesday afternoon, 21 April 2010 for Kempsey Show**
- **Thursday afternoon, 13 May 2010 for Kempsey Cup**

Local public holidays are gazetted under the Banks and Banks Holidays Act of 1912.

This act requires that banks are closed on local public holidays. An appointed local holiday under the Act benefits employees who have an industrial award, agreement or contract of employment which confers a right of paid absence (or penalty rates in lieu) on the local public holiday.

In the absence of such express coverage within an applicable industrial instrument, the conferring of the benefit of a local public holiday to employees is entirely within the discretion of individual employers.



WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT OF MY WATER SUPPLY?

Within an area served by townwater, your water supply should:

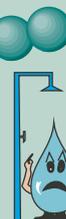
- Be reliable and continuous
- Be free from objectionable taste and odour
- Meet Australian Drinking Water guidelines



WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT OF MY SEWERAGE SERVICE?

Within an area served by town sewerage, your sewerage service should:

- Be reliable and continuous
- Be operated so as to minimise odours and be environmentally responsible.



WHAT CAN I DO IF MY WATER OR SEWERAGE SERVICE IS INTERRUPTED?

If you have no water or there is a sewerage spill, please call us, night or day on **6566 3200**.

We give a commitment to responding to the problem as quickly as possible.



John Bowell
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Liz Campbell
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Tel: 0427627074
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Dean Saul
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Betty Green
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joining together for a better community

Jerseyville revegetation program wins award for excellence

At the NSW LGSA Excellence in Environmental Awards, held at Cockle Bay in Sydney in early December 2009, Council was awarded Joint Winner - Division B in the Environmental Protection and Restoration category for the 'Nestlé Community Vegetation Project - Jerseyville'.

Located within the Lower Macleay estuary, the 'Nestlé Community Vegetation Project' at Jerseyville is a riparian (riverbank) rehabilitation project. Through the project, over 4,000 native trees and shrubs have been planted and 460 meters of wheelchair-friendly asphalt walking track has been constructed at the site. The photographs below show what has been achieved since the project began in 2005.

The project is a joint collaboration between Council and Nestlé Smithtown. It is considered to be the first collaborative attempt to address environmental rehabilitation between Council and the corporate sector in the lower Macleay River area. Support for the project from the Rotary Club of South West Rocks, Macleay Valley Community Catchment Group and Conservation Volunteers Australia was also very much appreciated.

Congratulations to all involved in the project - especially to Ron Kemsley, who co-ordinates the project on Council's behalf!



From this....

... to this!

Bellbrook Water Treatment Plant Under Construction

Council was awarded a \$700,000 grant from the Australian Government under the \$12.9 Billion 'Water for the Future' plan for the Bellbrook Water Treatment Plant, which is now under construction.

The construction site at Bellbrook is well established with temporary perimeter fencing, erosion control and signage in place.

The site has been cleared; drainage works completed; overhead power lines relocated underground; and existing water mains have been repositioned to accommodate the new plant.

The concrete storage tanks and trenches for the electrical conduits have also been completed.

The structure to house the Water Treatment plant is nearing completion; the foundations and floor slab have been laid; and the steel frame was erected before Christmas.

The water treatment processing unit is now being manufactured offsite with delivery expected in Bellbrook by the end of February.

Council is hopeful that the construction phase will be finished by the end of March.



David Rawlings
GENERAL MANAGER



Kathy Oliver
ACTING DIRECTOR
CORPORATE AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES



Bruce Morris
DIRECTOR
SHIRE SERVICES



Robert Pitt
DIRECTOR
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
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Customer First Centre
22 Tozer Street
West Kempsey

Phone 6566 3200

Counter hours
Monday to Friday
8.30am - 4.30 pm

Call Centre hours
Monday to Friday
8.30am - 4.30 pm

Library
6566 3210

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with Council news
-visit our website

www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au

Information at
your fingertips